



photo by Kent Riplinger

Susan Snyder, teaching her last Wild Wednesday class -- Wolverines and Other Elusive Animals. Susan retired in January, after 16 years of teaching at the Ogden Nature Center.

With her signature wit and humor, Susan joked, "I will become one of those elusive creatures at Ogden Nature Center after I retire to my art studio."

Susan has inspired many through creativity, knowledge and passion. Thousands of students and community members have soaked up her lessons about nature, art and the wonders of the natural world.

Taking Root *A naturalist grows beyond the Nature Center*

— by Susan Snyder

The interview was interesting. They handed me two skulls and said, "We'll be back in five minutes. We'd like you to use these to teach us a 10-minute lesson on predator-prey relationships, at a fourth-grade level." I looked like a deer in the headlights, but I must have done OK, because that was nearly 16 years ago.

I've watched my students grow up – from preschool to summer camp, to driver's licenses, college, master's degrees, and PhD programs.

Some of them camped out overnight for the first time with me. I'll never forget the two little girls from the Dominican Republic who were visiting their grandmother in Ogden for the summer. Grandma had never been camping, but she registered herself and the girls for one of our first family camps to give them a quintessential Utah outdoor experience. People didn't sleep outside or have fires where the girls came from. They said it wasn't safe.

"This is just like that movie with Lindsay Lohan," the oldest said while we roasted marshmallows over her very first campfire.

"You mean, 'The Parent Trap?'" I asked.

"That's the one!" she said, shoving the gooey s'more into her mouth.

When you live in a place like Utah, it's easy to forget that, for many kids, a simple campout or campfire is something they only see in the movies. There have been schoolchildren on field trips who kept stepping off the trail after I asked them not to because they didn't know what a "trail" was. They live in the center of this beautiful town, see those amazing mountains, and have never walked a single

path that wasn't paved. Not everyone can get to the foothills, but they can come here. A bus drops you off right up the street.

If someone asked me what the best thing about Ogden Nature Center is, I would say it's the opportunity to be out in it. Seeing deer, or maybe a raccoon, or a fox. Smelling wild smells. Getting scratched by grass as tall as you are. Seeing seven different colors of dragonflies. Getting a glimpse of a muskrat or beaver gliding across a glassy pond before disappearing with a "bloop!"

The field trippers, the summer campers, the junior camp counselors – all those thousands of youngsters who taught me how to teach have roots here. They volunteer. They visit on college breaks. They bring their own kids.

Roots. I established them here, too. They started small with a 12-hour side gig, and grew deeper by becoming an AmeriCorps intern, and then a full-time staff member, and eventually the Nature Center's lead teacher naturalist – gaining an early childhood credential and master's degree and a couple of awards in the process.

The Nature Center has given me deep roots in this place and this community that will remain. This place holds my family in so many ways. To all of them and to all of you, I'll say what I have told every naturalist who worked here alongside me: Walk the trails once a week. Talk to Cronk. Walk out to the treehouses once a month. Walk Birdhouse Trail. Teach – and live – the mission statement. Unite people with nature.

It's all there is.



Uniting People with Nature Since 1975

Ogden
Nature Center

Open Mon.-Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-4, Closed Sunday
966 W. 12th Street, Ogden, UT 84404
www.ogdennaturecenter.org
801.621.7595

Nature's Log

newsletter of the Ogden Nature Center • spring 2023



**Linda Babcock
Receives the Mary
Jane Catlin award**

The Mary Jane Catlin Award was established to honor individuals who truly give of themselves to the Ogden Nature Center. This award has been given to only three

other recipients: Sally Neill, Jack Rensel, and Mara Roosen. This year, a fourth recipient, Linda Babcock, will be added to the honorable list.

After working for the Nature Center as the community relations coordinator from 1996 to 2002, Linda continued to volunteer and give her time, expertise and energy to the Ogden Nature Center. 21 years after leaving, she is still involved and in love with the Ogden Nature Center.

Linda has overseen the Birdhouse Competition, Exhibit and Awards for over 27 seasons of the event's 30 years! Linda contributes to the Wildwoods BASH fundraiser every year, organizing the entire audible auction. And all year long, she faithfully distributes our publicity materials throughout Ogden Valley. To many it feels like Linda never actually stopped working here. Her selfless commitment to build and nurture the Ogden Nature Center is what and who this award is defined by. Linda epitomizes the magical spirit of this place, just as Mary Jane Catlin did, and we are thrilled to award Linda with this honor.

