



## **Monarch Rearing Kits Replaced With Habitat Focused Program**

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To our partners in conservation:

For the past 15 years, Cambridge Butterfly Conservatory has worked diligently to develop educational programming that aligns with the Ontario Science and Technology curriculum and is consistent with our conservation efforts, as well as the conservation efforts of others in the scientific community. The Monarch Rearing Kit Program is an example of just such an initiative.

To ensure our educational programs are relevant, consistent with our conservation efforts and the efforts of other conservationists, and in alignment with the most recent research, all of our educational programming is constantly being evaluated.

Current research around Monarch butterfly conservation now recommends conservationists focus their efforts on habitat conservation and rehabilitation rather than rearing and releasing captive-bred Monarchs. After an extensive review of the Monarch Butterfly Rearing Kit Program, and in consultation with others involved in Monarch butterfly conservation and research, Cambridge Butterfly Conservatory has chosen to discontinue the Rearing Kit Program. The Program will be replaced with an exciting new Habitat Conservation and Habitat Rehabilitation-focused initiative.

Protection of the Monarch butterfly is vitally important, and developing conservation-focused programming that is informed by the most up-to-date research is critical. The new program will not be dependent upon a narrow time frame linked to the fall migration, but will instead provide a year-round opportunity for learning. More details will be announced in the coming weeks. The new Habitat Conservation and Habitat Rehabilitation-focused program will not include live Monarch caterpillars or pupae.

Cambridge Butterfly Conservatory is looking forward to continuing to work with you on Monarch conservation. We believe focusing more on habitat conservation and rehabilitation will lay the ground-work for a more meaningful, positive and sustainable impact not only on Monarchs, but also on other pollinators as well.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact us.

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