

Friday, September 21, 2018

1-hour discussion –via GoToMeeting

Meeting began – 10:00 am Pacific/AZ

Discussion Topic: *The Local Phenology Program Planning Guide*

Present on the call: LoriAnne Barnett (NCO); Esperanza Stancioff (Signs of the Seasons, New England); Erin O’Connell & Jessica Savage (UMinnesota, Duluth); Jennifer Jones (Yreka FWS Office, CA); Erik Johnson (USFS, Sustainability and Climate, Headquarters. Located in Juneau, AK); Joy Bell (South Mountain Environmental Education Center, Phoenix, AZ); Judy Davis (Ding Darling NWR, Florida); Ken Lavish (Patuxent NWR, Maryland); Mollie Parsons (Santa Fe Botanical Garden, NM); Sarah Angulo (Cal Naturalists); Sierra Laverty (Idaho Botanical Garden); Suzanne Mrozak (Arnold Arboretum Tree Spotters, Boston); Jean Linsner (Chicago 606 Project); Trica Oshant Hawkins (Tumamoc Hill, UArizona, Tucson); Stella Kovacs (Santa Barbara Botanical Garden, CA); Craig Johnson (Interpret Green Group, Philadelphia)

Take-aways from today’s discussion: *Local Phenology Program Planning Guide*

- Check out the [Local Phenology Program Guide](#) for more details on writing your own program and evaluation plan.
- Other suggested resource: [NAAEE’s Guidelines for Excellence in Community Engagement](#)
- Start small but definitely get started
- Document what you are doing so the program can continue beyond your tenure
- Collaborate with science and education staff within, and external to, organizations to develop a solid and important monitoring program

Intros and Celebrate a Success- *Well done! Success is however you define it!*

- Esperanza – [Sign of the Season, New England](#) – They hired an assistant coordinator (Elisabeth Maxwell), got funding to keep her through the winter! Major success is having species profiles every month on facebook, newsletter, volunteer highlights and appreciation and articles on each person.
- Erin O’Connell – Jessica Savage – Univ of Minnesota - New faculty (Jessica), Erin Master’s student in lab – grant in the spring to start a Local Phenology Program in Duluth. Just getting started. Positive thing has been to set up a local network, reaching out to cit sci, educators, scientists and have gotten a lot of support for monitoring phenology. Excited to collect data and know where it is going.
- Jennifer Jones – Yreka FWS – previous schoolyard habitat coordinator, but that program was cut. She still keeps up with previous projects installed, trying to get some plants to go in. Has a little of funding but we’ll see what happen after that runs out. Maybe more funding will become available again. Milkweeds were planted, monarchs, dropped off caterpillars there and can raise them there.
- Erik Johnson – Forest Service – Sustainability and Climate in DC FS headquarters – works in Juneau AK, leading a team looking at standardizing data tools and indicators for answering some common planning and monitoring questions. Met with Jake and Kathy about the NPN. New to the group and NN and is ready to learn more about this. Some units are using NN to answer monitoring questions. CitSci coordinator on his staff for the FS – big interest in the agency to use CitScience
- Joy Bell – SMEEC – in Phoenix. Is a volunteer. Wants to set up a cit sci program. In the LPL Class now. Tentative plans to start a program in Jan in 19. Saguaros are of interest, also an interest in bats.
- Judy Davis – She was in Duluth in the summer and is now back in Florida – Ding Darling NWR in Sanibel, FL. The Red Tide, blue green algae, bacteria, have collected 408 tons of dead animals from the beaches, volunteers have to

wear masks, scaled back NN data collection right now but are hoping to start up again in a few weeks. One volunteer has persevered with NN, though, so there is still data coming in.

