



The

BUCKING Board

NEWS AND UPDATES FROM SILVER BIRCH RANCH



STORM SHINES LIGHT ON WHAT IS MOST IMPORTANT

- Dave Wager

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." (Psalm 91:1-2 ESV)

Silver Birch Ranch was hit with a devastating storm on July 19 that packed the equivalent power of a category 2 hurricane and hit the landscape with 100mph winds, knocked power out to the area for 8 days, damaged over 30 buildings, and uprooted over 650 trees on our main site. Yet, as much as this storm has altered the landscape, what is and was important is still what is important. Silver Birch Ranch, like an individual life, has its ups and downs. Since 1967, we have experienced some incredible moments of joy and excitement as we have watched lives change, programs increase, and opportunities abound.

We have also experienced extreme heartache in personal tragedies fueled by individual choices, accidents that happened, or natural disasters that occur to all people throughout our region and the world.

Through the fifty plus years, God has provided for us regardless of the circumstances, and we are convinced that He will once again provide what is needed for us to continue knowing Him and making Him known to the youth of our nation.

We invite those who have not viewed our youtube channel to spend some time watching our storm updates and rejoice with us the provision of God throughout these challenging times. Once, when I was asked about our condition, I immediately responded

by saying that we were in a most privileged position to see God work. We have watched the body of Christ act on our behalf that has left us in amazement. Hundreds of people have volunteered, thousands of dollars have been donated, and an abundance of youth have worked in ways they never dreamed of to get our grounds ready for campers. Since the beginning of the "mess," we have seen the hand of God. A professional logger told me that he thought the clean up from the storm would have taken us up to nine months, and it would be questionable whether we would be able to open even then. By the hand of God and the work of hundreds, we were open again in eleven days after the storm hit. The number of God's people who responded to our need and continue to respond to the crisis is truly a miracle and we are thankful to be a place that has drawn people together in order to glorify our God.

Granted, we were not and are not yet at full strength, as we have had many buildings damaged and program areas destroyed. However, we are open, safe, and shortly after reopening, saw over 100 youth campers decide to place their faith in Christ. We are working with our insurance company, friends who have decided to "own" some challenging issues, and we hope to have those areas that were destroyed back and better than they were originally. We are still hoping to open the ski trails, fix most of the damaged buildings, remove stumps, remove the summer theme props, and do some landscaping before snow flies.

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STORM SHINES LIGHT ON WHAT IS MOST IMPORTANT

- Continued

Once again, I am amazed at God's provision, His people who have been so generous with help, and our staff who were, once again, able to shift gears and carry on this important work. We hope you will continue to pray and give so that one day we can be back to full strength "plus." Thank you to all who have given in so many ways already. You have been a great encouragement to us.

To God be the glory, great things He has done.



SUMMER 2020

- Jason Kemper

What a summer! As we close one of the most memorable summers in Silver Birch Ranch's history, we look forward to the future with excitement and expectation. Even though the July windstorm impacted many areas of camp, it has been a delight to see God's plan and provision seemingly around every turn. Many lives were changed this summer, and many campers gave their lives to Jesus, which is a huge testimony to God's faithfulness. Even the first week that we reopened after the storm, there were over 20 campers who were baptized in Sawyer Lake.

As we continue the clean up and repair process around camp, we can't help but think about next summer. We are excited to introduce another brand new theme that we will be able to bring to life for each of the campers. Make sure you are ready to explore another adventure as we plan and prepare for Summer 2020: The Ruin. Check out the dates and mark your calendars as you plan to join us for one of our biggest and best summers yet.

Top 10 List

1. Kitchen-Outside Grill
\$4,500
2. Freezer Compressor
\$3,500
3. Cross-Country Ski Equipment
\$500
4. Outdoor Basketball Backboards
\$3,000
5. Drill Bit Sharpener
\$500
6. Plasma Cutter
\$500
7. 18v Cordless Drill (1/2 inch drive)
\$450
8. Floor Jack-2.5 ton
\$150
9. 4-Wheelers
\$2,500 or donate one you own
10. Studio Microphones
3 @ \$400 each

If you can help with one of these items, please contact us at 715-484-2742. Silver Birch Ranch is a 501(c)(3) organization. All gifts are tax-deductible and are appreciated. If you are interested in finding out about other ways to support the ministry of Silver Birch Ranch, visit our website.

THE RUIN

SILVER BIRCH RANCH SUMMER 2020

FAMILY CAMP #1	MAY 30-JUNE 5
JUNIOR-MIDDLER CAMP #1	JUNE 6-12
TRAX	JUNE 6-12
RIDING ADVENTURE CAMP #1 (BEGINNER)	JUNE 6-12
HIGH SCHOOL CAMP	JUNE 13-19
CCC HIGH SCHOOL CAMP*	JUNE 20-25
CCC MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMP*	JUNE 26-JULY 1
FAMILY CAMP #2	JULY 1-6
THE CHAPEL MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMP*	JULY 7-11
JUNIOR HIGH CAMP	JULY 11-17
THE CHAPEL HIGH SCHOOL CAMP*	JULY 17-22
STUCO HIGH SCHOOL CAMP*	JULY 23-27
STUCO MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMP*	JULY 28-AUGUST 1
RIDING ADVENTURE CAMP #2 (BEGINNER)	AUGUST 1-7
JUNIOR-MIDDLER CAMP #2	AUGUST 1-7
FAMILY CAMP #3	AUGUST 9-13

*THESE MARKED WEEKS ARE RESERVED FOR SPECIFIC CHURCHES AND AREN'T OPEN TO PUBLIC REGISTRATION.

