

BMNTC: Certified Monarch Butterfly Waystation

Introduction

Each fall, hundreds of millions of monarch butterflies migrate from the United States and Canada to overwintering areas in Mexico and California where they wait out the winter until conditions favor a return flight in the spring. The monarch migration is truly one of the world's greatest natural wonders, yet it is threatened by habitat loss in North America - at the overwintering sites and throughout the spring and summer breeding range as well.



What is a Monarch Waystation?

Monarch Waystations (or habitats) are places that provide resources necessary for monarchs to produce successive generations and sustain their migration. Without milkweeds throughout their spring and summer breeding areas in North America, monarchs would not be able to produce the successive generations that culminate in the migration each fall. Similarly, without nectar from flowers these fall migratory monarch butterflies would be unable to make their long journey to overwintering grounds in Mexico. The need for host plants for larvae and energy sources for adults applies to all monarch and butterfly populations around the world.



Planting of Milkweeds

On Monday, April 8th our facility began the process of planting milkweed seeds to propagate for future planting on the BMNTC campus. BMNTC's goal was to become a certified and registered Monarch Waystation providing milkweeds, nectar sources, and shelter to sustain monarch butterflies as they migrate through North America.



Create, Conserve, Protect

By creating and maintaining a Monarch Waystation BMNTC will be contributing to monarch conservation, an effort that will help assure the preservation of the species and the continuation of the spectacular monarch migration phenomenon.

On June 1st, 2015 BMNTC residents and personnel came together to celebrate the various efforts of becoming a recognized Monarch Butterfly Waystation and a designated site on the Rosalynn Carter Butterfly Trail stretching from Georgia to (hopefully) Washington, D.C.

BMNTC was honored to welcome various community visitors in attendance, including the Michael Sobol- Mayor of Black Mountain and members of the press.



Special Thanks to Nina Veteto and for additional information on her Divide & Multiply project, visit www.monarchrescue.org