**Earth Day Art Hits
the Streets**

Winning artwork from the 2022 Earth Day Art Poster Contest is now featured on the back of four area UTA buses. Designers used artwork submitted by area elementary school children, with the theme "The Earth Needs Bugs." The bus art was funded by an Ogden City Arts grant.



**Sister Autumn
Slade - Volunteer
of the Year**

Sister Slade, a Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints service missionary, began volunteering early in 2022, and immediately had a huge impact at the Nature Center. She's been involved in a variety of jobs including habitat restoration, events, gardening, education materials prep, administration, and so much more. Sister Slade puts care in her work and pays attention to detail, setting an excellent example for those around her. Moreover, she has tremendous patience and communication skills that bring people together, and help people feel heard. Sister Slade's 300 hours at the Nature Center in 2022 are defined by how she, and those around her, learned, grew and flourished. The entire staff is so grateful for her help and support. We extend a heartfelt thanks and congratulations to Sister Slade for being our 2022 volunteer of the year!



**Caroline Mullin -
2022 Outstanding
Youth Award**

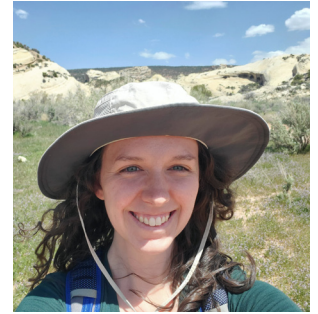
Caroline has grown up at the Ogden Nature Center. She started as a young child attending summer camps, and grew into one of our long-term, and most valuable camp assistants. Caroline anticipates what needs to be done and steps in and does the task before anyone thinks to ask her. She does the dirty work, like cleaning up goopy paint brushes and paint pans. Caroline is always willing to play a game of tag or toss water balloons with kids. She even allowed a pair of toddler campers to paint her arms and legs with mud during our Mudpuppies Camp.

Caroline is a great example to other young people who come to work at our camps. Thank you Caroline and congratulations!



**Ashley Ballew,
teacher/
naturalist**

Ashley Ballew joined the Ogden Nature Center team in February of 2022 as a teacher/naturalist. Ashley grew up in Georgia and completed a master's degree in Ecology at the University of Georgia in 2021. Her thesis focused on the effects of nectar quality and quantity on Monarch Butterfly fitness and flight ability. Ashley led an effort to add Monarch-rearing to the Nature Center. Ashley is very passionate about the environment, and since joining the ONC team, has enjoyed her role in getting our community excited to be outdoors. She enjoys yoga, hiking, and playing board games in her free time.



**Kylie Brandt-
Friedman,
teacher/
naturalist**

Kylie also joined our crew in 2022. Kylie grew up in Baltimore and graduated from Towson University with a bachelor's degree in Cellular and Molecular Biology. Kylie worked in microbiology and molecular biology labs focusing on the conservation of woodrats and dung beetles. After an unexpected move to Florida, she found her passion for science education at the Emerald Coast Science Center, where she worked as the Planetarium's lead educator. Kylie completed a master's degree in Microbiology through UFL and uses this background to create microbiology and astronomy lessons at the Nature Center. In her free time Kylie loves cooking, painting, camping, and going stargazing.



2022: a Year of Growth and Change

2022 was marked by celebration, change, and exciting new projects at The Ogden Nature Center!

Staff and volunteers engaged with people of all ages through environmental education programs and nurtured this natural refuge in the heart of Ogden. We were thrilled to see you here enjoying a summer concert, “shopping local” at our Holiday Open House, and of course, showing your support at the Wildwoods BASH. Volunteers helped with practically every aspect of the organization – from getting the word out about programming to planting a native pollinator garden – and we had a blast working together with you to make this incredible place even more special. 2022 saw the ground-breaking of a major construction project at the Dumke Picnic Grove that will ensure this outdoor gathering space serves our community for years to come. In 2022, we were able to witness the laughs and excited exclamations of children visiting the LS Peery Nature Nook, which took shape in 2021. Those sights and sounds continually remind us why the work of the Ogden Nature Center is so important.

The Ogden Nature Center also saw a change in leadership with the retirement of Mary McKinley. Mary guided the organization through a global pandemic, and built lasting relationships and an incredible team of which I feel lucky to be a part. Mary left enormous shoes to fill, and after eight months, they are feeling pretty comfortable!

Environmental Education Programs

Nature education programs have always been, and will continue to be, the heart of what we do at the Ogden Nature Center. Through on-site classes, outreach events, summer camps, and community programs, our team connected over 55,000 people with nature in 2022! Because we offer a variety of programming to people of all ages, we'd like to highlight the many ways we serve our community and all of Utah.

