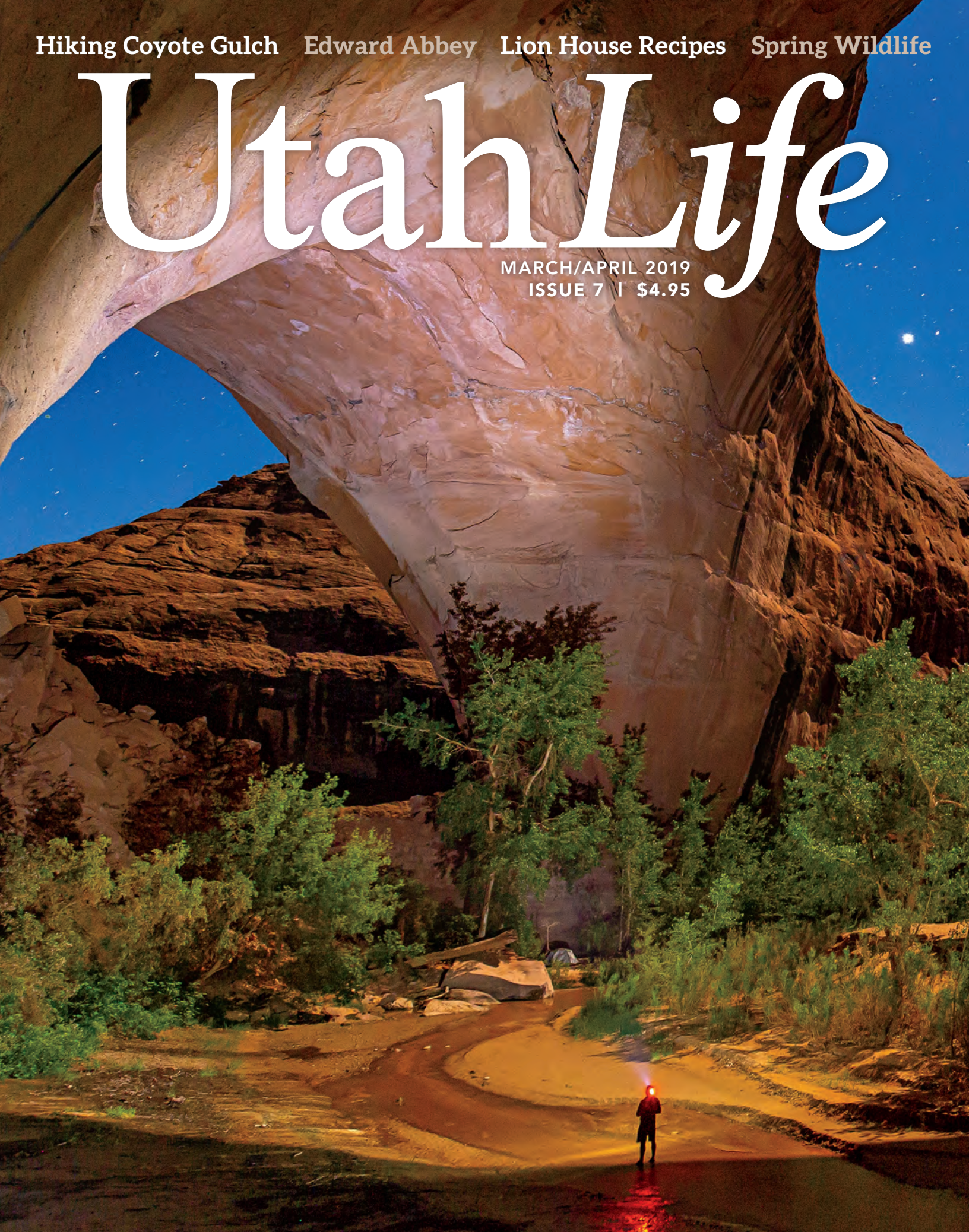


Hiking Coyote Gulch Edward Abbey Lion House Recipes Spring Wildlife

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Ogden aims to be chrysalis for butterfly resuscitation

by VANESSA ZIMMER

Hearts are aflutter in Ogden over the monarch butterfly.

The Northern Utah community not only adopted a citywide art project to draw attention to decreasing populations, volunteers also are planting milkweed this spring on the hillside above Weber State University and in a campus sculpture garden – all to shore up the butterfly’s shrinking habitat. In a way, they’re putting their money where the monarch’s mouth is.

The sculpture-garden milkweed, planted once irrigation water is released in April, will meet the guidelines of a Monarch Way-

station, meaning it will quickly become viable as habitat. Monarch butterflies are important pollinators that lay their eggs on milkweed, which then is the primary food source for the emerging caterpillars.

Monarchs west of the Rockies wisp off into a corridor through Utah on their migration between Mexico or California, and Canada, said WSU’s Scott Sprenger. The annual Western Thanksgiving count in California revealed a 99.4 percent decline since the 1980s that is largely blamed on loss of habitat.

The Ogden project launched with an

op-art-style mural in a new creative district, roadside banners along State Road 39 at the Ogden Nature Center, and a 40-by-100-foot mural inside the Kimball Visual Arts building at WSU. All pieces were created by Jane Kim as part of her cross-country mission to highlight the plight of the monarch. Sprenger, WSU’s dean of the College of Arts and Humanities, calls it “artwork with a moral purpose.”

It has become bigger than a campaign for awareness – particularly now that Ogden is opening a new snack bar and rest stop for the monarchs this spring.

Artist Jane Kim’s monarch mural in a new Ogden creative district inspired developers to name the building at the centerpiece of it all “The Monarch.”



Benjamin Zack/Standard-Examiner