- Ken Lavish – Patuxent Research Refuge – just started NN this year. Can relate to Joy and her efforts, four species on their list, one they did not see this year (pollinator for the spring beauty plant). Starting to learn the phenology of switch grass, learning the phases and what they look like. One of the biggest lessons learned is to take pictures to compile the guides for each plant. PhenoPlanning guide – walks are exciting, see potential bringing volunteers out to the Refuge and engaging them in data collection.
- Mollie Parsons – Santa Fe Botanical Garden – excited to be on the call this month. Excited about a MN program in Northern New Mexico – split up the volunteers and have them working on cit sci as one of their projects. nn is on the list. Also have a middle school teacher bringing students out to the garden on a regular basis.
- Sarah Angulo – Cal Naturalists – UC Ag and Natural Resources – cit sci component of all of their classes, working toward incorporating UC related projects into the classes for their education – Cal Phenology Project/NN is a good path forward
- Sierra Laverty – Horticulture director at the Idaho Botanical Garden – in the LPL Class – that is a success, to start the class and learn about how we can use NN for hort management and public gardens.
- Suzanne Mrozak – [Boston at Arnold Arboretum – Tree Spotters](#) – they are wrapping up their 4th year (3rd full year) observing species trees (NA native deciduous trees) training 400 people, 40-50 active volunteers open to everyone. Making phenophase guides, training videos on how to sign up, welcome to use any resources they have as well. Rolling out some new species – beeches were lost to disease. 5 trees of 11 species. Create a shrub route to also include opportunities for people looking at things up close. Added 3 new species to the list to give variety and extended the season. Applied for a lightning talk at Cit Sci Conference!
- Jean Linsner – Chicago 606 – trust for public lands, owned project, laid her off, but Chicago park district offered her a contract to continue you it over the next year. Looking forward to coninuting to work with volunteers and schools
- Trica – Tumamoc Hill, UA – In Tucson – new in the LPL class – has used NN before has worked at SF Botanical garden in the Science at the Cienega program. going to start a phenology walk on Tumamoc Hill in Tucson, change in admin caused existing program to go fallow, now has an engaged director and is looking forward to recruiting volunteers – 600-1200 people walk the hill every day and are interested in using NN as an engagement tool!
- Stella – Santa Barbara Botanical Garden – for a number of years was the only data collector, has a new director of education, is adding plants to their list. Also, part of the [California Phenology Project](#). She was asked to be on a vol council to rep all cit sci groups.
- Craig Johnson – Philly – Studio – Interpret Green, develops nature centers and EE centers. Engaged to try to reimagine school grounds and the grounds on library properties. Installing wildlife habitat to transform non-recreational part of school properties for learning spaces in intense urban areas. Focus on engaging the community in connecting with nature and each other. Phenology could be the curriculum core at each site, so kids don't need to leave to have a nature experience.

Discussion Topic: Program Planning Guide

- Designed to provide a foundation for creating a long-term monitoring program at a site
- NPN seeks to have long-term in-situ data available at given geographic locations and it is in our best interest to make sure that those programs are installed with documentation and a plan for sustainability
- This program guide replaces our Phenology Walk and Trail Guide but contains all of the materials to develop a program and evaluation plan
- Idea is to leave documentation behind when staff turn-over occurs, such that another person can pick up where program was left off.
- Also provides a framework for communicating impacts to our NCO so we can better connect program leaders with each other.
- Is there a way for the NCO to facilitate for us to connect with people in their area – how can we connect people?

- LA – the NCO is seeking ways to create an online platform in NN to do this very thing. Better connect people with each other and what they are doing – so folks can reach out without having to come through our office. We are working on it now but it’s still in development. In the meantime, the listerv (for those who do not use facebook) and facebook group serve to connect people with each other. But without people using it, we don’t get very far.
- Almost everyone who is using NN is willing to share what they are doing, and the data are freely available to anyone who needs them. It may just not be on the top of everyone’s list or radar to broadcast what they are doing and why.
- Regional groups could serve as points of in person contact, like the New England Regional Phenology Network. For example, Suzanne and ESP should get together to figure out if they can get folks together physically in a region
- Joy - How long should a group wait before starting? Is Starting in 2019 realistic? Develop a plan for and start small but don’t hold off starting – just pull the trigger. It’s never going to be perfect.
- LA will put together a really brief (like 5 question) poll to determine how to utilize our time moving forward. Look for that in the email announcement with the notes as well as the announcement for next month’s call.

Next time

- **Next Call October 18 at 10 am Pacific time. Topic:** Using *Nature’s Notebook* in formal and non-formal educational settings
- **NOTE the date change because the NPN 10 Year anniversary celebration.**

Ideas for upcoming calls

- Pod/program type sharing discussion. Virtually connecting researchers to Local Phenology Leaders, how do we do that?
- 2018 Campaign results

Thanks everyone!

Meeting Adjourned – 11:07 am Pacific/AZ time