

THE BUCKING BOARD

SILVER BIRCH RANCH

NEWSLETTER

JULY - SEPTEMBER, 2023

ARTICLES

- A NEW ADVENTURE
- GROWING AND LOOKING FOR LEADERSHIP
- GOODBYE AND HELLO!
- SUMMER 2023 IS IN FULL SWING
- DEAR SBR TEAM



A NEW ADVENTURE

-Dave Wager

For many years we passed by the sign for the Wolf River Lodge on our way to get supplies from our local town. The Lodge was a resort on the Wolf River catering to kayakers, trout fishing, and year-round northern Wisconsin adventures.

Silver Birch Ranch obtained the property through a God-ordained miraculous series of events and operated a complimentary camp dedicated to smaller groups, discipleship, and personal reflection on relationships.

Since the pandemic, we have seen an increased need for places like this that emphasize discipleship and small group, person-to-person connection

through various Northwoods settings.

Our base camp facility is geared towards larger groups, evangelism, and leadership development, hosts hundreds of youth at a time, and is often at capacity.

After much prayer, thought, and discussion, we have decided to rebrand the old Wolf River Lodge, renamed the Wolf River Refuge, to the Northwoods Retreat, which would host one hundred guests or less and allow a more intimate Christian camping experience. This change would allow us to continue expanding our efforts to minister to our nation's youth at a time when healthy personal relationships are more critical than ever.

This means we will expand the facility we now own by building a dining hall/meeting room and another cabin facility, and expand our staffing as necessary.

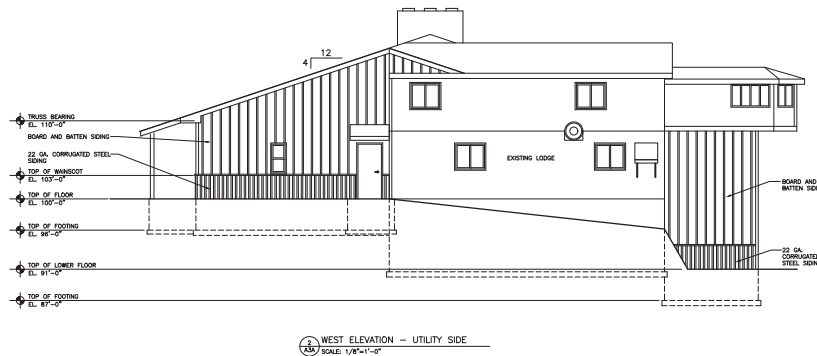
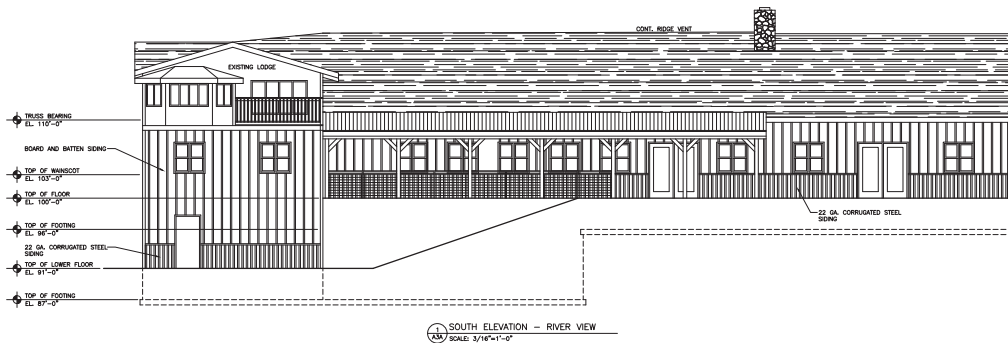
We have seen God's faithful provision since 1968 and are anxious to see how He provides for this new adventure. We invite you to pray with us, watch God work, and ask God if He would have you involved in helping us finance these buildings so we can remain effective, safe, fun, and affordable for years to come.

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If Silver Birch Ranch was a book, each chapter would be focused on God's faithful work and provision. We are excited to begin another chapter and look forward to seeing how the seemingly impossible becomes possible.

Thanks for your prayers and gifts.



TOP 10 LIST

1. Chapel Projector
\$12,000
2. Gooseneck Hay Hauler
\$10,000
3. Skid Steer Hay Forks
\$1,000
4. Stall Mats-Stables
\$2,500
5. Climbing Wall Chest Harnesses
\$33 each (16)
6. Under-Counter Freezers
\$1,500 each (2)
7. New Espresso Machine
\$11,000
8. Archery Tag
\$5,000
9. Horse Arena Gates
\$2,500
10. Lakefront Tubes
\$200 each (4)

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.

