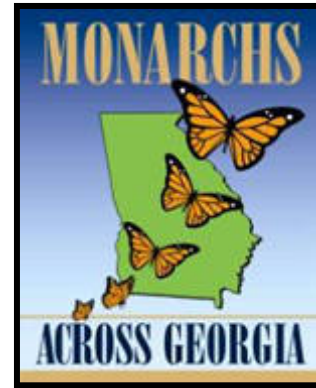


Monarchs Across Georgia Pollinator Habitat Certification Program

Recognizing your efforts in providing critical habitat for not only butterflies, but all pollinators!



What, How, and Why?

Do you enjoy watching and studying caterpillars on their host plants; searching for chrysalides hidden from predators; observing butterflies and hummingbirds flitting from flower to flower? Does your schoolyard or backyard have bushes, trees, and flowers that provide host plants, nectar, and protection for butterflies, bees, hummingbirds, and other pollinators? Is there a source of water/puddling areas for thirsty butterflies? Are there places for them to roost at night? Then you might want to look into registering your backyard/schoolyard habitat with Monarchs Across Georgia's Pollinator Habitat Program.

What is a pollinator habitat?

It's a backyard or schoolyard property or even a patio that provides butterflies, bees, hummingbirds, and other pollinators a place to call home. It's a little more work than just planting one butterfly bush, but is well worth it. As communities grow and develop, the homes for our wild creatures are lost. The use of pesticides has also greatly diminished the number of pollinators available to pollinate our flowers, gardens, and other agricultural sites. You can help by providing a new place for them to call their own.



What do you have to provide?

- **Water** is essential for life, and your winged friends are no exception. A shallow pan of water or a puddling area is much appreciated. Or perhaps you already have a stream behind your house where they congregate along the edges. Misterters are also good for the tiny butterflies, bees, and other smaller insects.
- **Food** is critical for the growth and development of the caterpillars and also provides energy for the adult butterfly, bees, and hummingbirds. Look at the trees, bushes and shrubs that you have in your yard. Do they provide a host site for the adult to lay her egg? Do you consider the nectar sources that are needed for the adults through the spring, summer, and fall seasons? What about the other plants, flowers, and vines in your yard? Do you supplement your nectar flowers with overripe fruit?

- **Shelter or cover** is also essential. Think about it. Would YOU like to be out in the middle of a street without any protection? No, and neither do pollinators. They need somewhere to hide from predators, a place to nestle down at night, a safe place. Also, since most pollinators cannot regulate their body temperatures, do you have a place for them to bask in the sun? Do you provide logs for use during winter hibernation?
- **Earth-friendly gardening** is the avoidance of chemical pesticides, insecticides, and herbicides. Do you avoid or greatly limit their use? The use of these pesticides kills the larva, resulting in less or no pollinators frequenting your garden in the future. The upside of not using chemical pesticides is the subsequent increase of natural garden enemies such as spiders, lacewings or ground beetles that will help control other unwanted pests. Do you use alternate control methods such as organic pesticides or oils and soaps? Do you also try to use natural fertilizers, such as compost or well-aged manure, that improve the overall health of your soil instead of chemical fertilizers whose excess often end up in our waterways?
- **Naturalized habitat** with regionally native plants generally require less maintenance and are better able to meet the needs of local wildlife than exotic flora. Do you try to incorporate these plants into your garden? (*For more information visit the Georgia Native Plant Society's website at www.gnps.org.)*)
- ❖ **Schoolyards and Learning Centers Only:** If your habitat is located on your school grounds or a center for learning do you provide hands-on learning lesson and activities with students? Have your educators participated in continuing education programs related to pollinators and or gardening? Monarchs Across Georgia provided hands-on educator workshops.



Okay, you've developed and implemented your pollinator habitat ideas into your backyard or schoolyard, **now how do you get it certified?**



Certifying is Easy!

