



MONARCH WATCH

DEDICATED TO EDUCATION, CONSERVATION AND RESEARCH ADOPT-A-CLASSROOM ANNUAL REPORT

As a Monarch Watch contributor, we thought you might be interested in some news about our Adopt-A-Classroom program.



Chip poses with kids from Escuela (school) Guadalupe Victoria del Rosario. Photo by Cathy Walters 1-11-00.

In the spring of 1997, Dr. Chip Taylor, director of Monarch Watch, made a pledge to Monarch Watch participants to provide resources to the communities (ejidos) in the vicinity of the Monarch overwintering areas. Later that year, he and a colleague visited six schools within the Monarch Reserve to find out what they needed in their classrooms. Providing educational materials to the schools seemed to fit perfectly with Monarch Watch's goal of promoting science education. An enhanced science education will enable the children to make informed decisions on how to protect the Monarchs. We officially announced the Adopt-A-Classroom program in the 1998 Season Summary and began accepting donations.

Many Monarchs Watchers and schools responded to our call for support through donations of school supplies and contributions. We had no idea the effect this project would have on some

of you. In some schools, students collected supplies at the end of the year that would have otherwise been discarded and mailed these to us. At others, children saved their allowances to purchase school supplies. After all was said and done, we ended up with boxes and boxes of donated school supplies.

In addition, we received contributions from many individuals and organizations. At one school, children collected and sold aluminum cans to make a donation. The donations enabled us to purchase materials for Math & Science kits. These kits included the necessary supplies to perform many different math exercises and science experiments. Janis Lentz, a fifth-grade teacher at Jackson Elementary in McAllen, TX prepared an illustrated, easy-to-use curriculum guide in Spanish to accompany these materials.

In January, thanks to this support, we were able to deliver school supplies and Math and Science kits to 18 rural schools in the ejidos in the reserve. This trip was a huge success and the following is a brief account of this outreach effort to assist the rural schools in the Monarch Reserve area.

The schools near the Monarch Reserve are in great need and the gifts we delivered on your behalf were very well received. The schools are simple one-story cinder block and plaster buildings. Most have several classrooms and accommodate students from grades 1-6 but a few are one-room school houses with the students from all grades. The lessons are taught on worn-out blackboards and most of

the classrooms have bare walls. Textbooks are available through the government but workbooks, writing materials, paper, and art and craft supplies are scarce or absent. Teaching aids such as posters, cassette tapes, books and videos are noticeably lacking in these classrooms. When we asked the teachers what they would like us to bring next year, they said more of the same but they also asked for additional science materials, particularly posters and models that would facilitate the teaching of human health and physiology. We hope you continue to support Adopt-A-Classroom so we can deliver these materials to the schools next year.

Thanks to all of you, this first trip on behalf of the Adopt-A-Classroom program was a great success and a good start on what we hope will be an annual trip to provide assistance to schools in the reserve. We appreciate all the monetary donations and school supplies that helped us make the trip a reality. For more information about Adopt-A-Classroom, look for the 1999 Season Summary (distributed in May 2000) or visit our Web site at www.MonarchWatch.org.



Cathy admires a few thousand Monarchs at a "watering hole" at El Rosario. Photo by Jim Lovett 1-11-00.

MONARCH WATCH TRAVELOGUE



Monarch Watch crew at El Rosario (l-r) Chip, Jim, Dana, and Cathy. Photo by Janis Lentz 1-9-00.

January 4th: The Monarch Watch staff - Jim Lovett, Dana Wilfong and Cathy Walters - left Lawrence, KS in a 15 passenger van loaded with Adopt-A-Classroom materials for distribution to the schools in the vicinity of the Monarch overwintering sites at El Campanario (El Rosario) and Sierra Chincua.

January 5th - 7th: Jim, Dana & Cathy met up with Chip in McAllen, TX where he was conducting honey bee experiments. We spent that afternoon and the next morning sorting through donated materials held in storage in McAllen. On the 6th we obtained the various permits and forms necessary to enter Mexico with a van-load of school supplies and five US citizens. Finally, on the morning of the 7th we entered Mexico. Janis Lentz, a fifth-grade teacher from Jackson Elementary School in McAllen, accompanied us on this trip. Janis had prepared the Math and Science curriculum (in Spanish) and her role was to help introduce the teachers to these materials.

