

## **Monarch Live – Interagency Preview Telecast**

### **Part 2 of 2**

And just to briefly touch on the events again that were mentioned in the video, the kickoff is October 10th, from noon until 1:00 eastern time.

We are going to have Karen OBREHHauser on the program.

She is a leading Monarch biologist.

And Donita Cotter, who is with us today, will be talking about the citizen projects that classrooms and teachers can take part in.

In February, on February 17th, we are going to be doing Monarch butterfly biosphere research and we are excited about bringing the program to classrooms.

We're going to be on the mountaintop, and we understand that this is the first time that anybody has broadcast live from there.

So, this ought to be an exciting opportunity for kids.

Later that week, February 19th, we're going to be at OLTONARI community center, a Mexican non-governmental organization working on sustainable practices for that community so that they can better preserve the Mexican mountains, and then in May, 19th, we're going to Chicago to talk about how little spaces for Monarchs, pollinators and other wildlife can have big results for the communities themselves but certainly for pollinators.

On May 21st, we're going to Monarch Lab and talking about the summer population of Monarchs and how that summer population expands and a bit about what the threats are to the Monarchs during that summer breeding time.

And lastly, on May 28th, we're going to Point Pele National Park in Ontario, Canada which is a very important place, especially when the Monarchs are returning south because it's a location where they cluster and roost before they cross the Great Lakes.

So, I have covered a lot of dates.

All of this is going to be on the website.

So, please have a look.

Please register, and I'm happy to take any questions that you might have.

You can email me.

My email address is LIERCKKP@PWCS.EDU or call me.

I'm just happy to answer any questions that I can.

And now, I would like to introduce Kathy, who is the senior vice president of Project Learning Tree.

>> Thank you, Kristy.

Well, I'm pleased to be here as well, and joining my colleagues and all of you out there who are supporting quality environmental education and getting kids outside.

As many of you know, I'm sure, Project Learning Tree is an international environmental education program.

We provide professional development for educators across the world.

We develop and implement pre-K through 12 environmental education curriculum materials and last year alone, across North America, we reached over 30,000 educators in professional development workshops.

So we're very excited to be a part of this MonarchLive! Initiative, partnering with all of the federal agencies and other NGOs.

We are especially excited because two of the things that we are going to be contributing are encouraging you to get the students outside, and to help create habitats for all of the pollinators.

We know how important it is to get students outside.

Sandy mentioned that, and I know all of you are probably familiar with Richard Lou's, "Last child in the woods" which spurred on a movement to continue the efforts that I know all of you have been doing to get the kids outside to learn.

We have all recognized the importance of this for many years, and have been doing our best to encourage students to take advantage of the sites that we all have to offer and the knowledge that you all bring as resource managers and biologists and educators.

We are encouraging kids to get outside and learn about the world around us and our place in it and our place in it.

This MonarchLive! Will open the door to get kids outside to learn about Monarchs and other pollinators.

Once we get kids outside, we want to engage them in meaningful experiences.

Greenworks is one such approach.

Greenworks has project Learning tree's service Learning program where we provide grants to educators and their students and other folks who work with young people to integrate community service with the academic curriculum.

We combine the environmental knowledge and the resources of our program and your programs along with community action initiatives.

We believe that greenworks can make a difference in students' lives. It helps them understand a sense of community responsibility and helps them develop a deeper understanding of their relationship to the environment.

They're used to reinforce classroom learning.

They're beneficial to the community, and they can be fun.

Last year alone, over 100 projects happened across this country.

So, as part of MonarchLive! Project Learning tree is offering special greenworks grants to students to develop habitat for pollinators.

Gardens, butterfly gardens and other spaces to make it possible for the students to understand their role that the pollinators can play in their lives.

We encourage all of you to get involved in your communities, whether it's with a local school, with a scout troop, or an after school program.

You can apply with a greenworks grant by partnering with young people to create these habitats for butterflies.

I would encourage all of you not just to encourage schools to get involved in participating in the webcasts and such, but actually to get outside and to develop a habitat for butterflies and other pollinators.

If you go to as a project learning tree website, you will see the information on how you can receive a grant or how you can encourage your partners to receive these grants.

We have a special deadline for the MonarchLive! Program.

That's December 1st.

We're hopeful after the kickoff in October you can get your students

engaged in developing a proposal that you will submit to us and we will be able to provide funds for to you develop the habitat over the next several months.

There's also a link to this website from the MonarchLive! Website as well. So, I hope to get a lot of applications from all of our partners in this project.

