



Project BudBurstSM

Timing is everything!



Photo courtesy of Patuxent Research Refuge



Photo courtesy of Alligator River NWR

Intro to Citizen Science, Plant Phenology and Climate Change

A Citizen Science Academy Course for the US Fish and Wildlife Service

The Course

NEON's Project BudBurst and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have collaborated to develop an online course tailored to the needs of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) staff, volunteers, Friends groups, and partners.

This professional development course will provide you with detailed information about the importance of citizen science, plant phenology and climate change to the FWS. Utilizing Project BudBurst (budburst.org), a national citizen science plant phenology program and platform, you will be able to contribute observations from national wildlife refuges, schoolyard habitats, your communities, and any location you observe plants. Involvement in Project BudBurst includes hands-on experience in collecting phenology data that contribute to ongoing scientific research by scientists interested in observations made by individuals across the country.

Through this 7-Unit course you will learn about the connections between plant phenology, climate change and conservation, including how to select plants to monitor, participate in Project BudBurst, make phenology observations, connect with other FWS staff, volunteers, and partners working with citizen science programs and plant phenology monitoring.

Project BudBurst is a national citizen science program dedicated to engaging people in the science of plant phenology through observation, data collection, and online data sharing. All materials are made freely available online at www.budburst.org

Interested in this course? Only 20 seats are available so act now! Contact Mike Carlo at michael_carlo@fws.gov to sign up.



Photo courtesy of William Finley NWR

About this Course

- 7 weeks; 1 - 3 hours per week average commitment; graded, self-paced, self-directed, and semi-facilitated
- Seven stand-alone units with:
 - Learning objectives
 - Background content
 - Readings and videos
 - Discussion forums
 - Graded assignments
 - Self-assessments
- Course Dates: **Jan 11 - Feb 26, 2016**
- Delivered through Moodle course management system
- Cost covered by FWS Headquarters

Instructor Communication

Two Instructors monitor this course and are available for questions:

Sarah Newman

Citizen Science Coordinator, NEON
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Mike Carlo

US Fish and Wildlife Service
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The first of its kind, the NEON Citizen Science Academy Online is a professional development resource that includes online courses, modules, tutorials, and a virtual community of practice. Our initial efforts have focused on professional development courses for formal and informal educators as well as field staff with the Forest Service and our newest course with the US Fish and Wildlife Service.