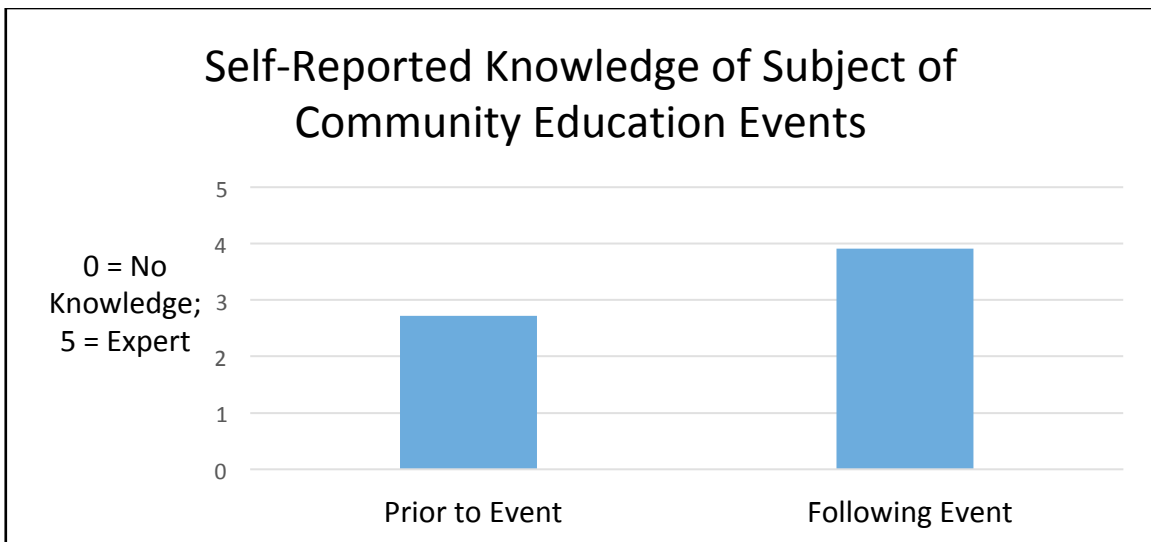
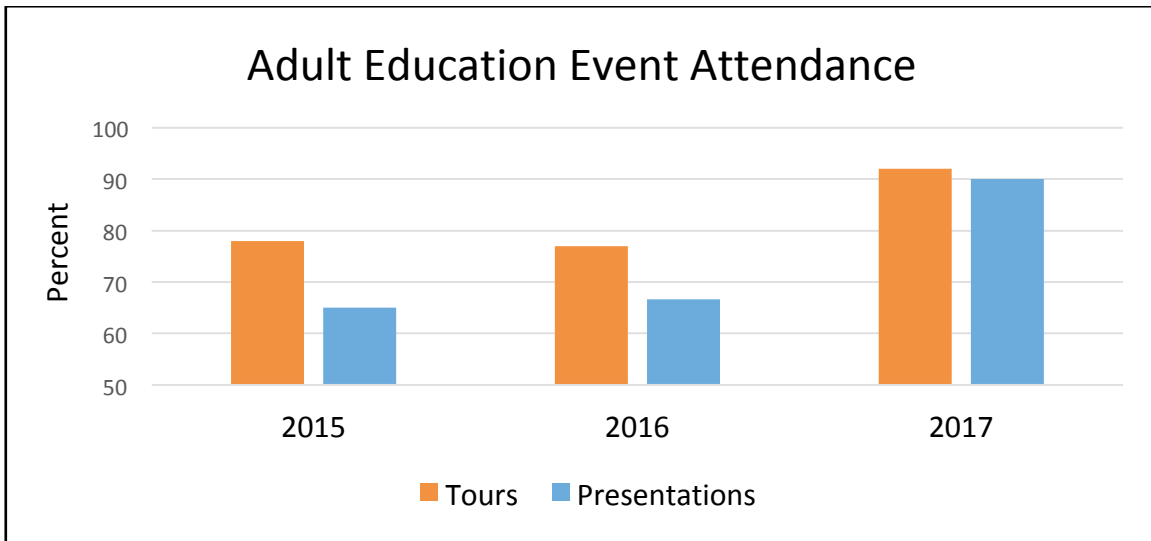