We are part of Utah's Informal Science Education Enhancement (iSEE) program, a state-wide collaborative effort that supports science learning. Through the iSEE program, the Ogden Nature Center serves all publicly funded first grade classrooms in Utah on a three-year rotation. In 2022, we visited 339 classrooms and reached 8,000 students. Thanks to funding from the Utah State Legislature and support from the Utah State Board of Education, we ignite curiosity of the natural world in children across the state!

The Nature Center has been offering community programs and school classes for over 47 years now, and the multi-generational impact is evident. Whenever I meet someone who grew up in the greater Ogden community, inevitably they say, “I visited the Ogden Nature Center when I was in school, and I loved it!”

Of course, we continue offering unique experiences here at the Nature Center through on-site field trips. 2022 was buzzing with activity with hundreds of classes visiting this natural oasis in the city. Our educators inspired 7,500 students through field trips this year, teaching topics such as “Living Close to the Land,” Birds, and Field Ecology.

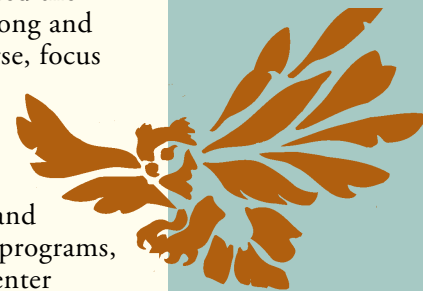
229 preschoolers loved getting their hands dirty during our early childhood, sensory-filled programs. Their teachers or guardians got in on the fun right alongside them! We also offered two semesters of our popular Homeschool Naturalists program – providing lessons to 22 students who visited twice a month for four months, for in-depth nature learning.

In addition to all of these programs, we offered outreach programs in schools, senior centers, at the Ogden Farmer's Market, community venues, libraries, and churches – just to name a few. Typically, one of our skilled educators brought a live animal ambassador, delighting people with an up-close look at one of our snakes, Desert Tortoises, or spectacular birds of prey. 2022 was a busy year for outreach programs – we presented 102 different programs that served 20,639 people!

And that doesn't even include our summer camps, where 493 campers explored the Nature Center during our week-long and single-day camps – which of course, focus on the full ecology of our region!

Community Programs

As you can see – 2022 kept us on our toes! Along with our on-site and off-site environmental education programs, the team at the Ogden Nature Center offered programs that would not only engage and inspire our entire community, but also wove in a bit of fun in the process! Our annual Halloween event, Creatures of the Night, presented non-scary, outdoor learning to 1,100 people! Other events included a local beer/beverage evening with bird trivia, called Birds and Brews. We presented weekly Wild Wednesdays programs, Owl Prowls that searched for those enigmatic birds, and stargazing



during our Astronomy Nights. Overall, our community programs served 4,265 people!

Special Events

Community members entered 88 unique birdhouses into our annual Birdhouse Competition and Exhibit.

We loved seeing all the smiling faces, eager to learn about the planet's needs at Earth Day! Over 1,200 people joined in this celebration with 80 exhibitors, entertainers, and vendors.' Our youth art contest theme in 2022 was "The Earth Needs Bugs" and we encouraged 497 children to express their love of nature through art!

Last spring, our beloved Fly with the Flock 5K was back with its original format and 280 people walked or ran the trails across the preserve – and enjoyed a yummy pancake breakfast.

And wow – 2022 saw our largest BASH ever! We loved hosting the event back at the Nature Center – it was fantastic to bring everyone together again after two long years apart. Our community showed up with true passion for this special place and brought strong support of the Nature Center's mission at this annual fundraising event.

Speaking of wild, this year's Cup Hop was a whirlwind! Once again, five fantastic local coffee shops participated in our fall friend-raiser and fundraiser, and the charcoal raven mug was popular to say the least. Thank you for making this tradition so fun for everyone, and for meeting all your friends at local coffee shops to chat and enjoy your favorite hot beverages, while snagging another favorite mug for your collection.

Volunteers

From removing invasive species and planting native trees to caring for the birds of prey and other animal ambassadors, volunteers are essential to the Ogden Nature Center. We accomplish so much because of thoughtful and resourceful volunteers. Thank you for all you do! In 2022, we constructed a new Outdoor Classroom behind the L.S. Peery Education Building, largely thanks to volunteer hands. Community members dedicated hundreds of hours to this effort by painting, sanding, and constructing a fun and interactive space for children visiting the Nature Center.

