



# THE OAK & ACORN

Volume 1, Issue 1—OCTOBER 2011

Check out fall classes at [www.bjnc.org](http://www.bjnc.org).

Toddler Classes • Pre-school Classes • Elementary Age Classes *including* Home School Workshops • Adventure Club • Scout Programs • The Geocaching Bug Ultimate Egg Obstacle Course • Extraordinary Art/Extraordinary Animals • Kid's Introduction to Bird Watching • Prairie Keepers • Birthday Parties  
Adult and Family Classes *including* Photography Classes • Creating a Nature Journal Composting Classes • Check out the [CALENDAR](#)



October is  
NeighborWoods Month

Thanks in advance to Cub Scout Pack 402 for their Community Service Project and Arbor Day Celebration scheduled for Saturday, October 8.

## LIQUID GOLD!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9  
2:30 TO 4:30PM

AN AFTERNOON OF  
BEES, TEAS, HONEY & MORE

FEATURING  
BEEKEEPER ERIC LUEBBERT  
MIMI'S BEE PRODUCTS  
HONEY AND CHEESE  
PAIRINGS

MEMBERS - FREE  
NON-MEMBERS - \$10  
OR JOIN AS A MEMBER

RSVP:  
Call - 817.939.1110

E-mail -  
[bobjonesnaturecenter@hotmail.com](mailto:bobjonesnaturecenter@hotmail.com)



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5  
7:00PM TO 10:00PM

\$50 per person  
at the

Bob Jones Nature Center  
& Preserve

355 E. Bob Jones Road  
Southlake, TX 76092

Sweet & Savory Tastings from North  
Tarrant County Chefs

Complimentary Wine • Music  
Local Artists • Silent Auction

Call 817.939.1110 or e-mail  
[bobjonesnaturecenter@hotmail.com](mailto:bobjonesnaturecenter@hotmail.com)  
Purchase tickets at [NS3](#)

*Proceeds from the event will benefit the  
Master Plan Development of the Facility  
and Preserve.*

## HARVEST HIKE

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16  
4:00 TO 7:00PM

STORYTELLERS  
DINO DIG  
FACE PAINTERS  
PETTING ZOO  
HANDS ON ACTIVITIES  
TURTLE PRESENTATION  
MUSIC  
CAMEL APPLES  
APPLE CIDER  
BAT PRESENTATION

SPONSORED BY THE  
CITY OF SOUTHLAKE LIBRARY  
BOB JONES NATURE CENTER  
SOUTHLAKE ASSOCIATION FOR  
GIFTED AND TALENTED

355 E. Bob Jones Road • Southlake TX 76092

[www.bjnc.org](http://www.bjnc.org)

Organization: 817.939.1110 Facility: 817.491.6333

[bobjonesnaturecenter@hotmail.com](mailto:bobjonesnaturecenter@hotmail.com)

### BJNC MISSION:

*The preservation of local natural resources and history; accomplished by providing places of compatible recreation, and fostering education about our natural environment.*



# MONARCH WATCH UPDATE 2011

The following is an excerpt from an update by **Chip Taylor**, Director, Monarch Watch, University of Kansas, on the status of the eastern monarch population which migrates to Mexico.

The leading edge of the migration has now reached northern Texas. As many of you know, we [Monarch Watch] attempt to follow the monarch population closely. Based on our experience, and ongoing data analysis of monarch numbers, we offer opinions/projections on what to expect in the near future based on our understanding of how the monarch populations have been affected by patterns of temperature and rainfall in the preceding months.

Late in the spring I started predicting a small migration this fall. In the Premigration Newsletter sent out with Monarch Watch Tagging Kits, I predicted that overwintering population in Mexico would be similar in size to that of the low populations recorded in 2004 (2.19 hectares) and 2009 (1.92 hectares). It was clear that the monarch numbers in New England and recorded at Cape May would be low this fall, and that the numbers originating in the central region would be slightly better than those of the eastern Dakotas through Wisconsin but still low relative to long term numbers. The New England/Cape May projection appears to be correct as the numbers are down in this region. I was wrong about the central region (Ontario, MI, OH, IN, IL) - fewer monarchs appear to have been produced in this area than I expected. Wisconsin numbers also appear to be down.