January 7th - 8th: On the 7th we stopped in Saltillo to visit with Rocio Treviño Ulloa, Director of Correo Real (a similar program to Monarch Watch in Mexico). Rocio is working with Karen Oberhauser and Eligio Garcia-Serrano on a curriculum concerning Monarchs and environmental issues. We arrived at Rocio's house earlier than she expected but she graciously prepared us a wonderful meal which we enjoyed while discussing Monarch conservation issues. We stopped in Matehuala, San Luis Potosi on the

night of the 7th after a long day of driving and we arrived in El Paso, Michoacan (near Ocampo) late on the afternoon of the 8th. We stayed in a house belonging to Sra. Domitila Miranda Colin (the principal of a local elementary school). This house serves as the base camp for the Michoacán Reforestation project, headed by Jose Luis Alvarez, during tree planting season.

January 8th - 9th: We had the good fortune of running into Eduardo Rendón-Salinas later that evening in Zitacuaro. We met Eduardo and his friends the morning of the 9th for breakfast at "Las Margaritas" in Anganguero. After breakfast we drove to El Rosario using the "back road" - a bit rough to say the least! At El Rosario we were quickly surrounded by guides who had tags recovered from dead Monarchs or, in some cases, tags removed from live Monarchs captured while the butterflies visited watering places. We spent most of an hour recording tag data before heading up the mountain to the butterflies. The butterflies did not disappoint us. They were spectacular even though it was too cold for many of them to be on the move. This part of the trip was especially exciting for Jim, Dana, Cathy and Janis who had never been to the Monarch Reserve.

Over the next five days we delivered Adopt-A-Classroom materials to 18 schools - all the rural schools close to El Rosario and Chincua. The materials consisted of a kit with the basic supplies needed to illustrate the principles outlined in the Math and Science curriculum. We also delivered Monarch Watch posters (Spanish versions),



Yikes! The children at Escuela Guadalupe Victoria del Rosario gather around to see their photos. Photo by Jim Lovett 1-11-00.

other contributed posters, sets of 80 slides illustrating some of the most famous art in the world, textbooks on math and spelling (in Spanish), and school supplies (scissors, rulers, markers, paints, crayons, pencils, pens, construction paper, white paper, etc.) contributed by students from many schools throughout the United States.



Janis interacting with the students at Escuela "20 de Noviembre". Photo by Jim Lovett 1-14-00.

While Chip explained the kits to the teachers, Jim, Dana, Cathy and Janis would sneak into the classrooms and interact with the children. We met some very special children, some of whom are mentioned below. Janis, being a fifth-grade teacher herself, would walk into the classrooms and take control. The children scattered to take their seats when they saw Janis. She commanded their attention and conveyed authority just by the look she gave them. Janis has a knack of developing personal rapport with students very quickly and the personalities evident in these interactions reminded her of her own students back in McAllen. There were both outgoing students and those that were shy and reserved. But all of the students were very sweet - even the ones who were obviously the rough-and-tumble trouble makers.

We took a digital camera with us on this trip and it was a big hit at every school. Jim was able to take pictures of the children and show them what they looked like right away. The kids loved this so much that whoever had the camera was always surrounded and at one point Jim was knocked to the ground as children were clamoring to get a glimpse of themselves on the tiny display screen. One of the delights of

this trip was the opportunity to interact with these children.

January 10th: Chip and Janis left early for Zitacuaro to find a bank, since we spent nearly all of our pesos purchasing tags on the 9th. Jim, Dana and Cathy stayed behind and spent the morning organizing the donated school supplies into kits. In the afternoon we drove toward El Rosario to deliver them. The first two schools we stopped at were already out for the day. In these communities, children attend school in morning or afternoon sessions. We managed to find a young school boy, Freddie, who lived near one of the schools and asked him if his teacher was still around. Freddie took Cathy and Janis to a house on the school property (we assume this was the teacher's home) and attempted to wake him from his siesta to meet us. Cathy and Janis decided that it would be best if we came back the next day to deliver the supplies and we bid Freddie farewell. We finally found one school in session and delivered supplies to Escuela Niños Heroes de San Luis.



Monarch Watch arriving at Escuela Niños Heroes de San Luis. Photo by Jim Lovett 1-10-00.

