

# Nectar News



## Official Newsletter of the Southeast Michigan Butterfly Association

April 2016

### Mission Statement:

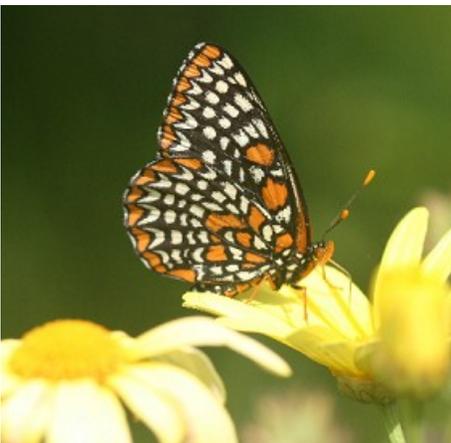
*It is our mission to share our knowledge to educate people about Lepidoptera and their habitats, to instill and foster a passion for nature in others, and to establish and preserve the environment for butterflies, skippers and moths.*

### Membership Dues:

Time to renew your membership. **Membership dues are \$15 per person.** If more than one family member wants to join, the second family member receives their membership for only \$7.50. This family member discount can be used for up to four additional family members.

*Dues can be paid at the monthly meeting or mailed in to Semba address.*

Below: Baltimore Checkerspot



### Baltimore Checkerspot:

The **Baltimore checkerspot** (*Euphydryas phaeton*) is a North American butterfly of the family Nymphalidae. It has been the official state insect of the U.S. State of Maryland since 1973.<sup>[1]</sup>

During its period of growth, the checkerspot butterfly will search for a host plant for nourishment. Its native larval host is the white turtle head (*Chelone glabra*), but it has also to some extent made use of the introduced lawn weed English plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*)<sup>[2]</sup> and other plants.<sup>[3]</sup>

Unlike most butterflies and moths, which overwinter as eggs, pupae, or sometimes adults, the Baltimore checkerspot overwinters as larvae. In late summer (sometime in July through September depending on latitude, weather, and other factors) the larvae spin a pre-hibernation web on a plant, stop feeding, and remain in the web. Several months later they leave this web and enter the litter (dead grass and leaves and so on) on the ground, where they spend the winter.



### Board Members for 2016 :

- **President:** Carolyn Sohoza
- **Vice President:** Brendon Weil
- **Secretary:** Diana McCormick
- **Treasurer:** Carolyn Sohoza
- **Communications Director:** Monica McCormick
- **Event Committee Chair:** Brenda Dziedzic
- **Habitat Committee Chair:** Kathy Bey and Karen Jewell
- **Past President—**Brenda Dziedzic
- **Membership Committee Chair:** Megan Ellis

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## Update on the Monarchs

### MARCH 16, 2016 Semba MEETING MONARCHS IN MEXICO

By Member *Diane Pruden*

The day prior to the March meeting, I returned from my annual trip to Mexico to visit the overwintering monarch butterflies.

My program focused on what I observed in Mexico and its implications for the future. I hoped to inspire all our members to plant a few more milkweed plants, to raise a few more monarchs and to tag as many as possible in 2016.

Slides beginning the program were of maps of the roost locations and pictures of the usual large colonies of monarchs as they roost throughout the winter.

A “storm of the century” hit the sanctuaries on the afternoon of March 9. It continued for about 1-1/2 days.

Selected pictures of the habitat devastation in the sanctuaries and the nearby towns were shown. A brief YouTube video showing suffering monarchs surviving was played.

At the time of the storm, some monarchs had begun their migration but others were killed in the

storm. And many of the 200+ year old roost trees in the preserve were uprooted. It is too soon to tell about current and long term consequences of the storm. In 2002, a somewhat similar event occurred earlier in the winter and around 50% of the overwintering population was lost.

From the extreme weather event alone, it is clear that Monarch Waystations are more important than ever. Although there are a number of recently funded large scale habitat restoration efforts underway, individuals such as ourselves can move more quickly and more efficiently. Our cumulative efforts do make a difference in survival of the monarch migration phenomena.

For several years, Michigan had the largest number of Monarch Waystations in the country, followed by Texas. That ranking was reversed earlier this year. As of 10 March 2016, 12,763 Monarch Waystation habitats have been registered with Monarch Watch. Michigan has 989 but was passed by Texas which has 1,003.

Let's get this reversed for the monarchs and for our state pride!

Several people in attendance indicated that they have gardens which qualify but that they have

not registered. I offered to register these properties at no cost. Anyone may contact me ([dianepruden@gmail.com](mailto:dianepruden@gmail.com), 248-676-0196) and I will take your information and complete the paperwork for you at no cost.

*Tagging by people such as ourselves is even more important in 2016.*

**UPDATE:** In southern Texas, milkweed is healthy and numerous. Monarchs continue to arrive and have been laying eggs as they begin the northward expansion of their breeding areas.

*(Continued on page 3)*





# Updates and Reminders

## Calendars

We have a few more SEMBA Calendars left if anyone wants a beautiful 2016 calendar with our member's photos! \$12.

