

SSPPS 2023 SESSION DESCRIPTION

Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park: December 11-14, 2023

Monday, December 11, 2023

Kentucky Interpretative Showcase

This session will highlight three of Kentucky's Interpretative staff bringing new ideas and programs to their guests and parks. Claire Kolkmeyer of Big Bone Lick, Richzard Blanton from My Old Kentucky Home and Coti Groce at Dale Hollow

Lake will present and discuss programs that are moving the needle for guest experiences and their parks. These three parks also represent very different types of state park properties and further highlight the important role interpreters can play in creating memorable, educational experiences for guests no matter the park setting.

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

State Updates

Colleagues from the SSPPS region will share updates from their states in 10-15 minute presentations. A cornerstone of the SSPPS, these demonstrations are ways to quickly learn from partners in other states about successes, struggles and unique approaches to challenges we all face.

Plenary Session: The Riverlands Alliance

The Kentucky Riverlands Alliance is a multistate, multiagency partnership that takes a holistic approach to tackle landscape level challenges faced by an ecologically diverse region. The Kentucky Riverlands includes a great variety of partners including federal & state agencies, NGOs and Non-Profits, the agricultural community, transportation professionals and private landowners in an effort to create conversations and actionable projects to move the region forward.

Breakout Sessions

Three hour long segments with three choices per session to learn about programs and projects happening across the SSPPS region. New topics, new technologies and ideas will be presented with time for live demonstrations and Q&A. Specific sessions topics TBA

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Field Trip: Lake Barkley

Built to be an "iconic" state park property with classic "parkitecture" and amenities to boot. Learn how this western Kentucky destination manages to take care of such a large and diverse property, while providing quality programs. Recent challenges in the form of fires, structural issues and tornado relief efforts have complicated an already full docket, but the staff at Lake Barkley continues to rise to the challenge.

State Updates

We'll continue learning from our neighbors while at Lake Barkley before departing for historic Cherokee at Kenlake State Resort Park

Field Trip: Historic Cherokee at Kenlake State Resort Park

Constructed in 1951, Cherokee was the only segregated State Park in the southern United States and one of only three in the entire nation. A site on the National Register of Historic Places, it is now managed by Kenlake State Resort Park. In recent years, Kentucky State Parks and a dedicated group of volunteers and stakeholders have made a concerted effort to bring more attention to this incredibly important site. Facility investments and a more robust interpretative plan have brought new life to Cherokee.

Thursday, December 14, 2023

Field Trip: Wickliffe Mounds State Historic Site

This western Kentucky historical site was home to Native Americans of the Mississippian culture dating back to 1100 AD. A small park with a small staff, Wickliffe Mounds punches above their weight class to help educate visitors on this important property and its historical relevance to today. More than a history lesson, guests leave with a deeper understanding of the importance of these sites to Native American people.

Field Trip: Columbus-Belmont State Historic Site

Another historical stop, this site showcases its importance to the western theatre of the Civil War. Columbus-Belmont was deemed a critically important location with its proximity to the Mississippi River and the western campaigns of the war. In addition to its rich Civil War History, Columbus-Belmont is also a Civilian Conservation Corps park with numerous facilities being constructed during that era. Much like Wickliffe Mounds, this relatively small park acreage wise provides numerous opportunities for guests with a museum, campground, historic CCC structures and commanding views of the Mississippi River from atop the bluffs where it sits.