



Altocumulus Clouds over Pond in Spring
Photo by Loretta Kuse

Be a Meteorologist in Spring

Sky, Air, Weather, Sunshine and Shadows

Recording What You See and Feel

- Use a camera as a tool to help you record weather changes or events.
- Keep a record of weather events for this area. Compare the record with reports for other areas. Note changes as we move from spring into summer.
- Keep a weather record at your home. Compare it with reports for the same time period from radio, television, or the local newspaper.

Temperature

- Check the temperature before taking a spring walk. Note how it changes from day to day.
- Watch for birds and mammals on your walk. How do they respond to weather and temperature?

Clouds

- What kinds of clouds are in the sky in spring? What can you predict will happen by looking at the clouds?

- Learn to identify various kinds of clouds. (Altostratus, altostratus, cirrostratus, cirrus, contrails, cumulonimbus, cumulous, mammatus, nimbostratus, nimbus, stratus, etc.)

Light and Shadows

- Watch for shadows. Why are they longer at some times than others? Observe the shape of shadows and the shape of the objects that form them. Why are they more visible on some days than others?
- Where in the sky are sunrises and sunsets located in spring? How do these locations differ from other seasons? Why?
- People walking a trail during school hours may not have an opportunity to observe sunrises or sunsets or different hours of darkness and daylight, but they can compare what they observe about sunlight and shadow during a walk with what they see in the morning or evening at home.
- Learn to use a sun dial to tell time.

Precipitation

- Keep a record of types and amounts of precipitation.
- Take photos of various kinds of precipitation.
- View the video about hail.
- Look at the photo and poem about hail.

Severe Weather

- Learn about the effects of severe weather in this area in the past. Read the news article about the Billings family in 1878.

Taylor County Star and News. Star, Vol. III, No. 6, News, Vol. IV, No. 45. Medford, Wisconsin, April 27, 1878.

A paper has been circulated this week and considerable money raised, for the relief of **Mr. Billings**, whose clearing was blown full of trees, and house partially destroyed during the tornado of Saturday. (That house stood near Bench 12 on the Nature Trail.)

- Learn about how to be safe in severe weather. What kinds of severe weather might you expect in the springtime? How do weather radios and applications for I-pads or phones help warn us of severe weather? What should you know about safety in severe weather when you plan to walk or play out of doors? Talk to a local person who has had storm watching training to learn what he or she looks for and reports.