Exciting Findings

For the past nine years, Eve Gebhard has been an invaluable resource for monarch research. Not only does she submit weekly monitoring data, but also collects and counts 500-600 caterpillars every year to improve our understanding of population by species data file, a common monarch stratifier. She began working with monarchs in 1999 when she collected a monarch chrysalis from her yard. The next year was her first experience with monitoring site. Gebhard's favorite part of monitoring is "finding the first eggs in spring when the mornings are cool, the birds are singing and their journey north is on". The joy that she finds each year raising and monitoring monarchs is tremendous, and she believes that we need all gardeners to understand and conserve monarchs and monarch habitat.

Volunteer Spotlight

Ilse Gebhard
Kalamaooa, Michigan

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MLMP Monitoring Tip

Use one to three milkweed plants for monocots, including the ones that are only inches tall. Monarch Fun Fact

Monarchs have an effective chemical defense; when they eat milkweed, they sequester the poisonous cardiac glycosides in the milkweed. Cardiac glycosides are poisonous to vertebrates. As a result, most predators avoid eating monarchs. Monarch Fun Fact

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Concept of the Month

Ecological Indicator

An organism, class of organisms, or an ecological community that is sensitive to changes in environmental conditions. For example, lichens may be used as indicators of air quality and fossil assemblages as indicators of past environments. The presence of common milkweed, Asclepias syriaca, is often an indicator of disturbance.

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Just for Fun

Learn about a new animal every day at the Wild Facts Website

Reader Feedback

If there is anything you would like to share in the next newsletter, let us know. Please email us with any interesting finding or unique events that you've observed. We would love feedback and suggestions for things you would like to read about. MLMP Updates

If you have other questions about monarchs, ask "The Expert"

Contact Us

Questions or comments? Contact us info@monarchlab.org or call 624-624-4076