

Title:

“Mysterious Monarchs: what we do (and don’t) know about an iconic butterfly”

Speaker: Carrie R. Elvey

Abstract:

The Monarch is one our must beloved insects. During the winter of 2013-2014, the migrating monarch population hit at all time low, with approximately 33 million butterflies covering 0.67 hectares in Mexico. This prompted large scale concern and conservation efforts. Many organizations have become involved in research, conservation plantings, and educational efforts. In this presentation we’ll look at the historic events crucial to monarch protection, how we measure the population and what we know about threats to migration. We’ll also discuss what you can do locally to help in conservation efforts to protect this iconic butterfly. By this meeting, we will know (and have some guesses about) the overwintering outlook for the population.

Biography:

Carrie Elvey is the senior naturalist at The Wilderness Center. Carrie spent her childhood wandering the woods, bringing frogs and snakes home in her pockets. Today, she has over 25 years of experience sharing her love of the great outdoors. During and after her years as a Biology and secondary education major at Hiram College she spent a few years doing field work in Suriname, Trinidad, and Alaska and teaching inner city youth at the Manice Education Center, a residential outdoor school in Massachusetts. In 2000, Carrie returned to Holmes County and began work as a naturalist at The Wilderness Center, where she spends her days teaching and helping others to enjoy nature (and filling her pockets with frogs and snakes). At TWC, Carrie is responsible for the Ohio Certified Naturalist Program and the OAKS life-long learning program. She conducts survey/monitoring work on reptiles, amphibians, and insects, as well as teaching adult, family and school programs.