The Julip Festival at Ashton Gardens April 14 – May 6 pg. 6
Spring is an exciting time at Thanksgiving Point. Babies are born at Farm Country, the Ashton Gardens begin to bloom, and field trips explore the Museums of Ancient Life and Natural Curiosity.

The 2017 Tulip Festival opens on April 14 and continues through May 6 (closed Sundays). One notable feature of this year’s festival is the new Field of Tulips, a beautiful bed featuring 50,000 bulbs. We’ll have old favorite activities like sjoelen (Dutch shuffleboard) and new interactive games like Alpine racing and tulip toss. We are also limiting the number of tickets available each day to improve your experience. As usual, members receive free admission, but we’ve added members-only admission from 9 to 10 am. Finally, Tulip Festival tickets will go on sale March 1 and during the month of March, tickets will be discounted 10 percent off regular admission.

Speaking of membership, while the Ashton Gardens are the stars of spring at Thanksgiving Point, an annual membership also provides you with unlimited access to three other venues: Farm Country, the Museum of Ancient Life, and the Museum of Natural Curiosity. Thanksgiving Point members also receive a variety of discounts on special events, our signature experiences, and food options. Last but not least, as we enter tax season, your membership is tax-deductible as a donation to Thanksgiving Point.

Thank you for your support.

Warmly,

Mike L. Washburn

What’s Inside:

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Join us as we prepare for our new arrivals
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New traditions mixed with old as we celebrate the 13th annual Tulip Festival
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The countdown to Easter begins! Grab your baskets and hunt for eggs
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When you hear Salt Lake City vs. Provo, your first thought might involve a football rivalry. But there’s another competition that these two places are part of, and that’s the battle for dirtiest air in the nation. This winter, Salt Lake City and Provo are taking turns at the top of the list of the five most air-polluted cities in the United States (EPA, 2016).

As residents of Northern Utah can attest, they are very familiar with the grey haze hanging above the valley throughout the winter called “the inversion”. Inversions occur in valleys, where mountains rise all around and create a bowl that traps pollutants in the cold air of the valley kept in place by a layer of warm air above. This polluted air can have negative effects on the environment and our health. With vehicles accounting for 57% of the contributing sources of winter inversions (Utah DEQ), exploring alternative fuel is critical for a sustainable and easier-breathing future. Along with 20 museums and science centers across the nation, Thanksgiving Point is looking to the ground for answers: creating fuels from nonfood crops—biofuels.

What are Biofuels?
Biofuels are derived from material such as grasses, trees, crops, or agricultural wastes (BioEnergy Center). Crops, like switchgrass for example, have many environmental and economic benefits. Switchgrass helps remove carbon dioxide from the air; uses water efficiently; protects soil from erosion; restores nutrients to soil; and is remarkably adaptable to a wide range of habitats and climates. Thanksgiving Point is interested in the research behind nonfood crops as biofuels and how they can help improve Utah’s air quality.

How is Thanksgiving Point Involved?
You might have noticed the red racecar in the “Soil-to-Market” area at Farm Country. This interactive exhibit takes you on a nationwide road trip with fun activities that challenge you to make it from point A to B using different types of cars and fuels. Thanksgiving Point has many programs that provide guests with opportunities to explore alternative, sustainable, and inexpensive energy sources. Our education team continues to work with our “Farming for Fuels” museum and science center partners to develop research and educational resources.

Because of Northern Utah’s unique valley geography there will never be an inversion-free winter, but by learning more about our fuel options, we hope to be part of the solution that will help us all breathe a little easier.

In 2011, Thanksgiving Point partnered with Creative Discovery Museum (www.cdmfun.org) in Chattanooga, Tennessee and the U.S. Department of Energy’s (DOE) BioEnergy Science Center (BESC, bioenergycenter.org) to educate the public about growing nonfood crops to produce biofuels. Thanksgiving Point is actively involved in the national education and outreach program, Farming for Fuels.
Farm Country News

Baby Animals Coming Soon!

Becky Dawson  Farm Country Manager

Each year Farm Country hosts a Baby Animal Birthday Party where guests can come meet some of our newest friends, eat cake, and enjoy the animals. But...that's not until May! Coming soon, real soon actually, you can come say hello to some of the newest babies making their first appearance at Farm Country. Here’s a brief list of some of the expectant mothers and when we think our new arrivals will come.

