



Above: Burrowing Owl near the prairie dog town at Cedar Point, June 22, 2022. Photo by Stella F. Uiterwaal. Below right: Cedar Point skink sticker, design by Katie Nieland - stickers available!

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# CEDAR POINT TIMES

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

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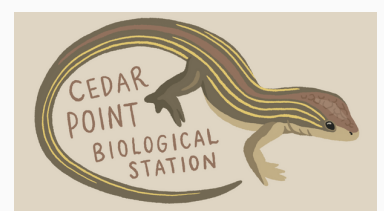
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## Cedar Point mother-daughter reunion brings art and science together

Cedar Point is a great place for a reunion! Artist-in-resident Trudie Teijink (2015) returned in summer 2022 to visit with her daughter, Dr. Stella Uiterwaal. Stella has been researching spiders and birds at Cedar Point since 2016, just a year after her mom's residency, and now is the instructor for Predator Ecology. This summer, Trudie was back, just in time for her new show of work that was inspired by her time at Cedar Point. Trudie has been 'collecting' colors from the Nebraska landscape and using these colors, painted on paper pulp shapes, to assemble landscapes of her own. To see more of her work, click on [this link](#). Want to have your own reunion? Stop on by. In fact, Cedar Point is coming up on its 50th year, so be ready for a big alumni reunion in 2024! See you out there.--John DeLong



Trudie Teijink (left) and daughter Stella Uiterwaal (right) out on the back deck of the Gainesforth building. Photo by John DeLong





## Cedar Point Works student Melissa Bussell jumpstarts riparian forest restoration

Who knew negotiating deals would be part of the job? In summer 2022, after taking Avian Biology at the station, Melissa Bussell went all in on trees. In addition to the many other jobs of a Cedar Point Works student, Melissa took on the task of beginning our riparian forest restoration along the creek (ehem, road) that leads to the Goodall Lodge loading dock. Since we plan to move the road out of the creek bed to eliminate road washouts, we want to restore what should be a mixed hardwood forest in that area. With only a small budget available, Melissa negotiated for 15 trees from a local nursery at a great price. She also helped secure five more trees in a grant from the Nebraska statewide arboretum. Then, along with Kara Kniep and Rachel Clarkson, she learned to plant the trees, ensuring they were straight, properly trimmed, well-irrigated, mulched, staked, and protected from “critters snacking on the young growth”. Melissa noted, “In August we began seeing new growth on the trees which is very assuring that the trees are also making deep roots.”

In her time at Cedar Point, Melissa enjoyed “[w]aking up bright and early to see the sunrise, enjoying coffee in the lodge [and] watching the herons fly from their roosts.” She also enjoyed “getting to explore the natural wonders that are [Cedar Point] with my friends everyday ... [and then] watching the sunset over Kingsley Dam on top of the gazebo trail.”

After graduating, Melissa plans to be an outdoor educator. The Cedar Point Works experience has helped her along the way, introducing her to a network of Master Naturalists, teachers, and other natural resources professionals that can help build a pathway to a career. Before that though, she wants “to go on a road trip to all the national parks between Wyoming and Washington.”

Top: Melissa Bussell and Kara Kniep taking in an evening view of Lake Ogallala on the red cedar bench they built. Photo by Rachel Clarkson. Below right: Melissa Bussell with a branchling Eastern Screech-Owl in Alligator Canyon. Photo by Allison Johnson.



If you would like to support students like Melissa and help them gain experience at Cedar Point Biological Station, please consider a tax-deductible gift or pledge to our Cedar Point Works Fund. You may donate directly online at this [link](#).

If you would like to learn about other ways to give to Cedar Point, please contact our Foundation representatives Steve Allen at [steve.allen@nufoundation.org](mailto:steve.allen@nufoundation.org) (402-458-1140) or Joye Fehringer at [joye.fehringer@nufoundation.org](mailto:joye.fehringer@nufoundation.org) (402-875-0611).



## Grad student links Cedar Point to global network studying the effects of drought

Top: Rain-out structures at the NPKD-Net plots at Cedar Point installed by George Wheeler. Bottom right: George setting up rain-out shelters. Photos by George Wheeler.

One of the most powerful ways of doing ecological science today is to replicate the same experiment all around the world at the same time. Cedar Point has been participating in the Nutrient Network (NutNet; learn more at [this link](#)) experiment for more than a decade. NutNet seeks to understand the effects of nutrient additions on grasslands by generating a global view on what adding nitrogen, phosphorous, and potassium (NPK) to grasslands does to plant biomass, diversity, or stability.

Already a very successful endeavor, NutNet is now being crossed with another global experiment on the effects of drought on grasslands, a question highly relevant for Nebraska. Leading the way on this at Cedar Point is George Wheeler, who set up a new set of plots with rain exclusion devices to simulate drought. Over the last few years, George has been both managing the NutNet site and setting up the new sites, called NPKD-Net (D for drought; learn more at [this link](#)), and sampling the sites to collect data for his dissertation.

George's work focuses on how plant traits (like height or leaf area) vary from year to year because of annual changes in the environment such as rainfall. His work is contributing to a growing understanding of how the effect of nutrient addition depends on other aspects of the environment such as fire and drought. An added benefit arises because the work is tied to the networks, so George gets to contribute an answer with local relevance to Nebraska, as well as to represent Nebraska's grasslands in the global understanding of these processes.

Another benefit of the network approach is the network itself. During George's time here, he has connected with scientists from around the world to be a part of broader research efforts. This research network gives George a chance to keep working on grassland ecology after he wraps up his work in Nebraska.



Sunset over Lake Ogallala. Photo by John 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.

## Art @ Cedar Point



The Cedar Point art program hosts 5-10 artists-in-residence each summer. Run by Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Art's Hannah Demma (and now Kat Morrow) and Aaron Holz, summer 2022 saw the return of Trudie Teijenk, an artist-in-resident from the summer of 2015. Teijenk "collected colors" from the Nebraska landscape and used them to create her own landscapes. See more of her work [here](#).

## Summer 2023 schedule

May 17 to May 20

Grad Student Writing Retreat

Session 1 (3 weeks) - May 21 to June 9

Avian Biology

Fundamentals of Biology II

Session 1 (2 weeks) - May 21 to June 3

Literature and the Environment

Session 2 (3 weeks) - June 11 to June 30

Predator Ecology

Field Herpetology

Session 3 - July 2 to July 21

Field Epidemiology

Fundamentals of Biology II

Ecology and Evolution

Session 4 (3 weeks) - July 23 to August 11

Field Parasitology

Session 4 (2 weeks) - July 23 to August 4

Field Limnology

Session 4 (2 weeks) - July 31 to August 13

Arabic language immersion

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**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.**