USU Extension Grant – Final Report

2. **Project Leader:** Andrew Potter, A02273397 (Former Project Leaders: Danielle (Nell) Larson, A01496212 and Brittany Ingalls, A00017649. Brittany Ingalls was the original applicant, but left USU in Fall 2017.)
3. **Project Title:** Enhancing Adult Education Program Offerings at Swaner EcoCenter
4. **Beginning Date and End Date:** April 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018 (This included an extension.)
5. **Total Requested:** \$9,914.40
6. **Project Summary:** The USU Extension Grant enabled Swaner Preserve and EcoCenter to enhance and expand our Adult Education Series events. Swaner's Adult Education Series events consist of tours, presentations and workshops. Tours take place on the Preserve or in nearby habitat, and consist of 15-20 guests guided by an expert tour guide. Presentations take place in the Swaner EcoCenter and consist of up to 90 guests viewing a presentation by a guest speaker. These events are always followed by a Q&A, and occasionally are followed by a hands-on workshop activity. The overarching goal of our Adult Education Series is to foster a sense of wonder in the natural world, improve bioregional awareness, encourage environmental stewardship, and engage the Summit County community in Swaner and USU Extension. Swaner's 2017 Adult Education Series included: a presentation by Mark Fiege, author of *The Republic of Nature*; a series of four Avian Adventures expert-led birding tours; a presentation by Joseph Wilson, author of *The Bees in Your Backyard* and USU professor; a presentation by USU Wildlife Ecologist Patty Kramer; a *Wildflowers of the Wasatch* tour, guided by USU botanists Jerry Goodspeed and Jaydee Gunnel, a 40-hour Master Naturalist Course with Mark Larese-Casanova, and many more. The USU Extension Grant enhanced our series of four Avian Adventures expert-led birding tours, weekly nature walks, and wetland tours by funding the purchase of 16 pairs of Nikon binoculars and *Sibley's Field Guide to Birds* for participants to use during the tours. These types of equipment and resources enhance the experience of participants in these programs, and enable them to gain more from the experience. The Extension Grant also funded the purchase of *Wildflowers of the Mountain West* field guides and hand lenses for

participants to use during our Wildflowers of the Wasatch tours as well as Preserve tours throughout the year. The Grant also allowed us to improve the Series by enabling us to cover presenter’s travel costs, which assisted in lining up a great series of presenters.

- 7. **Project Results:** The expanded and enhanced Adult Education Series proved to be quite successful at increasing event attendance. Tour attendance increased more than 10% and presentation attendance increased more than 20% above previous years, with the number of attendees reaching nearly 1,000 over a 12-month period. Additionally, Qualtrics surveys of Adult Education Series event participants indicated a significant increase in self-reported subject knowledge.



Our follow-up surveys indicated that 75% of 2017 Adult Education Series events attracted new visitors to Swaner for their first time. It also revealed that many respondents said they were very likely to return to the EcoCenter for future Adult Education Series events. Together, these numbers paint a clear picture that Adult Education Series events are effective in bringing in first time visitors and engaging them in both environmental education and the Swaner Preserve and EcoCenter.

Additionally, the enhancement of this program through this grant, in particular the provision of items such as binoculars and field guides for every participant, enabled us to charge higher prices which will improve the program's cost recovery moving forward.

While we have no current plans to publish on this project, we have started to explore the possibility of collaboration with the groups listed in #8 below.

The USU Extension Grant of \$9,914.40 covered 39% of the total project cost, with the remaining \$25,000 being covered through registration fees, sponsorships, donations, and grants from the Summit County RAP Tax.

8. **Second Presentation:** While I have not yet scheduled a more detailed presentation for USU Extension employees, I will follow up with those that manage or interface with centers that might benefit from our experience organizing and hosting Adult Education Series events. Additionally, we look forward to learning more about their best practices for Adult Education. This primarily includes the USU Botanical Center and Wheeler Farm. I will also explore the opportunity of partnering with the organizations that Brittany Ingalls mentioned in her initial proposal, in order to share our data and partner on best practices. These organizations include the Association for Adult and Continuing Education, the Association for Experiential Education for broader reach, as well as the Utah Recreation and Parks Association for state level interest. These organizations all distribute webinars to organization members as well as other interested parties.