



*Connecting Lessons from the past
with a vision for the future*

For Immediate Release:

Weldon Spring Site and Partners to Host Monarch Madness Event September 12

Visitors will enjoy a fun, free family event with food, music, catching butterflies, and making muddy seed balls, all to support monarch butterflies.

St. Charles, MO – How do they do it? The monarch butterfly captures our imagination as they flit and glide among wildflowers, backyards, and parks. We dream of childhood and warm summer days as they dance through the skies. Yet, their dance has a purpose. Adult monarch butterflies are making an incredible, 3,000 mile journey south to the mountains of central Mexico each September. There they will stay, gathered in colonies of millions waiting for warm spring days. When warmer days do come, the monarchs will awake from hibernation to begin the migration journey north. But these winter survivors won't make the full journey. It takes several generations of monarchs to fly north, find good habitat, lay eggs, and let the next generation carry on.

Discover all things monarch and celebrate their amazing lives at Monarch Madness, Saturday, September 12, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Weldon Spring Site in St. Charles, MO. The event is free and open to all! Enjoy kids crafts, games, expert speakers, native garden demonstrations, butterfly tagging, food trucks, music, and more. You can even purchase native plants and collect free seeds in a fun, muddy seed ball activity to support monarchs at your home.

The event is sponsored by the Weldon Spring Site, which is managed by the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Legacy Management, and the Missourians for Monarchs, Missouri Master Naturalists, Missouri Department of Conservation, and Great Rivers Greenway.

“Monarch butterflies need us” says Samantha Stolle, Missouriian’s for Monarchs Event Coordinator. “The habitat of all pollinators has been dwindling each year, making survival very tough.” It’s estimated that in the last 20 years, monarch populations have gone from more than 1 billion to less than 60 million. That’s an estimated population less than 80% of historic levels. Stolle says that “this icon of summer in the Midwest may be gone if we don’t act!”

“We chose the Weldon Spring Site as the inaugural event’s host because of the amazing transformation and restoration to native prairie” says Stolle.

The Weldon Spring Site was once home to WWII and Cold War era factories. Today, the site preserves the legacy of the peoples’ and site’s contributions to those wars, the subsequent environmental

contamination, and chronicles the environmental cleanup with restoration to native prairie. The US Department of Energy Office of Legacy Management is the steward of the site implementing a long term surveillance and maintenance plan that includes an Interpretive Center and 41-acre disposal cell.

“Monarch restoration needs success stories like the Weldon Spring Site. Everyone can contribute in making a real difference in monarch survival with even just a few native plants at home” says Stolle.

Monarch Madness is free and open to all, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Limited parking will be available on-site. Additional parking is available at the neighboring Francis Howell High School with a short, half-mile, walk on the gravel Hamburg Trail to the site. The Weldon Spring Site is located at 7295 Highway 94, approximately two miles south of I-64/Hwy 40. Contact the Weldon Spring Site for more information: 636-300-2600 or WSInterpretiveCenter@lm.doe.gov



Media Contact:

Kevin McCarthy
Interpretive Center Manager
Weldon Spring Site
636-300-2608
Kevin.McCarthy@lm.doe.gov