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| |  | | --- | | Recently, I was fortunate enough to visit the monarch overwintering sanctuaries in Angangueo, Mexico.  It is not possible to accurately describe the beauty of the butterflies as they roosted and flew in the oyamel fir forests.  I understand from [Journey North](https://ugaurbanag.us17.list-manage.com/track/click?u=ab9f71696076b9b09790c6f96&id=7eff0287fb&e=29c14dcedd)that the monarchs are now leaving the forests and are headed our way!  Will you be ready?  Do you have adequate floral resources and [native milkweed](https://ugaurbanag.us17.list-manage.com/track/click?u=ab9f71696076b9b09790c6f96&id=eb7f6571e2&e=29c14dcedd) coming up in your garden? | |

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| |  | | --- | | A group of butterflies on a plant  Description automatically generated with medium confidence | |

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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | *Photo from Santuario de la Mariposa Monarch "El Rosario"* | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | As part of our trip we visited a local school where we talked all things monarch butterflies with the students.  We asked them what is was like growing up in such a special place, with the monarchs just outside their doors.  We asked them what they were doing to protect the butterflies.  They answered that they were working to preserve the forests.  Then, it got interesting. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A butterfly on a leaf  Description automatically generated with low confidence | | |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | *Monarch sipping nectar from one of the many wildflowers of the oyamel forest.* | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | The students asked what **we**were doing to protect the butterflies.  Keep in mind, these students never see the caterpillars or the chrysalis stage of these butterflies.  It is important for the overwintering sites in Mexico to be protected and it is EQUALLY important that we do what we can to provide a safe environment and resources for the monarchs when they are here.  The students' questions put us in the hot seat.  What are we doing? Could I do more?  I came back from the trip with a renewed vigor to add more [native milkweed](https://ugaurbanag.us17.list-manage.com/track/click?u=ab9f71696076b9b09790c6f96&id=9415cb011f&e=29c14dcedd) to my garden, to report my monarch sightings to [Journey North,](https://ugaurbanag.us17.list-manage.com/track/click?u=ab9f71696076b9b09790c6f96&id=d4bed6b563&e=29c14dcedd) and to ensure I have nectar plants blooming during fall migration. It is the very least I can do.  If you are a monarch enthusiast, consider participating in [Monarchs Across Georgia's symbolic migration](https://ugaurbanag.us17.list-manage.com/track/click?u=ab9f71696076b9b09790c6f96&id=154325aba5&e=29c14dcedd) project.  It is open to participants from any state.  Join us on our social media channels, [Southeast Pollinator Census Facebook page](https://ugaurbanag.us17.list-manage.com/track/click?u=ab9f71696076b9b09790c6f96&id=dd995ee103&e=29c14dcedd)and [@SoutheastPollinators Instagram,](https://ugaurbanag.us17.list-manage.com/track/click?u=ab9f71696076b9b09790c6f96&id=8f47246f51&e=29c14dcedd)  Visit our website, [https://GSePC.org](https://ugaurbanag.us17.list-manage.com/track/click?u=ab9f71696076b9b09790c6f96&id=f39ba0ad31&e=29c14dcedd), for ideas on learning about and celebrating pollinators.    South Carolina, North Carolina, and Georgia are truly making a difference for monarchs, one garden, and one count at a time,  Becky Griffin Project Coordinator [beckygri@uga.edu](mailto:beckygri@uga.edu) | | |

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Description automatically generated