

# The Leaflet

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FOREST PRESERVES

## The Magnificent Monarch Butterfly

*Butterflies emerging from their chrysalis, surrounded by other chrysalises waiting for wings!*

## LIVING WITH WILDLIFE WHY DID THE TURTLE CROSS THE ROAD?

### (and how you can help)

This time of year many wildlife, like turtles, are on the move. As the weather warms, turtles go in search of new territory, breeding opportunities, and sources of food. Also, many females will travel to find ideal places to lay their eggs and will often cross the roads. Please keep a lookout for them while you're driving this season.

#### Helping Turtles Cross the Street

- **Always keep your own safety in mind**—watch out for oncoming vehicles, signal properly when pulling over and recognize your surroundings first before working to help save an animal.
- **Be very careful when moving the animal** (it could be injured or it could bite you depending on the species). If possible, sometimes it is best to just stand guard as the animal crosses the road on its own. If you need to pick it up, grasp it firmly by both sides of the body, in front of its hind legs.

- **If the animal needs to be moved, move it to the other side of the road in the same direction it was going.** Using a car mat can be a good way to help the turtles across without actually picking them up. By using a car mat or putting something under the turtle, you can slide the turtle in the direction it was going.



- **Do not pick the turtle up by the tail.** Some turtles may be frightened and will try to bite (like snapping turtles).
- **Do NOT take it with you**—please only focus on helping it get safely to the other side.

*Source: US Fish and Wildlife Service*

**The lifecycle of the Monarch Butterfly is fascinating!** An egg the size of a dewdrop hatches into a tiny caterpillar that is shorter than an eyelash. This little eating machine eventually turns into a beautiful butterfly that will travel thousands of miles across two countries!

#### Monarchs Connect Us

- They symbolize the common human experience of transformation and new beginnings.
- Monarch migration links two countries: America and Mexico.
- In Mexico, *la mariposa monarca* is often part of *Día de los Muertos* celebrations.
- During World War II, U.S. civilians collected milkweed seedpods to support the war effort. (The exhibit tells you how.)
- Today, some people raise butterflies at home.



#### Lending a Helping Hand

Monarch populations have been in serious decline, and many people are helping by planting milkweed at home, raising butterflies, and tagging and tracking adult butterfly migration.

In June this year, a historic vote will take place about whether to place the Monarch Butterfly on the Endangered Species list in the United States.



#### Visit Our Special Exhibit!

The Homer Lake Interpretive Center's 2019 special exhibit, *More than Migration: Monarchs Bring us Together*, is now open! Stop by now through the end of December to learn more about these fascinating creatures, how they

connect us, and how you can help them survive for generations to come. We will even have live caterpillars on display June-September! For more information and Center hours visit [ccfpd.org](http://ccfpd.org).

To celebrate monarch butterflies and our 2019 exhibit, we have beautiful **FREE bookmarks available!** A NEW bookmark will be available each month; stop by during the Center's regular hours to collect them all!

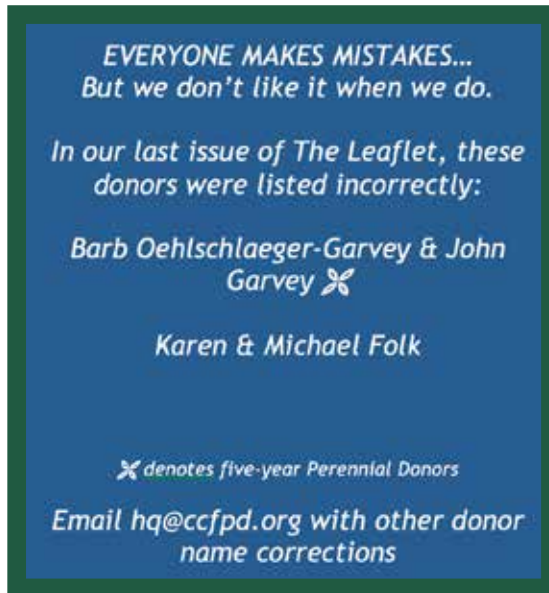


## SUMMER PROGRAMS ABOUT MONARCHS

Thursday, July 18 and Wednesday August 14, 1-2:30 p.m.  
**MEET THE MONARCHS**

Homer Lake Interpretive Center

Stop by the Interpretive Center to see how our resident monarch caterpillars are doing! Learn more about the monarch life cycle, see caterpillars and chrysalises up close, and maybe even witness the release of some butterflies! Stations will be set up for participants to view specimens through microscopes. You can also pick up some free milkweed seeds, and create a craft. FREE. All Ages. For more info: (217) 896-2455 or jwick@ccfpd.org.



## PLANS, PLANS, PLANS...

The Forest Preserve District is embarking on an update to its strategic plan. We undertake strategic planning to connect the organization's mission and vision by addressing these three questions:

- What is the purpose of the Champaign County Forest Preserve District? (Mission)
- What do we want to achieve? (Vision)
- How are we going to get there? (Plan)

What's critical in this process is your input! We've developed an outline based on the legislation that

established downstate forest preserve districts, an evaluation of our previous work, feedback from residents, and discussion among our boards and staff.

**Now we'd like to hear from you!** You'll find the draft outline and a questionnaire at [www.ccfpd.org/strategic.pdf](http://www.ccfpd.org/strategic.pdf). Answer any or all of the questions and drop us an email at [HQ@ccfpd.org](mailto:HQ@ccfpd.org).

