

# SPRINGTIME IN KENTUCKY

**April 24-28, 2017**

Join Sarett Nature Center as we travel to the Bluegrass state of Kentucky in search of spring wildflowers, sandstone formations, forests and walking trails. We are headed to Natural Bridge State Park and Red River Gorge for day hikes, beautiful scenery, and wildflowers. Natural Bridge State Resort Park is home to the great natural sandstone arch that stands like a sentinel over this mountain. Located in the midst of the Daniel Boone National Forest, near the Red River Gorge Geological Area, the arch spans 78 feet in length and 65 feet in height. There are actually about 150 arches in the area. The Red River Gorge is a unique, scenic natural area with spectacular rock features, including sandstone arches and towering cliffs.

Between these two natural areas, there are many walks for us to explore. At Natural Bridge State Park, we will find our way to Lover's Leap, Balanced Rock, Fat Man's Squeeze, Battleship Rock, Devil's Gulch, Whittleton Arch and, of course, the Natural Bridge. At Red River Gorge, we may walk to Gray's Arch, Hidden Arch, Silvermine Arch, Whistling Arch, Sky Bridge, Princess Arch and Chimney Top Rock. The exact trails we will choose to do will depend on desires, weather and the physical ability of the group. Two vans will be involved as we should be able to accommodate everyone.

**Monday....April 24.** Please arrive at Sarett by 8:00 am. We will make the 6-7 hour drive to Natural Bridge State Park with time to settle in, find dinner and still have time to do a little explore.

**Tuesday-Thursday....April 25, 26 & 27.** Three days will be spent taking in the beauty of the area. Scenic drives, sandstone arches, waterfalls, spring wildflowers, birds and gorgeous landscape will all be part of your experience.

**Friday... April 28.** There may be time for an early morning walk before we begin our drive back to Michigan.

**Accommodation:** We have booked cabins in Natural Bridge State Park. We have space for 12 participants and two Sarett naturalists. The cabins are conveniently located to walking trails and dining. All linens and towels are provided.

**Cost.** \$625/person based on double occupancy. \$675/ for non members. This includes round trip transportation, cabin accommodations at Natural Bridge State Resort Park, 3 picnic lunches and the services of Sarett Nature Center naturalists. A deposit of \$100 is required to hold your spot. If sending a check, mail it to:

Sarett Nature Center  
2300 Benton Center Rd  
Benton Harbor MI 49022

**Final payment is due April 1, 2017**

**Cancellations.** Your deposit is refundable until March 15. After March 15, we will refund only recoverable costs. We will make every effort to refund as much as possible.

**Things to Bring.** Sturdy walking/hiking shoes are essential for trail exploration. A good walking stick can also be useful. We'll look for birds and wildlife when out and about so having binoculars would be handy. Bring a day pack to hold water bottles, food, field guides, etc. We walk trails in wet weather, so please bring raingear or an umbrella. Dress in layers for added comfort.

**Travel.** The drive will at least 6 hours and with breaks and stops it will be longer. Please pack a sack lunch and plenty of snacks for eating as we travel to Kentucky. We will stop often for gas and bathroom breaks. We will eat supper at Natural Bridge State Park.

**Meals.** Meals are a separate expense (except for 3 picnic lunches). We will plan on eating breakfast at the dining room at the lodge. (Or you can pack a cooler with breakfast items.) We will find dinners at the dining room or in neighboring towns.

**Gear.** One small suitcase per person should suffice, plus extra shoes and a day pack for carrying your lunches, rain gear, binoculars, etc. Shoes should be sturdy, comfortable and well broken-in. Take clothing that can be layered-never know what the weather will do in the spring. Other important items are cameras, sunglasses, alarm clock, rain gear and extra money (credit card) for food and souvenirs. Don't forget any medications.

**Sample Walks and Activities.** Sarett naturalists will offer a variety of hikes to see and appreciate these wonderfully diverse parks. Some days, we will be combining several shorter hikes that begin and end in the same parking lot. You can do all the hikes that are offered or you could hike some and then find a quiet spot and read a favorite book or draw or journal. There will be options. But we encourage you to take advantage of spectacular scenery and join us on the walks.

**Mail Deposits to:** Sarett Nature Center  
2300 Benton Center Rd  
Benton Harbor MI 49022

**Questions:** Contact Dianne at [dianneb@sarett.com](mailto:dianneb@sarett.com) or Mindy at [mindyw@sarett.com](mailto:mindyw@sarett.com) or call us at 269-927-4832.

Space is limited on this trip, please don't be disappointed, reserve your spot today!!!