

Why Tagging Early Generations Monarchs?

Tagging Monarchs during the fall migration has been promoted by Monarchwatch.org since 1992, more details are available at their website: <https://www.monarchwatch.org/tagging>

In our local Facebook group we have over 2900 members within a short driving distances, and this year 2024 for the first time we are doing an early generation tagging by using old leftover tags for our summer project for educational and to bring more awareness among our neighbors of the Monarch butterfly declining numbers.

Hopefully, some will create more habitats, get involved in raising a few of them to increase their presence in our gardens during the breeding season; plus by practicing the tagging in the early generations it will make them better in tagging the fall migratory ones.

Due to a shortage of older tags, our project may not be as effective this year, but most of us are ordering extra tags in 2024 to be used for the next early season.

That is done for the educational purpose and to provide science with the proper data of the true Home-Reared and tagged during the fall migration.

As for the human aspect of early generation tagging it will provide a sense of accomplishment and profoundness in seeing their own home-raised Monarchs visiting other people's gardens, being seeing and photographed in parks throughout our city-county, and most importantly is by watching that same butterfly coming back to our own gardens to feed and or to lay eggs it is like winning the lottery for some people. :-)

That experience in my humble opinion it will make anyone's heart much warmer, bringing more smiles to our faces, and it will create a priceless bond with the creature at risk that we cared for about a month time with our own hands. :-)

These below were home-raised and released in early June, and came back to feed in our garden two weeks later.



MORE BELOW

All our tags are purchased from Monarchwatch.org, the color sharpie is added to the exterior plastic tag to differentiate the member location and it will not harm the Monarchs in anyway.

Tagging migratory Monarchs is a wonderful activity that provides more data to science in their whereabouts during the migration, as to where and if they're recovered in Mexico, etc...

Tagging them early on it will uncover many mystery's some people have when they raise them during the summer; like when most of us sees a Monarch in our gardens we always wonder if it was one of our own home-reared or a wild, or when someone else tells you I saw one of your tagged Monarch laying eggs in our milkweed plants, etc.. Can you see the impact that you could be making and by attracting more people to do it also?

We the Citizen Science of North America have as much right to provide our own data to reach out to more humans in our neighborhoods with our field actions, just like Scientists that do most of their work in labs.

By working together and by raising a few we could bring the fall population numbers to a higher count. (Since most scientists and experts are saying that during some years fall droughts only 25% of the migratory Monarchs makes it to Mexico).

Don't take my word for it, use Google search and or visit Monarchwatch.org Blog

If you're involved in home-rearing as part of your conservation efforts I would encourage you to do a bit more than post your milkweed patch, your shiny caterpillars and your good looking Monarchs before release on these Facebook groups.

We have all done that many times over, and now is time to leave it to newbies so that we can move on to more important tasks if we want to have the Monarch butterflies flying around our gardens in bigger numbers.

Be a Leader in your community and set an example so others can follow your path in order to build a strong local organization like some of us have done and are doing it right now.

The best way I can think of to start would be by reading the Leader's program that Craig Oveson has created awhile back at: <https://craigthebutterflyman.com/leaders-program>

He's the only one that I know who is fighting the evil forces that wants to take our Monarch rearing rights away by working his way through U.S. Congress, and the USFWS to make them understand that when done properly, raising a few Monarchs could save our Eastern migrations in the future.

There are probably over one million of us already doing it, and science keeps ignoring our existence for their own strange reasons. My latest PDF files will show you more about the inaccurate data we were shown for too long: <http://savethemonarchbutterfly.ca/Monarch-Migration-Mystery.pdf>

Good luck with all your Monarch endeavors and God Bless!

For more info contact me anytime and tell me about your ideas to better help our favorite butterfly. :-)

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“Nobody can stop an idea whose time has come”