- Heidi, our Brown Swiss dairy cow, is due to calve the end of March. This will be Heidi’s 3rd calving, 2nd at Thanksgiving Point. (In the dairy world, calving is also called freshening because it refreshes the cow’s milk supply).
- Our sheep are due to start lambing in March.
- Our goats are due to start kidding in March. We have goats due each month, March thru June.
- Our first rabbit kits of the year will be born in February. They stay in the nest until about 3-4 weeks old, so we probably won’t be able to see them until March. But it’s always exciting just knowing we’ve had our first births of the year!
- There are a few ponies that are expecting, as well, but later in the year. We are expecting foals anywhere between May 27th-June 6th. Just like in humans, these due dates are guesses. Gestations always have a range of normal time. Some animals are born early and some like to cook a little longer and teach us patience. Even chicks, depending on the temperature of the incubator, can hatch a day or two early or a day or two later than the usual 21 days.
- Our staff will be artificially inseminating our two Angus cows in February for fall calves. We do not keep any bulls at Farm Country because of their unpredictable nature, so we use artificial insemination. It’s usually done in the milk chute, or in the cow’s stall around 4pm. Any guests that are here are welcome to watch and ask questions. It only takes about five minutes for the whole procedure, shots and all. We can be really choosy about the genetics of our calves, this way. For our beef calves we pick bulls that have a little more marbling, or better ribeyes. For our dairy calves we can pick bulls that offer longer teats or A2/A2 milk.

Some things to get ready for all new babies:

- Make sure there is fresh bedding in the mama animal’s pen. Sometimes this is straw, sometimes wood shavings.
- Alert Thanksgiving Point security to the expecting mama and her estimated due dates. Security makes extra stops in Farm Country when they see new babies or moms in labor.
- Farm Country staff keep our phones on the bedside table on the loudest ring setting (animals like to give birth in the late night, early morning hours, especially right before or during a storm). We also keep a change of clothes next to our beds so we can get to the farm as soon as possible when the mothers need us.
- There is a “birthing bucket” with necessary supplies inside. We keep a flashlight and lantern in the bucket, fresh towels for drying wet babies if it’s cold out, a thermometer in case we need to check temps, and some Nutri-Drench in the bucket to give some immediate vitamins and energy to the mamas after they’ve given birth.

Eggs start incubating at the end of January, to check the fertility rates and hatchability rates of our eggs. The chickens that are laying eggs are first time layers. Leghorns can start laying eggs between four to five months old; all other birds are closer to six to seven months old. If you buy chicks in the spring, you won’t be getting eggs until late fall.

We are also partnered with Utah State University (USU) for their Embryology program where teachers can sign up online through USU’s website and order 18-day incubated chicken eggs (it takes 21 days for them to hatch). The teachers pick the eggs up at Farm Country on Mondays and the eggs hatch in an incubator in the classroom sometime around Wednesday. Because we need to know how many eggs to set, teachers do need to sign up at least three weeks in advance. We have had a few families do this in their homes, as well. We recommend the incubators be up and running a week in advance, to make sure everything is as it should be. This is a fun science experiment for children of all ages. We start incubating eggs February 22nd for the first pickup date of March 13th. Our last set of eggs for the embryology program will be April 26th for the pickup on May 15th. Lots to see and do at Farm Country in 2017. See you soon!
A Life-Changing Program to build self-esteem in teen girls

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-Classes-
-Activities-
-Friendships-
-Fun-

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Family Foundation
The Tulip Festival at Ashton Gardens

The 280,000 annual tulips are the jewels in the crown of the Thanksgiving Point Tulip Festival, but there are more than a million other perennial bulbs—daffodils, crocus, anemones—and other scented treasures blooming beneath flowering trees and in the open sunshine. There are thousands of pansies, poppies, forget-me-nots, and English daisies in stylish spring displays as well.

