



ISSUE 12 - FEBRUARY 2025

# CEDAR POINT TIMES

The Newsletter of Cedar Point Biological Station (CPBS)  
School of Biological Sciences  
University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Above: View of the central Cedar Point Biological Station campus from the east across the canyon. September, 2024. Below right: Northern leopard frog along the west end of Lake Ogallala. Both photos by John P. DeLong

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## Gearing up for summer #51!

We are very excited for our upcoming summer season. We are expecting good turnout, more construction, and a growth in our Cedar Point Works (CPW) program. Here are four things you should know about our spring and summer:

First: We are having a volunteer week in late April or early May. You can stay up to a week at the station at no cost if you can help us get the station open. We will be cleaning, painting, and planting trees. Email us if you are interested.

Second: Our CPW fund-raising campaign is ongoing. This program allows students to stay longer at Cedar Point to conduct research or work at the station. Housing and feeding CPW students takes money, and your contributions go directly to supporting student room and board costs. UNL's Glow Big Red campaign is just about to start ([follow this link here](#)), and that is a great place to contribute. And, our fund supporting these students is open year-round if you are able to contribute at another time ([direct link to foundation fund](#)).

Third: We are having a social event in Lincoln on the evening of April 11th. Stay tuned for more details about the event, but get ready to catch up with your Cedar Point pals and snag some Cedar Point Swag!

Fourth: The lodge will be seeing some much-needed renovations. We are not sure when those will begin, but take a look for new windows and doors and work on our new lakeside deck next time you are out.

That's it for now. See you out there. --John P. DeLong



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## Jon Garbisch gets some well-deserved APPLAUSE!

Associate Director of Cedar Point Jon Garbisch recently earned an APPLAUSE award from the College of Arts and Sciences at UNL. This award recognizes staff in the college who have gone over and above in their service. And for Jon, that would be putting it mildly. At least a dozen other nominators agree.

If you've been at Cedar Point any time in the last 15 years, you will have found Jon's quiet, jack-of-literally-all-trades presence everywhere. Jon does everything from fixing the coffee maker to grading roads to taking folks on geology walks. He is the point person for Cedar Point Works, training and mentoring crews of students who help out around the station. His nominators say he does all of this with a smile, from dawn to dusk. Despite the work load, his nominators described him as having "incredible dedication", being an "amazing mentor", and making Cedar Point "feel like home".

Jon's journey to Cedar Point started early. You might say it was inevitable that he'd end up in a job like this. Hailing from central Wisconsin, Jon grew up in a DIY family that fixed everything. They took family 'field' vacations, his mom quizzing them on geography. During his college days, he and his friends took midnight trips to Missouri to go spelunking. He volunteered to help grad students do their work in exchange for lunch.

His path as a student began in anthropology, but that led to geology and eventually graduate school at Mississippi State and the University of Kansas. His specialty was marine paleoecology, and he still likes to look for fossils in limestone everywhere.

Jon's field station career started after grad school. First in the Bahamas, then at Sapelo Island where he stayed for 12 years. He arrived in Nebraska in 2009, a lifetime of science education, maintenance, and field station skills ready to be put to use.

Some people say now that Jon looks at everything through Cedar Point glasses. He wonders how you can blame him, since Cedar Point has such a big impact on people and he gets to be part of keeping that impact alive. Please join me in congratulating and thanking Jon for all that has done (and will do yet!) for Cedar Point. --John P. DeLong



Top left: Jon trimming red cedar logs for milling. This wood was destined for a variety of uses around Cedar Point. Photo by Jason Griffiths. Top right: Jon working on a suburban, his coffee mug close at hand. Photo by Madisyn Reichert. Middle right: Jon Garbisch out at Sapelo Island. Photo by Madisyn Reichert. Bottom right: And look at Jon's adorable Corgies Spike, Ci Wee, and Ci Mawr!

# From Katie Nieland: A guide for artists in residence (and everyone else too!)

After four summers as an artist in residence at Cedar Point Biological Station, I've developed my own rhythm, work flow, and set of tips for newcomers. Last year, I drew this zine to share my thoughts and tips, mostly for artists, but they could help anyone spending time there.

