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Above: Sunset from over Kingsley Dam from near the NutNet site at Cedar Point Biological Station, June 8, 2022. Photo by George Wheeler. Below right: Six-lined racerunner, photo by Megan Francis Snow.

CEDAR POINT TIMES

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

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Cedar Point alumni event August 16-19!

This year will mark Cedar Point's 50th year of operations. With those first classes in 1975, the early days set us on a road to being an important site for long-term research, field- and place-based education, and a gem in the NU system. And while people have come and gone, the Cedar Point experience has remained: an immersive field experience with a lifetime of impact. Regardless of what you studied at Cedar Point, be it ornithology, parasitology, or watercolors, Cedar Point experiences help shape us and our futures.

So as we celebrate a half-century of success, now is the time to consider coming back out!

Email us at cpbs2@unl.edu to RSVP for the event. We will send out lodging information and a schedule as the event gets closer. Plan for some canoeing, bird-watching, and trips around the area, and to re-live a little of your Keith County glory. See you there.--John P. DeLong



A storm builds over Cedar Point Biological Station on August 11, 2023. Photo by Megan Francis Snow.



Still crazy - for snails - after all these years!

Parasitology has long been a core research focus at Cedar Point. Since the earliest days, student and faculty parasitologists have hunted snails, fish, dragonfly larvae and a host of other things to monitor parasites and even discover new species. The article on the right was from 1977 and shows John Janovy Jr. (on the right) with students from the parasitology class collecting snails in the (likely South) Platte river (thanks to Keith County News for permission to reprint the photo and story; see their website [here](#)). Second from the right is Mike Duggan, who now sits on Cedar Point's newly-formed Advisory Board.

Snails figure heavily in parasitology still today. Students from today's Field Parasitology and Field Epidemiology courses routinely collect snails. Says Janovy, "The snails have larval trematode parasites, and [...] those are good indicators of what kind of wildlife has been defecating in the river and shedding worm eggs. But snails also have external annelids that live in their mantle cavity, and students have done quite a few projects on those worms, too".

Below. Stagnicola snail collected near Cedar Point. Photo by Scott Gardner. *Below right:* Students collecting aquatic organisms such as snails, hydrophilid beetle larvae, and amphipods along the North Platte river near Sarben. Photo by Devin Nickol.



University of Nebraska professors and students studying biology walk right into the river when necessary to find snails. This group was having pretty good luck last week. In front is Bill Hays of Lincoln. Others (left to right) are Griff Mead of Rapid City, Ann Schuster, Mary Mahaffey, Mike Duggan and Dr. John Janovy.

Catching Snails Easy Once Students Have Located Them

About two dozen young people were out trying to catch snails in this area Saturday, part of their six-day week of study at the University of Nebraska Station on the North Platte River east of Kingsley Dam.

Dr. John Janovy, assisted by Wesley Shoop, had the students at the South Platte River at Paxton, the North Platte River near Sarben, the rivers near Paxton and Cedar Creek near Keystone Saturday looking for snails.

It was nothing new to be working and studying on Saturday, the class meets six days a week and Saturday the plans were to be out until 10 or 10:30 at night.

The group here Saturday was entering the last week of study on a five-week course in biology of this area, including the waters of rivers, streams and lakes.

Another group will be at the station starting July 5 and will remain five weeks. The students will stay at

Cedar Point where they will eat, sleep and study.

Why snails? They have parasites which live on them and if the class can determine the types of parasites they can determine what wildlife live in the area.

It is not as complicated as it sounds. Dr. Janovy said wildlife will have intestinal worms of certain types. In the young stages, these worms live on snails. Therefore, if they find certain types they can tell that the wild animals that have these types have been in the area.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln has classes in biology at the station much of the year. The school of life sciences makes use of the facilities and the excellent study area afforded by the streams, ponds and natural wildlife areas to get in some out-of-the-laboratory study.

Who cooks? Mrs. Denise Schnagl of Lincoln is doing the cooking now. Her husband is one of the students in limnology currently at the station.





Top: Sunset over Lake Ogallala. Photo by Megan Francis Snow.

D. All of the above. Cedar Point Works student Megan Francis Snow does a little of everything.

So, how do you keep a field station running? Cedar Point Works student Megan Francis found out first-hand during three summers at the station. Originally from Omaha and a soon-to-be graduate of the UNL Fisheries and Wildlife program, Megan Francis first came to Cedar Point in 2021 to take LIFE 121 and Field Herpetology, returning in 2022 to work in the kitchen.

Back again in 2023, Megan Francis became the quintessential Cedar Point Works jack-of-all-trades, developing a strong sense of what it takes to keep the station running in good shape. Among the many daily jobs were: working in the kitchen on meal planning and prep (“really hard to find meals that meet different dietary needs”, they said), cleaning (“surprisingly important”), landscaping (“reseeding to get more than just sunflowers”), trail maintenance (“removing tripping hazards and dealing with washouts”), organization (“making sure class and project supplies were in the right place”), mail runs (“daily”), and pest management (“maybe something you don’t want to mention”). In retrospect, Megan Francis didn’t anticipate the breadth of skills they would improve upon as part of the effort to keep the station running.

Another thing it takes to keep Cedar Point running? People like Megan Francis. We can’t do it without them.

Megan Francis also proved to have a knack of being in the right place at the right time with a camera. Whether catching the sunset over the station from the NutNet site (see top) or stumbling upon a pair of mating bull snakes by the lodge (see right), they were a regular contributor to our social media accounts as well as the Nebraska Through the Lens Facebook community.



Middle right: a pair of mating bull snakes (*Pituophis catenifer sayi*) mingle between Goodall Lodge and the Gainesforth center, August 11, 2023. Photo by Megan Francis Snow. Bottom right: Megan Francis at the Chimney Rock National Historic Site during an intern team outing, June 9, 2023. Photo by Abby Reese.



Starting out on the Gazebo Trail. 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.



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Art @ Cedar Point

Cedar Point has been inspiring artists since the beginning of time, or well 1975 at least. Long-term researcher-instructors at the station have produced a lot of beautiful work over the years. Here is a painting of the amazing Marsh Wren by none other than John Janovy Jr. Today, the Cedar Point art program hosts 8-12 artists-in-residence each summer. Run by Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Art's Kat Morrow and Aaron Holz, summer 2024 promises another wave of great art, so keep an eye out for more new work! We hope to be displaying more artist-in-resident work at the station in the near future.

2024 Summer schedule

Week starting (or specific dates)														
19-May	26-May	2-Jun	9-Jun	16-Jun	23-Jun	30-Jun	7-Jul	14-Jul	21-Jul	7/26-28	28-Jul	4-Aug	11-Aug	8/16-19
TD workshop	Avian Biology			Predator Ecology			Field Epidemiology			Wilderness CPR	Field Parasitology			Alumni reunion at station!
Writing retreat	Life 121			Field Herpetology			Life 121				Field Limnology			
	Lit in the Environment		YNS	Ecology and Evolution			Indigenous Cedar Point	Japanese, Zen, and martial arts						

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.