The surprise is the eastern Dakotas and western MN. This area seems to be the source of a large number of the monarchs moving through the lower Midwest at this time. Nevertheless, the over-



Early migratory Monarchs coming through Southlake. Photo courtesy of Ken and Tamara McMillan—from their garden the weekend of September 24/25/26.

**TO CHECK OUT THE PROGRESS OF MONARCHS TO MEXICO, CHECK OUT [http://www.learner.org/inorth/maps/monarch\\_all\\_fall2011.html](http://www.learner.org/inorth/maps/monarch_all_fall2011.html)**

## OF SPECIAL NOTE!

### CAMP SUMMER OAKS

Congratulations to Camp Summer Oaks and Directors Rosemary Hutchins and Monica Hutchins for 25 years of offering our youth the wonders of science and the discovery of our natural world! Join us in celebrating this milestone at the November 1st City Council Meeting, 5:30pm, at the Council Chambers, Southlake Town Hall.

### VOLUNTEERS

Thanks to the instructors who have offered classes this fall at the Nature Center & Preserve:

- Michelle Sager
- Monica Hutchins
- Nancy Musgrave
- Cynthia Featherstone
- Julie Whitis
- Sharen Chatterton
- Bruce Rosenstiel
- Mark Suter
- Charlie Shiner

Thanks also to all the volunteers who have helped in so many ways:

- helping with programs and events
  - serving on committees
  - developing field guides and programs
  - working on scout projects
  - preparing program materials
- You are much appreciated!

### REMEMBER:

**MEMBERS GET 10% OFF ITEMS AT THE BJNC GIFT SHOP AND 10% OFF GARDENING AND WILD BIRD SEED AT MARSHALL GRAIN! CHECK OUT THE FREE WORKSHOPS AT [MARSHALL GRAIN CO.!](#)**

all numbers are down. But, it gets worse. The migration is just beginning to navigate a 1000 miles of hell - a nearly flowerless/nectarless and waterless expanse of central KS, OK, TX, and NE MX (see Drought Monitor at <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>).

It is too late for rains to change the situation in TX and northern MX. Monarchs will make it to the overwintering sites but their numbers will be significantly reduced by these conditions. My expectation is that that the overwintering numbers will be the lowest ever (previous low 1.92 hectares) and that the arriving butterflies will be in relatively poor shape with low fat reserves. If the average condition (mass) of the overwintering monarchs is lower than average, mortality during the winter could also be high. Other scenarios could include low returning numbers next spring with a reduced reproductive capacity due to low fat reserves. Keep your fingers crossed that there are no winter storms in MX that could make matters worse.

It will be interesting to see how monarchs cope with the lack of nectar and water as they move through TX. Monarchs, like most insects, have hygrometers (sense organs that are sensitive to humidity gradients); therefore, when conditions are extremely dry, we might expect monarchs to seek out the darkest and most humid habitats. If this plays out, most monarchs will accumulate in drainages, along rivers, move in an out of forests, and concentrate around other water sources.

As I pointed out in the Premigration Newsletter (and the August Population Status blog article), there is a new reality, or expectation, regarding the size of the overwintering population in MX. It now appears that winter populations will be in the range of 2-6 hectares (down from the long term average of 7.24) with 6 hectares being reached only during the most favorable conditions. In the near term, the average overwintering population will be close to 3 hectares. As we pointed out recently (Brower et al. 2011), the decline is related to the loss of habitat, particularly the rapid adoption of herbicide tolerant (HT) crops. The majority of these crops are planted within the summer (June-August) breeding area for the monarch population. In spite of weed control methods prior to 1996, when HT crops were first introduced, milkweed persisted in these crop-lands at a low level where they provided an excellent resource for monarchs. With the planting of HT engineered corn and soy followed by the use of glyphosate to control weeds, milkweed has been almost completely eliminated from these crops. At present, the total area of HT crops is larger than that of any state except TX and AK, or about 4 times the state of IL). The decline in the monarch population first became noticeable in 2004 when the percentage of HT corn and soy acreage exceeded 50% of all acreage for these crops. Low monarch numbers in MX this winter and in the future means that the integrity of the overwintering sites is now more important than ever and that planting milkweeds in gardens and incorporating these plants in restoration projects either as seeds or plugs should receive the highest priority. So what can you do? Go to [www.monarchwatch.org](http://www.monarchwatch.org).