Volunteers were also fundamental in restarting our bird banding efforts on the property. With their help, we collected and recorded important data pertaining to avian research and conservation.

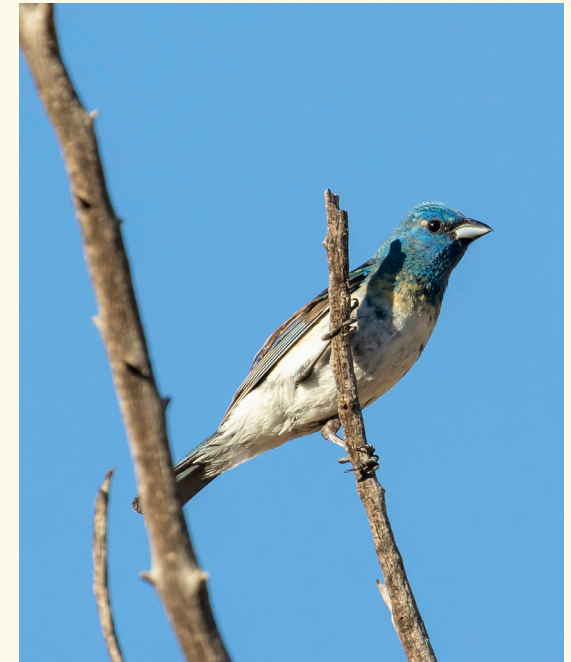
Our *Volunteers* program is still going strong! Twenty young adults joined our team for 10 weeks throughout the summer. The theme of the year was "Leave No Trace" and teenagers came out twice a week to learn about minimizing our impacts on wildlife through water quality monitoring, habitat restoration, trail work, and educating our community!

Nearly 10,000 volunteer hours were logged through 2022! So many in our community pitched in to help host events, create and

improve natural habitat, serve on our Board of Directors, support us with all our mailings and marketing, and help maintain this preserve. Their combined efforts create a natural preserve and nature education programs that are special and integral to our community.

Stewards of the Nature Preserve

At the Ogden Nature Center, we work to be excellent stewards of this rare urban nature preserve. We hired our first staff ecologist in 2022, and she hit the ground running! Along with many hours from dedicated volunteers, we continued our attack on invasive weeds like Yellow Starthistle and Dyer's Woad. Habitat restoration and wildlife management projects are thriving at the Ogden Nature Center – with exciting new additions in 2022. We received hundreds of native seedlings from the Utah Department of Agriculture's Utah Pollinator Habitat Program.



Lazuli Buntings were abundant at the Ogden Nature Center in the spring and summer of 2022. Photo by Jonathan Creel

2022 Financial Report

2022 Income: \$1,237, 818 (unaudited)

Admission: \$19,444
 Gift Shop Sales: \$70,992
 Program Tuition: \$72,849
 Other Income: \$26,946
 Events: \$140,080
 Memberships, Grants, Contributions: \$743,870
 Contributions to Special Projects: \$115,963
 Contributions to Endowment: \$47,674

2022 Expenses: \$1,217,499 (unaudited)

Animal Care: \$37,756
 Education Programs: \$389,659
 Events: \$112,058
 Fundraising & Public Relations: \$85,532
 General & Admin. Expenses: \$99,156
 Gift Shop: \$70,945
 Grounds & Facilities: \$272,096
 Volunteer Program: \$48,053
 Special Projects: \$89,622
 Endowment Fees: \$12,622

Please note: Figures are unaudited. Special project funding cannot be used for our day to day operations, but only for the project specified. Those funds are carried over to future years until the project is completed.

This spring, we encourage you to explore the “Potholes” region of the preserve to view the native seedlings that staff and volunteers planted in 2022. In time, these new plants will provide crucial grassland habitat for native pollinators. We also focused on a willow revegetation project. A group of high schoolers joined us to plant hundreds of willows around the retention pond by Avocet Tower. Our goal was to make the area more suitable for a variety of wildlife by adding native plants and better habitat. Volunteers also helped seed over 40 acres with native and drought resistant grassland and wetland seed mix in 2022.

