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CEDAR POINT TIMES

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

Summer #51

Nearly through our 51st summer, it's clear that the dream of offering world-class experiential research and education at Cedar Point for a 2nd half century is alive and well. With many full courses, a large Cedar Point Works (CPW) crew, plenty of student research (see page 3), and active renovation projects, the station hums with life. Our facilities and CPW team continues to make significant improvements to the lodge road (see photo below), along with new retaining walls and paths. Anticipation is also building for our Goodall Lodge renovations, with window replacements expected in September, and ADA compliance and deck work starting shortly after.

This summer marks one of our largest-ever CPW crews. Cedar Point Works makes it possible for many students to be at the station for weeks or months at a time, taking classes, honing work skills, and earning a wage. This program is central to the station's future and to creating the kind of high-impact opportunities that our students need. Please consider making a contribution to our CPW fund supporting these students ([direct link to foundation fund](https://cedarpoint.unl.edu/foundation-fund)), which will allow us to continue to operate the CPW program at such a high level.

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



Above: View of Crescent Lake from the Crescent Lake Wildlife Management Area in the Nebraska Sandhills. Photo by Stella Uiterwaal. Below right: A cottonwood seedling - planted during our volunteer weekend - grows in Alligator canyon. Below left: Oliver Nielsen and Jon Garbisch work on a retaining wall along the new lodge road. Photos by John P. DeLong

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First volunteer weekend at Cedar Point is “clean” fun!

Over a long weekend in April, about 15 folks participated in our first-ever volunteer event. And we needed the help. We cleaned the lodge and other buildings, from the floor to the ceiling. I’m not sure that Gainesforth ever looked so good! We did a deep clean of the kitchen, helping our staff pull everything out, and then cleaning and repairing from the deepest storage all the way out. With so much ground to cover with brooms and vacuums and mops, we needed everyone on the big crew.

It was a chilly weekend, so it took little time to conclude we needed to stack firewood at the lodge. We set up a cozy table with candles near the fireplace for meals (picture above - not all the volunteers were here at this moment).

As part of our larger riparian zone restoration efforts, we obtained 50 cottonwood saplings and planted them along the low areas of Alligator canyon. This will help jump-start the growth of a deciduous forest in that area.

Thanks so much to all the volunteers, whose help made a huge difference getting ready for the summer. Without doubt, volunteer weekends are here to stay at Cedar Point. We’ll need help again next April!--John P. DeLong



Top: Volunteers at the 2025 Cedar Point volunteer weekend enjoy a candlelit dinner by the fire. Present are, clockwise around the table from the far left: Allison Johnson, Nick Kowal, Ryan Wilson, Jason Griffiths, Rhianna Metcalf, Jon Garbisch, Jane Jewell, Anna Little, Faiza Hafeez, Tracey Malama-Auger, Corinne Taylor, Jacob Vankat, Andrew Podcovich, Caden Nelsen, and Emily Rau. We had a crack team planting trees, some of whom went for an American Gothic pose after a job well done: Jacob Vankat, Trevor Johnson, Corinne Taylor, Anna Little, and Caden Nelsen. Bottom photo: the team out planting cottonwood saplings in the mouth of Alligator Canyon. All photos by John P. DeLong.

Cedar Point is supported by grants and donations. If you would like to support CPBS, please consider donating to one of our funds.

Cedar Point Research Impact Continues with New Generations of Biologists.

After 50 years of research on birds, snakes, fishes, parasites, grasses, sunflowers, thistles, ants, spiders, toads, damselflies, and more, you'd think that the list of published scientific research coming out of Cedar Point would be long. You'd be right. The still-growing research impact of Cedar Point is now documented in a searchable online bibliographic repository. You can find it at [this link here](#). To date, (and we don't even think it's complete yet), researchers at Cedar Point have contributed almost 500 scientific publications - nearly 10 per year! These studies represent contributions by people at all stages in their research careers, from undergraduates to faculty. If your Cedar Point papers are missing from the database, sent us the citations and we'll add them.

This year, undergraduate students supported by UNL's UCARE program and Cabela's are conducting research on birds and snakes, while graduate students are supported by Cedar Point research funds. If you'd like to support research and career growth for people at Cedar Point, please make a donation to one of our research oriented funds, such as the John Janovy Jr. Curiosity Fund, which can be found online at [this link here](#).

Above right: Jonnie Mart and Kendall Stemper check cover boards for snakes. Photo by Katarina Tergeoglou. Right: Jane Jewell checks the nest of a Tree Swallow, whose box is outfitted with temperature loggers, tag readers, and racoon protection. Photo by John P. DeLong. Bottom: Hannah Landwerlen checks a Killdeer nest, while a parent does a broken-wing display off to the right. Photo by Brandy Williams.



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Slightly larger than expected visitors to the bird feeders at Gainesforth Resource Center. Photo by Stella Uiterwaal.

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.

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Scientist Selfies

Here's a new series of shorts for the Cedar Point newsletter - Scientist Selfies! To the right, Brandy Williams conducts field research on the nest defense behaviors of Killdeer at Lake McConaughy. Here, Brandy is gathering observations on parental behavior while an assistant approaches the nest as a mock predator treatment. Brandy's team is looking at the possibility that breeding Killdeer face a trade-off between defending the nest from predators and incubating the chicks to help them hatch. Brandy's research at Cedar Point is partially supported by funds from the John Janovy Jr. Curiosity Fund and the J. Ve. Srb Memorial Fund.



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.