



**Questions and Answers from the webinar  
“Year-end summary: Your *Nature’s Notebook* 2014 Results”  
November 18, 2014**

**1. Our team is looking for new observers. Can you recommend places to look?**

This is an ongoing challenge for us as well! We recommend seeking out Natural Resources/Environmental volunteer groups – Master Gardeners, Master Naturalists, Audubon, nature centers, etc. and also connecting with Universities or local schools.

**2. Is there a group in or near New Hampshire helping to train/educate observers?**

The Signs of the Seasons: A New England Phenology Program, has a New Hampshire chapter. They will start offering phenology monitoring trainings in March of 2015. You can learn more on their website: [umaine.edu/signs-of-the-seasons/](http://umaine.edu/signs-of-the-seasons/)

For other locations, we recommend that you check out our Geographic Affiliates: [www.usanpn.org/nn/connect/region](http://www.usanpn.org/nn/connect/region). You can also send an email to [education@usanpn.org](mailto:education@usanpn.org) to inquire about possible groups in specific locations.

**3. Is there any point in observing in winter, when everything is dormant, migrating birds are gone and mammals are scarce?**

While your plants are dormant and you know certain migrating birds or hibernating animals will not be present, you can observe less frequently or even pause in your data collection. However, when things ramp up in the early spring, you should start checking your plants and sites for animals to be sure to capture those last few “no” observations that precede a first “yes.”

**4. With the poplars often at high altitudes and latitudes that may experience reaching the needed cold temperature threshold about the same time each year, would this explain the consistency of color changes for this family of species?**

Yes, high elevations and latitudes may indeed be influencing the trends we saw over the last 4 years in the timing of leaf color change in poplars. We invite you to answer questions of your own by downloading our data at [www.usanpn.org/results/data](http://www.usanpn.org/results/data).

**5. I have a question about the data download tool. I downloaded a raw dataset yesterday and am interested in the plant phenophase intensity values, but I can't find the metadata that tell me what the intensity value codes represent. Not sure if I just can't find it, or if it's not available on the website. Help?**

We are currently in the process of updating our Federal Geographic Data Committee metadata for both our summarized and raw data sets. This will provide basic characteristics of the data – the who, what, when, where, and why of the observations. In the meantime, you can access information about intensity and other metadata in the following two locations on the Download Phenology Data Page ([www.usanpn.org/results/data](http://www.usanpn.org/results/data)):

1. Under Metadata & Documentation, click the link for Plant and Animal Phenophase Definitions.
2. After selecting summarized data or raw data, under Optional Metadata Sheets, check the box next to Protocol (near the bottom of the page).

**6. Will we have access to this PowerPoint after the webinar? There are lots of great things here I'd love to share!**

Yes! You can find downloadable PowerPoint slides on our webinars page at [www.usanpn.org/nn/connect/Webinars2014](http://www.usanpn.org/nn/connect/Webinars2014).

**Check our website early next year for details on next year's webinars!**

[www.usanpn.org/nn/connect/Webinars](http://www.usanpn.org/nn/connect/Webinars)

**Helpful links:**

Become an Observer: [www.usanpn.org/nn/become-observer](http://www.usanpn.org/nn/become-observer)

Learn How to Observe: [www.usanpn.org/nn/guidelines](http://www.usanpn.org/nn/guidelines)

Join a Nature's Notebook Campaign: [www.usanpn.org/nn/campaigns](http://www.usanpn.org/nn/campaigns)

Frequently Asked Question page: [www.usanpn.org/nn/faq](http://www.usanpn.org/nn/faq)

