



Flutterby News

Chip's Top Ten

Dr. Orley R. "Chip" Taylor, Director of Monarch Watch, has a passion for monarch butterflies. Below are his top ten facts about monarchs.

1. MIGRATION

Hundreds of millions of monarch butterflies migrate from eastern North America to Mexico each fall to overwinter in the high elevation oyamel fir forests of the Transvolcanic Range of central Mexico. Monarchs are unable to survive freezing temperatures and those breeding in temperate regions must escape to moderate climates to reproduce the next season.

2. GENERATIONS

Most of the monarchs joining the migration each fall are 3-4 generations removed from those that made the journey the previous year.

3. TIME AND DISTANCE

The migration begins in mid August in the north and in September at mid latitudes. The migration progresses at a pace of 25-30 miles per day, although individual butterflies often fly further during periods when conditions are favorable. Most monarchs originate from locations more than 1500 linear miles from the overwintering sites. The duration of the migration appears to be 2-2.5 months.

4. RECOLONIZATION OF THE SUMMER BREEDING AREAS

The monarch breeding areas in eastern North America are recolonized by two generations of monarchs; the overwintering butterflies that move north in the spring and their offspring. The latter reach maturity and begin flying N/NE in late April, reaching the northern limits of milkweeds by mid-June.

5. LONGEVITY

Migratory monarchs that survive the winter in Mexico are 8-9 months of age and may be the longest lived of all butterflies. In contrast, reproductive monarchs breeding during the summer months only live 2-5 weeks due to the high cost of reproduction.

6. NUMBERS

Monarch populations are measured as the number of hectares (1 hectare = 2.47 acres) of trees occupied by clustering butterflies in mid-December of each year. The size of the population has varied from 2.19 to 18.2 hectares over the last two decades; averaging close to 9 hectares in the 90s and between 5-6 hectares in this decade.

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The Panhandle Butterfly House
is a project of:



8581 Navarre Parkway
Navarre, FL

www.panhandlebutterflyhouse.org

*The Foundation for the Gator Nation
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Chip's Top Ten

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7. NAVIGATION

Migrating monarchs in the interior of the continent fly in directions that seem to be geographically appropriate given the need to reach Mexico. How the butterfly determines these directions is the unanswered navigation question. Components of the navigational system that are known involve a time-compensated sun compass linked to the circadian clock, and a protein (Cry1) that is sensitive to blue light and ultraviolet wavelengths.

8. TAGGING

Tagging by Monarch Watch volunteers has helped define the migration window as well as the timing and pace of the migration. Tagging also shows that the probability of reaching Mexico is related to geographic location, size of the butterfly, and the date (particularly as this relates to the migration window for a given location).

9. DIMINISHING RESOURCES: THREATS TO THE MONARCH MIGRATION

During the breeding season monarchs require milkweed plants upon which to rear their larvae and nectar sources to sustain the adults during reproduction. Nectar sources are also required by the butterflies to fuel the fall migration to Mexico as well as the spring flights northward. Overwintering monarchs require shelter and water. All of these resources are diminishing. Deforestation at the overwintering sites in Mexico has eliminated a number of former colony sites and others have been badly degraded so as to reduce the shelter and water available to wintering butterflies. In the United States, 6000 acres are converted to development each day, eliminating milkweeds needed by monarch larvae and nectar sources required by adult monarchs. Chemically intensive agriculture and roadside management by excessive mowing and use of herbicides have also eliminated monarchs and their milkweed hosts. Lower numbers of overwintering monarchs in this decade may be related, at least in part, to habitat loss.

10. CONSERVATION

Sustaining the monarch migration will require the cooperation of all three countries (U.S.A., Canada, and Mexico) that are home to monarchs for some portion of the year. Future efforts will be based on the "North American Monarch Conservation Plan" - a program that advocates the implementation of measures to enhance, restore, and protect monarch habitats.

Plant Sale

Autumn is a great time to plant trees and shrubs. Planting during cooler weather allows the plant's root system to develop without the stress of hot weather. The following year, the plant will be well established before the stress of summer's hot temperatures.

Pick up a few plants at our **Monarch Madness Plant Sale**, October 8 and 9 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Cash or checks only. Come early for the best selection.

A few of our featured plants include:



- **Chaste tree** (*Vitex agnus-castus*). This is a good choice if you are looking for a small flowering tree or large shrub. It is a spectacular butterfly-attracting plant. Hummingbirds love it, and it's deer-resistant.



- **Candelabra plant** (*Senna/Cassia alata*). Another common name is Candlebrush because of the flower spikes that look like golden candles when covered with unopened flower buds.



