



UCCE Master Gardener's of Glenn County Newsgram

February 2020

Western Monarch Summit 2020

By Michel Mendoza UCCE GCMG

On January 10, 2020 both experts and passionate volunteers converged on Camel Valley, California to share and discuss the plight of the western monarch and overall issues related to vulnerable species. Included in this sold out conference were individuals from other parts of the country. They all came to share and learn the latest activities and data related to fostering and protecting the monarch.

The conference participants were honored with a keynote speech by Dr. Robert M. Pyle, founder of the Xerces Society to regional updates and information regarding what others are doing; from the overwintering site of Pacific Grove, Monarchs in the Santa Monica Mountains, Idaho Monarch, the Monarch in Nevada to the project of data collection in Arizona. There were other distinguished speakers too numerous to mention.

There was an abundance of scientific data and information, not to mention the amazing activities throughout the region and the country to recount here. It was truly a worthwhile conference. One comes away with the need to digest the information and research in more depth.

We the Glenn County Master Gardeners are now part of this movement with the recent grant from the Xerces Society Monarch kit we received to develop waystations for the Western Monarch. We have distributed the kit consisting of 1600 nectar and milk plants at two sites. The sites are located at Murdoch Elementary School in Willows and Orland High School. We are very excited about our collaboration and the future development of these sites and educational opportunities. Masters Gardener will begin to do our part in saving the Monarch with the help of the community.

Here are some resources you may wish to seek more information about activities:

<http://www.westernmonarchadvocates.com/>

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/WesternMonarchAdvocates/>

<http://www.xerces.org>



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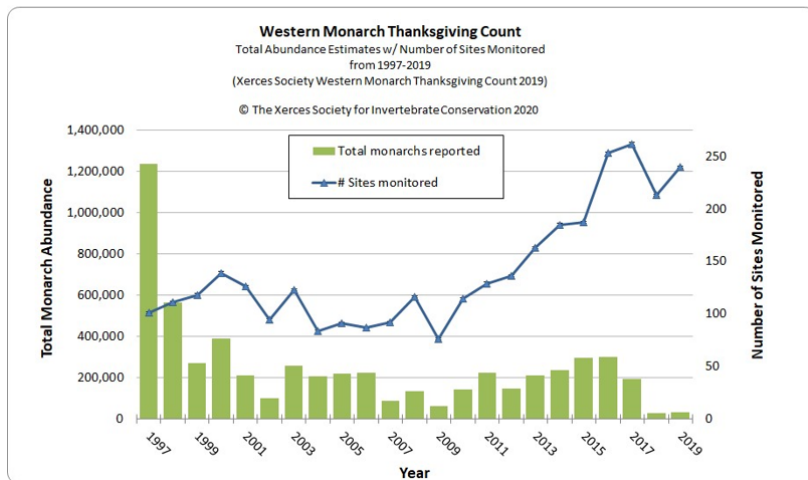
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The 2019 Western Monarch Thanksgiving Count results have been released.

Information from the Xerces Society Blog

The 2019 Western Monarch Thanksgiving Count revealed a critically low California overwintering population (released by the Xerces Society), almost identical to last year's population which fell to the lowest level ever recorded. Thanksgiving Count volunteers documented only 29,418 butterflies, less than 1% of the population observed in the 1980s. Xerces writes, "While it is encouraging that the population did not shrink any further, the number of overwintering monarchs in California continues to hover just below 30,000 monarchs—the minimum threshold estimate below which the population may collapse." Several factors continue to impact the decline of the western population, in both the breeding and overwintering areas of the west.



Snow Pack as of February 1

The National Weather Service office in Sacramento is reporting that the snow pack for the state is at 72% of average. For Northern California it sits at 76% of average, Southern CA is at 67% of average.

Current outlooks are calling for warmer and drier than average conditions over the next four months, with Feb-March being the driest.



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Master Gardener Calendar

February meeting on the 5th at the office in Orland.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection for Glenn County Residents, Saturday February 8, 9:00—1:00 at the dump, Road 33 in Artois.

Nursery Crawl February 28 and 29 at several local nurseries.

April 8– Honey Bee Hobby Day

April 18-Composting event at Ace Hardware in Orland

CE Hours

July 1 will be here before you know it and we all need 12 hours of Continuing Education. Butte County Master Gardeners have listed their workshops for spring 2020 on their website. Visit their website for more information.

MGs can also sit in on the classes for new MG training on Tuesday afternoons. The class schedule and sign-ups to sit in on the classes can be found on the clip board with plant clinic sign-ups.

Pest Notes-Top Ten in 2019

These Pest Notes were the most viewed on the UCANR website in 2019. Most of them are pests that we received questions about in the plant clinic but a few we have not had questions about.

1. Aphids
2. Thrips
3. Peach Leaf Curl
4. Scales
5. Fungus Gnats
6. Mealybugs
7. Opossum
8. Carpet beetles
9. Ground Squirrels
10. Whiteflies

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event

Residents of Glenn County can drop off hazardous waste on February 8 from 9 - 1 at the dump on County Road 33 in Artois. Residents can drop off unwanted pesticides, cleaners, fluorescent light bulbs, fertilizers, batteries, paints and solvents. E-waste will not be accepted.

Take advantage of this service and help keep our water and soil clean.

