

MAY - AUGUST 2024

THE SARETT SONGBIRD

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF SARETT NATURE CENTER

Handbook
1961

IN THIS EDITION

- 60 YEARS IN THE COMMUNITY
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- 2024-25 TRIPS



North Berrien Audubon
CHAPTER OF
MICHIGAN AUDUBON SOCIETY

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS IN OUR COMMUNITY

by Nate Fuller, Executive Director

60 years ago, William and Elizabeth Vawter purchased 90 acres along the Paw Paw River so that their community could have a nature center. In reflecting on our anniversary, I spent some time looking through the old scrap books and visiting with former Sarett directors Dianne Braybrook and Chuck Nelson along with his wife, Kathy. I was wondering who had the vision of establishing a nature center here? What sort of aspirations did they have? I wonder what they would think of what Sarett Nature Center has become?

Our nature center had its origins with the North Berrien Audubon Society (NBAS), whose meetings and outings were regularly documented in the local papers. The NBAS was very active and their scrap books show them as early advocates for a broad variety of environmental causes both local and national.

Through their affiliation with the Michigan Audubon Society (MAS), members of the NBAS learned of a proposed nature center in Kalamazoo. Dr. H. Lewis Batts, a professor at Kalamazoo College, had the idea to create a center for nature that not only protected a beloved old growth forest along the Kalamazoo River, but could act as a community center for conservation organizations such as the Michigan Botanical Club and MAS.



In May of 1963, NBAS members visited Dr. Batts at his brand-new nature center and learned of his vision of how a nature center would benefit the community. William and Elizabeth Vawter, active members of NBAS, were inspired. As active community philanthropists, they had already established the Berrien County Community Foundation among many other projects and saw a nature center as another great potential amenity to their community.

By September of the following year, the NBAS proudly announced that the Vawters had purchased 90 acres to

dedicate to the MAS to establish a nature center for northern Berrien County. From the beginning, they had the idea to dedicate the land in the name of Lew Sarett, their friend and nature poet who had grown up with William in Benton Harbor.

A committee was formed to develop a vision of how to manage the land for wildlife and make the area a community resource. The chair of the Lew Sarett Wilderness Sanctuary was long-time NBAS member, Helen Bradburn. In an article from March 11, 1965, Mrs. Bradburn is quoted as saying "The sanctuary will benefit the entire Berrien County community in many ways, large and small, by providing a program for all age groups to participate in the study, enjoyment, and preservation of our wildlife heritage".



Mrs. Bradburn went on to describe plans for trails, wildlife plantings, and day camps for children "presenting natural history in its most interesting form, out of doors". Her dedication to getting people into natural areas is reflected throughout all the notes in the NBAS scrap books. A 1966 newspaper article highlighted one of the first nature classes held at Sarett where the headlines reads: When School's In Woods Two-Hour Class Too Short - Youngsters Study Wildlife.



When Helen Bradburn wasn't hosting NBAS events promoting the new nature sanctuary at her home, she was recruiting instructors to give lessons on nature on site. She had a vision where people would be engaged in nature and inspired to care for it. By 1968 she and the Lew Sarett Wildlife Sanctuary Committee announced plans to build an interpretive center.

At this point the Vawters had purchased more land for the sanctuary, growing it to 170 acres. The Indian Hills Garden club had helped raise funds to plant trees and dig ponds. But the Sanctuary Committee had plans to do more than welcome wildlife - they wanted to bring people into nature.

Their plans for the interpretive center included an exhibition-meeting room for 75 people, display area, and the "dominating feature will be large observation windows for viewing wildlife".



Those windows remain one of the favorite features of the nature center today.

In that same article outlining their vision for the interpretive center, Helen Bradburn touts “with the completion of the center and trails, lectures and nature tours will be available to area schools and other groups, and open to the public at specified times.” With this broadened programming, Mrs. Bradburn went on to announce that a professional director would be hired in the following spring. “His primary objective will be to develop a natural history program for Sarett and to coordinate some phases of that program

with needs of other educational units in the county”. At this point Mrs. Bradburn and her committee had already been coordinating programming for over 500 students, but she envisioned more.

