



## WE did IT!

“Monarch Butterflies *Have Arrived On*  
The Peekskill Waterfront Walkway.”

By John H. Vargo, Publisher

Owner, Beacon Publishing, Inc. Pollinated Pathways, Inc.

Arguable the longest migration of any insect in the world, the **Monarch Butterfly**, has found the life giving plant, **Milkweed**, that they need to survive and recreate on the Peekskill Waterfront!

In early Spring, March usually, the overwintering **Monarch Butterfly** leaves the Mountains of Central Mexico and flies a few hundred miles to Texas. There the female **Monarch** finds milkweed plants, lays its, 200 to 300 eggs as tiny specs on the underside leaf of the Milkweed plant and then dies.

Within 9 days some of those eggs, (the ones that survive birds, humans and other threats, develop into a cocoon or chrysalis that slowly develops into a second generation of the same **Monarch** butterfly that just died.

Once the new **Monarch** gains its wings, it begins traveling north on what will eventually become a three thousand mile journey for many of these Monarchs. After reaching Canada and spending some time fattening up on Canadian Milkweed the **Monarch** will fly south, feeding along the way on Milkweed plants, finally arriving in Central Mexico to spend the winter.

That is an oversimplification of a very dramatic yearly cycle of this amazing creature. Four or more life and death cycles north to Canada, and then a single **Monarch** flying all the way back south for the Winter layover.

**None of this can happen without Milkweed to sustain it during its passages!**

And that's what the **Monarch** has in Peekskill... lots of good friends with good ideas. An outstanding example is taking Home Depot wooden stakes to identify existing wild milkweed plants and using these stakes to protect the milkweed from being weed whacked!

The second part of the equation was having enthusiastic volunteers, led by one person, *Jack Cook*, who had the

tenacity and confidence to maintain steady pressure on the powers that be, until finally, after two years of effort, the Mayor of the City of Peekskill, *Andre Rainey*, signed a pledge to protect the Milkweed Plant from destruction throughout the City of Peekskill.

The single focus on one plant is what can and will change forever the effort to save the **Monarch Butterfly** from extinction.

It was more than just a simple wooden stake that made it work. It was also critical for the Conservation Council and Parks Advisory Board as well as the Public Works Department to support the “**Pollinated Pathways**”, program. The effort was a combination of grass roots and a town government coalition.



**Pollinated Pathways, Inc.** is leading the way in saving the Monarch Butterfly on its behalf.