



The

BUCKING Board

NEWS AND UPDATES FROM SILVER BIRCH RANCH



NICOLET BIBLE INSTITUTE

- Dave Wager

Silver Birch Ranch has certainly grown throughout the years. God has blessed us with more opportunities, more land, full-time and part-time staff, and has faithfully provided our needs month by month for over 50 years.

When I was a young boy, I thought the year 2000 would usher in a Jetsons'-like existence where our work would be done by robots, cars would float through the air, and life would, generally, be easy.

Well, we have made some incredible "Jetson-like" advances, but this past year proved, once again, that work is still done the old-fashioned way. We have also understood anew that as much as the world changes, our purposes remain the same.

The Nicolet Bible Institute illustrates well the idea of change while staying the same. NBI started off as a normal offshoot of Silver Birch Ranch in that we were constantly looking for ways to use our Northwoods setting to help build the church. So many young people were going to college because it was the logical next step in their education, rather than because they knew they needed it to prepare for their careers. As college increased in cost, it became imperative that those who took on the challenge of higher education knew they needed that diploma.

NBI started as a "gap" year program before such programs were popular, and although it is still considered that by some, it has really developed into one year of Christian college classes that help equip students to serve our King and demonstrate who He is, whether they go to college or directly into the work force.

We believe that NBI does an excellent job of helping a young person get grounded in God's Word and develop a servant's heart, and we have seen many of our graduates excel at whatever God had for them beyond their year with us.

We encourage all of our friends and partners who are not familiar with the Nicolet Bible Institute, 2020 version, to check us out online at nicoletbibleinstitute.org. We then would ask that you join us in praying for our students and helping us recruit new students for the 2020-2021 school year.



WOLF RIVER WONDERLAND

- Matthew Shruck

This fall was busy at the Refuge with women's retreats, family getaways, and several deer hunters! This winter we'll welcome missionaries on furlough, church life groups, many family getaways, and a few other small group retreats. Our winter season is not as busy as the summer, but our time is full of projects and planning for what is to come and be done at WRR this spring and summer. Most of our winter projects are indoors during the winter, but we're excited to say that we already have a foot and a half of snow! And, adventures are sure to come!

While many people see large snowbanks and retreat to the depths of their homes, at WRR we're excited about the many opportunities that summer simply doesn't offer. The lakes are frozen over and provide an opportunity to catch new fish and feed families—all while spending time with our families and friends and enjoying God's creation on the hard water. Did you know that more than 14 million fish are caught out of the ice in Wisconsin each year?



Enjoyment can also be found on the snowmobile trails in the area, which are still being cleared and groomed after this summer's storm. However, whether to gaze upon the storm damage or the Northwoods winter wonderland, snowmobiling is one of the most unique ways to experience the area and its traditions. After all, the snowmobile was invented in Sayner, WI, just an hour and a half from our location!

We also have several pairs of snowshoes at the Wolf River Refuge, as well! Snowshoeing is a great option for viewing a different sort of Northwoods trail, such as the one attached to WRR property. One especially fun aspect of this time of year is watching the tracks of wildlife in the snow.

However, what all these activities have in common is that they're best accompanied by a warm cabin at The Refuge and a Christ-centered getaway to invest in family, friends, and small groups! Please remember to join us this winter season. Or, if you are unable to join us, remember that a stay at the Wolf River Refuge would make an excellent way to bless another family with an opportunity to invest in each other and in Christ.

Top 10 List

1. Cable Tension Kit
\$165
2. Outside Kitchen Grill
\$4,500
3. Cross-Country Ski Equipment
\$500
4. Outdoor Basketball Backboards
\$3,000
5. Drill Bit Sharpener
\$500
6. 18v Cordless Drill (1/2 inch drive)
\$450
7. Zip Line Trollies
\$2,000
8. Freezer Compressor
\$3,500
9. 2.5 Ton Floor Jack
\$150
10. Electric Golf Carts
\$2,000

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.

SUMMER 2020: THE RUIN

- Jason Kemper

Happy New Year! Now that we have launched into the New Year, summer is only getting closer. Before we know it, Summer 2020: *The Ruin* will be upon us. Right now we are knee deep in plans and preparations for our brand-new theme. Many exciting things will be happening and you won't want to miss it. Youth Camp registration is open and Family Camp registration begins January 21. Spots for Youth Camp are starting to fill up fast, so make sure not to wait and head over to silverbirchrancho.org/summer to register. Also, if you would love to help us out this summer by volunteering, being a counselor, or even one of our summer-long Summer Staffers, those applications are available on the website as well. We can't wait to see you for our 53rd summer: *The Ruin*.



