

Greetings Nature Navigators!!

To begin, we would like to welcome you into our extended CWES program where your experiences here along the shores of Sunset Lake will follow you to your homes and schools. The sights and sounds of your time here are not only unique to CWES, but many of them can also be seen or heard around your schools and homes. These observations of birds, trees, reptiles and much more are not only an amazing opportunity to experience nature, but can also contribute to learning about our environment, the plants and animals that call it home, and how it changes over the course of the year. Observing and recording the movements and changes in nature is called phenology.

Over the next week, you, with the help of your teachers, family and friends will contribute to our knowledge of natural phenomena throughout Wisconsin. Below you will find instruction for a data collection form that has you looking for a variety of plants and animals in and around your home and school for a date that corresponds to what is around CWES on those exact dates. Your observations along with the observations of all the students who visit CWES will allow us to build a map of exactly where plants and animals live, how many there are, and if they are common or rare.

In order to contribute your phenological knowledge, please follow the directions below.

1. Use the accompanying data sheet from class. If you do not have a data sheet, you can download one at <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/cwes/students.aspx> .
2. Visit the CWES Nature Navigator at <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/cwes/naturalhistory/index.aspx> and identify some of the current phenology of CWES in the appropriate spaces of the form.
  - a. Click on the “What’s Happening at CWES?” link, and then click the appropriate month, and finally week.
  - b. Review and familiarize yourselves with the current phenology taking place at CWES and write some notes down in the appropriate section of the data collection form.
3. GET OUTSIDE and spend some time with classmates, friends, or your family and see what phenology you can, whether it is happening at CWES or not. It is recommended that you spend anywhere from 30 minutes or more quietly walking or sitting and observing the wildlife and plant life around your school or home.
4. Fill in the data in the appropriate sections of your data form. If you are unsure about what you are seeing, record it, then check out the following links to see if you can identify what you saw! The “What did I see?” link <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/cwes/naturalhistory/search.aspx> or the “Learn More” link at <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/cwes/naturalhistory/questions.aspx> are excellent places to find more information!
5. Go to the CWES phenology blog at <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/cwes/students.aspx> and input your data onto the web, check out what others are seeing around the state, and continue to contribute to our knowledge of the phenology of Wisconsin.
6. Update the phenology calendar in your classroom!