There's of course an official packing list they send you when you head off to the station, but over the years I've added a few things to enhance my stay. Iced coffee is of course my most important item, along with all the art supplies I can fit in my car. I have a set of art supplies I generally use, but for this trip, I try to take supplies I would normally not use. Last year, for example, I threw in my mom's old set of embroidery thread (something I've never used in my art before) and was able to incorporate it into some new art. In my day-to-day life, I don't slow down enough to incorporate new media, so CPBS is an important part of pushing my art in new directions.

A few tips for exploring. I usually go on hikes early in the morning right after breakfast to avoid the hottest part of the day. I throw a few things in a backpack (oh yeah, maybe bring a backpack!): binoculars, my Polaroid camera, water bottle, bird guide, pencils, and my tiny sketchbook.

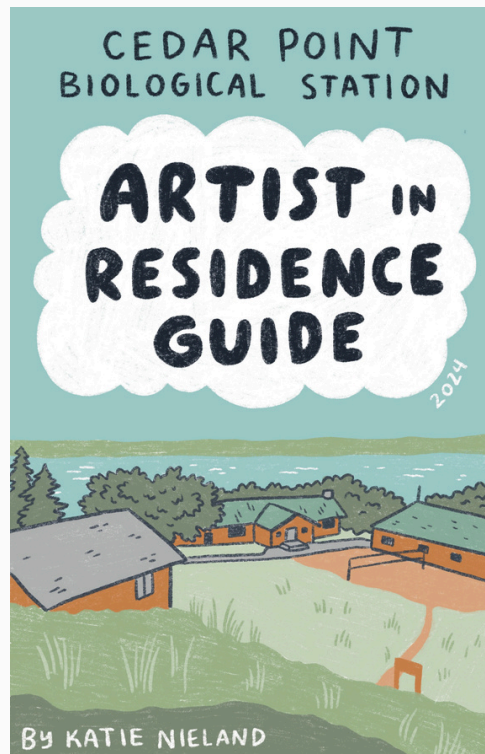
If you're sticking closer to campus, there's tons of interesting places to explore. You can find great guidebooks in the library, specimens in the hall cabinets (Gainsforth), and the best ice I've ever had.

One of the best parts of being at the station is that Lake McConaughy is right there, so make sure you go explore. Beach 11 is my favorite for swimming (you'll need to pay at the gate or use your Nebraska park pass). Bring shoes, because you'll need to hike over a bunch of very hot sand to reach the water's edge (at least when I'm there in July).

And then there's the people. I've met some amazing folks and had wonderful experiences I wouldn't have had anywhere else. From measuring turtles to watching prairie dogs, there are lots of ways to connect with the scientists and students at the station. I've popped in on parasitology classes and learned about limnology from fantastic educators. Mealtimes are a wonderful way to talk with students, educators, and other visitors. So, say hello!

Over the past four years, CPBS has become my favorite place and favorite week of the year. I'm able to connect with my subject matter (the Great Plains) and spend time resetting my brain and my art. If you can support the station, please do. Spread the word, donate, show up. It's truly a magical place, and I look forward to returning often. --Katie Nieland

Above right: The artist and author Katie Nieland at Cedar Point. Photo by Katie Nieland. Middle bottom: Front page of the guide. Along the right: Excerpts from the Artist in Residence guide by Katie Nieland. You can find the whole thing at [this link](#).





Gate to the Diffendal Loop Trail. The amazing sign was created by Cedar Point Works student Joselyn Andreason. Photo by John P. DeLong.

## About the Station

Cedar Point Biological Station is a site for research and experiential learning located along the banks of Lake Ogallala in western Nebraska. CPBS is surrounded by a wide range of habitats, ponds and lakes, and landscape features such as box canyons, making it an ideal place to learn about and interact with nature. CPBS is operated by the School of Biological Sciences at the University of Nebraska - Lincoln. The station provides unparalleled experiential learning in the high plains through a wide range of courses and partnerships with the School of Natural Resources; the School of Art, Art History, and Design; the College of Architecture; the Department of Hospitality, Tourism, and Restaurant Management; and the School of Global Integrative Studies at UNL.

