Building Bliss for Butterflies

• Explore the plight of the monarchs!
• Learn how to help the butterflies!
• Create your own butterfly garden!
The monarch life cycle

Monarchs have to migrate over the course of their lives
Monarch migration

- Known migration routes
- Possible migration routes
- Northern limit of milkweed
- Summer range
- Winter roosts
You can track migration!

Monarch Migration Tracker
Monarch butterfly populations are rapidly declining.

- **2003**: 27.48 acres
- **2006**: 16.98 acres
- **2010**: 9.93 acres
- **2013**: 1.65 acres

Butterfly population is relative to number of acres inhabited during seasonal hibernation.
What’s causing monarch decline?

- Deforestation in Mexico
- Severe weather
- Herbicide-based agriculture destroying crucial milkweed flora in the Midwest
What can we do?
What attracts butterflies?

- Sun
- Water
- Flower color: pink, red, purple, yellow, orange
- Tubular flowers
- Flower with large, flat petals
Native Michigan Plant Species

**SUN**

- Swamp milkweed (Asclepias incarnata)
- Joe pye-weed (Eupatorium maculatum)
- Great angelica (Angelica archangelica)
- Coreopsis (Coreopsis lanceolata)
- Swamp aster (Aster lewisii)
- Smooth aster (Aster puniceus)
- Wild mint (Mentha arvensis)
- Wild columbine (Aquilegia canadensis)
- Black-eyed Susan (Rudbeckia hirta)
- Blazing star (Liatris cylindracea)
- Bee balm (Monarda fistulosa)
- Boneset (Eupatorium perfoliatum)
- Butterfly weed (Asclepias tuberosa)

Colors:
- Spring: Green
- Summer: Light Green
- Fall: Red
Native Michigan Plant Species

PART-SUN

Cardinal flower
(Lobelia cardinalis)

Blue stemmed goldenrod
(Solidago caesia)

Blue lobelia
(Lobelia siphilitica)

Anisergot
(Osmorhiza longistylis)

Agrimonia
(Agrimonia gryposepala)

Swamp thistle
(Cirsium multicum)

Big-leaved aster
(Aster macrophyllus)

Spotted touch me-not
(Impatiens capensis)

- Spring
- Summer
- Fall
Butterfly Garden Bingo
SPRING
Focus on Phenology

• Seasonal changes in plants and animals from year to year
• Students make natural history observations
  – When do the insects show up in the spring?
  – When do the plants emerge?
  – When are there flowers?
• Can contribute to citizen science networks
• National Phenology Network