

Friday, February 16, 2018

1-hour discussion –via GoToMeeting

Meeting began – 11:00 am Mountain/AZ

Discussion Topic: *What can we do for Citizen Science Day using Nature's Notebook!*

Present on the call: LoriAnne Barnett (NCO); Esperanza Stancioff (Signs of the Seasons, Maine); Elizabeth Maxwell (Signs of the Seasons Maine); Rhonda McKenzie (McDowell Sonoran Conservancy, Scottsdale, AZ); Steven Rogerman (Minnesota Master Naturalists); Liz-Douglass Gallagher (Rio Grande Phenology Trail, Albuquerque); Jean Linsner (Chicago 606 Project); Suzanne Mrozak (Arnold Arboretum Tree Spotters, Boston); Stella Kovacs (Santa Barbara Botanical Garden, California); Jess Stump (Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Tennessee); Ben Barkley (Somerset County Park Commission, New Jersey)

TAKE AWAYS: *Nature's Notebook Citizen Science Day ideas*

- Events don't need to be in person to be successful. Can do online (email, facebook, etc.) challenges or campaigns to push to collect observations of an impending phenophase change and follow up with results of observations submitted
- Check out the resources posted by the Citizen Science Association after this week's webinar:
<http://www.citizenscience.org/citizen-science-day>
- Plan to partner with other local community orgs hosting events at the same time
- Your events don't need to be right on April 14th for it to count!

Intros and Celebrate a Success

- Esperanza – Extension Prof, Maine Sea Grant – Signs of the Seasons Program- with Beth Bisson. Liz Maxwell just started as a program assistant. Just published a journal article for the UMaine Policy Review. Citizen Science training scheduled around the state for the season, setting up some new long-term sites at different locations coastal Maine botanical gardens. 8th season collecting data! They have backyard observers AND sites as part of their observation network. <https://extension.umaine.edu/signs-of-the-seasons/>
- Liz Maxwell Signs of the Seasons – just got started this week, lots to learn about Nature's Notebook. Learning the vis tools, etc. Working on updates to their websites and social media.
- Jean Linsner – Busy last few weeks. Did a "tavern talk" at a bar, with pub food. Using the 606 Project – a multi-use trail. Shared how they are using it as a learning lab. Presented their first-year results. Used the vis tool to share data, they made t-shirts with the image of the pheno-calendar! Hosted two training workshops and did a educators training. Also worked with middle school kiddos, helping to tag plants as a service learning experience.
<https://www.the606.org/>
- Suzanne – Arnold Arboretum Tree Spotters – [new website](#) ! Transitioning from a lab under a scientist in the arboretum and moving it to public outreach program area. Can now put all of their info on the external arboretum website. Kicking off 4th season, 3rd full season. Doing four trainingsthis spring and a book club. Thrilled that the last training class is on Citizen Science day! Also will attend the MIT cit sci fair on Feb 24th. Talking about big data. And participating in the Boston City Nature Challenge
- Liz Douglas Gallagher – Rio Grande Phenology Trail – Series of sites along the Rio Grande in New Mexico, which include wildlife refuges, schools, botanical gardens, etc. 2 weeks she ago gave a presentation on the RGPT and discussed the connections between phenology and climate change at NM Tech, to recruit. Found a few more

volunteers. Had 30 people at that event with great questions and good connections! Yesterday did a volunteer training - 7 people from the different sites attended. It included a Phenophase question and answers session, discussion about some of the trickier things seen when observing to which they are not sure how to respond, etc. Their sites are pretty spread out so it is hard to get everyone together in one place.