Whether you are limited to a small patio or have an acre of land, Monarchs Across Georgia would like to acknowledge your efforts in welcoming not only butterflies, but also other pollinators to your garden. The *Pollinator Habitat Certification Program* was initiated to recognize the hard work of Georgians in meeting the habitat needs of pollinators.

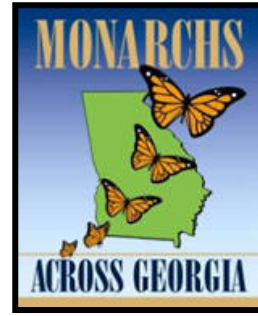
Developing a habitat in a backyard or schoolyard location goes beyond wildlife habitat conservation. It should reach into the school curriculum and the community. Butterflies, other pollinators, children, and the entire community receive the benefits. Development of a habitat-based learning site takes steps to restore the native plant and animal community, our connection with the natural environment, and school/community ties.

Questions and Answers

- **How can I find out how to create a healthy pollinator habitat?**
Visit the Monarchs Across Georgia website at www.monarchsacrossga.org for more information on butterfly gardening.
- **How do I know when I'm ready to certify my habitat project?**
You are ready to certify when you can provide habitat for at least 8 different species of pollinators, a few sources for food, water, cover, and places to raise larva. If you are a school site you must also be using the habitat as a teaching tool. If you are an individual garden you do not.
- **How do I apply?**
Fill out the application and mail it to the Monarchs Across Georgia contact. There is a \$10 fee for certifying your property. Applicants that meet the criteria will receive a certificate to indicate that the property is *Certified Pollinator Habitat*. A colorful garden sign will be available for purchase to certified participants for a price of \$28.00 for a total of \$38.00 (includes certification, certificate, and shipping and handling). Visit www.monarchsacrossga.org to view the sign, which makes a great statement in your pollinator garden. Also, be sure to include photos, if available. Within 4-8 weeks, you will hear from us regarding your certification. We look forward to learning about your project, and to welcoming you into the Monarchs Across Georgia Pollinator Habitat network.
- **Can I include photographs?**
Yes! Please do. Photos help us learn more about your project; we can also inspire and educate others by posting photos of your habitat on the Monarchs Across Georgia website. We especially enjoy "before" and "after" photos, to get a better sense of your progress.
A photo release form **must** accompany photos. Feel free to copy the photo release form as often as you need, and submit these forms with your completed application and photographs.
- **What are the benefits of certifying?**
When you certify your habitat, you will:
 - A sense of satisfaction that you are helping the environment.
 - Bring media attention and state recognition for your school community's hard work.
 - Be eligible to order a "Monarchs Across Georgia Certified Pollinator Habitat" sign for your outdoor classroom or backyard.
 - **Plus!** The Outstanding Certified Pollinator Habitat of the Year will receive special recognition at the Environmental Education Alliance's annual awards ceremony! (*FYI: Need not be present to win.*)



Monarchs Across Georgia Pollinator Habitat Certification Application



Thank you for your interest in certifying you property as a Monarchs Across Georgia Pollinator Habitat. Your commitment is important to conservation and protection of not only butterflies, but all pollinators.

Check the option that best describes your habitat.

- Backyard Schoolyard Apartment/Rooftop Garden
 Workplace Community Garden/Park
 Farm Place of Worship

Applicant's Name _____

Name(s) to Appear on Certificate: _____

Organization/School (If Applicable) _____

Address of Habitat _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip Code** _____

County _____

Mailing Address (If Different from Above) _____

Telephone _____

E-Mail Address _____

Are you a member of the Environmental Education Alliance? YES NO UNSURE

Is this property a certified NWF Backyard/Schoolyard Habitat? YES NO UNSURE

Would you like a press release sent to your local paper? YES NO

Name of local paper and email address to submit press release:

Please provide photographs or a sketch of your pollinator habitat in separate sheet of paper.

Briefly describe your project and how it benefits butterflies and other pollinators?

If you are an education facility briefly describe how your project is incorporated into the curriculum.

