



For Immediate Release
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SEASON CREEP:

Global Warming is Disrupting Traditional Signs of Spring

New Survey of Scientific Studies Highlights Impact of Global Warming on Seasonal Patterns

Philadelphia, PA — A new survey of scientific literature about global warming and seasonal cycles released locally today by Clean Air Council finds that global warming is disrupting many of the traditional signs of spring, such as when specific plants blossom and birds migrate. Environmentalists say the survey highlights the fact that global warming is already affecting the natural world around us and points to the urgent need for pollution reductions.

“These are the first warning signs that bigger changes lie ahead. The question of whether climate change is having ecological effects is settled; the question that remains is whether we are paying attention,” said Dr. Eric Post, Associate Professor of Biology at the Pennsylvania State University, whose research is cited in the survey.

Released nationally today by the Clear the Air coalition, *Season Creep: How Global Warming is Already Affecting the World Around Us* surveys the latest scientific studies examining seasonal cycles (phenology) and finds that scientists studying the problem are pointing the finger at global warming for a range of effects on wildlife, plants and natural phenomena. Among the scientific observations attributed to global warming highlighted in the analysis are that:

- Lilacs and honeysuckle are blooming six days early;
- Northern cardinals are singing 22 days early;
- Frogs are starting their mating season 12 days early;
- Canadian geese, robins and whip-poor-wills are arriving earlier;
- Columbine, forest phlox, butterfly weed and shooting star are all blooming earlier; and
- Lakes and rivers are thawing six days earlier.

“In recent years, we’ve observed that many plants at the arboretum are blooming earlier than they have in the past,” said Paul Meyers, the F. Otto Haas Director of the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania. “The future impact that global warming could have on plants and animals in our region is certainly something to be concerned about.”

“Anecdotal evidence does suggest that spring is coming earlier for some of our flowering plants. Lilacs, with their fragrance are one of the more noticeable species,” said Marilyn Romenesko of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society. “They have millions of years of successful adaptability behind them involving winter dormancy and spring revival. The fact is that a shorter, warmer winter combined with sunlight and the right soil moisture will trigger an earlier bud and bloom.”

“Spring coming a little earlier may sound nice when it’s cold outside, but people need to consider the broader implications. If global warming is already throwing off natural cycles that have been in place for

statewide environmental organization. “Pollution levels need to be reduced before global warming causes serious, irreversible problems like stronger hurricanes and longer heat waves—the type of problems that impact insurance prices, energy costs and public health.”

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“*Season Creep*” can be found at www.cleartheair.org