Mr. Ralph Williams was brought on as Sarett’s first director in 1969. He came with a degree in conservation education from the University of Michigan, memberships in a variety of conservation groups and had advised on preserve development for the Grand Mere Association. He spent long hours establishing Sarett’s first trail system, but had little time for public engagement.

In May of the following year, 1970, the interpretive center was completed, and “Sarett Nature Center” was officially dedicated. After two years of hard work, Mr. Williams left the position and Sarett Sanctuary began a search for a new director, especially looking for someone who would emphasize community engagement.

In February of 1971, Charles “Chuck” Nelson began what would become a 42-year career as Sarett’s director. He brought along his wife, Kathy, who left behind her job as a teacher to play her own important role in helping shape what the nature center would become.

I recently sat down with Chuck and Kathy to reminisce about their early days at Sarett. Kathy reflected on that first day, “I turned to Chuck that morning before we went to work and I asked, what are we going to do over there all day long? He said, well, first I’m going to write a five-year plan on what I want to accomplish. But they didn’t even have a typewriter, so I brought my own portable typewriter and a filing cabinet.”

Chuck laughed “Years later I was still working on that five-year plan. I never had time to write a plan, I was working on tomorrow”.

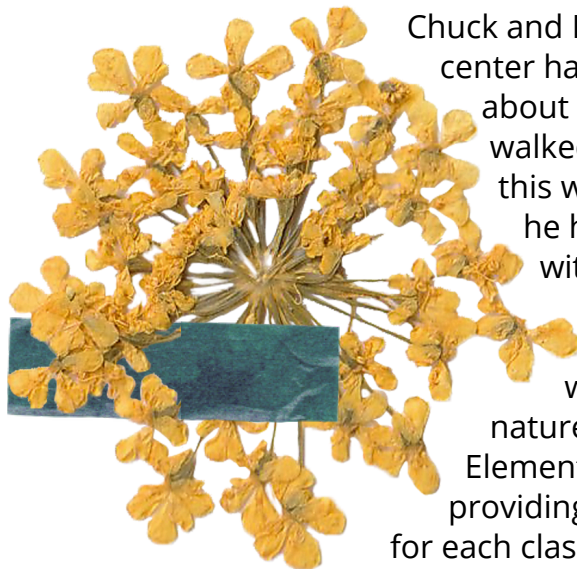


It wasn't an exaggeration. Just four weeks after his first day on the job, the newspaper had a full-page article announcing weekly presentations and walks every Sunday; birding classes on Saturday mornings; training sessions for those who wanted to help lead school groups were to begin immediately; nature lessons for classrooms were in the works; flowering plant classes would begin in June; and special events such as woodcock walks and waterfowl watches would be announced shortly.

However, the newly offered programs weren't always a big hit. "It wasn't like we threw open the door and shouted to the crowds about the wonders of nature" Chuck recalled. Kathy added "Every Sunday we would stand by the window waiting to exclaim SOMEONE IS COMING! And we would be so excited to have a visitor". "And sometimes it was even someone coming to one of my programs" added Chuck with a laugh.

But soon enough, word spread, and people were coming. Helen Bradburn couldn't have been more pleased with the results. "Elizabeth Upton Vawter had the idea to have a nature center as a benefit for the community. Helen had the vision of what it should look like." shared Kathy. "She wanted the nature center to be a gateway to nature for everybody".

