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Contact: Nicole Hamilton

Tel. 703-999-9000

Email: nhamilton@loudounwildlife.org

Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy Moving to Save the Monarch Butterflies Art and Science Combine in Crowd-Sourced Dance and Plant Event



Gwynedd Vetter-Drusch soars over the Konza Prairie near Manhattan, K.S.
(print quality photographs available upon request.)

each plant two or three plants in a Monarch Waystation. They will also take part in a Monarch Move event during which the crowd will experience firsthand how we are all connected in the "Dance of Life."

Participants' monarch memories and stories will be gathered by the Moving for Monarchs team, and from these the group will create a short movement phrase. Along with Monarch Moves gathered in Mexico this past March, this brief movement story will become part of a growing international, crowd-sourced choreography.

This Dance and Plant event will take place at Loudoun Soccer Park, 19798 Sycolin Rd, Leesburg, VA, on Saturday, June 21, 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. It is free and open to the public, but due to the nature of the event, space is limited and so pre-registration is recommended. Registration is online at <http://www.loudounwildlife.org/SignUp.htm>. All ages are welcome, and no experience in gardening or dancing is necessary.

Ecologist Orley "Chip" Taylor, Director of Monarch Watch, a non-profit organization located in Lawrence, KS, says the monarch butterfly populations are declining drastically due to loss of habitat. In Taylor's view, to sustain the monarchs' yearly migration, conservation and restoration of milkweeds, the only host plants for monarch caterpillars, needs to become a national priority, especially because the fate of the monarch and all pollinators is intricately interwoven with the fate of humankind.

Leesburg, VA, June 21, 2014 – The Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy is joining forces with Loudoun Soccer, Moving for Monarchs and Monarch Watch to create a unique opportunity for local participants to take action in a nation-wide effort to save the monarch butterflies.

In an event designed to build community and enable people to take significant steps toward preserving the magnificent monarch migration, attendees will

Gwynedd Vetter-Drusch, Director of Moving for Monarchs, said, "We're working to ignite awareness of the monarchs' plight through social media and Monarch Move events. We want to get people moving, literally, to save the monarch butterfly." Her team hopes to help inspire a massive, grassroots effort to plant milkweed all along the monarch migration.

Nicole Hamilton, President of Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy said, "People across Loudoun County and our northern Virginia area are rising to the occasion in planting Monarch Waystations and we look forward to finding caterpillars in our gardens that we can raise and release again this year. By joining in this Moving 4 Monarchs event, we can celebrate our efforts in Bringing Back the Monarchs and Keeping the Magic Alive - and hopefully help spread that excitement beyond our area so that more and more people rise up and that it indeed becomes a national priority. We are bringing back the Monarch and so much more with them!"

Tom Thomas, President of Loudoun Soccer said, "Loudoun Soccer Club's philosophy is to "Develop Champions for Life", which includes developing players that champion for our environment. We are very excited to have the opportunity to create a Monarch Waystation at Loudoun Soccer Park. We are proud to be home to the best turf fields in Loudoun County, and proud as well to create a beautiful natural garden habitat that attracts the Monarch Butterflies in the area adjoining the fields."

About Moving for Monarchs

"Moving for Monarchs" is a dance, film, and photography project designed to capture the public's imagination while demonstrating that human beings and pollinators are intricately tied together in the "dance of life" and ultimately share the same fate.

The project has three goals: to raise awareness of the essential role of all pollinators in the "dance of life," to highlight the plight of those pollinators, and to inspire grassroots action to restore habitats for monarchs and other pollinators by adding milkweeds and nectar plants to gardens.

Moving for Monarchs has conducted Monarch Move Events in Michoacan, Mexico, beginning the project where the monarchs begin their annual migration. Leesburg, VA, is the group's first stop in the U.S. coinciding with National Pollinator Week. The team is tracing the migration, gathering the stories and Monarch Moves of people along the way who are working on behalf of the iconic butterfly.

To learn more visit <http://www.movingformonarchs.org/>, or call us at 712-887-0290.

View the video that kicked off the Moving 4 Monarchs project here:

<https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/1427293109/moving-for-monarchs-the-dance-of-life>

The event write-up for June 21st can be found on the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy event calendar here: http://www.loudounwildlife.org/Calendar_June.htm

Resources:

NPR Radio - KCUR: <http://kcur.org/term/gwynedd-vetter-drusch>

First Lady Michelle Obama Adds Pollinator Garden To The White House Kitchen Garden - APRIL 03, 2014: <http://obamafoodorama.blogspot.com/2014/04/first-lady-michelle-obama-adds.html>

Migration of Monarch Butterflies Shrinks Again Under Inhospitable Conditions - JAN. 29, 2014: http://www.nytimes.com/2014/01/30/us/monarch-butterflies-falter-under-extreme-weather.html?_r=0

University of Kansas Ecologist Orley “Chip” Taylor’s meeting with Vetter-Drusch - <http://monarchwatch.org/blog/2013/12/moving-for-monarchs-m4m/>

Vetter-Drusch's personal story of experience with monarchs: <http://on.fb.me/19BD7Ji>

“Moving for Monarchs: The Awakening”: <https://vimeo.com/82450284>

Monarch Watch: <http://www.monarchwatch.org/>

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