

Facts about Warren County Monarch Waystation

Project established May 2021 after contest between intern and experienced Master Gardeners researched and participated in a sharing session on Zoom. Design ideas were combined to create the best results for attracting Monarchs and other pollinators. Fifteen active Master Gardeners participated in a spring and fall planting. They monitored and watered throughout the growing season.

The Monarch Waystation provides opportunities for Master Gardeners to continue learning about native plants and their value to pollinators.

The garden is intended for educational purposes. We intend for the Monarch Waystation to have visits from schools, clubs and churches to enjoy the habitat created for MANY butterfly and pollinator species.

Master Gardeners will serve as docents and have created brochures, and a PowerPoint that shares information in the future and at our October Monarch Waystation Tours.

- Spring 2021 -118 NATIVE PLANTs purchased from IRONWEED NURSERY in Columbia, KY
- Annuals are planted to provide nectar (food for the adult butterfly stage)
- Funding for the Monarch Waystation came from individuals and from the Conservation District. We applied for a grant both in 2021 and 2022.
- MONARCH WAYSTATION Program certified our waystation May 12, 2021, there have been **33,356 Monarch Waystation habitats registered with Monarch Watch.**
- Master Gardeners sign up on a Watering Schedule to assure plants survived the summer months.
- Fall of 2021 – the fence was installed and planted with 80 additional native species that are taller for fall blooms.
- There are 5 Volunteer Work days scheduled for work in spring of 2022.
- Spring Planting Day – May 24th
- A list of plants and the benefits to pollinators was posted on the Warren County Facebook page.
- Additions to our Waystation this year include, 2 Vernal Witch hazel, Switchgrass, coral honeysuckle, 30 + more milkweed, New England Aster, Joe Pye Weed, Ironweed, and many annuals such as parsley * dill for Black Swallowtails, zinnias and Lantana to provide nectar.

Docent information to share

<https://www.monarchwatch.org/waystations/>


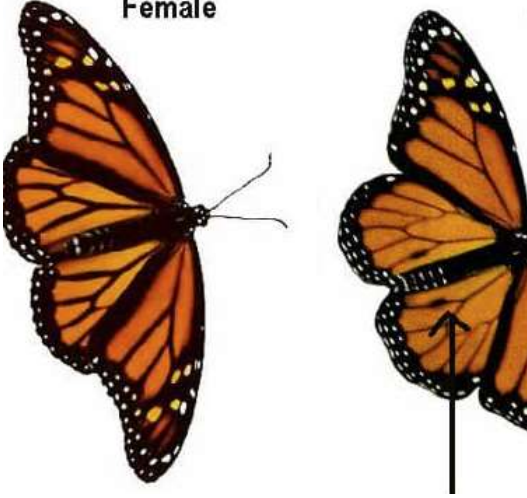




- There are 52 species of Butterflies and Moths that spend time or live in Kentucky.
- Native plants have a unique connection to butterflies and moths of Kentucky. The native plants are integral to the complete life cycle of butterflies. Butterflies have adapted to native plants over thousands of years. They have co-evolved over thousands of years. Each species of butterfly must find the host plant that their caterpillar offspring will each to complete the larva stage. Caterpillars are specialized munchers.
- Plants are selected for the spring, summer and fall nectar and hosting of butterflies.
- The Monarch must have one of the 17 species of MILKWEED in order to have a complete life cycle.
- Monarchs migrate through Kentucky in September through October and NEED asters, and goldenrod to build energy for the long migration to Texas, Florida or Mexico.
- Future plans include a fence with taller species planted and a pollinator patch for fall migrating species.

The Monarch Waystation provides food and habitat for several species of butterflies that visit or stay in Kentucky.

We have 3 species of milkweed for the Monarch – Swamp or Marsh, Common, and Butterfly.

Valuable Video to use as a docent - YouTube video -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mMbEtTdM1t8>

Host plants in our Monarch Waystation	Butterfly	Larvae
<p data-bbox="203 655 435 842">Marsh Milkweed, Butterfly Milkweed and Common Milkweed</p> 	<p data-bbox="581 678 678 709">Female</p> 	
 <p data-bbox="203 1749 435 1780">Wild Blue Indigo</p>		

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Resources