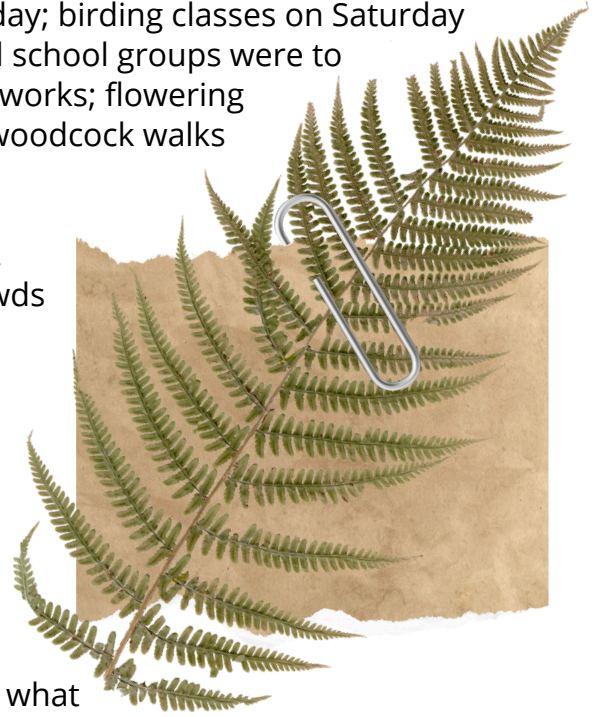
"Boy, did we get along, Helen Bradburn and I, man-o-man" recalled Chuck. "They were so thrilled to get Chuck and get this programming going" Kathy added. She remembers hearing about how the new building was sitting empty as the previous director was out building trail. Chuck still appreciates to this day that Kathy was there to watch the building (unpaid), so he could not only work on trails, but also explore the wetland to learn what was out there. "You have to get acquainted with nature before you can teach about it".



Chuck and Kathy both recall what an impact the view from the nature center had on Chuck during his first visit. "I had a book by Dr. Gordon about how to instruct on nature, it was like my bible. The first time I walked down the hillside into the wetlands I was struck by the fact that this was a place to teach just like Dr. Gordon had described. It was like he had written his book to explain Sarett Nature Center. I fell in love with this place."

It didn't take Chuck long to get acquainted with Sarett's wetlands and was eager to get classrooms acquainted with nature too. Chuck and Kathy's first big success came with Lincoln Elementary in St. Joseph. The principal was all in on Chuck's idea of providing nature lessons individualized for each classroom. "He arranged for each class to come out two to three times a year and all of a sudden we were busy!" remembered Kathy. She also made friends with the sports editor of the local paper who was quick to post any event Kathy provided.

Word spread, and Sarett Nature Center was soon a field trip destination for all the area schools. Chuck and Kathy needed help. They shared stories of the first seasonal help they hired, often youth that had struggled in traditional school settings (one even blew up the school toilet) but found a willing mentor in Chuck and learned to thrive in a natural environment. The first full time naturalist, Lou Awodey,





marked the beginning of a very long line of naturalists who would get their start at Sarett Nature Center.

The list of board members who have helped shape Sarett for the past 60 years is long as well. Chuck and Kathy still wax fondly about how Drs. William Emery and Dean Hudnutt opened doors (and wallets) for Chuck to build support for Sarett Nature Center. Dr. Emery also introduced cross-country skiing to Sarett. Ed Lewis was an early treasurer who not only helped organize the finances, but also brought his love of woodworking and boats to bring snowshoes and canoeing to Sarett, handmaking all the paddles for the voyageur canoes.

Sarett's programming grew and went from reaching hundreds to thousands of students each year. Generations of families were now returning to enjoy the community asset the Vawters had started.

1998 was a milestone year for the nature center as it incorporated as its own nonprofit organization, independent of MAS. By this point the nature center property had grown to hundreds of acres courtesy in large part to the generosity of Mary Letty Upton, Elizabeth Vawter's daughter-in-law. The organization had a growing staff of full-time naturalists and seasonal interns. MAS agreed it was time for Sarett to be independent and transferred all the land to the newly formed Sarett Nature Center Incorporated.

In 1982, Dianne Braybrook joined Sarett as a naturalist. For the next 37 years she would serve Sarett in many different roles – naturalist, chief naturalist, bookkeeper, and eventually director. Dianne had the great challenge of following Chuck and Kathy's legacy, but she made it relatively seamless for the organization as she had essentially the same vision in mind. "Our mission is to get people out into nature. And we can teach them along the way".

Dianne is still humble when asked about her contributions to Sarett Nature Center. Only when pressed to share what she is proud of helping accomplish, she spoke of being grateful for the number of school children she helped teach and felt she made a strong impact on Sarett's summer programming. She added an increasing variety of classes for the kids that could cater to the children's interests.

"It is cliché, but kids really are the future". Dianne shared and then added "Sarett's mission is just as important today as it was 60 years ago."

