

Enclave Butterfly Garden Report: Meet The Monarch

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At Enclave Butterfly Garden this year we've been seeing Monarch butterflies and their caterpillars. And this fall we will be seeing even more Monarchs as they pass through Fall Creek en route to their overwintering grounds in Mexico.

The Monarch is the world's best known butterfly. Yet Monarchs are, nonetheless, mysterious. Each spring and fall they migrate up to 3000 miles between the Oyamel Fir Forests of Mexico and the Northern U.S. and Canada. How do new generations of Monarchs who've never been to these forests know to fly back to them? Is geographical information passed through DNA, and if so, how? Despite all humanity's technological and scientific advances, no one knows for sure. Monarchs are so mysterious, mystery is

even written in their wings. Their marginal pattern of black with white dots is reminiscent of the night sky and its fathomlessness, a reminder of all we do not know and the endless stars and galaxies we will never see. And their wings' orange and gold panels framed by thick black lines resemble a church's stained-glass windows and seem just as filled with wonder and grace.

Unfortunately, the number of migrating Monarchs has decreased rapidly—by over 88% since 1996, according to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. To help this butterfly along its migration and attract it to your yard, you can plant their favorite flowers, such as Milkweed, Lantana, Verbena, Sunflowers, Gregg's Mistflower, or Fall Aster. Also, on some sunny fall day at Enclave Butterfly Garden, you can try and spot one taking a long sip of nectar to refuel its journey. To visit, simply park in front of "the little pool" at 3600 Mesa Drive and follow the sidewalk past the pool until you come to a garden unmistakably shaped like the butterflies it's designed to support and celebrate.