

MCS- Monarch Waystation Certified

Moscow Charter School is now officially a Monarch Butterfly Waystation as part of the Monarch Watch program through the University of Kansas, and in conjunction with University of Idaho and Idaho Fish and Game.

MCS Plant Club received a grant from the Palouse Prairie Foundation in the Fall of 2014 and the club began growing a variety of Palouse Native Plants and planted them in Spring 2015. After moving the plants into raised beds to avoid the bulldozer for the school's expansion, the 2015-16 6th graders received Showy Milkweed Plants when they attended the Latah County Water Conservation Day at Spring Valley.

Plant Club had an empty raised bed, so they planted the milkweed and then we began Monarch Certified earlier this week!

Brenda Erhard (pictured at right with Mr. Collins) attended the informal ceremony at Wednesday's Morning Meeting, along with Aveyn Julye from the Latah Soil and Water Conservation District and we were presented with a sign that Mr. Collins will be putting up in front of the Native Plant Garden.



This site provides milkweeds, nectar sources, and shelter needed to sustain monarch butterflies as they migrate through North America. Monarch Watch explains that “we are losing 6,000 acres of potential monarch/pollinator habitat a day in the United States due to development” and this is playing a factor in the massive decline of Monarch butterfly populations.

MCS is helping to preserve this amazing organism (the caterpillars only eat milkweed plants!) by providing them with the Showy Milkweed plants and then having Palouse Native Plants that will flower from Spring-Fall for the adults. There is additional space for more raised beds, and Plant Club will continue to work with Brenda Erhard to secure more native plants (some of which are down right impossible to grow from seed in a classroom!). Plants grown and seen in the picture above are Slender Cinquefoil, Wild Yarrow, and Gaillardia.



Great job Plant Club Members!