

# Smithsonian Happenings

## Smithsonian Exhibition: Water|Ways at John Wesley Powell River History Museum

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As part of Think Water Utah, a statewide conversation on the critical topic of water presented by Utah Humanities and its partners, Utah Humanities announces that the Smithsonian's Water|Ways exhibition continues its Utah tour with a stay at the John Wesley Powell River History Museum in Green River. Presented by Utah Humanities, the Smithsonian Institution, and communities statewide, the **Green River portion** of the Water|Ways tour **takes place from April 3rd through June 6th, 2021.**

The Smithsonian's *Water|Ways* exhibition dives into water – an essential component of life on our planet, environmentally, culturally, and historically. Water is a vital global, regional, and local resource. We'll explore Utah's water stories and issues through the lens of our shared heritage and interests.

**In addition to featuring *Water|Ways*, The John Wesley Powell River History Museum will offer their local companion exhibition "Our River is Our Community" through December, 2021.**

"Our River is Our Community" shows how the Green River is essential to life and culture in southeastern Utah. Visitors are invited to explore the significance of the river to the community's past, present, and future. In addition, the Museum has partnered with Green River High School to create a student water photography exhibit and river stories podcast series. A full schedule of *Water|Ways* events at the John Wesley Powell River History Museum and surrounding areas is available on the Museum's website events page. The Green River is essential to life and culture in southeastern Utah. Explore the significance of the river in our community's past, present, and future.

**Candice Cravins, Executive Director, John Wesley Powell River History Museum** says, "We are thrilled to partner with Utah Humanities to bring *Water|Ways* to the John Wesley Powell River History Museum here in Green River. This partnership has given us the opportunity to connect with our local community not only through the development of our companion exhibit, *Our River is Our Community*, which highlights the importance of the Green River to life and culture in southeastern Utah, but through thoughtfully-planned programming in collaboration with our community organizations and partners throughout the region. We are so excited to be included in the statewide tour of *Water|Ways* and look forward to exploring the crucial role water plays in our lives with our visitors.

**Megan van Frank, Director of the Center for Community Heritage at Utah Humanities**, is coordinating the exhibition tour in Utah. In explaining the critical role Utah Humanities plays in bringing the Smithsonian tour to Utah, she says, "We work hard to bring this experience to local communities, and the collaboration among national, state, and community organizations benefits everyone. We work closely

with the host museums, helping to support their expertise in hosting a national exhibition. The entire experience directly strengthens Utah museums and helps to preserve and share Utah history." She also hopes that, "visitors to the exhibition will come away with a panoramic and personal view of how water has shaped the state of Utah as well as its role in their personal lives. The exhibition is a unique opportunity for Utahns to tell their own water stories as part of local, state, and national conversations."

**Gregory Smoak, Director of the American West Center, University of Utah, and state scholar for the Utah tour of *Water|Ways*** remarks that "Water is life. It has shaped the stunning, inspiring, and often difficult landscapes of our state. It sustains our very existence and has largely defined where Utahns have lived for the past 12,000 years. And there can be no future without water. While the challenges facing Utahns appear daunting, the story of Utah's water ways can offer us a guide. By trying to understand the natural world, its limitations and reasonable opportunities, and considering the many ways in which Utahns have engaged our precious waters, we might use history to map a sustainable way forward."

To learn more about the statewide tour, contact Utah Humanities at 801.359.9670 or visit the Think Water Utah portion of the Utah Humanities website.

*Water|Ways* has been made possible in Utah by Utah Humanities. *Water|Ways* is part of Museum on Main Street, a collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution and State Humanities Councils nationwide. Support for Museum on Main Street has been provided by the United States Congress. *Water|Ways* was adapted from an exhibition organized by the American Museum of Natural History (New York) and the Science Museum of Minnesota (St. Paul), in collaboration with Great Lakes Science Center (Cleveland), Field Museum (Chicago), Instituto Sangari (Sao Paulo), National Museum of Australia (Canberra), Royal Ontario Museum (Toronto), San Diego Natural History Museum, and Science Centre Singapore.

