As a group, plants are among the slowest forms of life. With their barely perceptible movements, plants merit little notice for most humans. With industrialized agriculture, increasing urbanization, the availability of realistic-looking artificial plants that do not require human interaction, and a world that is moving at an ever-increasing pace, we are becoming further removed from the rhythms of plants. As a consequence, plants are receding in our consciousness and tend to be regarded as little more than ornamental objects. In my presentation, I will discuss how we use time-lapse technology in our research to translate the timescale of plants into one more familiar to us, and how I have worked with artists to take that work into the classroom and to the public at large. I will discuss the success of the “Plants-In-Motion” website, which uses a collection of time-lapse movies for teaching plant biology to people at all levels of education. I will also discuss the development of sLowlife, a traveling multimedia science/art educational exhibit. The goal of the exhibit is to enhance the viewers’ awareness of plant life while providing an opportunity to reflect on our relationship to plants and our environment. I will provide a preview of the sLowlife exhibit to demonstrate how it was designed to let viewers experience plants in a way that generates a sense of the intrigue and mystery of plant biology.

References
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