update on the
phenology project

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In 1909, a group of people [landscape architecture and horticulture] at Auburn University undertook the maintenance of an entire season of plant and animal studies. As such, we needed to more aggressively observe and record the events of the landscape. The group was known as the Auburn College Landscape Architecture and Horticulture Project. Phenology is simply the study of annual life cycles of plants and animals. Seasonal observations, called phenophases, have been recorded in the form of written descriptions. For example, in 1911, Aldo Leopold records his observations of the flowering of the bog laurel in his first season on land. The work of climatologists, ecologists, and naturalists with landscape architecture and horticulture architects to advance the documentation of plant phenology beyond mere textual descriptions by capturing the spatial and textural qualities of the ephemerality of a specific palette of plants will be chronicled through this virtual site to observe the seasonal spatial relationships between plant and landscape. As the spatial and textural qualities of each plant were gathered, the photographs taken from the same vantage point at the same time each week will be strung through the cycle of the seasons. The study of phenology provides the unique opportunity for the ephemeral engagement of plants in the landscape.

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