Thank you.

And now I'd like to turn the program over to Donita Cotter from the national wildlife refuge system and she is going to be addressing citizen science.

>> Well, thank you, Kathy.

I'm really excited to be here today to talk about how MonarchLive! Fits in with some pretty exciting tri-national conservation efforts that are underway.

As we have seen in the video earlier, Monarch conservation is all about habitat.

Throughout the lifecycle, Monarch butterflies depend on habitats in Canada the United States and Mexico and conservation of the migration phenomenon requires conservation action in all three countries.

In the fall, in August, as the day grow shorter, the fall migration begins and millions of Monarchs make their way south.

By late November, most have reached their winter destinations and they spend the next five months overwintering in a dormant state in the high mountains of northern Mexico.

In the spring in March as the temperatures rise, the Monarch become

active, mate and begin to move north.

By May or June, most of the Monarchs have returned to the United States.

The females lay eggs on milkweed plants and die.

The caterpillars feed exclusively on milkweed.

The adult butterflies fly north in May and establish another brood.

The cycle conditions until late summer when another generation begins in Canada.

In late August, this generation begins anew embarking on the fall migration south to Mexico.

MonarchLive! Provides a unique opportunity to be involved in continental conservation.

In the past couple of years, government agency, organizations and researchers across North America have been involved in developing the North American Monarch conservation plan.

This plan is available online in Spanish, English and French, and it addresses some of the priority conservation actions we need to take in all three countries to preserve the migration phenomenon.

The major elements of the plan are habitat conservation and restoration, monitoring, and public outreach and environmental education.

Some of the key -- next slide, please.

The key strategies in the plan relate to an initiative to create a sister sites network to collaborate on Monarch conservation, the strategies are linked to existing citizen science projects, and we are also providing training and tools to -- to interact with these citizen science projects and implement habitat conservation projects in our sister sites network.

Next slide.

The sister sites network is a growing partnership among agencies like the national wildlife refuge system, the national parks service, the forest service, the bureau of land management and Texas parks and wildlife department to collaborate with our sister agencies in Canada and Mexico on monarch conservation activities and create monarch habitat areas.

Another key element of this strategies in the plan relates to citizen science and why citizen science.

Citizen science involves people who are volunteers, teachers, students, and it involves them in scientific research.

A lot of what we know about the monarch butterfly has been -- has been learned from citizen science projects.

And the plan acknowledges the contribution those projects have made and the important role that citizen scientists can play.

Some of the citizen science projects that are going to be highlighted in the monarchLive! Project are journey north, which is an online global study of wildlife migration, where students in grades kindergarten through 12 can report their field observations of the monarch butterfly migration.

Monarch watch is a project based at the University of Kansas, that involves volunteers who tag butterflies and assist scientists in learning about the fall migration, and population dynamics, the monarch larva, monitoring project based at the University of Minnesota, collects long term data, on larva monarch populations, and milkweed habitat in the breeding areas in North America and the North American butterfly association counts are conducted every summer the Fourth of July by

volunteers in the U.S. and Canada, and parts of northern Mexico.

These are censuses that are just done in one day to learn about species distribution and population sizes.

So, those are just a few of the citizen science projects that you can learn about in the MonarchLive! Program, and we are working together with our sister agencies to develop monitoring training workshops and Monarch monitoring handbook that will also provide you with the tools that you need to become more involved in citizen science projects on your field stations.

And so, I would encourage you all to get involved and stay tuned for further developments in the area of training and tools.

I guess we'll head back to Randy now.

>> Well, thanks, Donita.

Thanks, everybody.

As promised that was a very quick overview of MonarchLive!.

Couple of important things to remember before we close out.

Number within, the kickoff date is October 10th.

That's going to be live from prince William county schools, in Virginia.

And also the registration.

That's very important.

You have seen we have got a lot of federal agency partners, it's important that we all work on getting the word out to schools, and we have made that easy to do.

Take a look at the contact information, mark, if you go to the slide, we'll see the website there, [monarch.pwnet.org](http://monarch.pwnet.org).

You will find fliers that you can print out in English or Spanish.

You can email those out as well or simply email the website to colleagues or to school teachers.

Again, it doesn't have to be just schools.

It can be boy scout, girl scout groups, 4H clubs, home schoolers.

The more the merrier, we welcome everybody.

Kristy is our main contact.

You can see Kristy's email and phone number right there.

So, again, thanks to everybody in the studio for helping out today.

We hope that you will be able to join us for the October 10th program.

Thanks again.

Bye-bye.