Approximate property size: _____ feet or _____ acres

Approximate percentage of this area dedicated to Georgia pollinators: _____

Best description of property location:

_____ Urban _____ Suburban _____ Rural



Caterpillar Food Sources (Visit www.monarchsacrossga.org for a list of host plants)
Including milkweed, must provide host plants for at least 5 additional species. Denote whether they are native.

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Pollinator Nectaring Sources (Visit www.monarchsacrossga.org for a list of plants)
Must provide 4 plants that bloom in the spring, 4 plants that bloom in the summer, and 4 plants that bloom in the fall. Denote whether they are native.

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Species of Pollinators That Are Attracted
Including Monarchs, must attract at least 8 different species of pollinators (Visit www.monarchsacrossga.org for a list of other pollinators).

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Water/Puddling Source (Site with damp soil, sand, etc.)

_____	_____	_____
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Basking Sites (Places to rest in the direct rays of the sun)

_____	_____	_____
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Shelter (What types of cover can pollinators find on your property that protects them from weather, predators, human activity?)

_____	Dense shrubs	_____	Evergreens	_____	Brush piles
_____	Log piles	_____	Ground covers		

Other features for shelter:

_____	_____	_____
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CONSERVATION PRACTICES:

Applicant must practice at least 9 of the following 18 conservation practices for certification. Please check those that apply.

- Removal of invasive pest plants
- Compost yard and food waste
- Use natural soil amendments (such as compost or well-aged manure)
- Mulching
- Avoid chemical pesticides, herbicides, or insecticides where possible
- Control pests naturally by encouraging beneficial insects
- Use drip or soaker hoses, instead of an overhead sprinkler
- Use a rain barrel or other means of capturing/utilizing rainwater to irrigate plants.
- Direct downspouts and gutters to drain onto the lawn, plant beds, or containment areas.
- Water plants no more than once week, if necessary.
- Maintain a layer of organic mulch over tree roots, shrubs and plant beds.
- Replace problem-prone plants with low maintenance native species.
- Xeriscape (A landscape technique which has reduced requirements for water by using native plants and shrubs or other drought tolerant plants.)
- Plant groundcovers or use mulch on thinly vegetated areas to decrease erosion.
- Reduce or eliminate lawn areas
- Eliminate chemical fertilizers and use natural fertilizers, such as compost and manure.
- Sweep grass clippings, fertilizer, and soil from driveway onto lawn. Remove trash from street gutters.
- Other (please specify): _____

Check which one you are requesting.

- Certification with certificate only.....\$10.00
- Certification with certificate and *Certified Pollination Garden* metal sign\$38.00

I confirm that the above is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Signature

Date

Please mail the completed form and payment, along with sketches and photographs to:

Monarchs Across Georgia Pollinator Habitat Certification
c/o Karen Garland
3160 Shiloh Place
Canton, GA 30115



Pollinator Habitat Certification Photo Release Form



Participant's Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

I, the above-named participant ("you") am voluntarily giving Monarchs Across Georgia permission to use photographs or drawings that I have submitted in conjunction with the Pollinator Habitat Certification for educational purposes. I understand that Monarchs Across Georgia retains the right to reproduce these images at any time, in any manner or medium. I also agree that Monarchs Across Georgia does not need my consent or approval of the finished product or copy that may be used in connection with the images. I further agree to release and discharge Monarchs Across Georgia, its agents or third parties, and all persons acting under Monarchs Across Georgia permission or authority, from any liability by virtue of any blurring, cropping, or alteration, that may occur or be produced. I understand that I will not receive any compensation for their use. I further understand that Monarchs Across Georgia may not be able to return the original Images that I have submitted.

I certify that you have read this form and understand it.

Signature of Participant
or Parent or Legal Guardian (if Participant is a minor)*

Date

*It is important to have the photo release form signed. Due to federal law, Monarchs Across Georgia cannot show photos of minor children without parental permission.