January 11th: We left early and managed to visit the following schools: Emiliano Zapata, Jose Maria Morelos, Lazaro Cardenas, Guadalupe Victoria del Rosario and Vicente Guerrero Las Palmas. After delivering the supplies, we stopped by El Rosario to see if more tags had been recovered. Jim, Cathy and Dana decided to venture up to the roosts one more time while Chip and Janis waited for guides to purchase tags. It was clear and warm on Tuesday and the Monarchs were flying. While Jim, Dana and Cathy were visiting the colony, members of an Elder Hostel group returning from the

colony recognized Chip as he was exchanging tags for pesos. One thing led to another and soon Chip was invited to speak at the Don Bruno Hotel and all of us were invited to join the group for dinner. The Elder Hostel group contained many Monarch enthusiasts, some Monarch Watch members, and even a few beekeepers.



Osbaldo (left) working diligently at "Educación y Patria." Photo by Cathy Walters 1-12-00.

The group had lots of good questions and there was a lively discussion of Monarch conservation issues and a few questions about African ("killer") bees. While we were out, Eligio Garcia-Serrano left a note at the house volunteering to be our guide to the hard-to-find schools in the reserve.

January 12th: Chip picked up Eligio and he directed us to Francisco I. Madero and "Educación y Patria". At "Educación y Patria" Cathy and Dana befriended two young girls named Aidel and Anajeli. There was another young man who stole our hearts. We noticed that amidst all the noise and disruption that comes with five strangers in your classroom, there was one student, Osbaldo, who was determined to finish his school work. He stood at the board and finished his assignment while the rest of the children goofed off with us. After giving a big hug to Aidel, at her request, we headed off to another school led by three young students we picked up at "Educación y Patria". The boys led us to a school (number 16DPR2193Q) whose name we didn't record. After delivering the kits to the schools, we dropped the boys off and stopped for a picnic lunch in the mountains. Eligio showed us two more schools but they were already closed for the day. Late in the afternoon we drove to Zitacuaro to cash more traveler's checks and to visit the markets.

January 13th: Chip picked up Eligio again and we visited four more schools: Miguel Hidalgo - Remedios, Miguel Hidalgo - Rondanilla, "Benito Juárez" and Pedro Ascancio. After finishing up at the last school, we stopped off at the reserve in Chincua to visit the colony and purchase tags. The colony was a long walk from the trailhead and we were advised to take horses - we did. There are usually three colonies at Chincua each year but through mid-January all the butterflies were in one large group. The guides at Chincua did not have tags but we made them aware of our program and asked them to look for tags on dead butterflies.

January 14th: We left the house with a list of four schools to visit before the day was through. We had spotted one school down in a valley while following Eduardo Rendon on the mountain road to Rosario on the 9th but couldn't figure out how to get to it. After delivering materials to the four schools on



Students at Escuela "Educación y Patria" - Anajeli (center rear) and Aidel (right). Photo by Cathy Walters 1-12-00.

our list, "18 de Marzo", Presidente Calles, Secundaria Técnica No. 54, "20 de Noviembre", we made it a project to find the mystery school. We finally located the school, Ignacio Lopez Rayon. Many of the students were absent from their classes and we were told that these children were selling postcards and souvenirs to tourists. We finished our deliveries early enough to make one last trip to the overwintering site at El Rosario. There indeed, we saw many children selling postcards, photos and trinkets and we recognized some of them from our visits to their schools. We were lucky to encounter a few more guides with tags and ended with a total of 172 tags for the trip. The tagging data will be post-

ed to the Web site and published in the 1999 Season Summary.



Students at Escuela Niños Heroes de San Luis.
Photo by Chip Taylor 1-10-00.

January 15th - 18th: We left El Paso early on the morning of the 15th. We

will always remember Sra Colin's pink house, the toothless dog we befriended, the hissing geese in the front yard and the vermilion flycatcher that hunted from the dead tree outside the kitchen window - as well as the cold showers. It was a true adventure. We drove all day arriving in Linares, Nuevo Leon that evening. We were all excited at the idea of a hot shower at the hotel. We spent the night in Linares and after visiting friends in the morning, headed for the border. We dropped off Janis and Chip in McAllen. Chip had more bee research to complete and Janis had to prepare for class the next day. Jim, Dana and

Cathy left for Kansas on the morning of the 17th and returned to Lawrence on the evening of the 18th after stopping for the night in Irving, TX.



Students at Escuela Jose Maria Morelos.
Photo by Chip Taylor 1-11-00.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

Buy a Millennium Butterfly Garden Kit!

Monarch Watch is now taking orders for Millennium Butterfly Garden Kits (\$25). They are available now for spring planting and make great gifts. By purchasing the garden kit you will not only be doing something to help the Monarchs and other butterflies in the US but you will also be assisting the schools in the Monarch Reserve in Mexico. Ten dollars of the cost for the kit is a tax-deductible contribution to the Adopt-A-Classroom program.