When looking through Sarett's archives, you can see one example after another of naturalists doing just as Helen Bradburn promised - "presenting natural history in its most interesting form, out of doors". As we celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Vawter's generosity, it is gratifying to know that we are fulfilling the vision of our founders.



SARETT ALUMNI OPEN HOUSE

Calling all former Sarett
naturalists!

Join us for an evening get together

Friday, August 23, 6:00-9:00 PM

to celebrate Sarett's 60th anniversary.
Families and significant others are invited too!
Pizza and drinks will be available.

Please call 269-927-4832 to reserve your spot.



Southwest Michigan Team Birdathon 2024 will be here soon!



On May 18, dedicated teams of bird watchers will search and "sing" to find as many different birds as possible throughout Berrien County in this friendly competition.

Many teams also use this as an opportunity to fundraise for their favorite conservation group. Sarett's teams this year are *The Downies and a Redhead*, *The Common Yellowthroats* and *The Whip-poor-snappers*. Each team collects "pledges" which can be a flat rate (i.e. "I will donate \$50 to the event") or per species (i.e. "I will donate 5 cents for every different specie found by the team").



If you would like to make a flat rate donation to one of our teams please follow the QR code. If you would like to set up a per species donaton please contact us at sarett@sarett.org or 269-927-4832.

A Farewell to Val

Sarett Nature Center has always been and will always remain committed to providing the best quality of life for all of our animal ambassadors. For this reason, we made the difficult but necessary decision to say goodbye to our Turkey Vulture ambassador, Val, in January by having her humanely euthanized.

Val came to Sarett in March of 2015 after spending some time with a wildlife rehabilitator. Val suffered a broken bone in her right wing which resulted from a car collision; a very sad but common story among Turkey Vultures. The break did not heal correctly which meant this bird was unable to be released back into the wild due to her inability to fly and would have to live out the rest of her life at an education facility. Val arrived as an adult, so we did not know her exact age, but knew there was a high probability that we would have this bird for a long time. Living in captivity can prolong a raptor's life long past what it would be in the wild due to the higher quality of life that can be provided.

Val's presence had a huge impact not only on our staff and volunteers, but on the public as well. She was extremely charismatic and intelligent, always keeping us on our toes and making us giggle with her silly antics. If you came to Sarett anytime from August 2015 through October 2021, you probably got to meet Val – or you may have caught her television debut the day she was shown on the local news (July 6, 2016). Val participated in about 80 events of educational programs and public viewings in her time at Sarett. She was the largest captive raptor at Sarett and seemed to know this because she displayed a “large and in charge” attitude.

When a bird suffers a wing injury, very often they are left with a wing droop (the wing sags below the natural settling point). Wing droop is a condition that never improves and can only be monitored throughout the bird's life. Val's condition had progressed dramatically through Fall and Winter of 2023. This led the Animal Care Coordinator to perform a quality of life assessment. In completing the assessments, we were able to determine that Val was experiencing a poor quality of life due to perceived pain and mobility issues, making it difficult for her to do simple things such as comfortably move around her enclosure or perch on a glove. Having a debilitating injury can also be detrimental to a bird's mental and emotional well being.



We are constantly seeking opportunities to continue improving our practices and expanding our knowledge of animal care and management. In December 2021, after animal care staff participated in a course through The Raptor Center at the University of Minnesota we were inspired to change up our bird training to align with best practices utilized in the field. TRC Education Director, Melissa Moore, has been a vital resource for us through this process. In 2023, we reconnected with an old friend of Sarett, Francie Krawcke of Michigan Avian Experience, who has also been assisting us along the way. This retraining journey has given us the opportunity to learn much about bird behavior on both species and individual levels.

Val was a favorite of many Sarett staff members. She was our most interactive bird, being that she truly enjoyed training sessions due to the social nature of Turkey Vultures. She also enjoyed her daily enrichment very much, especially the puzzle toy that trainers could hide meaty tidbits in. She was very good at finding them all and would sometimes demand more when she was finished by standing on the puzzle and continually moving the knobs and flaps. She was a curiously beautiful soul who taught us so much about Turkey Vultures. Sarett is forever grateful for Val's role in helping us further improve our raptor program; she will be fondly remembered by all who knew her.