Wild Sightings

The Ogden Nature Center was alive with birdsong this year! Lazuli Buntings and Yellow Warblers filled the air with their distinctive calls, while American Kestrels darted around the fields looking for their next meal. Monarch Butterflies made visitors and staff ecstatic as they flitted around the preserve while Chorus Frogs made their presence known through their croaking sounds in and around the wetlands. Cedar Waxwings took up residence in good numbers during the winter, and there is never a snowy day that doesn't reveal raccoon or Mule Deer tracks in the fresh snow. An elusive Red Fox has been driving our staff crazy by making rare, but captivating appearances on our wildlife cameras!

Beaver Believers at ONC

For years, beavers have tried to call the Ogden Nature Center home. In 2022, we decided to try something new! Rather than relocating beavers, we're coexisting with them. Staff and volunteers spent A LOT of time wrapping trees with mesh caging to protect them from the beaver's busy bites. We also installed “beaver deceivers” in beaver dams, allowing water to pass through the dams. With these measures, beavers can live and dam on the property without causing much damage to trees or flooding. We're already witnessing positive effects from the beavers! Last summer, beavers helped keep and

store considerable water on the property during the extreme heat and drought. Our drought-stressed trees soaked up the water, and we even saw a White-faced Ibis foraging in a wet meadow created by these charismatic rodents! They say beavers are nature's best engineers, and we are adopting that principle here at ONC.

Dumke Picnic Grove Renovations and Improvements

After an extensive master planning process, many design iterations, and selecting a contractor, construction work began on the Dumke Picnic Grove restoration. In 2022, we officially broke ground on the project. The Hammock Garden is already in place, a new sewer line is being installed, and the aging septic tank is being decommissioned. Our beloved tree houses are getting full makeovers and will soon be revamped to improve safety and add some fun new elements! Other improvements include construction of an accessible restroom pavilion with storage and a catering space, and improving the trails throughout Dumke Picnic Grove.

Thanks to funding from a 2022 Weber County RAMP (Recreation, Arts, Museums, and Parks) grant and a significant donation from the Dr. Ezekiel R & Edna Wattis Dumke Foundation, we were able to leverage funding and involve a variety of other partners. We were awarded a 2022 Utah Outdoor Recreation grant for the project and The Gardner Company/Boyer Company partnered to finance the new sewer connection. Rocky Mountain Power donated 15



A new Hammock Garden is located in the Dumke Picnic Grove. Special thanks to Rocky Mountain Power and the Rocky Mountain Power Foundation for making the Hammock Garden possible.

nearly-new power poles for our hammock garden and the Rocky Mountain Power Foundation awarded a grant to cover installation.

Strong supporters and community members also contributed to this major project! The Wildwoods BASH, #givingtuesday, and several year-end contributions helped with funding. We are grateful to Ogden City and the many organizations and individuals who stepped up and pitched in. With the rising costs of planning and construction, we are working to secure the final dollars needed to complete this large-scale improvement. With some luck, we'll be able to enjoy the space with you in July of 2023!

We can't wait to see you at the Ogden Nature Center this year and to see what excitement 2023 has in store!

– by Jonathan Creel, Executive Director

WILD WEDNESDAYS

Every Wednesday at 3:45 pm

All ages are welcome

Free for members. Regular admission rates apply for non-members: \$5 adults, \$3 children.

Each program is 15-20 minutes in length with free time afterwards to explore the Nature Center on your own.

Please note that the Nature Center closes at 5 pm.

Please dress for the weather, as this program will be held completely outside. Please check in at the Visitor Center.

Wild Wednesdays are sponsored by my529 - Utah's College Educational Savings Plan.

Wednesday, March 1 - Birdhouse Bop

A birdhouse not only makes for a great outdoor decoration, but it also makes for a great home for wildlife. This program will teach audiences how to make different styles of birdhouses that are safe for wildlife, what kind of birdhouse they can make to attract specific wildlife, and how exciting and beneficial it can be for all parties involved. A great program if you are planning on entering the Ogden Nature Center's birdhouse competition.



Wednesday, March 8 - Signs of Spring

Let's welcome spring at the Ogden Nature Center! Help us bring in the new season as we learn how animals and plants adapt to warmer temperatures and longer days. Join us as we hit the trails looking for signs of spring. Be prepared to hear Chorus Frogs and keep an eye out for migrating birds.



Wednesday, March 15 - Going Green: A Special St. Patrick's Day Program

It's the theme for the Ogden Nature Center's St. Patrick's Day program. Once again, it's time to get your green on and discover why so many things in nature are green. Go on a scavenger hunt around the Nature Center searching for all things green. You'll be amazed at what you can find!



Wednesday, March 22 - Water Cycle

Did you know that you are drinking the same water that the dinosaurs drank? Join us to learn about the water cycle and play a water cycle game.

