

**May 12, 2008**

**Building 20, Foord Lecture Room, B-1409**

**12:00 p.m.**

The Pulse of our Planet: The USA National Phenology Network

[www.usanpn.org](http://www.usanpn.org)

This talk will illustrate how phenology is an emerging integrative science for assessing impacts of global change, and for increasing citizen awareness and participation in understanding environmental impacts of human activities.

The USA National Phenology Network (USA-NPN) is an emerging and exciting partnership between federal agencies, the academic community, and the general public to monitor and understand the influence of seasonal cycles on the Nation's biological resources. The goal of the USA-NPN ([www.usanpn.org](http://www.usanpn.org)) is to establish a wall-to-wall science and monitoring initiative focused on phenology, the seasonal pulse of the biosphere and thus the gateway to climatic effects on ecosystems and ecosystem services.

Periodic plant and animal cycles driven by seasonal variations in climate control ecosystem processes and biosphere-atmosphere interactions, determine land surface properties, and affect food production, health, conservation, and recreation. Information from phenological research can be used at local to national scales for scientific research, education and outreach, as well as by stakeholders interested in agriculture, tourism and recreation, human health, and natural resource conservation and management.

The USA-NPN will integrate with other environmental observation networks, will incorporate emerging technologies and data management capabilities, and will capitalize on a new readiness of the public to participate in investigations of nature on a national scale.

Dr. Jake Weltzin is the Executive Director of the USA-NPN. Dr. Weltzin's interests encompass how the structure and function of plant communities and ecosystems might respond to global environmental change, including atmospheric chemistry, climate change, and biological invasions. His research spans temperate and tropical grasslands and savannas, temperate woodlands, deciduous forests, and sub boreal peatlands.

