

Friday, April 20, 2018

1-hour discussion –via GoToMeeting

Meeting began – 10:00 am Pacific/AZ

Discussion Topic: *Using the Mobile Apps and teaching volunteers and students how to use them*

Present on the call: LoriAnne Barnett (NCO); Suzanne Mrozak (Arnold Arboretum); Judy Davis (Sanibel Island-Ding Darling); Jean Linsner (Chicago 606); Georgia Murray (Appalachian Mountain Club); Patrick Lynch (Appalachian Mountain Club) seasonal intern

TAKE AWAYS: *Teaching about and using the Mobile Apps*

- Before a training send folks all of the info they need to sign up for a *Nature's Notebook* account and downloading the mobile app. Check out the [resources on this page that LA sends out](#) ahead of time.
- There are many samples of trainings that LA has done on the NN Activities website. [Here is an annotated agenda](#) for a workshop of either 3 or 6 hours in length. LA usually has people practice with the protocols first on paper and then as a second part of the workshop, or in a follow up workshop, goes outside and practices with the mobile app.
- You can also find other training resources on our [Host and Event Page](#) Linked from the For Groups Menu on the *Nature's Notebook* landing page.

Intros and Celebrate a Success

- Suzanne – finished the formal training classes for the spring. New tree spotters and several were returning for refresher. 54 new tree spotters trained over the 4 sessions that they've offered. Will do more in the fall 27 people came back for training! Following 11 decid trees (native trees) American Beech only have two because they chopped them down b/c they were unhealthy. Planning on having an arborist come and share info about that process. Arboretum is starting to understand the value of the program in terms of training folks to make observations.
- Georgia – phenology since 2004 white mountains in NH – have an “uber” volunteer coming back for a 3rd year. Has been helping to collect the spring phenology. Patrick – starting to look at 9 years of data! Not all of it is in NN b/c data plots predate the program. Looking to put together a peer reviewed publication using the 2008 onward data with collocated temp loggers. 10 broad locations – 3-5 plots in each. Alpine phenology.
- Jean – (Chicago 606) – 2nd year of phenology project. Shaped by an artist. Seeking to measure the lake-effect phenology transition. Learning a lot about their plants, serviceberries have mixed buds and have been doing trainings in Feb and March – pop up tutorial for volunteers. Cit Sci day got snowed out last weekend, so doing it again tomorrow. Introducing trees to the general public. Made some signs that wave in the breeze and contain details about the plant to catch attention. Landscape crews have replaced some trees without telling them, which has been difficult to keep track of. Need to update maps! That will help moving forward.
- Judy – Ding Darling – first year. General meetings. Volunteer trainings, groups of 3 and 4. Some people who are there year-round and others who are not. Trying to make sure there is covered during the off season. Everyone is excited and glad to do it! Also need to take into consideration attrition, age and physical ability

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- LA – uptick in Mobile app use over the years, more people comfortable with using phone apps now. Redoing it for release in the fall with updated technology/services. Have tested it with the demographic of volunteers that we attract.
- Judy – her vols are very familiar with eBird so that has helped them be comfortable using it. Like it better than using the paper datasheets

- Suzanne – refresher training – asked people if they had questions about the mobile app – found that 50% like the app and 50% didn't. Hard to get people to change what they've been using. She's been trying to use both b/c she's got to work with people who like both. Seem to be getting younger people to participate and they often have an easier time wanting to use the app. Find that if they have the mobile app, they can report some of the more obvious phases pretty easily, they have people adopted plants, but they can do observations on the fly.
- Georgia – would like some mobile app training materials for people – LA says check out the resources on the *Nature's Notebook* activity table: <https://www.usanpn.org/nn/educate/activities>. We also have copies of mobile app tip sheets for android and iphone. <https://www.usanpn.org/nn/mobile-app-tip-sheets>
- Georgia – wanted to know if we are adding more images to the mobile app. LA says unfortunately the database doesn't have the capacity to hold all of the photos for all of the species and their phenophases. We do still have the ability to upload one image for the full form photos of the plant though. Georgia said that she has uploaded copies of the map for the plant to their plots, so that's what people see instead of a full form photo. Great idea!
- Georgia - iPads will be at back country huts, might eliminate the need for paper datasheets. Can they only see a subset of the sites in your group? LA needs to check with the development team, but that is a good suggestion. Can we have the phenophase photos show up on the species profile pages with the individual photos? LA says we are building the phenophase photo guides now and we are very limited b/c we don't have access to all of the species – the Leaders are the best ones to take pictures of them for us. We are going to upload the photo guides to the species profile pages as people share them with us. Suzanne has hers on the Tree Spotters Page: <https://www.arboretum.harvard.edu/support/volunteer/volunteer-to-be-a-tree-spotter/tree-spotters-resources/guides-links-handouts/>
- Suzanne and Georgia have some of the same species.
- LA says we need help getting the pictures! If you have volunteers who are interested in taking pictures of phases, share them with us. Judy says she has a volunteer who is a photographer who likes to do that, so it is easy for him. Good way to put volunteer skills to use.
- Here is the link to our flickr page if you would like to share any of the photos you have with others: https://www.flickr.com/photos/usa-npn_phenophases/albums

Next time

Next Call May 18th at 10 am Pacific time. Topic: What's the best way to get students or youth involved?

Ideas for upcoming calls

- Esperanza – Need more support for vis tool, can we do a refresher?

Thanks everyone!

Meeting Adjourned – 11:02 am Pacific/AZ time