

June, 2015

Issue 9



## MONARCH JOINT VENTURE



MonarchNet News  
A Citizen Science Newsletter

### Upcoming Events

- [Monarch Program, Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge, Sherman TX](#), July 11, 10-11:30am
- [Pollinator Party](#), Minneapolis MN, July 31, 5-8pm



Monarch larva. Photo: Becky Janopolous.

The Monarch Joint Venture  
2003 Upper Buford Circle  
135 Skok Hall  
St. Paul, MN 55108

Phone: (612) 625-8304  
Fax: (612) 625-5299  
[monarchs@monarchjointventure.org](mailto:monarchs@monarchjointventure.org)  
[www.monarchjointventure.org/](http://www.monarchjointventure.org/)

### *Citizen Science Updates*

#### Citizen Science Graduate Course Materials Online

- Florida State University recently offered a graduate level class in citizen science, and the course materials are available online. Instructors of classes on citizen science or those who want to learn more about the topic will find the syllabus and other materials of interest. They can be accessed [here](#).

#### Monarch Citizen Science Webinar Available

- The Monarch Joint Venture, in partnership with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, recently hosted a webinar on “Contributions of Monarch Citizen Science and Program Overviews.” The program was part of a series of webinars on monarch conservation. You can view the entire series [here](#).

#### National Pollinator Health Strategy Calls for Citizen Science

- The Whitehouse released the National Pollinator Health Strategy, a plan designed to combat the continued decline of pollinators across the United States. Read more about the strategy and what citizen scientists can do to help [here](#).

#### CitSci Chat on Pollinators

- The May 27<sup>th</sup> CitSci Chat on Twitter focused on pollinators. Among the panelists were the Monarch Larva Monitoring Project and Journey North. The discussion touched upon the role of social media, youth in citizen science, and legal protection for pollinators. Search for #CitSciChat on Twitter to view the complete conversation, and tune in for future chats, moderated by @CoopSciScoop Caren Cooper on the last Wednesday of every month at 2pm ET.



Karner blue butterfly Photo: USFWS

### Share your photos!

Email your butterfly photos to monarchs  
[@monarchjointventure.org](mailto:monarchs@monarchjointventure.org)  
for inclusion in a future newsletter.

## Open Access Journals

Do you ever want to read more about the methods or results of a scientific study than you can find on an organization's website or in a newspaper article? Are you interested in the end results of the projects that you contribute to as a citizen scientist? If the research in which you're interested has been published in an open access journal, you're in luck!

The results of most scientific research are published in peer-reviewed journals, meaning that the work has been reviewed by fellow scientists; these journals often aren't easily accessible to those outside of a university or other research institutions. The costs associated with publishing a peer-reviewed journal, such as wages for staff, hosting a website, and printing the journal, are usually offset by subscription fees. Anyone can subscribe to a journal but usually only academic institutions or occasionally individual scientists purchase subscriptions. Peer-reviewed journals that are open access are free and open to the public, improving everyone's access to scientific knowledge.



*Asclepias asperula*. Photo: Stephen Bishop

The downside of open access journals is that without subscription fees, the overhead costs associated with publishing the journal have to be obtained elsewhere—usually from the authors publishing the research. The authors' publishing fees vary a great deal by journal. For instance, the forthcoming *Citizen Science: Theory and Practice*, which will be completely open access, will charge authors about \$800<sup>1</sup> per article. PLOS ONE, which is one of the most well-known and well-regarded open access journals, has an author charge of \$1350<sup>2</sup>. *Conservation Biology*, a well-respected conservation journal, charges an author fee of \$3000<sup>3</sup> for open access. Given the costs associated with publishing open access articles, it's easy to understand why many scientists don't make their research papers open access.

While the majority of scientific research isn't open access, a growing percentage of it is. Some journals are completely open access, such as PLOS ONE and *Citizen Science: Theory and Practice*, which were mentioned above. Other journals, like *Conservation Biology*, are known as hybrid journals because they publish both open access articles and subscription-only articles depending on the author's preference. The Directory of Open Access Journals maintains a list of many fully open access peer-reviewed journals at <https://doaj.org>. You can use the directory to see what journals in your field of interest are open access, or you can visit the websites of specific journals to see which, if any, articles are available for free.