Wednesday, March 29 - The Wild Truth

Nature can weave some pretty tall tales, but that doesn't mean they're not true. Come out to the Ogden Nature Center and test your nature knowledge with a true or false game, then explore some of the most unbelievable animals and plants on the planet.



April 5 - What Could a Fox Say?

Animals of all kinds make a variety of sounds to communicate, just like how humans use language. We'll discuss some of the sounds you might hear from wildlife in your area, what it could mean, and how to



identify animals just by their sound. Participants will even learn of some useful digital tools and resources they can use to help them while they are still learning.

Wednesday, April 12 - Baby Birds

Spring is the season for birth.

Have some springtime fun as we learn about nesting birds in Utah. We will teach you some tricks to identify eggs, and what to do if you find a baby bird out of the nest.



Wednesday, April 19 - Earth Day Extravaganza

Join us as we learn the history of Earth Day and explore cool facts about planet earth.

Learn some fun ways you can make Earth Day last all year long.



Wednesday, April 26 - Nature's Clean-up Crew

Springtime is the season for cleaning, but who cleans up nature's mess? Join us as we dive into the world of detritivores and scavengers.

Wednesday, May 3 - Mother Nature

Celebrate Mother's Day by looking at outstanding moms in nature. From the elephant who endures 22 months of pregnancy and gives birth to a 200 lb. baby, to the mommy orangutan who nurses her baby for 7 years! Bring your mother as we explore the wonders of Mother Nature.

Wednesday, May 10 - What's the Buzz?

Buzz on over to the Ogden Nature Center to learn all about Utah's bees. Over 900 species of bees call Utah home. Find out what makes bees so special and why we need them buzzing around.

Wednesday, May 17 - Endangered Species

Join an Ogden Nature Center teacher/naturalist to celebrate International Endangered Species Day. Learn about the U.S. Endangered Species Act and how people around the world work together to help preserve species.



Wednesday, May 24 - The Pond and Beyond

The dog days of summer are finally here! There's no better time to grab a net and explore what lives within our ponds. You never know what or who you might find.

PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

Floats and Fins and Things That Swim for Kneehigh Naturalists

Learn about fish, things that sink or float, and explore the tiny creatures that live in a pond in this hourlong program. Please dress for the weather. This program is 100% outside. For ages 3-5 years. Choose a date and time:

March 21st 9am, 10:30, 1pm

March 22nd 9am and 1:30pm

April 18th 9am, 10:30 and 1pm

April 19th 9am and 10:30

\$10 per ONC member adult/child pair; \$12 for nonmember adult/child pair

Please register by March 20th for March dates and by April 17th for April dates

Register at <https://www.ogdennaturecenter.org/education/community-programs>

MARCH

Birdhouse Competition & Exhibit

Grab your tools and let the creativity flow because it's time to build birdhouses! All types of birdhouses are welcome, but they need to be sturdy and stand up to the weather. There is no entry fee, and all ages are encouraged to enter. Complete details and entry forms can be found at www.ogdennaturecenter.org.



- March 13 - 18 Entries will be accepted at the Visitor Center front desk. 966 W. 12th St., Ogden, Utah. Open Mon.-Fri., 9am - 5pm and Sat., 9am - 4pm.
- April 5 at 5:30 pm For those who enter a birdhouse, an opening reception, awards ceremony, and exhibit stroll will be held. Refreshments will be served.
- April 5 - June 30 Chosen birdhouses will be on display for the duration of the exhibit. Entries left at the Nature Center after July 1st will be added to the Ogden Nature Center's permanent collection or discarded.

This event is made possible by Weber County R.A.M.P., Jeremiah's Restaurant, Wasatch Audubon Society, Booth Dental, Pat & Glen Richter, Jack & Jodi Livingood, Robin & Brad Farr Family, Shepherd's Bush, Ogden Blue, and The Prairie Schooner.

Cookies and Campfires Book Club

March 7 & 21, and April 4 & 18 at 5 pm

For ages 18+

\$20 ONC members, \$25 non-members (includes all four sessions)

Please register by February 25th at www.ogdennaturecenter.org/education/community-programs

Join an ONC naturalist and other book worms every 1st and 3rd Tuesday in March and April for discussions of **A Year In The Woods** by Torbjørn Ekelund. Participants bring their own copy of the book. Hot beverages and treats are provided.