INTRODUCING THE NBI CLASS OF 2020!

- Steve Sanford

This year's class is primarily from Wisconsin with additions from Illinois, Tennessee, and Indiana. "Reserved" might be a good way to describe the class of 2020 as we have just learned that 14 of the 16 students are introverts! Our students have spent the first weeks orienting to each other and life here at NBI. We praise God for giving us the opportunity to invest in their lives!

Classes this fall semester include Old Testament Survey, Missions and Evangelism, Christian Theology, Church History, and the start of the Personal Development Seminar. In addition to the academics, the students will be involved with the on-going ministry of Silver Birch Ranch and in the local community, giving them ample opportunity to put legs to their learning.

The sum total of all these experiences and opportunities will mold and shape these young people in incredible ways as they live out their calling within the Kingdom of God. Please join us in praying for them.

Maybe you or someone you know would benefit from a year at Nicolet Bible Institute. Here's the essential information:

Facts about NBI:

One-year, college level program

Transferable credits – written agreements with other four-year Christian colleges (Including University of Northwestern, Trinity, Crown, Oak Hills, Montana Bible) for up to 36 credits. Credits have transferred to many other similar colleges as well.

Affordable - \$7950 ('19 - '20) for tuition, books, fees, room and board

Qualified and caring instructors who hold earned master's and doctoral degrees

Foundational Bible Courses – to help you own your faith

Find your calling using a variety of inventories including Gallup's StrengthsFinder.

Visit our website at www.nicoletbibleinstitute.org or contact Rich Hess, Dean of Students, at 715.484.2322 x226 if you are interested in more information. Apply early. Space is limited. We are actively accepting students for the fall of 2020!

Finally, don't forget to follow us on Facebook and Instagram if you are interested in relevant information about NBI and in seeing highlights of the student year.

DONATE ONLINE!

Did you know you can donate to camp through our website? If you go to www.silverbirchbranch.org/donate, we offer a simple way for you to give to our ministries. You can choose if you want a recurring donation, choose from a suggested amount if you are unsure how much you want to give, and choose where you want your donation to go. Check out our online donation process today and consider giving so you can help more kids come to camp next summer or support our storm clean-up process.



Nicolet Bible Institute
TEACHING | TRAINING | REACHING

THE WOLF RIVER REFUGE

-Matthew Shruck

The Wolf River Refuge has been a peaceful and quiet retreat location under Silver Birch Ranch ministries for several years now. I'm happy to say that, even after this summer's massive wind storms, it still is! We were very fortunate at the Refuge. The night of the storm was in the middle of our Fishermen's Retreat. We had a great group of guys and thought-provoking devotionals with Dave Wager. The men who attended, just like the guests at Silver Birch Ranch, were all unharmed. The storm was certainly destructive, but it provided such a wonderful opportunity for the Wolf River Refuge to be a refuge of a slightly different nature. After the first wave of the storm hit, I received a call from a car full of Summer Staffers who had gone into town earlier. They were on their way back to Silver Birch Ranch, but were unable to pass due to fallen trees. The Refuge had trees down, but they were able to park near our facility on the road, and to take refuge in some open cabin space, and stay the night until morning allowed for safe and open travel. The Refuge had a few close calls, as trees landed just feet from our cabins. We are so thankful that God is sovereign. Thank you so much for your continued love and support. Whether it be a Prayer Retreat, Family Getaway, Hunting Getaway, or some other adventure, I hope that you and your family will visit us soon!



Silver Birch Ranch
N6120 Sawyer Lake Rd.
White Lake, WI 54491
715-484-2742

Follow Us On:



• **Fall Men's Retreat**

October 4-6, 2019

• **Father-Daughter Retreat**

October 25-27, 2019

• **Fall Marriage Retreat**

November 1-3, 2019

• **Scrapbooking Retreat**

November 15-17, 2019

• **Quilters' Retreat**

November 21-24, 2019

• **Winter Family Camp**

December 27-30, 2019

• **Winter Jam**

Jan 31 - Feb 2, 2020

• **Adoption Family Retreat**

March 8-10, 2020



Scan QR code with your smart phone to learn more about our events and retreats!

THANK YOU!

Thank you, Troy and Jana Beaber and family!

It is with mixed emotions that we announce to our Silver Birch Ranch family that Troy and Jana Beaber and family will be leaving Silver Birch Ranch and pursuing other opportunities that are available to them. Troy is an exceptional builder, and he has left his "mark" on the facility of Silver Birch Ranch that will be felt for years to come. We are excited for Troy's new opportunities, but we will miss him, Jana, Tate, Seth, and Wyatt as they have been such a key component to our staff for 16 years. Join us in praying for them in their transition, and in rejoicing in what God has done though them at Silver Birch Ranch throughout the years.

Thank you, Carden and Lynn Stephenson!

For 20 years, Carden and Lynn Stephenson have quietly served God and the many guests at Silver Birch Ranch. Carden was a clubber under Richard Wager, our founder, and when he retired from being a firefighter, he took on a second career as he and Lynn came and did whatever they were asked to help others know Christ and make Him known. We are thankful for their example, love, and their heritage, and will miss them, while we look forward to seeing who God will raise up to take their place. We wish them well in their "second retirement" and are happy that we will occasionally still enjoy them volunteering at SBR in the future.