

HERE IS HOW TO SAVE THE MONARCH BUTTERFLY

by Jack Oakes
Outdoor Writer

The thirty year old Boating On The Hudson & Beyond Magazine which is distributed throughout the Hudson River Valley, Lake George and the canals is in a unique position to bring an environmentally positive concept to all boat clubs, marinas, government agencies, villages and towns in a quick and simple way by carrying the message, save the milkweed plant thus saving the Monarch Butterfly.

Another example of concerned citizens who are reaping the benefits of the Monarch Butterfly is the Susie Pressley & Vera E. Brown Scholarship Foundation Fundraiser which is managed by 1st Lady Wanda Edwards at the Pressley Memorial Church in God, Inc. Wanda's butterfly garden is so beautiful that the church sells framed photos of her garden flowers and the money goes to the scholarship fund.

Our distribution area follows the same pathway that the Monarch Butterfly uses, the northeast corridor to travel from Canada to Mexico in the summer-fall and return in the spring of the following year.

By Boating On the Hudson & Beyond Magazine promoting the propagation of the milkweed plant and other wild flowers that support the Monarch Butterfly and other pollinators, everyone will recognize the environmentally positive effort you are doing in helping to save the Monarch Butterfly as well as other pollinators such as bees, birds, and insects.

Nationwide there are hundreds of regional organizations that have been created to do the above, however Boating On the Hudson & Beyond Magazine with its unique niche market

can get the message out continuously, by gathering those organizations that can help regionally, to make the effort, under one name POLLINATED PATHWAYS in a timely manner.

Our supporters in Boating On The Hudson & Beyond Magazine will reap the benefit of these efforts by having the Pollinated Pathway logo as well as explanations as to what efforts you have undertaken to help save the Monarch Butterfly.

Monarch Butterfly's cannot survive without milkweed; their caterpillars only eat milkweed plants (*Asclepias* spp.), and monarch butterflies need milkweed to lay their eggs. With shifting land management practices, we have lost much milkweed from the landscape. Further the heavy use of chemicals is destroying milkweed and other wild flowers at an alarming rate.

Well meaning people work hard at keeping their marinas, parks, homes and other areas as clean as possible and actually taking pride, and receiving compliments for their efforts, when in fact, weed whacking areas that contain native milkweed and other wildflowers is destroying the life blood of Monarch Butterfly's.

Stop for a moment and think about your own efforts to keep your grounds neat, have your thoughts or plans considered protecting the Monarch and other pollinators?

Please plant milkweed to support monarch populations, and their incredible migration! Planting milkweed is a great way to help other pollinators too, as they provide valuable nectar resources to a diverse suite of bees and butterflies.

Every Boat Club, Marina, park, real estate developer has room for plantings that not only support milkweed but a combination of nectar serving flowers that will bloom throughout the summer and fall seasons.

This can be a raised planter; an old boat turned into a planter, borders of marinas and boat club edges that are now kept clean or planted with shrubbery that does nothing to support the Monarch Butterfly on its way north and south each year.

Parking lot's borders which are traditionally kept manicured and neat can be planted with milkweed and



Monarch larva on milkweed.

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other flowers so that a natural field, no matter how small or large contributes to the overall coverage of milkweed in the northeast corridor.

A good example of a dedicated organization that is working hard at saving the Monarch Butterfly is HEALTHY YARDS OF WESTCHESTER.

Organizations In Westchester Supporting Pollinator Programs

Bedford2020, Bedford Audubon, Bedford Conservation Board, Bedford Garden Club, City of Rye Conservation Commission/Advisory Council, Croton Climate Initiative, Cornell Cooperative Extension Westchester, Fremont Pond Committee Sleepy Hollow, Greater Irvington Land Trust, Healthy Yards, Hopp Ground Garden Club, Hudson to Housatonic, Hudson Valley Natural Beekeepers, Larchmont Environmental Committee, Lewisboro Land Trust, Mamaroneck Town Sustainability Collaborative, Mianus River Gorge, Mount Kisco Conservation Advisory Council, Morgenthau Preserve, Native Plant Center, New Castle Conservation Board, Nature of Westchester, New Castle Healthy Yards, North Salem Open Land Foundation, Pleasantville Garden Club, Pollinators-Pathways, Pound Ridge Land Conservancy, Pound Ridge Conservation Board, Pound Ridge Garden

Club, Pound Ridge Invasive Project, Rusticus Garden Club, Rye Sustainability- Healthy Yards, Somers Land Trust, The Greater Irvington Land Trust, Westchester Land Trust, White Plains Beautification Foundation

There are hundreds and hundreds of organizations that are working to save the Monarch Butterfly and other pollinators, what Pollinated Pathways (owned by Beacon Publishing and Boating on the Hudson & Beyond magazine) is doing is bringing the issue to everyone who reads and supports this issue.

So how do you, begin to change your thinking regarding this effort.

In researching this serious effort we found a wonderful horticulturist both husband and wife, who have the ability to recommend or contract to support own efforts.

Myra Marspcci and her husband Ken may have the time to come to your location and survey what it will take to get you in the butterfly/milkweed game. Their company Shades of Green telephone number is 914 526 8470

Further you can call Bob Walters, coordinator of our entire Pollinated Pathway Program at 914 513 7354 or John H. Vargo, publisher at 845 401 2699 and discuss your goals or success so far with planting milkweed from seeds or using sprouts of milkweed to speed up the process.