Learning about Lagomorphs Tuesday, March 14th at 5 pm

Jackrabbits, cottontails, and hares, oh my! Have you ever wondered how far a bunny can actually jump? Why are their noses always wiggling? What's the difference between your pet bunny and wild bunnies? In this workshop you'll learn about rabbits and their cousins pikas, hares, and cottontails and make a fun bunny craft.

All ages welcome, geared towards children

\$5 ONC members, \$8 non-members

Please register by March 11th at <https://www.ogdennaturecenter.org/education/community-programs>

Make Your Own Walking Stick & Spring Scavenger Hunt

Saturday, March 25th at 11 am

Make your own hiking stick, then use it to stroll the Nature Center's Habitat Trail with a spring scavenger hunt. Hiking stick, beads, ribbon, and other decorative items will be provided, but feel free to bring any personal mementos to add to your stick.

All ages welcome

\$5 per stick

Please register by March 22nd at <https://www.ogdennaturecenter.org/education/community-programs>

APRIL

Fabulous Fungi

Thursday, April 6th at 12 noon

Kick-off mushroom hunting season with a celebration of fungi. This workshop is about the wonderful world lurking beneath our feet and will include a mushroom craft.

Ages 8+

\$5 ONC members, \$8 non-members

Please register by March 30th at <https://www.ogdennaturecenter.org/education/community-programs>

Earth Day Poster Contest Call for Entries

Entries must be received by 4 pm, Saturday, April 8th

- Late entries may not be judged
- No Fee to Enter
- Guidelines:
- Entries should be 8 1/2"x11" (no canvases) using the theme, "Ways I Help the Earth"
- Please do not glue anything on to your project
- Entries must include the following information on the back: Name (first and last), School, Grade (k-6 only), Teacher, Contact Phone Number, Project Title

Art posters will be on display in Ogden Nature Center's LS Peery Education Center April 22 through May 13, 2023. Entries will not be returned but may be picked up May 16 through May 20. After May 20, contest entries become the property of the Ogden Nature Center. Prizes will be awarded to three winners in each grade, with one grand prize winner per grade. The winners will be invited to an awards program on Saturday, April 22, at 11 am at the Ogden Nature Center.

Earth Day Celebration April 22nd from 11 am - 4 pm

Come celebrate Earth Day at the Ogden Nature Center! Enjoy earth friendly exhibitors, demonstrations, nature poetry outloud, entertainment, food, crafts, and fun activities. Explore the trails and learn what you can do to improve the health of the planet.

\$4 members. \$5 non-members. \$3 children under 12. Donations gratefully accepted.

All proceeds benefit the mission of the Ogden Nature Center: To Unite People with Nature and Nurture Appreciation and Stewardship of the Environment.



Cell Phone Photography Thursday, April 27th at 10 am

Join local events coordinator and artist Christina Miller for this fun session on tips and tricks to taking better photos with your cell phone, and then head out onto the trails as a group to practice what you've learned when the Nature Center is wearing its best colors. All participants must have their own cell phones. Ages 16 and up.

Ages 16+

\$10 ONC members, \$14 non-members

Please register by April 26th at <https://www.ogdennaturecenter.org/education/community-programs>

May Day Flower Bouquets with Florist Robbin Daffin, Hope and Evolution Sunday, April 30th at 4 pm

Surprise someone you love (or choose to love yourself) with a May Day flower bouquet. Robbin Daffin will provide materials and teach a simple flower arranging class for the quintessential May Day Bouquet. Materials will be American grown and ethically sourced, or sourced locally.

Meet in the Visitor Center. This class will be held outside if weather permits. Inside if too chilly. We are holding this class on Sunday so your bouquet will be fresh for May Day!

Ages 16+

ONC members \$35 per bouquet. Non-members \$40.

Please register by Wednesday, April 29th at <https://www.ogdennaturecenter.org/education/community-programs>

MAY

Fly with the Flock 5k/2.5k Trail Run Saturday, May 6th, race begins at 8 am

Runners and families are invited to enjoy a casual, fun, trail run and an outdoor pancake breakfast at the Ogden Nature Center. The 5k course is two laps winding through 152 acres on dirt trails. Children 12 and under can run a 2.5k and young children can participate in a free, 100-foot kids dash with tree-cookie medals for every child who participates.

- Runner packets may be picked up on May 5th from 9 am -4 pm at the Visitor Center.
- Day-of registration will begin at 6:30 am for last minute registrants.
- Please note: walkers will not be timed for medals but are welcome and encouraged to participate.
- Awards, prizes, and kid's activities will follow the race on the back lawn of the Visitor Center.