- Jess Stump – Great Smoky Mountains National Park – Jess inherited a big program that was already going. But they were interested in recruiting more regular volunteers who would keep returning to existing plots. So she sent out a press release to recruit volunteers to a workshop - one in TN and one in NC - 50 total people signed up for the workshops.
- Ben Barkley – brand new to NN, working with Christa Wood in New Jersey, starting from the ground up. Work at the Great Swamp NWR, encourage schools and volunteers to come. Entered his first observation today!
- Rhonda – McDowell Sonoran Conservancy volunteer long-term plant monitoring coordinator. She is also just getting started and is in the LPL course. Working to establish a few more programs for the Conservancy in conjunction with training volunteers.
- Steven Rogerman – MN-Master Naturalists. Working on recruiting a few MN Master Naturalists in Rochester. He took the LPL course last fall. They are hosting the National Botany Conference coming in July. Doing field trips to nature areas, backyard phenology climate trailer trying to get that going. People can go in and share their story about climate change, it's captured and creates a podcast about what they observed over the years. Talking to a lady in the chapter who has developed 30 acres of woodland set aside. Made an interpretive trail. Wants to make that a pheno walk and do some training
- Stella – Santa Barbara Botanical Garden – trained some people from Washington state 3 years ago (snow birds) who come down every winter to SB. This is their 3rd winter returning to collect data! Michelle Gee – employee at the BG in in our LPL course. Will be nice to have a second person to help. April 29 – hosting the director of phenology project (Susan Mazer). She will share a talk on special plants in Cali, leading a few walks and try to recruit volunteers. Day with a Botany Professor. A good model – Suzanne has had some success with that model.

Discussion Topic: Citizen Science Day – April 14th, 2018 ideas? Who is doing Cit Sci day?

- Rhonda is doing a big event, she will be a shadow guide for Jr. Phenology kids (6-7 grade classes). She's planned to share mountain lion stories (attached to a Mountain Lion that she's had since the 60s – her relative had collected it from the desert when it was acceptable to do so, teachable moments), The festival will include citizen activities, like Nature's Notebook – they have had success with similar events in the past. Also creating a research poster for a symposium coming up on May
- Suzanne – her last spring training is on that day so she is leveraging that! She also attended a webinar this week hosted by the citizen science association. Could also do an iNaturalist training on either side of their NN training, too. The "March for Science" is also on that day, so that could be a challenge. The Cit Sci Association has logos and templates and ideas, with a list of things you might do. You can also post your event and promote your event through their map
- Jean – Serviceberry plants will be almost ready to bloom (April 17 last year!). Walk with blossoms event which will overlap with some of the other projects that happen along the trail. They will collect observations that weekend and promote the project
- Esperanza – hasn't done it before. Would be really cool to pick a species that might be good for everyone to go out and observe on the same day – Greenwave challenge last year was kind of like that – Folks recorded observations of the phenological events. Resulted in lots of obs – way more than everyone else and volunteers really got excited about it. Cit Sci Day will be held through Maine Science Festival at a few of the universities. It will include a Panel for Cit Sci (which she will sit on), climate change presentations, and Signs of Seasons. A Bioblitz would be a good idea.
- Your event doesn't have to be elaborate! Connect something you are already doing within a few weeks.
- Could encourage people to do observations via social media or via email to engage people to document bud burst
- Make sure you are also connecting the observations to local research if you can – very successful

- Liz from NM – nothing officially planned, symposium of professionals for students at BEMP where they will host a student congress (Students present data that they've collected to each other in the congress, interactive activities at the end of April brings the community together and connects them with career ideas), although it is not directly related to their phenology trail. It's definitely a busy time of year, so doing things with other groups is a great idea.

Next time

- **Next Call – March 16th at 10 am Pacific time.** Topic – How to communicate “phenology” in an understandable way

Ideas for upcoming calls

- Stella – how to communicate “phenology” in an understandable way
- Esperanza – Need more support for vis tool, can we do a refresher?
- Rhonda – training manual could share and talk about how she made
- Suzanne & Esperanza – mobile app vs paper. Refresher training. Ideas for how to train vols. What's the best process. Tips for talking to people about that experience, there might be difference in how people participate and experience

Thanks everyone!

Meeting Adjourned – 11:59 pm Mountain/AZ time