

Friends of the Monarchs

The monarchs had a great season in our area this summer! The season started early on May 18th when we found a lot of monarch eggs. At the time of this writing, Pat and I have raised and released over 900 monarchs and we still have some to go. We have tagged over 300 for their migration to Mexico. I gave many monarch presentations (Pat helped with some!) to many different groups throughout the year. Many children, and also adults, got to see the parts of the monarch life cycle up close when we had live eggs, caterpillars of various sizes, chrysalises and then butterflies to show and release. People were shown how to carefully hold a butterfly and many people were able to see how we tag them for their migration.

Many children and adults were given the opportunity to take home a chrysalis in a jar that they picked up at the Nekoosa Port Edwards State Bank (both at the Nekoosa Branch and the Port Edwards Branch), at El Café or from our home. They also took a sheet that told them what they needed to do when their butterfly eclosed (emerged from the chrysalis). This gave many people the chance to witness the wonderful metamorphosis of the monarch.

I want to thank all of the volunteers that did weeding at the Village Monarch Park. Keeping the park looking good is more than a full time job and we appreciate anyone that is willing to help.

Thanks to everyone that has planted pollinator friendly plants in their home gardens or on any land that they have. I do believe it is all making a difference.

Please think about remembering your loved ones by purchasing a plaque for the Memorial Wall at the Village Monarch Park. The forms can be obtained at the Nekoosa Port Edwards State Bank – Port Branch.

Kathy McGrath