Tulips are sometimes at their best just before the petals open, accompanied by the realization that, because of their ephemeral nature, tomorrow they will be different than today. Tulips can also be also be beautiful when they are blousy and fully opened and even a little burnt by the sun. The tulip’s leaves are nature’s solar panels as they collect the sun’s energy and charge the bulb for next year. Tulips are planted each fall to be ready for the spring’s Tulip Festival. At Ashton Gardens, tulips are treated as annuals and new bulbs are planted each year. After the event concludes guests are welcome to come buy the bulbs from the actual Tulip Festival to plant at home. It’s a great way to create your own private Tulip Festival!
Tulips for the picking
Something new this year includes tulip picking. On special days during the Tulip Festival guests can cut tulips they intend to purchase under the guidance of Master Gardener volunteers and education staff. These unique tulips are grown in special beds next to the greenhouse and are long-stemmed mid-season and late blooming tulips. They are featured in several colors and will be available as they come into bloom and will be priced per stem. A wrapping station will provide a place for wrapping and tying of tulip bouquets. Be sure to check with the Ashton Garden’s staff during your visit prior to cutting any tulips.

Vista
Every year 22,000 tulips are planted on the slopes of the Vista. This year’s variety is ‘Spryng’, a vibrant, almost vibrating, carmine rose. ‘Spryng’ is a variety planted in the flower beds along Park Avenue in New York City because its gorgeous flowers look great at 25 mph.

Field of Tulips: New in 2017
On a sloped lawn in an under-visited part of the Gardens large swaths of grass have been dug out to make way for a planting of 30,000 tulips. This provides one more place for guests to get off the path and meander on the grass and immerse themselves among the tulips. Come and see it for yourself!

Wild Tulips
Tulips are familiar to most people, but very few have had the opportunity to see them growing in their original, natural habitat. That’s because tulips are native to some of the most remote places on earth. The hard-to-reach ridges of Iran and the barren slopes of Afghanistan are a couple remote locations that wild tulips call home.

The dry shade of the new Water-Wise Garden at Ashton Gardens is just the place for tulips that naturalize freely and bloom happily in cold, dry mountains like Utah. This past fall garden volunteers planted 12,000 wild tulips of 22 species. Along side the wild tulips, 8000 tiny species daffodils, saffron crocus, and wild onions were also planted. Visiting the Water-Wise Garden in spring, there is a good chance that you will fall in love with one or more of these wild tulips.
3.1 Benefits of Training for your next race

Kendall Wimmer  Thanksgiving Point Race Director

Training for a 5K, half marathon or race of any distance can be more than just “work.” There are a multitude of benefits from training and running that don’t have to wait for race day to be cashed-in. Here’s 3.1 tips to consider:

**COMMUNITY**

One of the best ways to improve your training is to get connected with others who have similar goals. I’ve learned over the years that runners seem to be the best kind of people. These days there are scores of local clubs and Facebook groups all dedicated to running. If you don’t know where to start inquire at your neighborhood running store, they’ll be glad to help get you started. You can also call a neighbor, a friend, or a relative and sign-up for a race together. Group training is more fun than training alone and will become something to look forward to doing. When others are counting on you, you’ll stay more motivated and are certain to make some new friends along the way.

**PHYSICAL FITNESS**

One of the more obvious reasons for running and training for race day are the physical benefits. Losing weight and gaining fitness will be natural consequences from your training. Running remains one of the best calorie burning exercises out there; however, many runners, when first starting out, will put too much pressure on them to run—they “over-run”. Start out slow and work up to a run if “running” is requiring too much energy or you experience abnormal pain.

Best results come from aerobic exercise and at a low to mid pace. If you’re breathing too hard, you’re working too hard. Slow down! Certain types of training, depending upon your goals, may require some anaerobic exercise (fartleks, intervals) but your long run and much of your early training should be at an aerobic threshold. Work up to a run. Start with brisk walking for a half hour or an hour and gradually work up to a run/walk type of strategy. Don’t worry about your pace or time in the beginning. For many, a run/walk strategy, even on race day, is a more beneficial workout and often even more effective than a run hard, stop, run hard strategy. Slow and steady wins the race—your race!

**CONFIDENCE**

As your training develops and fitness increases, you’ll discover the courage to explore new trails, running stronger and farther than you ever thought possible. As your mileage increases, you’ll gain confidence as you breakdown those mental mileage blocks. Tearing down the mental walls or barriers of the first time to run three miles, then five miles, or 10 miles, are real accomplishments and a necessary part of your training. You can run farther than you ever thought you could—you just need to do it!

> Exploring new paths and trails is one of the most overlooked benefits of running. A spectacular sunrise or sunset, a full moon, a lane tree, the fall colors, first snowfall, are all part of the payoffs associated with running. Bring your phone and/or your camera because you never know what you’ll see while out there on your run.