\$25 adults/\$15 kids 12 and under (early registration)

\$30 adults/ \$18 kids 12 and under (after April 22nd)

Pre-register before April 22nd to guarantee your t-shirt and goodie bag!

Building Fairy/Gnome Houses Saturday, May 13th at 12 pm

Listen to some of the many fairytales and myths about miniature creatures while decorating a tiny home for your garden. Craft supplies will be provided, but feel free to bring any additional materials.

All ages welcome

\$12 ONC members, \$15 non-members

Please register by May 6th at <https://www.ogdennaturecenter.org/education/community-programs>

Guided Bird Walk Friday, May 26th at 8 am

Join a naturalist for a guided bird walk around the Ogden Nature Center. Meet at the Visitor Center at 8 am, walk will begin at 8:15.

Ages 13+

\$5 ONC members, \$8 non-members

Please register by May 22nd at <https://www.ogdennaturecenter.org/education/community-programs>



SUMMER

Summer Camps

Always held outdoors and in the field, these are nature-focused camps for kids and some for adults too!

Check out all the details and register at: www.ogdennaturecenter.org/summer-camps
Registration opens March 1st.



Summer Concert

Ahhh. There's nothing better than picnicking on the lawn in our backyard glen and enjoying live music and a sunset. Watch for dates and details at www.ogdennaturecenter.org.

Birds & Brews & A Band! Save Friday, August 18th!

We're upping our game. Join us for this wild bird nerd event which pairs local brew samples with bird trivia. And this year we're adding a favorite local band to the mix. For 21+ only. Space is limited. Watch for ticket sales online at www.ogdennaturecenter.org.

38th Annual Wildwoods Bash Save Friday, September 8th!

The 38th annual Wildwoods Bash will be held in the backyard of the Ogden Nature Center from 5-8:30 pm! This nature loving event includes a gourmet dinner, live music, and a curated silent and live auction of outdoor inspired items. All proceeds support Ogden Nature Center's mission: To Unite People with Nature and Nurture Appreciation and Stewardship of the Environment. Tickets are \$100 per person or \$1,200 for a reserved table of 10. Watch www.ogdennaturecenter.org for details & ticket sales.

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News from the Mews

Sampson, the Red-tailed Hawk turns 31 in April. The oldest Red-tail on record was 33, so turning 31 is quite a feat for our sweet Sampson. Des Ta Te, the Bald Eagle, turns 23 in March of 2023.

Cyrus, a new Swainson's Hawk, arrived in August of 2022 from Great Basin Wildlife Rehab. He is a healthy juvenile who is missing one eye and will travel on outreach events. This spring we're also adding a juvenile Great-horned Owl and Cooper's Hawk to the Nature Center crew! The Cooper's Hawk has a wing injury and cannot fly and the Great-horned Owl has been imprinted by humans, meaning it was taken care of by humans as an infant, and did not learn how to take care of itself in the wild. Both birds are coming to the Ogden Nature Center from Second-Chance Rehab, and they will both work as outreach birds. You can help care for these new birds by adopting them for a donation of \$500. each.

Three snakes are also available for adoption for \$100. each. Pancake, a Rosy Boa, Remy, a Yellow Rat Snake, and Ace, a Black Pine Snake. To adopt an animal and help share-in-their-care, please contact Heidi at hchristensen@ogdennaturecenter.org.



Sampson, Red-tailed Hawk
Photo by Cory Waite

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Summer Camp Registration Opens March 1st

Discover Ogden's wild side this summer! We offer a variety of fun, outdoor summer camps for ages 2-16! Pre-registration is required and camps fill quickly. For complete camp descriptions and to sign-up, just scan the QR code or go to: ogdennaturecenter.org/summer-camps, or call 801-621-7595.

Summer Camp Assistants Needed

Teens, ages 13+

Do you like working with kids? Would you like to help make summer a memorable experience for others? Join us for summer fun, exploring trails, learning about animals and creating crafts with nature campers. For an application, please e-mail education@ogdennaturecenter.org.

Sign-up for Volunteers

The Volunteer program combines service, learning, and a connection with nature among our community's youth. This program is open to ages 13-16, and will be held every Tuesday and Thursday for ten weeks, June 6th – August 10th. Interested teens should send an email to volunteer@ogdennaturecenter.org or call Parker at 801-621-7595. Application forms can be found online at www.ogdennaturecenter.org/volunteer.



966 W. 12th Street, Ogden, UT 84404

801.621.7595

www.ogdennaturecenter.org

info@ogdennaturecenter.org

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