**THANKS TO DAWSON MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE CLUB FOR TRAINING TO TAG MONARCHS FOR THE FALL MONARCH MIGRATION!**



**Thanks to Bruce Rosenstiel for this photo at the Preserve. Grasshoppers have been abundant and have been able to find the more drought resistant plants.**

***Check out the Photography Classes!***

***Join the Camera Club!***

***Participate in the 2012 Photography Contest!***

## **FREE WORKSHOPS!**

**COMPOST  
WORKSHOP  
SATURDAY •  
OCTOBER 15  
9:00AM**

**FALL PLANT  
IDENTIFICATION  
WALK-ABOUT  
SUNDAY •  
OCTOBER 30  
2:30PM**

# THANK YOU, AUGUST & SEPTEMBER VOLUNTEERS!

Sandi Cavanaugh•Sharen Chatterton•Andrea Dominici•Danielle Dominici  
 Erin Dominici•Lauren Dominici•Amy Griffith•Jan LaPine•Michelle Sager  
 Terri McAndrew•Tamara McMillan•Mary Grace Roach•Delaney Sager  
 Kelsey Sager•Michelle Sager•Charlie Shiner•Michelle Swan•Hylee Voss

Camp Summer Oaks Volunteers (August)

Kate Axford-Maddie Keen-Bilal Khurshid-Jui Kothare-Alex Skaar  
 Caleb Stephenson-Nicole Stotts

Girl Scout Gold Award Candidates Evelyn Freeman

Eagle Scout Award Candidates Reid Long and Nathan Ziegler  
 Tarrant County Master Gardeners

If we left off  
 your name, let  
 us know!

Volunteers  
 Jan LaPine and  
 Sandy Cavanaugh  
 monitor the  
 Preserve  
 bluebird boxes for  
 the North American  
 Bluebird Society  
 Database.



## THANKS TO NEW/RENEWING MEMBERS

### JUNE

#### **FAMILY**

The Singh Family

#### **COUPLE**

Sharen and Carter Chatterton

### JULY

#### **PATRON**

Barbara and Bill Schlauch

#### **COUPLE**

Barbara and Richard Walker

#### **INDIVIDUAL**

Katherine Sparks

### AUGUST

#### **FAMILY**

The Keleher Family • The Voss Family

#### **INDIVIDUAL**

Gail McEnroe

### SEPTEMBER

#### **INDIVIDUAL**

Rick Perry• Milind Kothare• Jan LaPine

#### **FAMILY**

The Franklin Family

#### **PATRON**

Bob and Bonnie Van Til

### LIFETIME MEMBERS LIST

Emily Galpin • Art Janes • Al Zito

## MEMBERSHIP & DONATION FORM

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

FAMILY MEMBERS \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to become a member of Bob Jones  
 Nature Center at the following level:

<input type="radio"/> Lifetime Member	\$2500
<input type="radio"/> Sustaining	\$1000
<input type="radio"/> Patron	\$ 100
<input type="radio"/> Family	\$ 50
<input type="radio"/> Couple	\$ 25
<input type="radio"/> Individual	\$ 25
<input type="radio"/> Senior	\$ 10
<input type="radio"/> Student	\$ 10
Additional contributions/donations	_____

TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

This is a gift membership for:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

This is a Memorial/Tribute to:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Bob Jones Nature Center is a 501c3 non-profit organization.  
 Mail membership to: Bob Jones Nature Center  
 355 E. Bob Jones Road • Southlake • Texas • 76092  
 or go to [MEMBERSHIP](#) on line.