Running isn’t merely training for race day; running is a way of life. It’s about meeting new people, discovering a healthier and better way to live while gaining fitness and confidence. And, you never know what you’ll see along the way. We invite you to join us for our 8th annual Tulip Festival Half Marathon, 5K, Kids 1-Mile Race on April 29th, 2017. You’ve never experienced anything like it. Come run the toughest half marathon you’ll ever love—and bring your camera!

**Saturday, April 29th | 7AM**

Find more information or REGISTER NOW at ThanksgivingPoint.org
Did you know Thanksgiving Point offers Summer Day Camps for children in grades preschool to high school? Our inquiry-based approach to learning and emphasis on play, as well as the unique spaces and places of Thanksgiving Point, provide a summer camp experience unmatched anywhere else. Campers may learn about the fossils of feathered dinosaurs at the Museum of Ancient Life and then walk down to Farm Country to observe different types of living feathered birds. The Makerspace at the Museum of Natural Curiosity has quality maker tools – 3-D printers, a laser cutter, drills, lathes, Computer Numeric Control (CNC) machines, and more – to help campers become creators, not just consumers. Making observations and exploring through the 55 acres of the Ashton Gardens, access to the Jordan River, and field trips into the surrounding hills give campers a foundation to draw more closely upon the natural world. In addition to our own spaces, Thanksgiving Point has partnerships with other organizations for Summer Day Camps, such as the Loveland Living Planet Aquarium and the Monte L. Bean Life Science Museum on the BYU campus, to bring additional expertise and learning in many different areas. There’s truly something for every child!
SUMMER DAY CAMP FAQ

When can I register?
- Thanksgiving Point Members can register beginning March 1st
- All other guests can register March 6th

How do I register?
- Online at ThanksgivingPoint.org/learn
- Over the phone – 801.768.4971
- In person at the Museum of Ancient Life, 2nd floor, Design and Programming office

What times are Summer Day Camps?
- Preschool camps are single-day and run for 2.5 hours 9:30am-12pm, or 1:30pm-4pm
- Kindergarten-1st grade day camps are three hours, 9am-12pm or 1pm-4pm; Kindergarten-1st grade four day camps are Monday-Thursday 9am-12pm or 1pm-4pm
- All older grade camps, single and four day, run for a full day from 9am-3pm

Is lunch provided for full-day camps?
- Yes. Lunch is provided for all full-day camps.

Which grade should I register my child for?
- Camp curriculum and lesson plans are geared toward the grade your child will be entering in the fall. If you have an older and a younger child, you would like to be in the same camp, we do allow older children to attend camps one grade lower.

What kinds of activities will my child participate in?
- Depending on which camp you choose, your child could be making and programming a Lego EV3 robot, painting with watercolors in the gardens, catching polliwogs and toads to make observations, collecting insects and plants to research, using software to design and 3-D print jewelry, or feeding goats and sheep to learn about adaptations.

May I stay in the classroom with my preschool camper?
- Our camps aim to promote independent learning and socialization opportunities for your child. If you feel your child is unable to remain in camp without you, it may be best to wait a year before you send him or her to camp.

What is your cancellation/refund/transfer/substitution policy?
- You may certainly cancel your Summer Day Camp registration, however after registration and payment is collected there is a no-refund policy. If you are unable to attend, please consider your payment a tax-deductible donation.
- Transfers are permitted with a fee and if there is availability in the camp you are interested in transferring to.
- Thanksgiving Point has a no-refund policy, however, transfers are permitted up to 24 hours in advance with a $10.00 fee based on availability in the camp you are interested in transferring to.
- Substitutions—a neighbor, cousin, sibling, etc.—are accepted.

What’s new in 2017?
- 4th-5th grade camps have been split into 4th-5th grades and 6th-7th grades.
- The maximum number of campers in 4th-5th grade camps has been lowered from 25 to 20.
- Day camps for grades 2nd-3rd, 4th-5th, and 6th-7th have been moved to Friday.

How can I continue to build on what my child is learning in camp?
- All of our campers come home with parent letters with additional resources—websites, books, experiments, and activities—to continue the fun all summer long!

Summer Day Camps at Thanksgiving Point are a great way for kids to spend time during the summer playing, learning, and growing. Watch our website for a complete listing of all of our Summer Day Camp offerings and a full FAQ section.

