



GEORGIA WILDLIFE  
FEDERATION\*

# Press Release

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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### GEORGIA WILDLIFE FEDERATION JOINS NATIONAL EFFORT TO PROTECT DECLINING MONARCHS Joins Monarchs Across Georgia to Offer Free Native Plants to Help Pollinators

**Buford, GA** — As monarch butterfly populations continue to decline—eastern populations by roughly 80% and western populations by over 95%—the Georgia Wildlife Federation (GWF) is taking action. Joining affiliates of the National Wildlife Federation, GWF has officially supported the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s proposal to list the Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) as Threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Monarchs are more than just a beloved species—they’re a bellwether for the health of pollinators and ecosystems that support our food systems and natural environment.

Monarchs’ awe-inspiring, multigenerational migration from Canada to Mexico has captivated generations, yet today, their survival is jeopardized by habitat loss, pesticide use, and changes in our climate. “Monarchs fill our minds with wonder—and their decline is a wake-up call. Protecting them means protecting the entire network of pollinators that make food and ecosystems possible,” said Mike Worley, President and CEO of GWF.



Photo of monarch on butterflyweed by Hank Ohme.

To empower individuals to be part of the solution, GWF’s Mill Creek Nature Center is partnering with Monarchs Across Georgia for a **free native plant and seed giveaway** on **Saturday, June 14, from 9–11 a.m.** at Mill Creek Nature Center in Buford (across from the Mall of Georgia). Through the Habitat Hero program, visitors will receive up to five native pollinator plants or seed packets—including swamp milkweed, beebalm, blue mistflower, and more—along with educational resources to help restore pollinator habitats in their own yards. Supplies are limited so get there early.

This local event is part of a broader conservation effort during National Pollinator Month to restore high-quality habitat corridors, specifically in urban areas, that benefit monarchs and many other native pollinators. Visitors will complete a short digital survey and can subscribe to the Monarchs Across Georgia newsletter for seasonal tips.

More information and directions can be found at [gwf.org/millcreek](https://gwf.org/millcreek).

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## About Georgia Wildlife Federation

Georgia Wildlife Federation was founded as a sportsman’s organization in 1936 and is Georgia’s oldest conservation organization. Today, members include hunters, anglers, bird watchers, hikers, educators, and all Georgians who are interested in preserving our natural resources and outdoor heritage.