

FRIENDS OF CEDAR CREEK, NOVEMBER 29, 2016

David Van Gilder, President, called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Randy Roberts moved, Kurt Humbrecht seconded that the minutes from September 20, 2016 be approved. Minutes were approved. To further information available about Cedar Creek, Dave Van Gilder has set up the FOCC meetings to explain more about the natural features. Jason Kissel, Executive Director of ACRES Land Trust, will be speaking January 24, 2017 on the topics of forest ecology and tree identification. Larry Yoder will be speaking on maple sugaring March 28, maybe at the Yoder Farm. INPAWS (Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society) may be scheduled in May (23 or 30) on plant identification and invasives. July 25 is scheduled for the Annual Meeting. Email notifications of the meetings will be sent out two weeks prior to the meetings.

Our speaker, Lisa Esquivel Long, Master Naturalist and Metro Editor at the News-Sentinel, signed up to volunteer at Metea and Fox Island where she counted Monarch butterflies. Orange is her favorite color and provided a lead-in to Monarch, the Perfect Pet. A Master Naturalist is required to provide education to others: in this case she is helping to save a species and demonstrated how to create a way station while beautifying your own yard. Monarchs migrate from Mexico to Canada and return to winter in Mexico. A slide show, showing her container with an egg, developing into a larva, pupa, and adult: 3-5 days from egg, 5 instars (molting to larger size each with six true legs and prolegs), and 14 days for pupating before turning black and developing into an adult. Her first trial was a fatality, but subsequent eggs were successful. She shared that there are four generations for the life cycle (9 months in Mexico) with overwintering only in Mexico. Lisa recommended Flight Behavior by Barbara Kingsolver as a good book to read. She noted that a similar butterfly is the Viceroy which is bigger.

The Monarchs are mostly in Canada and eastern US looking for nectar and only milkweed as a food source for larvae (Common, Butterflyweed, Swamp, and Whorled). This past summer in this area they were found on Swamp Milkweed (*incarnata*) more than others with one egg per plant. By late July and August some plants had two eggs per plant.

For persons interested in raising Monarchs, collect leaves from milkweed only in the public right of way, or Little River Wetlands or Fox Island. Leaves can be refrigerated prior to feeding (one per day): the toxin in the leaf is what makes the caterpillar and butterfly icky. Lisa kept a plant and caterpillar in the newsroom, but noted that it needed to be confined in a container or it would wander off. At chrysalis time, it will go from green to black in 24 hours. The fluid in the abdomen is pumped into the wings as they expand in preparation for flight.

Monarch Watch will have IDs to put on the wings (sticker). She showed the easy way to discriminate male from female adults: 2 black dots at the bottom of the wings for males, no black dots for females. June and July are good times for Monarch Watch events. monarchwatch.org is a good place to start (free milkweed and can get a monarch way

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station). A good place to put one is around purple coneflower and Joe Pye weed which are perennial and self sustaining. She also recommended the Master Naturalist program (Jody Heaston at Oubache State Park, jheaston@dnr.IN.gov). The classes are Tuesday nights and Saturday mornings (4 hrs) February - May plus 30 volunteer hours for Advanced Master Naturalist.

Wildlife sightings: Warren Mead saw a Great Horned Owl just before the meeting. Randy Roberts saw a dead deer on Chapman Road (shot with a hole in the shoulder) and a fox sighting across Coldwater Rd. Warren also saw two turkeys and black squirrels in Huntertown. Dave Van Gilder saw a Bald Eagle at the Allen/Whitley county line. A wandering potbellied pig was seen around the Humbrechts.

The next meeting will be January 24, 2017 at the ACRES office on Chapman Road. The meeting adjourned at 8:00pm after which milkweed seeds were shared with those interested in growing their own plants.

Respectfully submitted,

MA Feitler
Secretary