Special thanks to STEM Action Center of Utah for their support of Summer Day Camps at Thanksgiving Point.
### Event Spotlight

**Garden Volunteer Fair**  
**March 4 | Ashton Gardens**  
Thanksgiving Point is hosting its first Garden Volunteer Fair. Gardeners of all skill levels are needed to enhance and help throughout the Ashton Garden season.

**Geology Day**  
**March 18 | Museum of Ancient Life**  
At Thanksgiving Point, we think Geology ROCKS! Crafts, games, activities and displays centered on the amazing world of rocks and minerals will make this Saturday’s museum visit extra fun!

**Lamb N Wool**  
**April 8 | Farm Country**  
Sheep are the star of the show for the Lamb and Wool Festival. Come watch the exciting sheep shearing process; learn about wool use and fiber arts; and enjoy a sheep dog presentation while you spend the day at Farm Country.

**Tulip Festival**  
**April 14 - May 6 | Ashton Gardens**  
The Annual Tulip Festival at Thanksgiving Point is sure to delight. Join us in celebrating Spring in the gardens: 800,000 spring bulbs and activities for the whole family.

**Easter Eggstravaganza**  
**April 15 | Electric Park**  
More than just an Easter Egg hunt, this event includes activities and games, inflatable play lands, rideable row train, food trucks, vendors, and of course, age-divided Egg Hunts every 30 minutes.

**Half Marathon, 5K and Kids Race**  
**April 29 | Electric Park**  
Whether you are checking a race off your bucket list for the first time or competing to add another medal to your extensive collection, the Tulip Festival Races are a great way to celebrate spring and work on your goals.

**Lyceum Philharmonic**  
**May 6 | Waterfall Amphitheatre**  
Enjoy the final day of Tulip Festival 2017 with a concert provided by the Lyceum Philharmonic, one of the nation’s premiere youth orchestras.

**Baby Animal Birthday**  
**May 19-20 | Farm Country**  
Springtime means BABIES at the Farm. Join us for the party to celebrate our cute new additions; vote for your favorite names; and enjoy a slice of birthday cake too!

To learn more about upcoming events and programs visit ThanksgivingPoint.org

*Included with venue admission.
**Thanksgiving Point Members receive 10% discount.

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**Tulip Festival - April 14–May 6 (Closed Sundays)**

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**Austin Brown** Manager, Signature Experiences

If you drive by Electric Park at Thanksgiving Point on April 15th you will see Easter admirers patiently waiting for the countdown to pick up carefully spread Easter eggs all across the park. Some may say it looks more like the “Hunger Games” or “organized chaos”, but either way it is tons of fun!

Easter egg hunting can be traced back to the 17th century in Northern Europe and the Easter egg is an ancient tradition symbolizing the “rebirth” of spring. Here at Thanksgiving Point we have carried that tradition for more than 15 years (not quite the 17th Century, but still a great tradition). This isn’t your ordinary Easter egg hunt though, this is Easter Eggstreme.

Easter Eggstreme is an event where you can spend hours enjoying the games, inflatables, cow train, food trucks, vendors, and plenty of Easter egg hunting every 30 minutes. Each hunting area is roped off for different ages groups to ensure everyone has a great time and gets plenty of eggs, prizes, and treats to take home. Of course the Easter Bunny will be hopping by to join you on your hunt and take pictures. You don’t want to miss out on this family-friendly spring tradition.

**EVENT TIMELINE**

**APRIL 15TH**

**EGG HUNT SCHEDULE**

10:30am, 11am, 11:30am, Noon, 12:30pm, 1pm
Doors open at 9:30am, event ends at 2pm

**TICKETS**

In advance — Adult: $6 Child: $10
Week-of — Adult: $6 Child: $12
Thanksgiving Point Members — Adult: $4 Child: $9
Just For Kids

Find 10 differences

ANSWER:
Hatching Science in Utah Schools

Hatching chicks in the classroom can be an effective way to increase student engagement, investigate how organisms change and develop over time, and study embryology, life cycles, heredity, and animal needs. Utah Agriculture in the Classroom’s Hatching Science Center (http://utah.agclassroom.org/hatching) offers practical information about the technical aspects of hatching chicks and provides relevant, hands-on activities for integrating embryology themes into core curriculum. Utah teachers can order fertile eggs from Utah AITC and pick them up at Thanksgiving Point. The eggs are incubated at the farm and are picked up when they are 18 days old, meaning they will hatch in three days.