Many thanks for generous support from the State of Utah, Utah Division of Arts & Museums, Utah Division of State History, Utah Museum of Fine Arts, University of Utah American West Center, George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation, Lawrence T. and Janet T. Dee Foundation, Dominion Energy, Rocky Mountain Power, Union Pacific, KCPW Radio, and Utah Public Radio.

**About Utah Humanities:** Utah Humanities empowers Utahns to improve their communities through active engagement in the humanities. UH is funded by the Salt Lake County Zoo, Arts, and Parks Fund, the State of Utah, and the National Endowment for the Humanities, and through gifts from individuals, foundations, and corporations. Each year, Utah Humanities supports hundreds of educational and cultural programs throughout Utah. For more information, visit [www.utahhumanities.org](http://www.utahhumanities.org).



**JOHN WESLEY POWELL  
RIVER HISTORY MUSEUM**

**NOW SHOWING**

**"Smithsonian Water/Ways"**



Check Website for  
Upcoming Events



**HOME OF THE RIVER RUNNERS  
HALL OF FAME**

**HOURS: MON-SAT 9AM-5PM**  
**1765 E. MAIN ST. GREEN RIVER, UT**  
**JOHNWESLEYPowell.COM | 435-564-3427**

**MAY 1, 2021**  
**9:00am-12:00pm**  
*Meet at the Museum*  
*Drive to location separately*

### **Rock Art Field Trip | Tour with Utah Rock Art Research Association**

Join Steve Acerson of the Utah Rock Art Research Association for a guided tour of the Sege Canyon local rock art site and learn the importance of water to the Native peoples of our region. Limited spots – please reserve yours by signing up at [johnwesleypowell.com/engaging-the-public/events/](http://johnwesleypowell.com/engaging-the-public/events/)

**MAY 4, 2021**  
**6:00-7:30pm**  
*Online via Zoom*

### **John Wesley Powell in the Lost Canyons of the Green River | Talk with Roy Webb**

Powell's 1869 journey in the upper stretches of the Green were where crew members learned to handle ungainly boats, felt their first thrills of fast water, and ran their first rapids. In those remote canyons, they first realized just what dangers they were facing downstream. Story time with historian Roy Webb never disappoints. Sign up at [johnwesleypowell.com/engaging-the-public/events/](http://johnwesleypowell.com/engaging-the-public/events/)

**MAY 15, 2021**  
**9:00-10:00am**  
*Meet at Swasey's Beach Parking Lot*

### **Yoga at Swasey's Beach | with Candice Cravins, Museum Director & AFAA-Certified Group Fitness Instructor**

Get outside and enjoy a morning of invigorating yoga by the river! Please bring your own yoga mat, towel, sunscreen, and water bottle. Sign up at [johnwesleypowell.com/engaging-the-public/events/](http://johnwesleypowell.com/engaging-the-public/events/)

**MAY 18, 2021**  
**6:00-7:30pm**  
*Online via Zoom*

### **Utah Water Ways | Talk with Greg Smoak, Utah State Scholar for Water|Ways**

Utah is land of scarcity and plenty, and those extremes have shaped our relationship to water. Join Greg Smoak (Director, University of Utah's American West Center) to explore how water has motivated great cooperation and great conflict between peoples, communities, and governments. Sign up at [johnwesleypowell.com/engaging-the-public/events/](http://johnwesleypowell.com/engaging-the-public/events/)

*We are excited to welcome you to the JWP River History Museum! Our exhibitions and activities will accommodate social distancing and sanitary practices. Please come prepared to wear a mask inside the Museum. One will be provided for you if needed. Thank you!*

*Water|Ways* is part of Museum on Main Street, a collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution and Utah Humanities, and is touring in partnership with the John Wesley Powell River History Museum. The tour is part of *Think Water Utah*, a statewide collaboration and conversation on the critical topic of water presented by Utah Humanities and its partners.

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**THE JOHN WESLEY POWELL  
RIVER HISTORY MUSEUM**