

Wisconsin Phenological Society

Department of Geography U.W. Milwaukee
P.O. Box 413
Milwaukee, WI 53201

§ Tel: (414)229-3740 § Fax: (414)229-3981
Email: mds@uwm.edu
Website: <http://www.naturenet.com/alnc/wps.html>

Spring 2003 - Newsletter



WPS Annual Spring Meeting

Please join us for our Annual Spring Meeting
on **Friday, April 25th, 2003**
From **10:00 a.m. until Noon**

Dane Count Fen Oak Resource Center
1 Fen Oak Court, Room 138
Madison, WI

For directions visit:

<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/dane/staff.html#map>

Message from the President

Last year I reported that through *Plantwatch*, Canada has embarked on a program designed to build a national phenological observation system for that country. Since last year, I have been leading efforts to design a similar program for the United States. Up to now, support has been pledged by the National Climatic Data Center (Asheville, North Carolina) to build and maintain a web site to receive phenological observations, and planning is underway to designate the native plants that would be appropriate to observe in different parts of the country (the idea would be for stations to observe indicator plants, such as common or cloned lilacs, as well as 2-4 appropriate native plants). Unfortunately, I have not made much progress yet in cultivating a base of observers. I had hoped to get support from the National Weather Service, which would facilitate my contacting the several thousand volunteer weather observers across the country that constitute the

“Coopertative Network” (they seem a logical group of individuals that would be interested in reporting phenological observations, especially since most of the fifty or so existing observers in my current “Eastern North American Phenology Network” are also COOP observers), but NWS has offered only limited assistance so far. So, I am adopting an “if you build it they will come” strategy, which means that I will plan to build the data “ingest” system with the help of the National Climatic Data Center, and then work on “getting out the word” to attract interested observers to commit to and use the reporting system. If you have any ideas about how to facilitate this plan, I’d be interested to hear them. I’ll continue to report progress on the U.S. National Phenological Network as it develops.

Closer to home, the Executive Committee of the Society has been discussing plans to create a “Wisconsin Phenological Network” that would include approximately a dozen stations, evenly distributed across the state, where commitments to long-term observations would be most likely (locations such as nature centers, university-related facilities, non-profit groups, and other such organizations). These plans are in the very early stages, so again, your input and support would be welcome. Lastly, please consider becoming a fully active member of the Society, by recording and reporting phenological observations this year, and in the years to come. As always, your support of the Society is greatly appreciated.

Mark D. Schwartz

President

2003 Natural History Workshops

at the UWM Field Station

*The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Field Station
conducts a series of Natural History Workshops.*

These workshops offer an opportunity to study focused topics at college-level instruction under the guidance of noted authorities. Most workshops present two full days of instruction, and housing and meals are available at the Station.

Enrollment is limited to 20; the atmosphere is informal and instruction is individualized. Workshops may be taken for graduate or undergraduate credit by enrolling in UWM, Topics in Field Biology.

Please contact the Field Station for more information and a registration form, or visit our website at www.uwm.edu/Dept/fieldstation for full descriptions of each course, fee information, and a downloadable Registration Form.

The 2003 workshop schedule includes the following fall course:

Vegetation of Wisconsin,

June 2-7 Instructor: Dr. James Reinartz

Sedges: Identification and Ecology

June 13 & 14 Instructor: Dr. Anton Reznicek

Lichens: Identification and Ecology

June 27 & 28 Instructor: Dr. Martyn Dibben

Biology of Insects

July 18 & 19 Instructor: Dr. Gretchen Meyer

Spiders: Identification and Ecology

Aug. 22 & 23 Instructor: Dr. Michael Draney

Composites: Taxonomy and Evolution

Aug. 29 & 30 Instructor: Dr. Robert Kowal

Field and Laboratory Techniques in Mammalogy

Sept. 20 & 21 (Sat-Sun) Instructor: Dr. Christopher Yahnke

To Register:

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Field Station

3095 Blue Goose Road

Saukville, WI 53080

Phone: 262 675-6844

Fax: 262 675-0337

email: fieldstn@uwm.edu

[Website: www.uwm.edu/Dept/fieldstation](http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/fieldstation)

Phenology on the World Wide Web

Nature tends to change with great attention to season. This is not always the case with technology—seems there's always something new popping up. Nature and technology can and do meet, however. Proof is in these websites regarding phenology:

- www.attra.org/attra-pub/phenology.html (*Excellent phenology education links*)
 - www.naturenet.com (*Resources for educators & families throughout Wisconsin*)
 - www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/caer/ce/eeek/nature/season/pheno.htm (*Phenology for children and families*)
-

Please support the Phenological Society's objectives by paying annual dues or becoming a life member. Annual dues are used primarily to defray the mailing cost of our Newsletter.

Please send your name, address, and which of the following actions you would like to take:

- **\$2 for 2003/04 dues**
- **\$___ as further contribution to the work of the Society**
- **\$50 Lifetime Membership**
- **Please delete my name from the membership list**
- **Please send me information regarding programs of the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters**

Please send to:

Nancy Dernehl, Treasurer
Wisconsin Phenological Society
UWC—Waukesha
1500 University Drive
Waukesha, WI 53186