## Contact or Follow Us

Director: John P. DeLong

Email: [jpdelong@unl.edu](mailto:jpdelong@unl.edu)

Associate Director: Jon Garbisch

Email: [jgarbisch2@unl.edu](mailto:jgarbisch2@unl.edu)

Program Coordinator: Airicca Roddy

Email: [aroddy2@unl.edu](mailto:aroddy2@unl.edu)

CPBS website:

<https://cedarpoint.unl.edu/>

CPBS Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/CPBS.unl](http://www.facebook.com/CPBS.unl)

CPBS X: @CPBS.unl

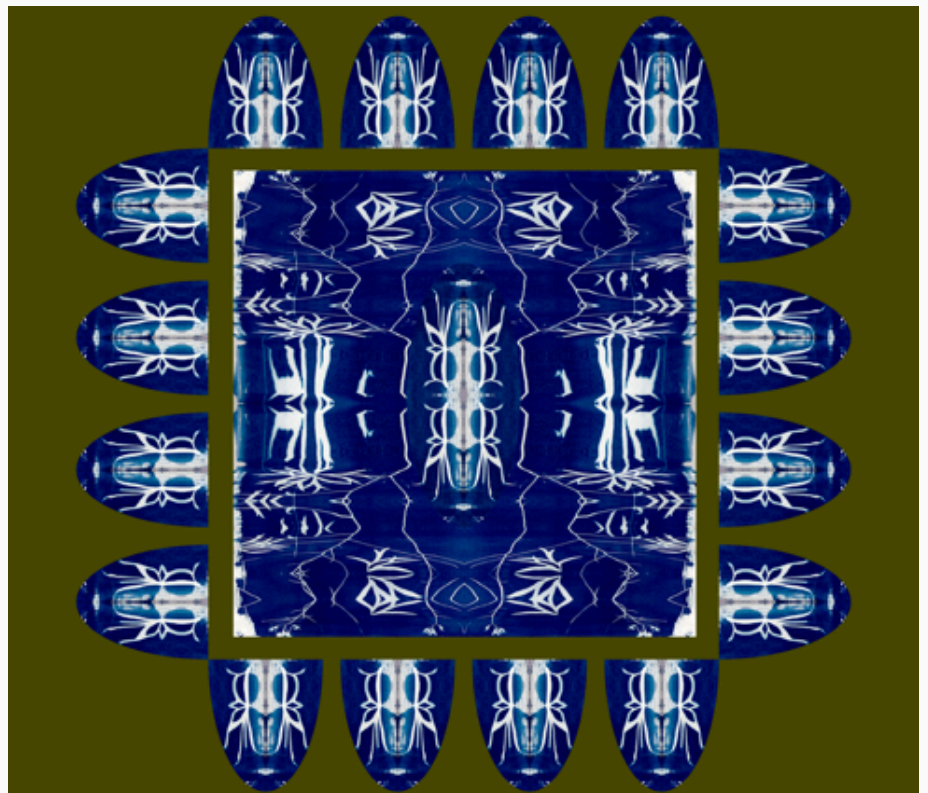
Mailing address: 170 Cedar Point Dr.,  
Ogallala, NE 69153

Station phone: 402-472-5977

## Art @ Cedar Point

Sarah Johnson was an artist-in-residence during the summer of 2024, after previously being out in 2018, 2019, and 2021. While there she explored mixing traditional and new techniques to produce the distinctive new work shown to the right. Sarah describes the work this way: "This artwork combines traditional cyanotype printing with digital manipulation. I first gathered local plants around the field station which I used to create cyanotype prints. Those prints were then distorted and manipulated on a flatbed scanner and edited in Adobe Photoshop to create the final image you see here."

You can see more of Sarah's work at her [website here](#).



**Cedar Point Works is supported by grants and donations. If you would like to support experiential learning at CPBS, please consider donating to one of our student-oriented funds.**