Finally, if you are looking for a journal article that is not open access, you may be able to receive it for free from the authors. Some citizen science projects, such as Monarch Health and the Monarch Larva Monitoring Project, post research articles based on volunteer data on their websites. Many authors are able to email you a copy of an article if you request it directly from them. However, don't be surprised if you are sometimes unable to receive an article in this manner. For non-open access journals, authors usually sign some or all of the rights to their articles away to the journals, meaning that not every author is legally able to distribute copies of their work.

<sup>1</sup><http://journals.plos.org/plosone/s/publication-fees>

<sup>2</sup><http://theoryandpractice.citizenscienceassociation.org/about/submissions#authorFees>

<sup>3</sup><http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/%28ISSN%291523-1739/homepage/ForAuthors.html>

## Monarch Health Seeks Crowdfunding Support

Monarchs are affected by a debilitating protozoan pathogen called *Ophryocystis elektroscirrha* (OE) that develops inside the bodies of caterpillars. Infected adult monarchs emerge covered in millions of parasite spores, fly less well and live shorter lives than healthy monarchs. Researchers at the University of Georgia are tracking the spread and impacts of the OE pathogen, in part through a citizen science project that empowers people across the country to take part in monarch monitoring and conservation efforts.

Project Monarch Health is grateful for the data contributions over over 300 citizen scientists that have helped UGA researchers track the spread of a debilitating pathogen in wild monarchs. To continue this important work, **Monarch Health is embarking on a new crowdfunding project** via Georgia Funder. Crowdfunding support will help Monarch Health continue to distribute free sampling kits to volunteers and process and return results, share information on parasite infections, analyze 9+ years of sampling data, and develop educational videos and outreach materials.

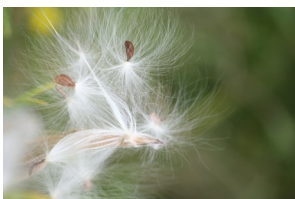
Please visit the Monarch Health [crowdfunding page](#). All donations are tax deductible and 100% of contributions go directly to the project. If you're unable to make a financial donation, consider volunteering with Monarch Health! You can visit their website at [monarchparasites.org](http://monarchparasites.org) for details.

## Monarch Poetry by Larry Schug

Larry Schug is a Minnesota poet with a passion for monarchs. To learn more about Larry and his other works of poetry, visit his website at [www.larryschugpoet.com](http://www.larryschugpoet.com). See accompanying art on Page 4.

### Mother Milkweed

Whispy white hair blowing wild  
as milkweed silk,  
more beautiful than she's ever been;  
she thinks back to the May of her life  
among black-eyed susans, blue-eyed grass,  
chamomile and clover,  
how she held a chrysalis then,  
as only one who's been chosen  
by a fluttering, floating life  
can hold a fluttering, floating life.



### The Monarch

All it takes for anarchy to reign  
is clear-cutting forests of oyamel fir  
in Mexico's Sierra Nevada,  
scything down, poisoning,  
plowing under the humble milkweeds  
of America's farm lands.  
Add a change in climate  
and the butterflies are gone forever,  
vanishing like fallen maple leaves  
absorbed by the soil that claims all life.  
Unlike the fall of human kings,  
there is no joy  
when this benevolent monarch is deposed,  
not replaced by democracy, but one-party rule,  
a dictatorship of man  
on naked mountains  
and endless fields of hybrid corn.

### Crowdfunding

Crowd funding is a popular online funding technique in which large numbers of people donate to a cause or project. You can read more about crowd funding in our [April 2015 issue](#).



## *Mother Milkweed by Sandy Bot-Miller*



### *We want to hear from you!*

Are you a butterfly citizen scientist with a story, photos, or artwork to share? Would you like to nominate a volunteer or program for recognition in the newsletter? Write to us at [monarchs@monarchjointventure.org](mailto:monarchs@monarchjointventure.org) with what you would like to see in the newsletter.

Help us spread the word. Send this newsletter to friends who may be interested, and encourage them to “Get Updates” under News & Events on the MJV website at [monarchjointventure.org/news-events/get-updates](http://monarchjointventure.org/news-events/get-updates).