



Outdoors report

SNC programs

Stokes Nature Center invites toddlers ages 2-3 to join us from 10 to 11 a.m. today for Parent Tot. Explore animals, plants, and nature through music, crafts and games. All toddlers must have a parent pal present. The program fee is \$3 (\$2.50 for SNC members). On Saturday, all ages are invited to join SNC naturalists from 9:30 a.m. to noon for a hiking/driving tour of Cache Valley's wetlands. The program fee is \$6 (\$5 for SNC members). On Monday, join SNC from 5 to 8 p.m. for Family Night. Enjoy free, family-oriented activities and explore the wonders of nature with your family. There is no registration required and no fee. All programs are designed to be fun and interactive for all ages. For information call 435-755-3239.

Trap shoot

Logan Firefighters Local 2148 and 1-800-BOARDUP will present the premier "Fill the Boot" trap shoot on Saturday at the Cache Valley Public Shooting Range, 2851 W. Valley View Highway. Games for adult and youth divisions will begin at 9 a.m., including trap, Annie's, Backers and Bluebirds. Cost is \$5 per round with a 50 percent payback. All proceeds will be donated to the Muscular Dystrophy Association to help find a cure for many diseases afflicting adults and children. Lunch and drinks will be available for purchase on-site. For information contact Earl Duncombe at 753-4600 or Rod Larsen at 757-1706.

Hunter ed class

Verl Hanchett will teach a hunters' education course at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Cache Valley Public Shooting Range, 2851 W. 200 North, Logan. Pick up a voucher for the class at any local sporting goods store. For information call the range at 753-4600.

CGA race

Common Ground Outdoor Adventures will host the 9th annual Race 4 Ability at 8 a.m. Saturday, April 11. This event is for all abilities, with a 5k/10k walk, run, stroll and cycle. All benefits from the Race go towards Common Ground's Summer Programs. To register or for more information visit www.cgadventures.org or call 435-713-0288.

NRA banquet

This year's Friends of the NRA banquet will be May 16 at the Coppermill Restaurant in Logan. The more money raised at the banquet, the more money we have a chance to bring back to the valley next year. For tickets or more information call Donna at 755-0663, Ty at 245-0610, or Dan at 232-3170.

Canyons program

Bear River Watershed Council will launch a new program called Friends of the Canyons, comprised of small groups of citizens concerned about the welfare of our local canyons. The community is invited to make a difference by keeping eyes and ears open to questionable activities that could impact wildlife habitat, public lands and open space. BRWC (www.brwcouncil.org) will create a group for each local canyon and enlist a designated contact person that will coordinate communication and disperse information between the Logan Ranger District, volunteers, and others. BRWC has already formed groups for Providence and High Creek canyons. If you have questions about Providence Canyon contact Deb Roghaar at droghaar@gmail.com. For High Creek contact Grant Stewart or Leslie Erickson at highcreekvolunteers@gmail.com. For information about BRWC's Friends program contact Meg Hawks at meghawks@gmail.com.



Alice and Allen Stokes pose in their Logan backyard on May 3, 1990.

Photo by Pete Schropp

By **Brittany Goodsell Jones**
features writer

Friends call passing of conservationist Alice Stokes 'end of an era'

Cache Valley is bit emptier these days. Alice Stokes, who with her husband, Allen, was instrumental in bringing to pass the Allen and Alice Stokes Nature Center in Logan Canyon, died March 19 at age 93.

"It's an end to an era to have her gone," said nature center director Holly Strand.

In 1997, the Stokes Nature Center was dedicated after more than 5,000 hours of volunteer work by locals. The center's goal is to provide students a hands-on way to experience and appreciate nature. Allen died in 1996, a year before the nature center was completed.

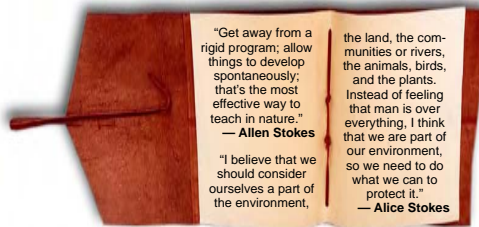
Allen Stokes Jr. said that his parents taught him as a teenager to do the best he could without being

showy. Don't make it a goal to stand out in a crowd, his parents would say. This value was evident in the decision to name the center after Alice and Allen. Bryan Dixon, one of the founders of the SNC, said he approached Allen three times to convince him of including the Stokes name at the nature center. Allen finally relented under two conditions: First, the center would not be named until its completion; and second, the center would have Alice's name first. After Allen died, Alice said the naming could only go forth under one condition: The names be switched around to put his first.

"So, they'd been having this battle across the breach of mortality to determine whose name would be first at the nature center. I remember this debate. What can you say? He died first — it served him right, I guess," Dixon said jokingly.

Before the Stokes family set foot in Logan, Alice went to school and was secretary to the American nature writer Aldo Leopold, commonly called the father of conservation. Allen Jr. said his mother typed "Sand County Almanac" from yellow legal pads holding Leopold's handwritten essays. She also set up Leopold's slides and teaching materials for weekly seminars. Alice took Leopold's ideas about

See STOKES on C2



"Get away from a rigid program; allow things to develop spontaneously; that's the most effective way to teach in nature."
— **Allen Stokes**

"I believe that we should consider ourselves a part of the environment,

the land, the communities or rivers, the animals, birds, and the plants. Instead of feeling that man is over everything, I think that we are part of our environment, so we need to do what we can to protect it."
— **Alice Stokes**

Turkey hunting in Utah on the rise

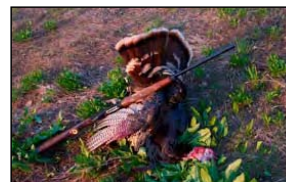
By **Brett Roper**

It was a half hour before sunrise when I heard the first gobbles reverberate through the still morning. As that gobble ended, another answered. While I had heard turkey calls often when I lived in Northern Idaho, hearing this sound in Cache Valley was novel. During my time at Utah State University in the 1980s I had hiked extensively and never heard or saw a wild turkey. But oh what a difference 25 years makes.

Since the early 1990s Utah and Idaho have implemented

aggressive programs introducing and then augmenting these biggest of game birds into each state, including Cache Valley. In 1991 there were only 20 Rio Grande (the subspecies in this area) turkey permits available in the whole state of Utah. This year there are 230 permits for the Utah portion of Cache Valley alone. Additionally, Idaho sells permits to anybody who wants to hunt this area. In 2006 more than 350 tom turkeys were harvested in Cache Valley.

At a time when other hunting opportunities are declining, opportunities to turkey hunt continue to expand. For this we can thank the states of Utah and Idaho, state chapters of the National Wild Turkey Federation, and private individuals who permitted these



A mature tom turkey harvested in Cache Valley.

birds to be released on their lands.

If you are lucky enough to have a Utah tag, your hunt begins on or sometime after April 11 (depending on which season you drew). In Idaho the season begins on April 15. Turkey hunting is unique since the season occurs in the spring rather than the fall. This

is because it is during at this time of year when lovelorn male turkeys are susceptible to calls of females. In the spring only toms (males) can be harvested. So if you are new to turkey hunting be very sure of your target. A study in Oregon suggested when hunting for turkeys is starting to expand in an area, up to 15 percent of the hens can be accidentally shot by hunters.

One thing that will improve your chances of success and

See TURKEY on C2

10% accessible