Thank you for your feedback!

## PUBLIC PROGRAMS

### JUNE

Saturday, June 1st  
**DARK SKY PARK DEDICATION CELEBRATION**  
Activity Center, Middle Fork River Forest Preserve,  
6 p.m.-12 a.m.

Weather-permitting, the program will go until midnight, but you may leave when you wish. Call (217) 351-2567 for weather updates.

Thursday, June 6  
**SPECIAL EXHIBIT: WE SAW THEM ON THE BEACHES: D-DAY AND BEYOND FROM A LOCAL PERSPECTIVE**  
June 6 to October 14 - Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.  
All Ages. FREE.

Friday, June 7  
**NATURE PLAY PRE-K: MUD KITCHEN**  
Natural Playscape, Homer Lake Forest Preserve,  
10-11 a.m.  
FREE. Space is limited. Register by June 6 at [ccfpd.org](http://ccfpd.org).

Friday, June 7  
**WILD EDIBLES**  
Interpretive Center, Homer Lake Forest Preserve,  
6-7:30 p.m.  
FREE. All ages. Register by June 6 at [ccfpd.org](http://ccfpd.org).

Sunday, June 9  
**SUMMER GARDEN CONCERT SERIES: TIMBALÚ**  
Mabery Gelvin Botanical Gardens, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 5-7 p.m.  
FREE. Other refreshments will be available for purchase. All ages.

Monday, June 10  
**MUSEUM MONDAYS: ART IN NATURE**  
Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.  
FREE. All ages. Drop-in program.

Monday, June 17  
**MUSEUM MONDAYS: LEARNING WITH LINCOLN**  
Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.  
Program supported by the Looking for Lincoln Heritage Coalition. FREE. All ages.



Saturday, June 22  
**TAKE ME FISHING**  
Walnut Hill Shelter, Homer Lake Forest Preserve,  
9-11 a.m.  
All event fishing is catch-and-release. Adult supervision of children 15 and under is required. FREE. All ages.

Sunday, June 23  
**MUSIC ON THE LAKE: KILBORN ALLEY**  
Walnut Hill Shelter, Homer Lake Forest Preserve, 5-7 p.m.  
FREE. All ages. Refreshments will be available for purchase.

Monday, June 24  
**MUSEUM MONDAYS: CARS AND TRUCKS AND THINGS THAT GO!**  
Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.  
FREE. All ages. Drop-in program.

Saturday, June 29  
**BISON BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION!**  
Activity Center, Middle Fork River Forest Preserve,  
1-3 p.m.  
Join us for an interactive bison birthday celebration and learn all about these amazing creatures! FREE. All ages.

### JULY

Monday, July 8  
**MUSEUM MONDAYS: ADVENTURES IN CLAY**  
Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.  
FREE. All ages. Drop-in program.

Friday, July 5  
**NATURE PLAY PRE-K: BUSY BEES**  
Natural Playscape, Homer Lake Forest Preserve, 10-11 a.m.  
FREE. Space is limited. Register by July 4 at [ccfpd.org](http://ccfpd.org).

Friday, July 12  
**SUMMER IN THE SCHOOLHOUSE: HISTORY**  
Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.  
FREE. All ages.

Saturday, July 13  
**CANOEING FOR BEGINNERS**  
Walnut Hill Boat Launch, Homer Lake Forest Preserve,  
9-11 a.m. or 1-3 p.m.  
Minimum age to participate is 8 years old; an adult must accompany children under 18. \$8 per person, or \$4 if you bring your own canoe. Space is limited. Register by July 12 via phone or email: (217) 896-2455 or [jwick@ccfpd.org](mailto:jwick@ccfpd.org).

Sunday, July 14  
**SUMMER GARDEN CONCERT: CORDUROY**  
Mabery Gelvin Botanical Garden, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve  
FREE. Refreshments will be available for purchase. All ages.

Monday, July 15  
**MUSEUM MONDAYS: KITES FOR KIDS**  
Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.  
FREE. All ages. Drop-in program..

Thursday, July 18  
**MEET THE MONARCHS**  
Interpretive Center, Homer Lake Forest Preserve, 1-2:30 p.m.  
FREE. All ages.

Friday, July 19  
**SUMMER IN THE SCHOOLHOUSE: GEOGRAPHY**  
Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.  
FREE. All ages.

Details on each program and registration can be found at [www.CCFPD.org](http://www.CCFPD.org)

Saturday, July 20  
**HOMERDOODLE IN THE WOODS: A LETTERBOXING EXTRAVAGANZA**  
Lake of the Woods Pavilion, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Monday, July 22  
**MUSEUM MONDAYS: I SCREAM, YOU SCREAM...**  
Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.  
FREE. All ages. Drop-in program.

Friday, July 26  
**SUMMER IN THE SCHOOLHOUSE: ARITHMETIC**  
Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.  
FREE. All ages. Drop-in program.

Saturday, July 27  
**TAKE ME FISHING**  
Boathouse Peninsula, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 9-11 a.m.  
All event fishing is catch-and-release. Adult supervision of children 15 and under is required. FREE. All ages.

Sunday, July 28  
**MUSIC ON THE LAKE: THE LOU DIBELLO BAND**  
Walnut Hill Shelter, Homer Lake Forest Preserve,  
5-7 p.m.  
FREE. Other refreshments will be available for purchase. All ages.

Monday, July 29  
**MUSEUM MONDAYS: HOME, SWEET HOME**  
Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.  
FREE. All ages. Drop-in program.