FIND OUT MORE ON OUR WEBSITE
www.northwoodsretreat.org



FFC - GROWING AND LOOKING FOR LEADERSHIP

-Mike Jewell

Foster Family Connect (FFC) is a SBR ministry that serves foster families and foster children by recruiting volunteers from churches to care for them. SBR also provides youth/family camps, retreats, and training to the foster family connected with FFC. FFC is looking for leadership to expand our reach into the foster community. We are hiring an Executive Director and a Communications Manager to lead the branding and communications areas of FFC into more churches/counties. A detailed job description can be located at <https://www.silverbirchranh.org/careers> or contact mike.jewell@silverbirchranh.org (cell - 715-499-1320) for more information.

FFC is dependent on generous donations from people who wish to supply care for foster children, the modern-day orphan. We do not charge our foster families for our services. If you want to donate, visit our website <https://www.fosterfamilyconnect.org/get-involved> to send a check or contribute by credit card.

GOODBYE AND HELLO!

-Jeremy Lundgren

This past winter, Nicolet Bible Institute said goodbye to Rich Hess, who retired from his long-time position as Instructor and Dean of Students. According to a very informal survey of recent students, Rich ranked high, in comparison with other NBI faculty, on the amount and difficulty of work he assigned in his classes. If that survey were broadened, Rich would also rank high in passion for the lost, personal integrity, and commitment to the work God had given him to do. He and Margie faithfully served the students of NBI, showing them what service to Christ looks like on a daily basis. Rich taught and worked with diligence and passion. He called on his students to do the same. We thank God for the foundation Rich and Margie helped build at NBI.

NBI also said goodbye, in part, to Steve Sanford. With the close of the school year, Steve stepped down as President of NBI. He will continue as adjunct faculty. Through the years, Steve built up the NBI curriculum and fostered good relationships with partner colleges. His heart to see young people mature, and to help them gain wisdom, has come through in his teaching and discipleship of students, interns, and staff at SBR. He and Becky have opened their home and their lives to those desiring to learn and grow and serve. Again, we thank God for the many ways they helped NBI become what it is today.

NBI is also thankful to say hello to Jeremy Lundgren as the new NBI President and to Ethan Keller as the new Dean of Students. Jeremy, his wife, Kaci, and their family recently moved up to SBR from Lombard, Illinois. Jeremy holds a PhD in systematic theology and spent the last several years serving as an elder at his church and teaching theology at Moody Bible Institute and Wheaton College. Ethan, his wife, Moriah, and their family recently lived in Minnesota, where Ethan served as a youth pastor for several years and earned his MA in Old Testament literature. Jeremy and Ethan are excited to be at NBI and are looking forward to the year ahead. If you are a recent high school graduate looking to grow in your relationship with God and your knowledge of the Christian faith, if you want to spend a year studying and serving at SBR, apply now for the upcoming school year. The fall semester begins August 27th.

SUMMER 2023 IS IN FULL SWING

-Jason Kemper

It's hard to believe that we are halfway through our 56th summer. Campers are enjoying all the activities that camp has to offer including our theme night set for this summer, which has waters slides! In the midst of all the fun and organized chaos, students are hearing about the life-changing hope that Jesus has to offer, and lives are being changed. It takes a team of many to make summer happen from full-time staff, Summer Staff, volunteers, prayer partners, and financial partners. We want to thank everyone for being a part of what God is doing in the lives of campers this summer!





Silver Birch Ranch
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FOLLOW US ON:



- **HOMESCHOOL FAMILY CAMP**
August 24-27, 2023
- **FATHER-DAUGHTER RETREAT**
October 6-8, 2023
- **LADIES' RETREATS #1 & #2**
Sept. 8-10 & Sept. 15-17, 2023
- **QUILTERS' RETREAT**
October 26-29, 2023
- **FATHER-SON RETREAT**
Sept. 22-24, 2023
- **SCRAPBOOKING RETREAT #1**
November 9-12, 2023
- **FALL MEN'S RETREAT**
Sept. 29-Oct. 1, 2023
- **SCRAPBOOKING RETREAT #2**
November 16-19, 2023

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



DEAR SBR TEAM,

This summer will be 50 years since I was born again at SBR. This is another opportunity to tell you how grateful I am, both for this present life and for eternity.

I'm so grateful for the Bible lessons that showed me how my spiritual upbringing was right to a point, then veered away from Scripture.

I'm grateful for the leaders who demonstrated joy-filled spirituality.

I'm grateful that camp provides discipleship that spared me many heartaches in life, and showed me the path to "life, and that abundantly."

I'm grateful to have had the Word of God to guide and comfort me in life, and the Holy Spirit through life's trials.

I'm grateful to Jesus for giving me His righteousness and for His grace when I fail.

So thank you for the ministry of SBR. I pray God continues to use you "To Know Christ and to Make Him Known."

-A former camper, camper parent, counselor, volunteer