



In anticipation of balmy spring: Marsh Marigold and Skunk Cabbage *en masse*.

February 2019

SEEDLINGS

Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones

What more substantial service to conservation than to practice it on one's own land?--Aldo Leopold

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Your Yard and Farm

Dr. Rufus Isaacs

Wednesday, February 27th at 7pm.

[More Info](#)



KAWO 2019 Election Results

Kim Patrie

We had a wonderful turnout and participation for our Executive Committee elections this year. We have three new at-large members: Sharon Dever, Noel Ocen-Gorgone, and Mike Vanderveen. Please welcome them and thank them for stepping up to keep our organization strong.

2019 Kalamazoo Chapter Executive Committee (Board of Directors):

Office	Name
President	Neil Sikora
Vice President	Open

Secretary	David Riggs
Treasurer	Margo Rebar
At-Large Member	Ann Klobucar
At-Large Member	Sharon Dever
At-Large Member	Noel Ocen-Gorgone
At-Large Member	Mike Vanderveen

A tremendous THANK YOU to all who have served, both past and present. Your time, your presence, and your concern for the welfare of our environment and our chapter are valued and appreciated.

Monarch Population Status: Good News!

Ilse Gebhart



On January 30, 2019 World Wildlife Fund Mexico (WWF) in collaboration with Comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas (CONANP) and *Fundación Telmex Telcel* announced the total forest area occupied by overwintering monarch colonies. Fourteen (14) colonies were located this winter season with a total area of 6.05 hectares (14.95 acres), a 144% increase from the previous season and the highest since 2006. (See graph below.)

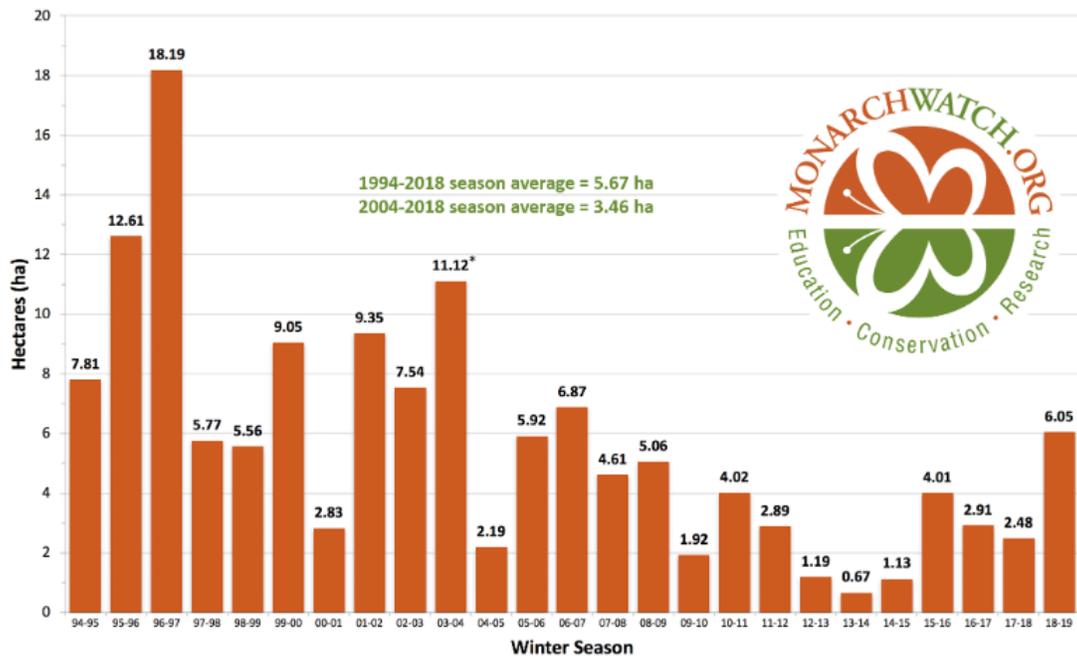
This great news was due to weather conditions, primarily temperature, which were more favorable for population growth than for any year since 2001. These conditions, as outlined by Chip Taylor, Founder and Director of Monarch Watch, were:

- 1) Overwintering monarchs (returning migrants) returned to Texas on time (mid March) and in good numbers.
- 2) Mean temperatures in March for Texas were 5.4F above normal, which enabled plant growth and reduced development time for monarch immatures (eggs, larvae, pupae).
- 3) While most of TX was warm, cold weather in northern TX blocked movement of monarchs both into N TX and OK well into April.
- 4) The result was that the returning monarchs laid most of their eggs in TX rather than spreading them further north into areas with cooler temperatures and longer development times for immatures.
- 5) The net effect was the production of a large number of first generation monarchs in TX that migrated northward in May.
- 6) May temperatures (+6.9F) for the Upper Midwest were nearly optimal for movement and allowed large numbers of monarchs to reach the northern breeding grounds between May 11-30; the temporal "sweet spot" for recolonization.
- 7) Recolonization was followed by higher than normal June temperatures (3.9F for IA) that enabled and hastened the development of the second generation.
- 8) Summer temperatures for the Upper Midwest averaged 2.0 F above normal and these temperatures also favored population growth of the second and third generations.

While positive news is most welcome, we must not let up on creating more habitat for monarchs and other pollinators as ideal conditions like this past year are not the norm. And don't forget to register your native plantings as monarch waystations at:

<https://shop.monarchwatch.org/product/Waystation-Certification-Application/190004>

Total Area Occupied by Monarch Colonies at Overwintering Sites in Mexico



1994-2018 season average = 5.67 ha
2004-2018 season average = 3.46 ha

Data for 1994-2003 collected by personnel of the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve (MBBR) of the National Commission of Natural Protected Areas (CONANP) in Mexico. Data for 2004-2017 collected by World Wildlife Fund Mexico in coordination with the Directorate of the MBBR.

* Represents colony sizes measured in November of 2003 before the colonies consolidated. Measures obtained in January 2004 indicated the population was much smaller, possibly 8-9 hectares. CT

Community Events of Interest to Wild Ones

March 10-11 - 9am-5pm Maple Syrup Festival, Kalamazoo Nature Center

June 8 - 9am-12pm Wild Edibles Workshop at Kellogg Bird Sanctuary

Editor's note: If you know of any local events pertaining to native plants that you feel may interest our readers, please send them along to us at the address below. Thanks!

SEEDLINGS is edited by Tom Small and Kim Patrie. It appears mostly monthly. The next regular issue will come early in March. **Deadline for submission is March 15.** Please send submissions to Tom at yard2prairy@gmail.com or Kim at safiraraks@gmail.com

To share comments and suggestions, simply reply to this email. We look forward to hearing from you!

Find more information and news at www.KalamazooWildOnes.org
and www.Facebook.com/KalamazooAreaWildOnes



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