The garden can be used to attract Monarchs, other butterflies, numerous insects and even birds. The gardens can be living laboratories where stu-

dents can learn life cycles of insects, interactions among species and how to grow and maintain plants and insects. The garden can also be used to foster environmental awareness, to validate the need for habitat preservation and restoration, to educate the public about the interdependencies of all forms of life and to demonstrate the competition for resources which dominates the struggle to survive.

These kits consist of 25 seed packets (about 100 seeds each) of annuals and perennials which are known butterfly nectar plants and/or host plants for butterfly larvae. We've included species with a range of heights, colors and flowering times so that plants are blooming from early summer until frost. The kits include a booklet which describes how to plant and care for each species. Information is provided on growth form of the plants and numerous suggestions are given for how to design and layout the garden based on these features. We also have lists of suggested annuals, perennials, shrubs, and host plants for butterfly larvae that could be purchased from nurseries to add further diversity to your garden.

Make a donation to Adopt-A-Classroom!

There are many ways you can get your school or organization involved in this worthwhile project. Take the example of Karen Rieser's 4th grade classes at

Amberly Elementary School who collected aluminum cans to raise money for the project two years in a row (see photo on insert). Karen's class recycled 3,350 aluminum cans in 1999 which enabled them to donate \$332.50 to the Adopt-A-Classroom project. Karen told us that her students learned a lot from their efforts, including the computer skills they needed to make signs. We hope you can find a way to incorporate the Adopt-A-Classroom effort into your school activities. A contribution form and contact information is included for your convenience.

Make a donation of School Supplies!

At the end of every school year there are perfectly good school supplies that end up in the trash. Why not collect the used (but not used up*) school supplies that your class has at the end of the year and send them to Monarch Watch (our address is on the order form). The children in the schools in Mexico are without basic supplies and this is a terrific, low-cost way of donating to a worthy cause. Items the children need are: markers and crayons, pens and pencils, pencil sharpeners, erasers, scissors, glue, protractors, metric rulers, calculators, compasses, unused construction paper, unused notebooks, and unused paper.

*Please make sure you are sending supplies that are still useful. It takes us a lot of time to select out items that should have been thrown away.

THANK YOU!

We wish to thank:

• All the contributors to Adopt-A-Classroom. From direct contributions (\$5663.50) and sales of the Millennium Butterfly Garden kits (\$2160), we raised \$7793.50 for this program. Most of the contributed funds (\$3600) were used to purchase new items for the Math and Science kits, some money was used to cover storage costs, shipping, customs duties and to pay for travel to acquire thousands of dollars of free books from school textbook



The Mighty Monarchs (V) of Amberly Elementary School recycled more than 2000 cans to make a contribution.
Photo by Karen Rieser, 1998.

depositories. The cost of tags (\$860), a large portion of the travel expenses for this trip (\$1521.13 of the \$3343.68) and promotional costs (\$3462.41) were covered from the Monarch Watch operating budget (see reverse).

• Rocio Treviño Ulloa, the director of Correo Real who is also associated with PROFAUNA, A. C. of Saltillo for her support. The objectives of Correo Real (a Monarch educational program) are similar to those of Monarch Watch, Monarchs in the Classroom and Journey North.

• Jose Luis Alvarez, Ed Rashin, Bob Small and Sra. Colin of The La Cruz Habitat Protection Project and The Michoacán Reforestation Fund for the use of a house in the Ejido of El Paso near Ocampo.

• Eduardo Rendón-Salinas for guiding us to the colonies and Eligio Garcia-Serrano for assistance in locating a number of the schools in the vicinity of the Monarch Reserve.



Monarchs visiting a puddle for water at El Rosario.
Photo by Jim Lovett 1-11-00.

• Janis Lentz for preparing the science and math curriculum, helping to locate textbooks and supplies, getting her students involved, and assisting with the delivery of the kits.

• Jim Lee, Manager of the Texas State Textbook Depository for donation of educational materials.

A more complete account of this trip will appear in the Season Summary and some of the more than 700 pictures taken this trip will be posted on the Web site.

Monarch Watch would also like to thank all of you who donated to the Adopt - A - Classroom program. Listed below are those individuals and organizations that donated \$100 or more.

