



The

BUCKING Board

NEWS AND UPDATES FROM SILVER BIRCH RANCH



WORKING THE PLAN WE HAVE...

- Dave Wager

As I sit and write this communication the snow is melting, the birds are returning, the lakes and rivers are bursting at their shorelines, and the promise of spring and summer has overtaken our thoughts and prayers.

Then, right in the middle of all the excitement, our nation began a journey whose destination is yet unknown. This new virus has changed the way we live, serve, plan, dream, and socialize.

Yet, with all the uncertainty, those who know, love, and enjoy God will be looking to Him and for Him in this worldly crisis, and as they experience Him, they will also find a peace that passes understanding that is available to all who love Him. (Philippians 4:7)

Silver Birch Ranch is and will be following our health official directives throughout this crisis, and, at the writing of this statement, all of our staff are healthy, working, and looking forward to the time when we can all serve together on these sacred grounds.

In reality, we are planning and working towards being able to open again in May, and hope to be in normal operation, even if it is a new normal, by summer. We think that with all the isolation we have been experiencing, this summer may be one of the most important summers in our lives to get out, get together, and enjoy God and each other.

We are thinking that we as people will be ready for some camp life, and that, due to the situations in which we have been living, many will be tender to hearing of the stability in life that comes from knowing and walking with God.

With that in mind, we encourage you register for summer camp as you normally would, and we will work towards being ready for you when you come. Our summer theme, *The Ruin*, is taking shape, our program team is excited, and our cabins will have been well-rested, well-cleaned, and raring to go.

We also ask that you continue to partner with us as you are able. As you probably know, this last year was a most interesting year for us in that we had both a tough winter and the storm of a lifetime that devastated our facility. At the time of the storm we stated this storm caused us to have to shut down for the first time in our fifty-plus year history. I would never have thought that within months we would join many in our nation in an unprecedented shutdown again. Silver Birch Ranch will be like many other small businesses, and we will need to see creative ways to weather this crisis. For those who are able, we encourage you to continue to support us as that would be our only means for income. For our friends who too have lost work and income, please know that our thoughts and prayers will be with you, and that you are not and have not been alone.

Since we all will be excited to focus on what is to come, we again invite you to go to our camp website, visit our YouTube channel, and continue to dream and plan your summer. Perhaps if you are in an area where you can have a campfire, build one, make a s'more or two, and reminisce about great times at camp while dreaming of what can happen in the months to come.

WORKING THE PLAN WE HAVE...

- Continued

These are our plans for today, and we will continue to work this plan until we are forced to change and make a better one. We do hope to see you soon.

If you are looking for something to listen to, feel free to check out the various podcasts available at relate365.com.

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear....

The Lord of hosts is with us;

The God of Jacob is our fortress.

“Be still, and know that I am God.

I will be exalted among the nations,

I will be exalted in the earth!”

Psalm 46:1-2a; 7; 10 (ESV)

HAPPY SPRING FROM THE WOLF RIVER REFUGE!

- Matthew Shruck

Winter has been quite warm this year, but, regardless, we've accumulated a large amount of snow. This winter we have had many families and friends come to the Wolf River Refuge. Our snowshoes have hit the trail more this year than ever. It's always so heart-warming to see families and groups come to the Refuge who, not only want to come and relax, but also get out and do things together. I love snowshoeing as a WRR activity because it is peaceful and relaxing. But, it is also the perfect mini adventure to grow in your relationships with one another and pray to our God in the splendor of His creation. Snowshoes are just one of those simple activities that allow our guests to enjoy each other's company in a different, constructive way.

There are a lot of changes on the horizon for the Wolf River Refuge. Alongside the ministry opportunities that we currently support, we are continuing to explore the options of supporting foster children and foster families in an abundance of ways. The hope is that WRR can be the place where Silver Birch Ranch, multiple churches, and multiple foster ministries can come together in the efforts of two causes: making Christ known and supporting foster children and families. Please continue to pray for the Wolf River Refuge, the multitude of families that we currently reach, and the kids and families whom we hope to reach in the future.

COVID - 19: SUMMER CAMP AND GUEST GROUPS

- Brad Ellis: Executive Director and Healthcare Supervisor

Silver Birch Ranch is highly committed to the health and safety of all our campers and staff. We continue to monitor the ever-changing situation with COVID-19, and are adhering to government officials, the CDC, and WHO recommendations. We have thoroughly reviewed and updated our cleaning and sanitizing protocols, and when campers return to camp, we will be implementing any recommended guidelines from the CDC and WHO for group gatherings.

We have been and will continue to work closely with our local hospital and health department to develop and implement our health protocols. For the past 52 years, we have worked incredibly hard to keep camp safe physically, emotionally, and spiritually for anyone who steps on our grounds, and this effort will not change. If you have questions about our cleaning or sanitizing procedures, please let us know.