Alongside the sad news, we are still excited and looking forward to the future of Sarett's Bird of Prey programming. We will be moving forward with plans to build new public display enclosures for two of our owls and are also planning to curate one new bird of prey within the next year. We greatly appreciate each and every one of you; we would not be able to continue what we do without your support.

HELP! I FOUND A BABY _____ !

Our brains are wired to help baby animals we think are in need of some kind. Whether they are abandoned or injured our instinct kicks in to find a way to help or keep them safe. But what might seem like help could actually do more harm than good.

Recognizing when an animal is truly in need of human help is something that is difficult to determine, even for well-meaning nature lovers. Whether you are in your backyard or elsewhere use these tips when interacting with wild animals.

First, make sure to maintain your safety. When cornered some wild animals may get aggressive. Most wild animals see humans as potential predators, so instinctually become aggressive. Also, wild animals may carry diseases that may be transmitted to humans, such as rabies from raccoons and bats. Again, watch out for yourself, children, and pets before even getting near a wild animal.



Second, reach for the binoculars or observe from a distance. Remember most wild animals think of us as predators, delicate animals such as baby rabbits or birds may become more stressed from your attention than necessary.

Third, do not assume baby animals that are alone are abandoned. Many times, offspring are left alone while the parents forage for food and rest. Rabbits and deer for example leave their babies alone during the day and visit the young in the early mornings and at dusk to feed and care for the young. We frequently get calls that a fawn is found next to a busy road or inside a fence. It is likely because that is where the parent left the fawn thinking it was a safe spot. It is best to keep an eye on the animal but not to approach it. We could spook the animal and they could get hurt.



How can you help? It depends on the animal.

Reptiles are on their own right from birth and do not need human assistance. Instinct really tells them what to do. However, with more and more human-reptile interactions occurring during the egg laying and hatching seasons, we can help by moving turtles crossing roads across in the direction they are pointing towards.



Baby birds that fall out of their nest may be returned to the nest or put in a box as close to the nest as possible. But baby birds should only be put back if they are a nestling (sparsely feathered and unable to walk, flip, or grip tightly to your finger). If they are fledgling birds (fluffy and able to grip a twig or a person's finger) should always be left alone. The parents are nearby and watching their baby learn to fly.

Baby rabbits with their eyes open and the size of a softball are on their own; leave them be. If they are smaller or still have their eyes closed, find the nest and put string over the top of the nest. If the string is disturbed the next day, you know the parent has been back and is still taking care of the babies.

When do you intervene? When the animal is visibly injured or when the young is in need and you are 100% positive the parent will not be returning.

Who do you contact? Please contact the regional Michigan Department of Natural Resources, do an internet search for Michigan DNR wildlife rehabilitators, or go directly to this link: <http://www2.dnr.state.mi.us/dir/>. The site will give you the names and contact information of current and licensed rehabilitators you may take injured or abandoned wildlife.



IN SUMMARY

- 3 Be safe.
- 3 Observe from a distance.
- 3 Confirm injury/abandonment before action.
- 3 If injured or abandoned, contact a licensed rehabilitator.

Here is a helpful website from the National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association that includes decision trees for when you find a baby bird or mammal:

https://www.nwrawildlife.org/page/Found_Injured_Wildlife

Please remember Sarett Nature Center is an education facility. We are not licensed and do not have the equipment or skills it takes to care for injured or abandoned wildlife. The wildlife we have inside the nature center has been rehabilitated before coming to live out its life at Sarett or was taken from their home by well-meaning nature lovers and could not be released back into the wild.

Memorials & Honorariums

Thank you for your support in memory and honor of the following nature lovers.

