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Monarch Guardians

For butterflies in general, survival of egg to adult in the wild has been estimated to be about 2% to 8%. For many species, certainly including Monarch butterflies, there are many human activities that continue to be threats to butterfly populations. Habitat destruction for Monarchs is not only local in Massachusetts, but ranges from tree logging in Mexico through crop pesticides and milkweed loss as the Monarchs fly northeast from Mexico in the spring and then fly southwest to Mexico in the fall.

Whether it be for educational purposes, or for enjoyment, or to be fortunate enough to witness the miracle of metamorphosis, or for wanting to give a little bit back to the world, there are individuals and groups of people who care enough about Monarch butterflies to find eggs or caterpillars in the wild, nurture the caterpillars, insure the safety of the chrysalises, and release the butterflies back into the wild. These individuals and groups will be recognized as **Monarch Guardians**.

To become a certified **Monarch Guardian**, please send in your information (see below) for the first Monarch butterfly that you release back into the wild (from eggs/caterpillars found in the wild) in the 2013 butterfly season.

Your information will be added to the **Monarch Guardian Honor Roll** on the Massachusetts Butterfly Club website: www.massbutterflies.org, and a **Monarch Guardian Certificate** will be sent to you.

Please send the following information:

- your name and age (or specify adult),
- date and location where you have found the eggs or caterpillars in the wild,
- and the date and location of release.

E-mail to: madelinechampagne@verizon.net (put Monarch Guardian in the subject line).

Or mail to: Madeline Champagne, 7 Pond Ave., Foxboro, MA 02035 (be sure to include your phone number and return address)

If you are interested in raising Monarch butterflies, and you have access to milkweed, please contact Madeline for detailed instructions.