Have you seen a...

Common Milkweed

What Does this Species Look Like?

Size: 1.9-6.5 feet tall

Color: Small green to purple flowers; green, gray, or light brown seed pods

General: Tall stem covered in leaves with a green to purple flower or a green, gray, or light brown seed pod on the top

Usually Found: Fields, prairies, forest margins, roadsides, waste ground, and floodplains of lakes, ponds, and waterways

Did You Know?

- Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*), is also known as broadleaf milkweed.
- Milkweed flowers from late May to early August.
- Milkweed is a vital part of the monarch butterfly's diet and survival. Ingesting the nectar causes the monarch's flesh to tastes bitter and the foul taste dissuades predators from consuming the butterflies.

What am I Observing?

The timing (date) of:

- The appearance of flowers
- Seed pods forming
- Seed pods opening and seeds dispersing

Why Collect this Data?

This species is being monitored as a part of the Eastern PA Phenology Program to determine if this plant is impacted by environmental changes.

How Do I Report this Data?

Observations can be reported as comments to the Eastern PA Phenology Blog:
http://watchingtheseasons.blogspot.com/
or sent to phenology@lgnc.org

Want to Find Out More?

Contact Diane Husic, Audubon *TogetherGreen* Fellow, phenology@lgnc.org

What is Phenology? According to the National Phenology Network, phenology refers to the study of "recurring plant and animal life cycle stages, or phenophases, such as leafing and flowering, maturation of agricultural plants, emergence of insects, and migration of birds."

(www.usanpn.org)

Photo Credit: http://www.usanpn.org/Asclepias_syriaca