Memorials: Mike Anstey, Ron Campbell, Shirley (Kerli) Kerlikowski, Chuck Leyman, Georgia Mae Merchant, Jon A Morse, Katherine Postelli, Joan Stromer, and Mary (Letty) Upton

Honors: Louise Wepfer & Ed Withey



May-August Programming & Events

MAY



WOMEN IN NATURE (W.I.N.): WILDFLOWER WALK AT LOVE CREEK COUNTY PARK **May 5, Sunday, 1:00-2:30 PM**

Meet us at Love Creek County Park for a scenic walk through their woods looking for wildflowers and other spring flora and fauna. One of the Love Creek naturalists will join us on this hike for a personal experience on their property. Please call (269) 927-4832 to register. Members/FREE, Non-members/\$5.

BUTTERFLY HOUSE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED **May 9, Thursday, 10:00 am-Noon**

Join us for a training day for anyone who would like to help Sarett in the Butterfly House with school groups or during the summer. We'll learn about the butterflies, the butterfly house and gardens and how you can help with this exciting exhibit for school groups or weekend visitation. Please call 269-927-4832 to register.



BOB ROSS & ROSÉ

MAY 11, SATURDAY, 6:30 PM

Ages 21 and up. Sarett is teaming up with a local winery for an evening of art and libations as we follow along with a seasonal Bob Ross tutorial, looking out over the happy trees in our Great Room. Space is limited. Please call (269) 927-4832 to register. Members/\$40, Non-members/\$48. *(Price includes one glass of wine and take-home canvas. Additional glasses may be purchased at time of program.)*

SUMMER CAMP VOLUNTEER TRAINING

May 14, Tuesday, 2:00-3:00 PM

We Need Help! with our Nature Discovery Camps this summer (ages 4-8). Whether leading groups of students on your own or following a group with a naturalist this training is for you. These camps are once a week, from 10-11:30am. Contact Kevin, at volunteer@sarett.org or call the nature center at 269-927-4832 for program schedules and more information.

SILVER FOXES: WALK AT ROSS COASTAL PLAIN MARSH PRESERVE

May 15, Wednesday, 11:00 AM

Take a walk with a naturalist at our region's Nature Conservancy property. Meet at Ross parking lot at CR 376, Covert, MI 49043. Silver Fox programs are designed for people 55 & older who like to be active and learn something new. This group meets once a month. Please call (269) 927-4832 to register. Members/FREE, Non-members/\$5.

BIRDATHON

May 18, Saturday, 12:00 AM-7:00 PM

Gather a group of 3 or more to enjoy a day of bird watching throughout Berrien County. This friendly fundraising competition can start as early as 12:00 AM and ends promptly at 7:00 PM. Your goal is to find as many different species of birds as possible. For more information contact us at 269-927-4832.

BUTTERFLY HOUSE OPENS FOR SEASON

May 25, Saturday, 10:00 AM

Bring friends and family out this Saturday to enjoy the butterflies. The Butterfly House will be open Tuesday-Sunday through Labor Day weekend, or as butterflies persist. No appointments necessary. Members: Adults/\$5, Children/ \$3. Non-Members: Adults/\$8, Children/\$4.

JUNE



NATIVE Plant Sale

**JUNE 1
10:00 AM**

“Go Native” by adding native wildflowers, grasses, and ferns to your landscape. This year’s sale will feature many plants for sunny areas of your yard, especially for pollinators. A variety of plants will be available for both sand & clay soils.

Shop early for the best selection. Sarett will continue to sell plants after the weekend during regular business hours until they are all gone.

PLAGUE & PRAIRIE! MAGICICADA DAY TRIP June 8, Saturday, 9:00am – 7:30pm

Once every 17 years a “plague of locusts” descends on Chicagoland. Witnessing the songs and sights of millions of emerging cicadas is truly an experience of a lifetime. Join Director Nate Fuller in experiencing the Magicicada (periodic cicadas) of Brood XIII. Sarett vans will drive over to Nate’s hometown of Glenview, Illinois to visit The Grove nature center to celebrate the cicadas. Afterwards we will go to the nearby Kent Fuller Air Station Prairie (named after Nate’s father) to see what’s blooming in one of the ecologically richest prairie remnants in the region. Members/\$15, Non-members/\$20. Please call (269) 927-4832 to register.