My prayer as we go through this is that we can be a beacon of hope for the world, that we would be a light that people can follow towards the hope we have in Christ. May we all take up the challenge of Matthew 5:14-16.

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

We can't wait to serve you in the future.

Top 10 List

1. 1 Ton Electric Chain Hoist
\$800
2. 2 Ton Electric Chain Hoist
\$1,600
3. 1 Golf Cart Charger
\$400
4. 4 Connelly Tubes
\$250 each
5. 2 Paddle Boards
\$300 each
6. Drum machine/drain snake
\$590
7. Outdoor Basketball Backboards
\$3,000
8. Drill Bit Sharpener
\$500
9. Electric Golf Carts
\$2,000
10. Freezer Compressor
\$3,000

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.

TENNESSEE TRIP

-Joseph Mui

This past fall, a handful of the Nicolet Bible Institute students and a couple of Silver Birch Ranch interns drove from Wisconsin down to Lighthouse Christian Camp in Smithville, TN. While in Neenah, WI, we met up with a team assembled by a group called Faith In Action. Together, our goal was two-fold. The main project was setting up their gymnasium for a Christmas party offered to young girls across several counties in Tennessee. This involved creating gift baskets, sorting endless amounts of clothing, setting up tables, organizing storage rooms, sorting toys, going through school supplies, and more. A second project was to build a large awning/roof over the front door and patio of the gym. The goal was to create a space outside the door for campers to congregate, while still shielded from the weather. All this was to be completed within our nine-day trip.

In the midst of these projects, there were plenty of opportunities for us to see God work. In keeping the construction crew safe while building the roof, God was at work. Even when we had to be up before sunrise, God still gave us energy to work hard and stay motivated in the Christmas party set up. What rose above all this were the relationships that we were able to build. While at Lighthouse we experienced an incredible sense of community in the body of Christ. One of our team members said this: "The relationships built this year were very meaningful and impactful...I cannot express the amount of emotions, laughter, fun, and encouragement that was shared." Another said, "Serving together, laughing together, crying together, even being beyond tired together was just a blessing to see." The camaraderie between us from SBR, those on the Faith in Action team, and staff at Lighthouse was truly something special. All of our hearts are touched in reflection of the time we spent with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

By our trip's end, we finished both our projects earlier than anticipated! Lighthouse Christian Camp has a new roof over its gym door and God pulled off a successful Christmas party with over 400 little girls singing Christmas carols, eating candy, picking out gifts, and hearing the truth of our Savior's birth. We are grateful!

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 on-line donation process today and consider giving so you can help more kids come to camp this summer!



LOOKING FORWARD TO THE RUIN!

-Jason Kemper

With everything currently going on, we can't help but look forward to summer. As of right now, our hope and prayer is that summer camps will happen as planned. With that in mind, we are busy at work decorating the Chapel and preparing to build the set in the field for Theme Night. We can't wait to have our grounds swarming with young people again eager to grow in their relationships with Jesus.

In order for this to happen, we need YOUR help! Whether it's counseling, volunteering, camping, sending a camper, or giving a donation to help a young person come to camp, we would love for you to partner with us this summer. Head on over to silverbirchranch.org/summer to register, sign up to volunteer, or even just keep up-to-date on all that God is doing. Join us as we pray for the hundreds of young people and counselors who will visit camp. We look forward to seeing you here this summer!



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Follow Us On:



- **Spring Men's Retreat**
May 1-3, 2020
- **Ladies' Retreat #2**
September 17-20, 2020
- **Mother-Daughter Retreat**
May 15-17, 2020
- **Father-Son Retreat**
September 25-27, 2020
- **Homeschool Family Camp**
August 27-30, 2020
- **Fall Men's Retreat**
October 2-4, 2020
- **Ladies' Retreat #1**
September 10-13, 2020
- **Fall Couples' Retreat**
Oct. 30 - Nov. 1, 2020



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

GOODBYE, CANADIAN ADVENTURE CAMP!

- Dave Wager

Silver Birch Ranch is thankful to Steve and Kris Tice and the many donors and volunteers who made Canadian Adventure Camp a unique place of reflection, renewal, and recreation.

However, the logistics of operating a camp in another country became complicated and burdensome. A few years ago, we started the process of looking for Canadians who would use the property. The final piece of the puzzle, Blackhawk Cabin, was donated to a local church who desires to carry on a similar work of what had become tradition to many.

We will always have fond memories and grateful hearts for the years we witnessed God's quiet hand working in the magnificent Canadian wilderness. For us, it is like finishing a wonderful chapter in a great book, and we now look forward to what the author (God) is writing here in the Northwoods of Wisconsin.

