

Wisconsin Phenological Society

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2006 - Newsletter



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WPS Annual Spring Meeting

Please join us for our Annual Spring Meeting

Friday, April 14th, 2006

10:00 a.m. until Noon

Bolton Hall Room 410D

UW- Milwaukee Campus

For directions contact:

Mark D. Schwartz mds@uwm.edu (414) 229-3740

Message from the President

I would first like to officially welcome new members of the WPS Board of Directors, Edward C. Luschei (Department of Agronomy, UW-Madison), Gretchen Meyer (UW-Milwaukee Field Station), and Cheryl Rezabek (WI Department of Administration), as well as thank outgoing members Karen Delahaut and Wellington "Buddy" Huffaker for their past service.

Nationally, planning for a USA National Phenology Network (USA-NPN) continued at a brisk pace over the last year. A first implementation workshop was funded by the National Science Foundation, with additional

support from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), National Park Service (NPS), U.S. Department of Agriculture-Forest Service (USDA-FS), National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Around forty scientists met as part of this workshop during the third week of August 2005 in Tucson, AZ. An Implementation Team (IT) was formed in late 2005, along with publication of a short summary of the workshop proceedings and overall plans for USA-NPN in the journal *EOS*. During the third week in March 2006, IT members gathered again in Tucson to start intensive work on drafting the USA-NPN Implementation Plan. Please visit the NPN web site at <http://www.npn.uwm.edu> for more details, and consider registering and participating in NPN as well as WPS.

The NPN pages also allow access to lilac data collected across the USA since 1956, complete instructions and guidelines for observing lilacs or appropriate native species in all parts of the USA, as well as web-based data submission forms that make sending in phenological data quick and easy. Closer to home, we would very much like to include a geographically distributed set of sites in Wisconsin as a subset of NPN that could contribute long-term observations. If you are associated with a nature center or other similar organization in the State and are interested in this, please contact me.

I completed and published a co-authored paper reporting on changes in the onset of spring across the entire temperate land area of the Northern Hemisphere earlier this year, entitled "Onset of Spring Starting Earlier Across the Northern Hemisphere." This paper can be accessed through my personal web page, <http://www.uwm.edu/~mds> and then "clicking" on "Research Projects" and then the paper's title. Highlights of the results include that changes in the start of "early spring" has progressed at -1.2 days/decade, "late spring" at -1.0 days/decade and last spring freeze date at -1.5 days/decade over the 1955-2002 period.

Lastly, I'd like to once again stress that your observations are extremely useful to the scientific community. Please consider becoming a fully active member of the Society, by recording and reporting phenological observations. As always, your support of the Society and its objectives is greatly appreciated.

Mark D. Schwartz

President

2006 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, with housing and meals 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 2006 workshop schedule includes the following courses:

Field Herpetology

Instructor: Josh Kapfer

June 2 & 3 (Friday & Saturday)

Vegetation of Wisconsin

Instructor: James Reinartz

June 5 - 10 (Monday—Saturday)

Sedges: Identification & Ecology

Instructor: Anton Reznicek

June 16 & 17 (Friday & Saturday)

Plant-Insect Interactions: Ecology & Evolution

Instructor: Gretchen Meyer

July 14 & 15 (Friday & Saturday)

Dragonflies and Damselflies: Identification & Ecology

Instructor: Robert DuBois

July 21 & 22 (Friday & Saturday)

Aquatic Invertebrates: Identification & Ecology

Instructor: Jerry Kaster

Aug. 4 & 5 (Friday & Saturday)

Mushrooms and other Fleshy Fungi: Identification & Ecology

Instructor: Alan Parker

September 16 & 17 (Saturday & Sunday)

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

Contact: Gretchen Meyer

www.uwm.edu/Dept/fieldstation

Phenology on the World Wide Web

The world wide web is full of phenological possibilities. Check out the following links:

- [WPS Website Homepage](#)
- [National Phenology Network](#)
- [ATTRA](#) - from the National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service
- [Phenology in the classroom](#) - Journey North
- [Phenology for children and families](#) - DNR's EEK! Website
- [Resources for educators & families throughout Wisconsin](#) - Nature Net - sign up for a free seasonal on-line newsletter for parents & grandparents!
- [Earth Alive](#) - Nature Net's kid-orientated database of phenological events. Enter observations as a family or classroom!

Membership Information

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 2004/05 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:

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