SILVER FOXES: OWLS June 12, Wednesday, 11:00 AM

Come join us in learning about what makes owls such incredible, powerful birds and how they navigate the world with their hyper-tuned senses. This will be an indoor presentation. Silver Fox programs are designed for people 55 & older who like to be active and learn something new. This group meets once a month. Please call (269) 927-4832 to register. Members/FREE, Non-members/\$5.

BEGINNING KAYAK LESSONS June 23, Sunday, 1:00-3:00 PM

For ages 16 and older. Join a Sarett naturalist at North Lake Park to learn the basics of kayaking. Members/\$20, Non-members/\$25. Please call (269) 927-4832 to register. Kayaks, paddles, and PFDs are included. You may bring your own equipment if you prefer.

LAVENDER ADVENTURERS: ART EXPLORATION June 29, Saturday, 1:00-3:00 PM

Join Sarett naturalists alongside queer artist and Southwest Michigan homesteader, Vanessa Rae, on an art journey throughout the Sarett property. Vanessa will lead us on a 3 part exercise working on foreground, background, and full landscape art skills. This is a great program for beginners and avid artists alike. We will have some supplies on-site but encourage participants to bring their own preferred mediums. (This outdoors group is partnered with the Outcenter of Southwest Michigan for the LGBTQ+ community and their allies.) Members/\$20, Non-members/\$25



SARETT NATURE CENTER’S

KIDS SUMMER CAMPS

ACTIVITIES:

- Meet Live Animals
- Arts & Crafts
- Hiking
- Indoor & Outdoor games
- Storytelling
- Water Activities

CAMPS START 6/11

Sign Up:

www.sarett.org/online-store
269-927-4832

JULY



TURTLE DOGS IN THE FIELD

July 6, Saturday, 10:00-11:30 AM

Go into the field with John Rucker and his amazing Turtle Dogs this morning to watch the dogs as they track down box turtles for our population assessment. Members/\$20, Non-Members/\$30, Children/\$10. Spaces are limited. Please call 269-927-4832 to register.

SARETT'S BOX TURTLE DATA AND WHAT IT MEANS

July 6, Saturday, 2:00 PM

Join Sarett naturalists and John Rucker as they discuss the Box Turtle data for the last three years and what it means for Sarett and how we compare to other natural areas. Please call 269-927-4832 to register. Member/\$5, Non-Member/\$8, Children/\$3.

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY - July 4

Please enjoy the trails while the building & butterfly house are closed.

MYSTERIES OF THE MITCHELL'S SATYR

July 13, Saturday, 10:00 AM

Sarett is one of the few places in the world that has prime habitat for this federally endangered butterfly. Join our director, Nate Fuller, to learn its habitat needs and natural history. We'll include a walk to try to see the butterfly in flight. Please call 269-927-4832 to register. Member/\$5, Non-Member/\$8, Children/\$3.

BUNTINGS, BLUEBIRDS & BAGELS

July 20, Saturday, 8:00 AM

Join a Sarett naturalist on the Prairie Platform to observe the birds breeding in the prairie. Bagels and beverages will be available too! Bring your binoculars. Please call 269-927-4832 to sign up. Please call 269-927-4832 to register. Member/\$5, Non-Member/\$8, Children/\$3.

SILVER FOXES: BEAVER ECOLOGY

July 24, Wednesday, 11:00 AM

Beaver populations have dramatically changed in the last decade. Meet with a Sarett naturalist to learn about how beavers have changed Sarett's landscape and what naturalists are doing to help combat their industrious endeavors. Silver Fox programs are designed for people 55 & older who like to be active and learn something new. This group meets once a month. Please call (269) 927-4832 to register. Members/FREE, Non-members/\$5



LOWER JEPHTHA LAKE PADDLE

July 21, Sunday, 10:30 AM

Meet at Sarett to travel up to Lower Jephtha Lake to kayak the shore line with director, Nate Fuller. Participants will lunch at a picnic area and take a naturalist led walk on the Southwestern Michigan Land Conservancy's property. Participants will then kayak the rest of the way back to the boat launch. Please bring a bagged lunch and plenty of water. Please call 269-927-4832 to register. Members/ \$20, Non-Members/ \$25.

MONARCH FESTIVAL

July 27, Saturday, 11:00 AM-3:00 PM

Join Sarett at Love Creek County Park for a day on everything to do with Monarchs including outdoor booths, crafts, cookies, face painting and more!