SUMMER MISSIONS PROJECT, 2019

- Rich Hess

Every summer at Silver Birch Ranch we choose to promote and participate in a Summer Missions Project. All full-time SBR staff, Summer Staff, volunteers, and campers are invited to support this project by giving financially. This past summer 2019 we had the unique privilege to contribute toward the costs of translating and printing the Bible into the language of the Omiti people who live in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Africa. The total sum of the offering collected was \$1,690.71. We desire to express our thanks to all those who took part in this project.

Considering that there are an incredible number of people groups and languages in the entire world, how did we decide to pick this particular Omiti Bible translation as our project? Truthfully, this decision was not as difficult as it would seem since it was done in memory of Dave Bradley, a former SBR staff member, who passed on to be with the Lord on January 14, 2019, at the age of 62, in Nairobi, Kenya, Africa. Dave had served with Wycliffe Bible Translators as a Bible translation consultant for many different language groups in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Omiti people group being one of them. Dave honored Christ with his life, and we desire with this gift to remember Dave and to further the work that God is doing in Africa as well.

AN NBI DISCOUNT!

- Steve Sanford

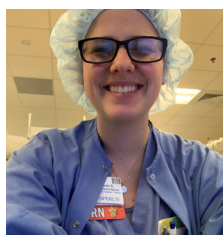
If you or someone you know is considering attending Nicolet Bible Institute for 2020-2021, now is the time to apply! For the first time ever, we are offering \$500 off tuition for all students who apply before April 15, 2020. NBI is a great opportunity to develop a strong Biblical foundation, grow deeper in your relationship with God, and have fun learning how to serve within the context of camping ministry. Head over to nicoletbibleinstitute.org for more information and to apply today, so that you can take advantage of this great offer before it's too late.

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.

NBI ALUMNUS

- Sarah Stanton



I grew up going to camp at SBR, but I never thought that I would ever attend NBI. It always seemed like an awesome opportunity, but I had the mindset that I couldn't take that much time to invest in my relationship with the Lord. I felt pressure to go to school and get a degree, and that's what I did when I graduated from high school. I went to a 4-year university for a year, and then I realized that God was calling me to something else: attending NBI!

During my year as an NBI student (2015-16), I grew in more ways than I even knew was possible. Many people in my life thought it was a crazy decision, but I am so grateful for the year I spent there. I made lasting friendships, learned more about God and His Word, grew in my knowledge of serving others, and gained more confidence in my relationship and faith in God. I grew up going to church and I came into NBI knowing many stories in the Bible, but the classes in the program expanded my knowledge even more and challenged me to own my faith. Because I still live in the area, I am still close with many of the staff which has been an amazing support system for me. I also still talk with many of my classmates. I'm still best friends with my roommate! The relationships formed at NBI are lifelong.

After I attended NBI, I went on to earn an associate's degree in nursing and I have spent the last year working in the operating room. I believe that I am a better nurse because of my year spent at NBI gaining a solid foundation of who God is and who He wants me to be as a Christ-follower. I am forever grateful for the experience that NBI provided for me!

TRADING POST ONLINE

Our Trading Post renovation is finally complete and with it we have updated our online store. Now everything offered in our Trading Post can also be found online. All of the proceeds go toward helping campers come to camp. So it's a great way to not only represent your favorite camp, but also be a part of helping young people come to camp and hear about Jesus. Head on over to silverbirchbranch.org/store to start browsing our latest selection.



SUMMER STORM BLESSINGS



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

Serving for a week to help clean up from storm damage while my daughter served as a wrangler and my granddaughter learned about Jesus Christ, sang songs, played games, and got to be a pirate was the best week at camp I've ever experienced. (Volunteer Dad / Grandpa)

Please use this to help in any way with the repairs and restoration at camp. Your response was such a testimony to your love and trust in God. As someone who is not very bold in speaking out, I found myself saying to others, "Do you want to hear about a miracle?" and then I would tell them how all the campers were safe and no one was harmed. God will see SBR through this restoration. (Volunteer)

Follow Us On:



- **Winter Jam**
Jan. 31 - Feb 2, 2020
- **Adoption Family Retreat**
March 6-8, 2020
- **Do Your Own Thing**
March 19-22, 2020
- **Spring Couples' Retreat**
April 3-5, 2020
- **Authored Couples' Retreat**
April 17-19, 2020
- **Spring Men's Retreat**
May 1-3, 2020
- **Mother-Daughter Retreat**
May 15-17, 2020
- **Family Camp #1**
May 30 - June 5, 2020



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

THE R U I N 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 28-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.

