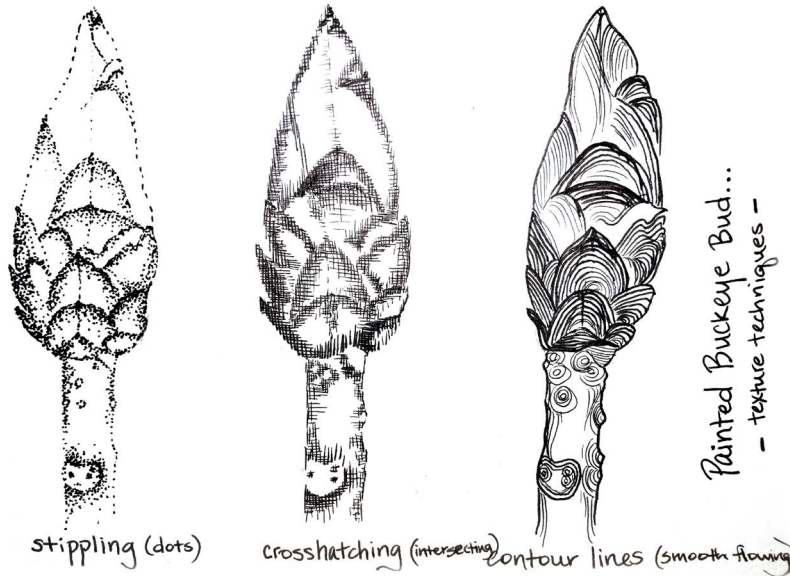


Sitting quietly in nature and observing the life and patterns going on around you can be a relaxing experience. Recording your feelings, thoughts and observations in a Nature Journal will help you reflect on the experience and can set the stage for future observations and reflections.

Drawing with Texture

Try out a new sketching technique to help you make close observations of the phenophase of a plant species in your yard.



Did you know — [Nature's Notebook](#) is a citizen science project designed to track seasonal changes in plants and animals. Phenology is the scientific word for the study of those changes. A particular stage for any given plant and animal is its phenophase. For example, a tree's phenophase might be "breaking leaf buds" and/or "open flowers" depending on the time of year. The study of phenology is becoming increasingly important as our climate changes, and plants and animals respond to those changes.

Credit: Texturing techniques and examples modified from "Creating Textures in Pen and Ink with Watercolor" by Claudia Nice.

Materials:

Nature Journal
Pen or pencil

Instructions:

1. Head outside and find a tree or shrub.
2. Select a twig tip with buds or new leaves to sketch.
3. Sketch your twig at least three times, using a different texturing technique each time.
4. Visit your tree branch after a week or two. Take your drawings with you for comparison. See what changes have occurred since you sketched it.

Having fun?

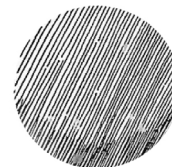
Tag [@naturalsciences](#) on social media, so we can see you and your loved ones enjoying your nature neighborhood.



Contour Lines
smooth, form-fitting strokes



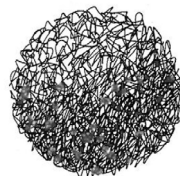
Crosshatching
two or more intersecting lines



Parallel Lines
strokes in the same direction



Stippling
points and dots



Scribble
continuous, looping lines



Wavy Lines
aligned repetitive strokes



Criss-Cross Lines
randomly crossing strokes