Tom Birt (Alliance for Social Awareness - Lawrence HS)

Shaun Case

Becky Collins (David Lipscomb Elementary)

Sandra DeVries (Lake Mills School)

Vicki Dietz (Mill Creek East Elementary - 3rd Grade)

Paula Donham (Frontier Trail Junior High)

Heather Drew (Mast Way Elementary School)

Frank Porter Graham Elementary (2nd Grade)

Marian Goodding

Joan & John Graham

Grapevine Garden Club

Floya Hawkins

Judith Jackson

Helen Johnson

Marlene Krug (Bickerdyke Elementary School)

Ken Lindsay (Shutesbury Elementary School)

Dona Little

Fran Ludwig

Kelly Martin (Berwick Academy)

Colleen Mitchell (Logan Avenue Elementary)

Patricia Morse

Northampton Community College (Science Club)

Marcie O'Conner

Cathy Palm-Gessner (Environ. Concerned Citizens)

Cathy Palm-Gessner (Macomb High School Ecology Club)

Karen Rieser (Amberly Elem. School, "Mighty Monarchs")

Kathy Rose

Chuck Safris

Carol Scott (Heartland Butterfly Farm)

Robert Small (The Michoacan Reforestation Fund)

Helen Taylor

Sara Throop

Diane Topping (Bethel Manor Elementary School)

Vermeer Sales & Service

Victor and Marian Volkman

Sarah West (Germantown Friends School)

Mary Whittlesey

We have been touched by the stories of children recycling aluminum cans to make money, saving their allowances to buy supplies and organizing efforts to collect school supplies at the end of the school year. So we would like to send out a special thank you to all those who sent us school supplies including the Audubon Society, Becky Collins (David Lipscomb Elementary School - Pre-kindergarten class), Janis Lentz (Jackson Elementary School) and the McAllen (TX) School District, Patty McLeod (Bangor Christian School) and Randi & Lina Reed (Chantry Elementary School). We apologize if we have neglected to mention donations from individuals or schools. Please notify us if we need to update our list.

For more information on Adopt-A-Classroom, please visit our Web site at www.MonarchWatch.org.

THE BUDGET

The actual expenses incurred are listed below. However, the estimated value of the donated items we delivered to the schools exceeded \$15,000. These items included textbooks, kits with slides of famous artwork, interactive reading kits and other supplies donated by schools (paper, pens, pencils, erasers, scissors, glue, etc.).

Expenses for the Adopt-A-Classroom Program

Description	Notes	Total Cost
Promotion of Project	Brochures, mailings, etc.	\$3,462.41
30 Math & Science kits	\$120 / each	\$3,600.00
Travel expenses to obtain books from book depository		\$800.00
Monthly storage fee for textbooks in McAllen, TX for 32 months	\$40 / month	\$1,280.00
Shipping school supplies		\$124.32
Customs (duties & taxes)		\$166.63
Housing for trip to deliver supplies (7 nights on the road)	Housing provided free in El Paso, Michoacan by Sra. Colin and the Michoacan Reforestation Fund (7 nights)	\$606.99
Food for trip (14 days)		\$687.81
Transportation for trip (Van rental and gasoline - 14 days)	Gasoline (\$678.13), Van rental from the Univ. of KS (\$953.59)	\$1,631.72
Fees and Miscellaneous Supplies		\$417.16
Payment for 172 tags		\$860.00
Total Expenses		\$13,637.04

Sources of Income for the Adopt-A-Classroom Program

Description	Amount
Donations for Adopt-A-Classroom	\$5,633.50
Millennium Garden Kit Contributions	\$2,160.00
Total Income	\$7,793.50

Budget Summary

Total Income	\$7,793.50
Total Expenses	\$13,637.04
Income - Expenses (This difference was covered from Monarch Watch's operating budget - \$860 payment for tags and \$4983.54 for travel expenses and promotion.)	(\$5843.54)



Kids playing at the Monarch Reserve in El Rosario.
Photo by Dana Wilfong 1-9-00.



Janis draws a crowd of students at Escuela Guadalupe Victoria del Rosario.

Photo by Jim Lovett 1-11-00.



Roosting Monarchs at El Rosario.
Photo by Dana Wilfong 1-9-00.

MONARCH WATCH
c/o O.R. TAYLOR
DEPARTMENT OF ENTOMOLOGY
HAWORTH HALL
UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS
LAWRENCE, KS 66045
MONARCH@UKANS.EDU
WWW.MONARCHWATCH.ORG