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Become a member and help support our efforts to restore and protect habitat for the threatened Monarch Butterfly, improve water quality, expand broadband access in the Adirondacks, reduce the impact of road salt, and other issues. See our website: www.adkaction.org. Membership fees and donations help fund priority activities such as the Monarch project. For example, two Individual memberships help purchase milkweed seeds which cost about \$150 a pound. Membership is open to all who love and wish to protect this magnificent region.

Make Checks Payable to:

AdkAction.org

PO Box 655
Saranac Lake, NY 12983



MONARCHS

Nature's Marvel



YOU CAN HELP PRESERVE
MONARCH BUTTERFLY HABITAT
IN THE ADIRONDACKS

Every Adirondack Monarch is important. Ours are members of a very special migrating generation. The tiny, fragile creatures you see here will complete an incredible migration of up to 5,000 miles. This migration is threatened.

We are launching a program to protect milkweed, the perennial essential to Monarch reproduction, and to expand late-blooming flowers to feed Monarchs as they begin their incredible journey.

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THE MONARCH STORY

Monarch butterflies lay their eggs only on milkweed leaves and their caterpillars eat only milkweed. After two weeks, the caterpillar forms a chrysalis. Twelve days later a butterfly emerges. Monarchs hatched in the fall in our Adirondacks and elsewhere in the northeast live much longer than others and make an epic journey beginning here. They stop to rest and drink nectar to fuel their flight, lucky, if they find a butterfly garden. Millions of Monarchs survive the 2,000-mile flight to Mexico each year.

In March they mate and fly from Mexico to the southwest U.S. They stop, lay eggs on milkweed, and die. A new generation is born and continues north, seeking fresh milkweed. Monarchs reach their northern breeding grounds in mid-summer. Only the last generation born in the north in late summer becomes the migrating generation. These Monarchs make the entire trip in the fall to Mexico, wintering there, and flying back to the U.S. Adirondack lakes and streams on the Monarchs' flyway.



Adirondack
Monarchs are members of a spectacular migrating generation which travels to Mexico to winter. Without migrating Monarchs from the north, this wonder will cease. Winter populations in Mexico in 2013 are the lowest ever.

Please plant the enclosed seeds to ensure Monarchs will thrive for future generations.

Every Monarch Counts!





Carol Pasternak

How You Can Help



Plant or expand a butterfly garden

Monarchs need late-blooming flowers for nectar. Add these plants and other native wildflowers to your garden early in the season to flower in late summer.



Preserve and plant more milkweed

Monarch butterflies lay their eggs on only this one plant species. Plant milkweed on your septic field, on fallow land, in your flower gardens or any marginal area.



Delay cutting your milkweed

If you own land with stands of milkweed, delay cutting until late September, or even later to allow the seed pods to burst.



Urge highway departments to spare milkweed

Join AdkAction.org in urging state and local highway departments to delay cutting roadside milkweed.



Help spread the word

Learn to identify the milkweed plant, look for butterfly eggs on the under side of leaves. Later, look for caterpillars and chrysalides. Point these out to friends, neighbors and children.



Learn more, volunteer

Help plant butterfly gardens at schools and in local parks and harvest milkweed pods in fall.



Join AdkAction.org

Visit AdkAction.org for details, links and helpful information; please link to our Facebook page.

ADIRONDACKS: IMPORTANT

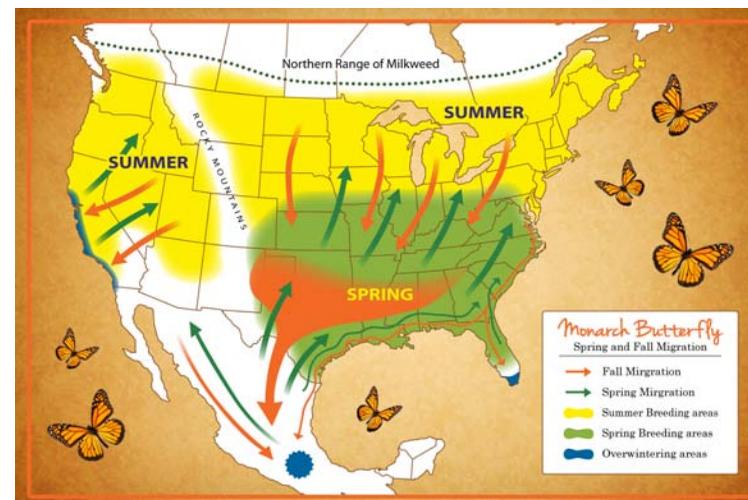
IN MIGRATION CYCLE

Have you been in a boat on an Adirondack stream or lake in mid-September and found yourself surrounded by Monarch butterflies all flying in the same direction?

Or, have you seen them massing on your flowering plants in August and September?

You were witness to one of nature's miracles.

The incredible life cycle of the Monarch captivates all who learn about it. Many Adirondack lakes and streams are on the Monarchs' migratory flyway to and from Mexico. The amazing eastern U.S. migration of this tiny, colorful species is threatened.



THREATS TO MONARCHS

Drastic Loss of Milkweed

Monarchs' host plant is disappearing. It is threatened by use of herbicide resistant crops, development, and mowing. Lacking knowledge, homeowners and road crews eradicate milkweed in marginal areas such as backyards and road sides. Sadly, some falsely equate monarch caterpillars with destructive web caterpillars.

Climate Change

Frequent severe droughts and wildfires in Texas and the Midwest reduce sources of water, milkweed and flowering plants which provide nectar; butterflies' only food.

Loss of Mexican Winter Habitat

North American Monarchs fly to high-altitude fir forests in the mountains of central Mexico where they mass by the millions in a winter torpor. Encroaching development and illegal logging of the Oyamel trees to which the butterflies cling for survival reduce butterfly numbers. Drought reduces water supplies. Scientists report that the 2013 butterfly count in Mexico is the lowest ever recorded. Every Monarch is important.