- **Bottlebrush** (*Callistemon* spp.). The bright red flower of the evergreen bottlebrush plant will provide color to your landscape from spring until the late fall months. It can be planted as a single specimen or as a focal point in a garden area of your landscape. Hummingbirds and butterflies delight in obtaining nectar from the flowers, so plant it where you can observe it from a window.

Photo credit:
Theresa Friday

4th Annual Monarch Madness Butterfly Festival

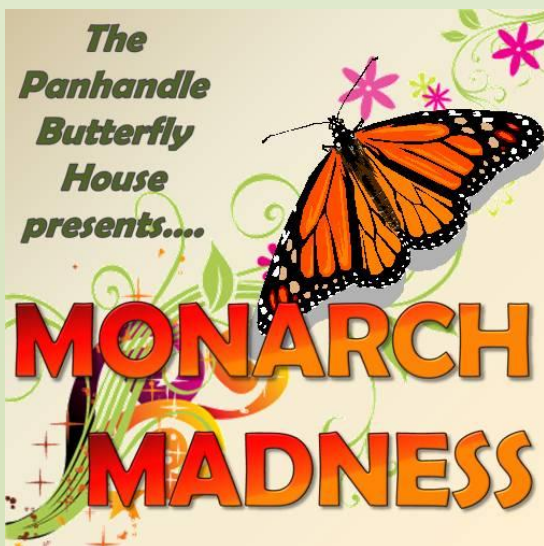
Join the Panhandle Butterfly House in celebrating "Monarch Madness!" The Fourth Annual Butterfly Festival will be held October 8 and 9 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Located at 8581 Navarre Parkway on Highway 98 in Navarre, Florida the festival offers fun for the entire family.

Kids can make and take fun butterfly-related crafts and have an opportunity to release a live butterfly. The entire family will enjoy strolling through the vivarium- a screen structure housing hundreds of butterflies and the plants they love.

Carefully timed to highlight the seasonal monarch migration, kids will also be able to participate in tagging monarch butterflies. "Because of the severe mortality at the overwintering colonies during the winter of 2009, the number of monarchs returning to the breeding areas this spring was fewer than at any time since the colonies became known to science in 1975. The numbers were so low that they are certain to impact the number of monarchs that return to Mexico next fall. Learning how to help monarchs during this critical migration is extremely important" said Theresa Friday, Extension Agent in Santa Rosa County.

Admission is free but donations are encouraged and appreciated. Only through the generosity of our visitors are we able to provide the community this wonderful outdoor science lab.

For more information visit our website at www.panhandlebutterflyhouse.org or call 850-623-3868.



Monarch Tagging Event

Why do we tag Monarchs?

Many questions remain unanswered about the fall migration of the monarch population east of the Rocky Mountains. How do the monarchs move across the continent, i.e. do they move in specific directions or take certain pathways? How is the migration influenced by the weather and are there differences in the migration from year to year?



We need data to answer these questions and we need your help! Only through the cooperative efforts of volunteer taggers will we be able to obtain sufficient recoveries and observations of the migration to answer these questions.

Because monarchs have a certain "charisma" and a fascinating biology and because it's fun to have an excuse to collect butterflies, this project is also a good way to introduce students to science and have them contribute to a scientific study.

Through participation in this project we also hope to further interest in the conservation of habitats critical to the survival of the monarch butterfly and its magnificent migrations.

When do you tag Monarchs?

As the length of daylight shortens, monarchs begin their long journey south to overwintering sites in Mexico. In Northwest Florida, the peak of the migration will be October 4 - 16.

How can I participate?

Kids are invited to the Panhandle Butterfly House during the Monarch Madness Festival (October 8 and 9) to participate in tagging. 100 monarchs will be tagged and released each day of the festival.

Volunteer Spotlight

Every volunteer organization needs that person who steps up and says..."I'll do it." The Panhandle Butterfly House has such a person in a volunteer named Peggy Gray.

Peggy's skills have allowed her to perform multiple and diverse tasks for the Panhandle Butterfly House.

Her volunteer efforts include:

- Member of the Panhandle Butterfly House Advisory Committee
- Created and maintains the www.panhandlebutterflyhouse.org website
- Coordinated the 2010 Monarch Madness photo contest
- Creator of the 2011 fund raiser calendar and co-creator of the 2010 calendar
- Suggested and implemented the Amazon Associates fund raising option.
- Solicited donations and coordinated a professionally-installed roof for the reception building.
- And much more.....

Peggy donates hundreds of hours in support of the Panhandle Butterfly House. Her passion for caterpillars reminds us all that the beautiful butterfly cannot be without the unheralded caterpillar. Similarly, the distinction won by the Panhandle Butterfly House could not be without the ever diligent efforts of Peggy.