WOMEN IN NATURE (W.I.N.): KAYAK GALIEN RIVER

July 28, Sunday, 1:00-4:30 PM

Join us for a scenic paddle along the Galien River from Glassman Park to the Red Arrow Highway Launch. After our paddle, we will enjoy a walk on the boardwalks over the marsh of Galien County Park. Previous kayaking experience is required. *If water levels are not suitable, an alternate river will be chosen. Please call 269-927-4832 to register. Members/ \$20, Non-Members/ \$25.

AUGUST

BOB ROSS & ROSÉ

August 3, Saturday, 6:30 PM

Ages 21 and up. Sarett is teaming up with a local winery for an evening of art and libations as we follow along with a seasonal Bob Ross tutorial, looking out over the happy trees in our Great Room. Space is limited. Please call (269) 927-4832 to register. Members/\$40, Non-members/\$48. *(Price includes one glass of wine and take-home canvas. Additional glasses may be purchased at time of program.)*

MUSIC & BUTTERFLIES

August 11, Sunday, 1:00-3:00 PM

Join us for a special afternoon in the butterfly house. Harpist Meg Rodgers will be in the butterfly house playing a variety of music from pop to classical, from Gershwin to Disney, Meg has even been persuaded to take requests. Come sit awhile, watch the butterflies and relax to the peaceful harp music. Regular Butterfly House admission fees apply. Rain date is August 18.

LAVENDER ADVENTURERS: BEGINNING KAYAK

August 17, Saturday, 1:00-3:00 PM

Come out to North Lake Park for a how-to lesson on kayaking. This small lake is the perfect place to get a handle on the skills needed to paddle on your own. We will provide the kayaks, paddles, and life vests. Please bring sunscreen and water as needed and be prepared to get wet. (This outdoors group is partnered with the Outcenter of Southwest Michigan for the LGBTQ+ community and their allies.) Members/\$20, Non-members/\$25. Please call (269) 927-4832 to register. Kayaks, paddles, and PFDs are included. You may bring your own equipment if you prefer.

SARETT 60TH YEAR CELEBRATION PAW PAW RIVER PADDLE

August 25, Sunday, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Explore the Paw Paw River between Sarett's main property and the Brown Sanctuary. You will start this two hour paddle by putting in at River Tower and taking out at Brown Sanctuary. Along the way you will see huge sycamores and silver maple trees. Cardinal flower will be in full bloom too. The river contains many logs and trees to maneuver around, therefore only those with some kayaking experience should sign up. Please call 269-927-4832 to register. Members/ \$20, Non-Members/ \$25.

FAMILY FESTIVAL

JOIN US IN
CELEBRATING 60 YEARS
IN THE COMMUNITY!

Saturday, August 24
10am to 4pm

ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES

- Music in the Butterfly House •
- Crafts •
- Face Painting •
- Scavenger Hunt •
- Wagon Rides •
- Animal Shows •
- S'mores Station •
- Pond Study •
- and much more!

Visit the Food Trucks!

- Ben's Pretzels
- Lost Coast Shave Ice
- Water & Wheat
- Woodstock & Grill

MEMBERS
\$8/ Adult
\$3/ Child
\$20/ Family

NON-MEMBERS
\$10/ Adult
\$5/ Child
\$25/ Family

We will even have a Birthday Cake along with a presentation on the past 60 years of Sarett!



Sarett Nature Center
 2300 Benton Center Road
 Benton Harbor, MI 49022

NON-PROFIT
 ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 Benton Harbor, MI 49022
PERMIT NO. 138



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EXPLORE
The World
WITH SARETT
NATURE CENTER



-  **In Search of the Kirtland's Warbler**
June 14-16, 2024
-  **Galapagos**
January 2025
-  **Cross-Country Ski Weekend**
February 2025
-  **Summer Kayak Paddle**
June 2025
-  **Isle Royale National Park**
July 2025
-  **Fall Color in West Virginia**
Mid-October 2025
-  **Sea Turtle Service Trip To Costa Rica**
November 2025

CONTACT US

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