**SAY YES!**

**TO THE MONARCH AS  
MICHIGAN'S STATE IN-  
SECT**

Michigan is one of three states that does not have an official State Insect. The Monarch Butterfly is widely recognized throughout the State of Michigan, and lures many tourists annually to the shores of The Great Lakes to view its migration. The Monarch is symbolic for Michigan; like the Monarch, through hard work and tenacity Michigan can emerge beautifully. The people of Michigan understand the need to protect this beautiful creature, and this measure can help protect the Monarch and educate Michiganders of all ages.

Sign the petition at:

MichiganMonarch.com

## Monarch Waystation

### Certification:

Monarch Watch is a nonprofit educational outreach program based at the University of Kansas that focuses on the Monarch butterfly, its habitat, and its spectacular fall migration. If you would like to certify your monarch habitat and help support Monarch Watch's conservation efforts, there is a \$16 non-refundable application fee. Sign is \$17. Application and sign bundle is \$33 purchased all at once.

### Requirements:

**Size**— No minimum area requirement, however a truly effective Monarch Waystation will be at least 100 square feet. The total area may be split among several sites at your location.

**Exposure**— At least 6 hours of sun a day.

Plants, Drainage, and Soil Type are other interesting considerations for the Waystation.

### Register your butterfly garden!

More information at:

[Monarchwatch.org](http://Monarchwatch.org)

**April 6:** Brenda's Butterfly Habitat clean-up day. 11:00 am.

**April 7:** 1:00pm, Hibernaculum Hunt with Brenda D. Searching for Red-spotted Purple hibernaculum.

**April 9th:** 'Pollinator Day', Ray Hunter's store in Southgate.

**April 13:** Warren Garden Club branch of the Women's National Farm and Garden Association, hosts program "Raising Butterflies" at 7 p.m. April 13 at the Warren Community Center, 5460 Arden, Warren. Sue Hobig of Eckert's Greenhouse will discuss raising butterflies including plants to grow, feeding, containers to use. Program is free and no registration needed. For more information, call 586-978-1284.

**April 16th:** 10 am, Work Day Nankin Mills Butterfly Garden.

**April 21:** Taylor Garden Club meeting at 7:00 pm, "Two Ladies and a Hoe."

**April 22:** Earth Day.

**April 23:** Family Earth Day, Nankin Mills! Saturday.

### Contact Us:

sembabutterfly@yahoo.com  
www.sembabutterfly.org



UPDATE # 3 Saturday 12 March 12:30pm from Dr. Chip Taylor of Monarch Watch

Information is still sketchy about the level of mortality due to the late winter storm at the monarch overwintering sites in Mexico. Most claims, observations and images suggest that mortality is low to moderate. There is no evidence to date to indicate levels of catastrophic mortality (70-80%) that followed the winter storms of 2002 and 2004.

Assessing the impact of these storms is difficult for a number of reasons: 1) not all dead butterflies drop immediately from the trees. Therefore, estimates of mortality based on dead on the ground are likely to be underestimated. 2) monarchs damaged by ice crystals that penetrate some tissues do not always die immediately 3) some undamaged butterflies are likely to die simply due to the long periods of inactivity that prevented them from getting the water needed to convert fats to trehalose. It will take a week or more to obtain a better estimate of the impact of this storm.

It's worth keeping in mind that a significant portion of the population had already left some of the colonies before the storm.. Nothing is known about the fate of these butterflies.

There is no freezing weather in the long term forecast and daytime highs in the high 60s and 70s should allow healthy monarchs to begin the migration northward in the next few days. There is no shortage of water in the area so imbibing water and converting fats to sugars to fuel the flights should not be a problem.

As to nectar, there is almost always some in the area but never enough for the number of monarchs in the region. Relatively few monarchs actually visit flowers within the colony areas perhaps because those present have already been visited and depleted of nectar." - Dr. Orley "Chip" Taylor, Univ. Kansas, Lawrence.

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

### January 2016

*20th, at Nankin Mills, 7:00 p.m.*

Cheryl English, "Pollinator Preservation Strategies for the Home Garden".

### February 2016

*17th, at Nankin Mills, 7:00 p.m.*

Professor Mark Hunter, University of Michigan, "Monarchs, milkweeds, and disease: Current patterns and future problems".

### March 2016

*16th, at Nankin Mills, 7:00 p.m.*

Update on Monarchs in Mexico, Monarch Watch, Monarch Waystations, Tagging, by Diana Pruden

### April 2016

*20th, at Nankin Mills, 7:00 p.m.*

Anna Szczotka/"Rain Gardens".

### May 2016

*18th, at Nankin Mills, 7:00 p.m.*

"Container Gardening", Carolyn Sohoza will show us how to put together planters designed to attract specific butterfly species, and the containers will be auctioned off!

### June 2016

*15th, at Nankin Mills, 7:00 p.m.*

Chad from Hidden Savanna Nursery, "Landscaping with Natives: It's More Than Just Pretty Flowers". Presentation and Plant Sale!

### July 2016

*20th, at Nankin Mills, 7:00 pm.*

"Raising Butterflies" by Carolyn Sohoza.