



Ahbléza

Lakotah word - one who observes or one who perceives

THE POLLINATOR PATHWAY, SOUTH COAST - BUTTERFLY EDITION

MONARCHS ON THE COASTAL ROUTE

The Pacific Northwest claims the Western Flyway of Monarch butterflies during Spring and Summer months. These butterflies return here from their winter home on the central coast of California, in groves of trees. The Winter count for this western population remains critically low. The Eastern Flyway Monarchs winter in Mexico and their numbers are stabilizing.

On social media, a map showing the digital data tracking of a Monarch butterfly named Portlandia caught my eye. Within 3 days, she made it from Portland to California. She had flown south from Portland, crossed the Coast Range mountains and reached the coast south of Newport. A butterfly names Malcom went from Portland straight to Florence. They flew parallel to the shoreline but inland 5-10 miles, where I imagine there are streams or wetlands offering nectar as nourishment. South of Port Orford, the mouths of the numerous rivers and streams may still exist as broad mini-deltas, providing lots of nectar flowers.

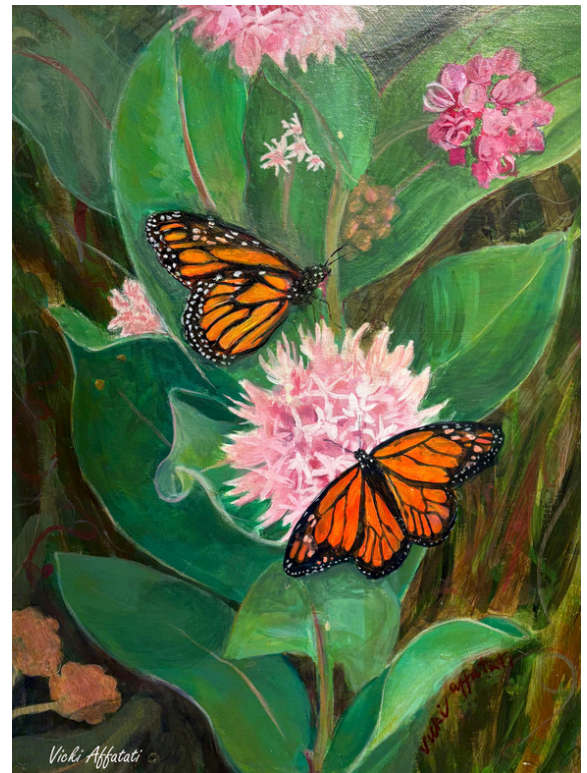
Monarchs are being digitally tracked in our PNW region for the first time. Questions about the insects' migration patterns are being answered. Sporting digital BlūMorpho trackers, glued to the backs of Monarchs with eye lash glue, 70 butterflies were released in Portland in September. The digital tracking devices are expensive at \$200 apiece. In order to fund this equipment, the scientists found people willing to donate for each tracker. The donor was then given the honor of naming the butterfly to which the tracker was affixed.

Monarchs heading home are the super generation that will not lay eggs until next Spring. Milkweed is not essential for them now. Nectar from a variety of late blooming flowers are the fuel these amazing insects need to get home.

Read more about data tracking Monarchs here:

<https://www.fws.gov/story/2026-02/monarch-tracking-gets-high-tech-upgrade-coastal-california>

Join us at the Bandon Library Sprague Room
Oct. 24, 10:30am-12:30pm for design inspiration,
“**All About the Flowers**”, a presentation
with Tatiana Havill & Darcy Grahek
Register with Darcy to receive garden worksheets at
info@stillwaternativesnursery.com



Monarchs and Milkweed by Vicki Affatati
Pollinator Show at Bandon Public Library

Curry County Pollinator Workshop

Butterflies of the south coast are one of the topics discussed in a **Design a Pollinator Patch** workshop at the Curry Public Library in Gold Beach, Sunday, Nov. 1st, 1 – 2:30 pm. Local Fish & Wildlife biologist, Stephanie Mcknight will open the workshop telling the unfolding real story of habitat restoration up Pistol River.



STILLWATER NATIVES NURSERY

is open most days, by appointment
Reach Darcy by email, text or phone
with your plant list for a quote
info@stillwaternativesnursery.com
541-260-2182

MONARCHS HEAD FOR CALIFORNIA GROVES

It takes 3-4 successive generations of Monarchs to migrate from California to the Pacific Northwest. Milkweed hosts each generation northward, but when it is time to turn for their winter home, a super-generation of Monarchs are born that will fly the whole way south, to the south central California coast where they mate and rest. In late February they will leave the sheltering groves and find a local milkweed species to start the cycle again.

Milkweeds such as *Asclepias speciosa* (Showy Milkweed) serves as the exclusive host plant for Spring and Summer egg-laying Monarchs. By Fall the Monarchs only need nectar as fuel to get home for the winter. Plant asters, goldenrod, Fireweed, Pearly Everlasting and Coneflowers to fuel their flight.

SHRUBS & TREES FOR NON-MIGRATORY BUTTERFLIES

Most of our butterflies winter here, many habitat plants are one of these species or Genus below:

Holodiscus discolor (Oceanspray): host for the Spring Azure and Lorquin's Admiral caterpillars

Physocarpus capitatus (Pacific Ninebark) -fallen leaves shelter cocoons from flood and cold over the winter,

Ceanothus thyrsiflorus (Blueblossom) hosts some Swallowtails and California Tortoiseshells.

Ribes (Currants): *Ribes sanguineum* (Red-flowering Currant) blooms heavily in early spring providing critical nectar for pollinators.

•**Salix (Natives Willows)** foundational host plants for Lorquin's Admiral and Mourning Cloak caterpillars

•**Spiraea (Spireas):** Native species like *Spiraea douglasii* provide both nectar and dense sheltering structures for butterflies in moist coastal pockets.

Cont. from page 1

Stephanie McKnight, will also illustrate the decline of habitat that threatens our pollinators along the south coast. She knows firsthand of the efforts along the Pistol River, to restore one of the last good habitats for the Seaside Hoary Elfin butterfly, a Species of Concern.

This butterfly needs large, dense patches of Kinnikinnick, *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*, both to feed on and to use as a host plant for their offspring. Their eggs are laid on this plant and the caterpillars that hatch out will feed exclusively on this plant as they grow until it is time to go into their cocoon phase. These same plants that fed them will become their winter shelter. In the Spring new Seaside Hoary Elfin (SHE) butterflies will emerge.

Darcy Grahek from Stillwater Natives Nursery in Bandon, will discuss native plant cycles and design considerations for preserving or restoring pollinator habitats in home landscapes or public places. Instructions for what to bring from home, to help create a map of a chosen area. The map becomes a plan for a pollinator patch. Register for this free presentation in Gold Beach by emailing Rebecca at rebecca@cplib.net or Darcy at info@stillwaternativesnursery.com



Kinnikinnick, *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*
Evergreen shrub 6-8 inches tall. spreads into a mat of groundcover. Pink bell flowers in Spring, red berries in Fall, many pollinators. Host plant for the Seaside Hoary Elfin butterfly.