

Great Salt Lake Audubon
Invites You to Our 42nd Annual

Basin & Range Weekend Seminar

May 29 - 31, 2026



Diamond Fork Group Campsite 3
Spanish Fork Canyon in Utah County

Host:

Great Salt Lake Audubon
<http://greatsaltlakeaudubon.org/>

Online Registration: <https://tinyurl.com/ms29y8v3>

THE SEMINAR brings together students of nature, lay people, and professionals for field studies in Spanish Fork Canyon at the Diamond Fork Group Campground Group Campsite 3.

OUR PURPOSE is to provide participants with an opportunity to understand the unique environment that sustains us. We seek to illuminate relationships among plant life, animals, humans, and the physical characteristics of mountains, deserts, and water.

PARTICIPANTS accompany instructors for three classes in any of ten sessions: Saturday morning and afternoon, and Sunday morning. Saturday morning sessions begin at 9:00; Saturday afternoon sessions begin at 1:00; and the Sunday morning sessions begin at 8:00. Saturday evening potluck dinner is followed by a program about insects in the area. Parents are required to supervise their children.

THE SITE: Diamond Fork Group Site 3 is situated along the Diamond Fork Creek 19 miles east of Spanish Fork, Utah, in scenic Spanish Fork Canyon. A mix of shady cottonwoods, willows, and sagebrush vegetation surrounds the area. Diamond Fork Creek and nearby streams flow through the canyon, offering scenic views throughout. Elevation is approximately 5200 feet. Vault toilets are provided. We have a large covered pavilion for shade and for covered cooking and meals. Our site has limited tent camping space on grass but ample hardscape space for vehicle camping or free-standing tents which could be placed right next to your vehicle. There are no hookups for RVs. Registrants will receive directions to the campground by email after registering. From Salt Lake City the commute is about 70 miles and takes just over an hour.

ACCOMMODATIONS: Primitive camping. Bring everything you will need. Nearby Springville (~30 mins) has motel accommodations, including the independently-owned 130-year-old Art City Inn.

MEALS: The Saturday evening meal is a potluck; please provide a main dish, appetizer, salad, or dessert to share. GSLA will provide soft drinks for the Saturday evening meal. Otherwise, participants should bring all their own meals and drinks.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE is **Friday, May 22, 2026**. Class choices are honored on a **first come first served basis**. Notice confirming your registration and a detailed map to the campground will be sent via email. Cancellations must be received by Tuesday, May 26 to receive a refund.

Register early for best class choices. Event is limited to 50 attendees. Class sizes are limited, and registrants may be re-assigned if needed. Registration opens Wednesday, Apr 15 and closes Friday, May 22, 2026.

CLASSES OFFERED

Birds, Blooms, Bushes, and Boots (KC Childs)

Reptiles & Amphibians of Northern Utah (Chris Frauenhofer)

Bird Photography 101 (Will Freund)

Birds of the Morning + Botany is Beautiful and Edible! (Jack Greene)

Let's see what birds call Diamond Fork home! (Suzi Holt)

Morning Bird Tour (Patrick McAtee)

From butterflies in the air to mayflies in the water (Heath Ogden)

Habitat, Haiku and Mountain Marginalia (Margaret Pettis)
Enhancing your outdoor experience w/ edible & medicinal plants (Tom Smith)

Fee for Basin & Range Participation

- \$40 for attendees 13+
- \$35 for attendees 65+
- \$5 for attendees 12 and younger

Saturday evening potluck: 5:30-7:00 PM

Bring a dish to share.

Additional Information

If you choose not to camp with the group, you are responsible for making your own overnight arrangements. Nearby lodging is available in the city of Spanish Fork.

Questions: Please Contact:

Nancy Lombardo, B&R Coordinator
Phone: 801-856-0629
Email: n.lombardo@comcast.net

FACULTY BIOGRAPHIES AND SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

KC Childs is currently the president of the Utah County Birders and have been actively birding for 27 years now and loves it as much as he did his first year. He has been able to partake in so many different aspects of the birding hobby from field trip coordinator, field trip leader, bird surveys, and conservation work to help protect our feathered friends. He has been an educator most of his adult life and has a passion to help spark a new passion in people young and old.

Birds, Blooms, Bushes, and Boots. Session description: We will start off in the campground at Diamond Fork and set off for a hike and walk around the campground and up a nearby side canyon. We will notice the different species of birds in the different habitats around Diamond Fork. We will discuss the importance of different plants for the survival of the local breeding birds on the hike.

Chris Frauenhofer is the wildlife biologist for the Utah National Guard, conducting wildlife management and research across the state on DOD owned lands working with a verity of species and habitats. Chris is particularly passionate & versed with reptile and amphibian conservation. His current research focuses on movement patterns, habitat selection, and conservation of snakes.

Reptiles & Amphibians of Northern Utah. Session description: Session focuses on native reptiles and amphibians (herpetofauna, aka herps) of Northern Utah. From the relatively wet mountains of the Wasatch to the dry deserts of the Great Basin, herps have developed unique ways to thrive in dynamically harsh conditions. We will explore nearby habitat and learn about the ecology, physiology, and life histories of various herp species that call the Wasatch home. Learn about what makes reptiles & amphibians so unique—warts and all!