Shunning the spotlight, Peggy works tirelessly behind the scenes making the PBH a better educational exhibit.



Donor Spotlight

Due to the generosity of our very special donors, we are still able to offer free admission to the Panhandle Butterfly House.

Thanks to the following donors who contributed during the third quarter of 2010.

*Kerrigan, Estess, Rankin,
McLeod & Thompson LLP*
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

A sponsor of Monarch Madness

Gail Stewart
Patt Stewart
Virginia Willard
Billye Carter....In honor of Jeanne
Gutenmann's 70th birthday
Gulf Power Company
Sharon Hoagland
Peggy Gray
Gene and Lunette Kovatch



Member of the Month

The Panhandle Butterfly House was honored as "Member of the Month" by the Navarre Chamber of Commerce.



Left to right: Karen B., Margaret F., Jeanne B., Mary P., Cinnamon H., Shirley B.

We are a non-profit 501c3 organization that relies on and receives 100% of your donation. 100% of each donation is tax deductible.

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ **State:** _____
Zip: _____ **Phone:** _____ **E-mail address:** _____

This donation can be "in memory" or "in honor" of someone special. When doing this, please advise to whom we should send the acknowledgement card and newsletter.

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ **State:** _____
Zip: _____ **Phone:** _____ **E-mail address:** _____
Special Notes: _____

To join the Kaleidoscope Society, check the desired level of membership entitling you to receive newsletters and special mailings.

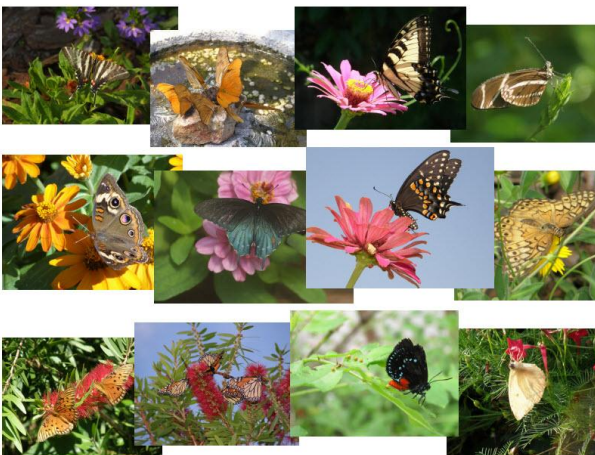
- Skipper \$10
- Swallowtail \$50
- Painted Lady \$250
- Zebra Longwing \$1000
- Buckeye \$25
- Gulf Fritillary \$100
- Viceroy \$500
- Monarch \$1500

Please make checks payable to:
Panhandle Butterfly House
PO Box 5208
Navarre, FL. 32566

2011 Calendar

Although autumn has just begun, it's not too early to start thinking about your Christmas list. If you have a friend or family member that loves butterflies or nature, think about giving them a 2011 Panhandle Butterfly House calendar.

Calendars can be purchased at the Monarch Madness Festival October 8 or 9 or by contacting Karen Broughton at 850-939-9595.



Subscribe Online

Want to keep up with butterfly happenings in Northwest Florida? Need to know when the Panhandle Butterfly House is open? There are several ways to keep in touch with us including:

- Our website is www.panhandlebutterflyhouse.org
- We are on Facebook. Become a fan and chat with us about what you are seeing in your own backyard.



- To receive an electronic notification of when our newest issue of Flutterby News is ready or to be the first to receive notifications of our programs, subscribe online at subscribe.ifas.ufl.edu.





Panhandle Butterfly House

8581 Navarre Parkway

www.panhandlebutterflyhouse.org

850-623-3868

4th Annual Monarch Madness Butterfly Festival

Friday, October 8 and Saturday, October 9
10 a.m. to 5 p.m

Volunteers at Work



Left: Jyette shows a child a buckeye. Middle left: Art rescues a caterpillar. Middle right: Docents Art, Cliffogene, Lorraine and Jim. Right: Judy provides fresh food for the hungry caterpillars.

The word docent is defined as a "knowledgeable guide or teacher." And the Panhandle Butterfly House (PBH) is fortunate to have a large group of experienced and dedicated docents.

Our docents are the public face for our visitors. This year we had 20 docents who provided more than 820 hours of service.

The docent's role is essential to the success of the PBH. They act as a catalyst for learning, guide visitors, helping them blend what they already know with what they learn on their visit or tour. In addition, docents perform a number of tasks behind the scenes including care of the butterfly rearing cages, monitoring, registering, and recording visitors, donations, and merchandise sales and cleaning the PBH once the facility closes for the day.

Many thanks to this great group of volunteers and our 2010 Docent Chairs, Lorraine Hubbard and Patricia Fandt.