Will Freund has been a passionate birder for over 15 years, from the shores of Lake Erie to the Outer Banks of North Carolina, and now along the Wasatch Front. He has spent the last decade in nonformal education and currently applies his skills as an Education Manager at the Loveland Living Planet Aquarium. Will is also an award-winning documentary filmmaker and science connector. Learn more at www.willthefourth.com
Bird Photography 101. Session description: Capturing photographs of birds is a common pastime for many a birder; however, it can sometimes feel daunting on where to get started. What camera should I buy? How much should I spend? I don't want to get started if all my photos are going to turn out blurry. During this bird walk, we will discuss the basics of getting started in your bird photography journey, foundational photography concepts, and key behaviors to look out for.

Jack Greene has been a teacher naturalist for over 50 years with the national parks, nature centers (which he helped found in Ogden and Logan), and avid hiker, skier, trail runner, and backpacker. He is currently leading outdoor programs for USU international students, working on building his second high school in Tanzania, and serves as VP for the Bridgerland Audubon Society.

Birds of the Morning. Session description: Birding by ear- and sight! Morning bird song is enthralling, beautiful, and purposeful. Learn bird language, whose speaking it, and why.

Botany is Beautiful and Edible! Session description: Learn edible, poisonous, and medicinal plants. This will open a new window into the world of plants. You will never go hungry again!!

Suzi Holt loves birds! She loves sharing the excitement with others as they discover them, too. She has 2 daughters and 2 grandkids that love birding, too. Her mom and aunt and cousins got her into birding over 10 years ago. She was the UCB field trip leader for the last 7 years and loved meeting so many great people and made some lifetime friends.

Let's see what birds call Diamond Fork home! Session description: We will begin with a few details about "birding" then discuss some of the ways we find these birds. Sight and or audible. I will do a brief explanation of ebird/merlin. Then we will go on pur fieldtrip. We will begin in the Diamond Fork main campground. Then bird at Red Ledges and Juan Rhodes. Time permitting we may go up to the Sawmill CG. If you have binoculars or a camera please bring them.

Patrick McAtee has been a tour guide for the Great Salt Lake Audubon for almost two years now and live in Tooele. He also studied geology and chemistry at the U of U.

Morning Bird Tour. Session description: For the Sunday morning tour, we will walk east from the campground along the river and then head south up Sams Canyon. We'll discuss spring migration, local avifauna, and identification tips (visual and audible) for our native species. The entire walk will be close to 2 miles round trip with relatively little elevation gain (~250 feet). We will also briefly discuss the geologic setting of the broader Diamond Fork Canyon area, along with its rich (and at times, destructive) history. Binoculars and cameras are welcome, and all skill levels are accommodated. If time allows once done with that walk, a short walk to the west could be accomodated to look for a somewhat rare (but common in Diamond Fork) bird, the Lewis's Woodpecker!

Heath Ogden completed his undergraduate studies at BYU. He then completed a master's degree from the University of Concepcion, in Chile. He returned to BYU for his PhD in Biology and a post doc at Arizona State University. He joined the Department of Biology at UVU in 2009. His research interests are in evolutionary biology, entomology, and bioinformatics. His career goal for evolutionary insect research is to continue to investigate mayflies to better understand the evolution of flight and the origin of wings, changes in other morphological characters, and their genetic mechanisms of control. Dr. Ogden also studies how to improve teaching in the sciences, for example, he studies why students can or cannot accept evolution what can instructors do to improve acceptance. He is the married to Dr. Lida Jimena Ogden, and is the father of 4 children.

From butterflies in the air to mayflies in the water. Session description: In this field session we will be focusing on the insects in nature. We will spend some of the time looking for, collecting, and photographing the insects in the terrestrial environment. And then we will take aquatic samples and observe the aquatic invertebrates from the river.

Margaret Pettis is a Utah artist, poet (In the Temple of the Stars), and author of the illustrated Back Roads of Utah (margaretpettis.com) An avid kayaker, former mule-packing wilderness ranger, and wildlife activist, she taught art and English for forty years.

Habitat, Haiku and Mountain Marginalia. Session description: We will observe and reflect upon this unique place, compose a haiku or two, and depict the natural world in medieval marginalia. No art experience required! Bring water and basic drawing materials for instruction in simple drawing and watercolor techniques.

Tom Smith began his college career in outdoor survival while he tried to discover his direction. This has led to lifelong learning about the world around us including plants that we can use both for food and medicine. Tom has split his professional career in Alaska and Utah and currently is a professor of wildlife sciences at BYU. His topic is bear ecology and how to coexist peaceably with them.

Outdoor experience w/ edible & medicinal plants. Session description: During this outing we will explore a few of the many wild edible and medicinal plants found here in Utah. The workshop will be 1.5 hours of exploration and 1.5 hours of preparation and taste testing. The goal is to get you excited about expanding your knowledge and appreciation for the natural world.