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A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

I would certainly be lying if I told you that the 2011 season at Goodell Gardens was not a very difficult one. It surely has been. But, is it not in adversity that we most certainly discover the truest of our strengths? Such was without a doubt the case for the Gardens this season.

Consider that through the total combination of all our various events and programming (about which you'll read in more detail in the articles to follow) the Gardens attracted over 8,000 visitors, setting yet again an annual organizational record. Positive community participation of this magnitude is emphatically indicative of the Gardens' ever-increasing aesthetic and programmatic functionality. It likewise exemplifies the level of dedication the Gardens' staff, Board of Directors, volunteers, members and community partners commit to the mission of creating a more beautifully-significant cultural and economic asset for the residents of our region; something every single person who is reading this will look upon with pride.

Apart from the many improvements and accomplishments of 2011, such as record attendance, more demographically-inclusive programming, new garden development and more successful community collaborations,

the Gardens looks in 2012 to continue building organizational capacity through enhanced operations, fiscal prudence and capital improvement. At present, and with grant monies received from ArtsErie and the Kresge Foundation, an architectural feasibility study is being conducted on the Goodell "Tenant" house, which sits directly to the east of the current Welcome Center. This study represents a first exploratory step toward the goal of increasing the amount of space dedicated to staff and visitor services.

With attendance at events and programs continuing to blossom, so too has the need for larger spaces dedicated to visitor services. Therefore, the Gardens will engage in a short-term, specific period of site- and business-planning as an extension of our current Strategic Plan and within the grand vision of our Master Plan. This planning process will address impending matters of continuous and controlled growth, such as workspace needs, visitor services, new garden spaces, on-site navigation and parking, interpretive and navigational signage, and programming facilities. While new gardens surrounding the Performance Barn will indeed continue to sprout as planned in 2012, and while educational programs and community events will continue to expand, we will

likewise begin the planning process mentioned above as to avoid our bottoms outgrowing our britches, so to speak!

As the 2011 growing season comes fast to its close, as the perennials are prepared for winter and as the Board, staff and community collaborators begin to huddle around the tables once again to craft the complexion of the 2012 season, I sincerely thank you, the community investor, for yet another standout season at Goodell Gardens & Homestead. Clarity of vision and dedication to mission on the part of all involved has delivered us once again a very successful year and will almost certainly set the stage for a fabulous 2012 season.

Many and much thanks,

Dana A. Atwood
Executive Director

EDINBORO-AREA FOLKS FLOCK TO GOODELL GARDENS FARMERS MARKET

BY AMBER WELLINGTON

When looking over the visitation numbers for the 2011 season, Wednesdays in June through September proved most popular. And that can only be attributed to the Goodell Gardens Farmers Market. In only its second season, our market saw average shopper numbers more than double. The 2011 market season saw 2,744 visitors over 13 weeks - with an average of 211. In 2010, our 10-week market boasted 1,057 shoppers, with an average of 96 per week. This year, our slowest week still saw 136 visitors.

With the Events Barn completely full of vendors each week, our market spilled out the north doors, and we had a village of tents across the path in the Events Lawn. The di-

versity of vendors grew, too. Shoppers could come to the market and take home produce, baked goods, canned goods, fresh eggs, artisan cheese, fresh salsa and even meat! With market vendors from Edinboro, Albion, Waterford, North East, Cambridge Springs and Conneautville, we were able to help our community support local, sustainable agriculture, while teaching them about farming and gardening and filling their bellies with fresh, nutritious, wholesome foods.

This year, our market was even able to service the four-legged members of the family. During the last three weeks of the market, we hosted the Humane Society of NWPA, who brought along dogs for adoption. While no adoptions occurred

on site, Humane Society volunteers tell us that the dogs who did visit our market were each adopted within a week of their visit. Maybe Goodell is good luck for canines!

If you didn't find the time to stop by the market this season, never fear. The market will celebrate its third birthday during the 2012 season.



EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING HITS THE MARK IN 2011

BY HEATHER ZIMMERMAN

Our August topic for adult education was "Gardening from A to Z," but that phrase could be used to describe the entire 2011 season of educational programming here at Goodell Gardens. Our programming served all ages - the preschool crowd to the septuagenarians. Our programming served all talents - the musical to the gardening variety. Our programming served the community - the Girl Scouts to the YMCA.

The new 6-week long preschool classes, called Garden Sprouts, guided seventeen 3-5 year-olds (and their grown-ups!) through the idea of "good bugs" that inhabit our Garden. Eric Carle books, such as *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* and *The Very Grouchy Ladybug*, served as the jumping-off point for the benefits of butterflies for pollination and ladybugs

for pest control. Musical preschoolers (and their grown-ups!) sang, danced, and played rhythm instruments during the "Tuesdays with Lori" music classes. Well-known, local musician Lori Burke led this lively group for six Tuesday sessions from June through August. Both of these programs brought in such positive feedback and numbers of people that they will return next year.

The Tea Time Talks adult programming series resumed on our opening day with "Container Gardening," moved through topics such as "Using Native Plants in your Landscape," "Open Pollinated Heirloom Seeds," and "Birds, Bees and Butterflies." The hot weather of July brought out many long-time residents with spotted and wilting leaves to have their problems diagnosed by Henry Rafferty of

Johnston's Nursery. Also, nationally syndicated garden radio show host, Mike McGrath drove across the state to teach us all "How to get your Yard off Drugs."

The Daisy Girl Scouts and YMCA summer camps brought activity and excitement to Goodell Gardens as they planted pansies on site and seeds to take home, role-played honey bees in their hive, made worm bins to recycle kitchen scraps, and dressed up as the four stages of butterfly metamorphosis. These busy days were in sharp contrast to the quiet, restorative YMCA holistic classes of Yoga and Pilates, taught beneath the maple trees of Goodell Gardens.

As we draw this season to a close, we can look back upon the many things we learned at Goodell Gardens, and look forward to what we will learn next season.

Monarch Watch Project Hatches Magic at Goodell

BY AMBER WELLINGTON

Goodell Gardens is an official Monarch Waystation with MonarchWatch.org (through the University of Kansas). Throughout the months of June, August and September, our staff searches the four varieties of milkweed found in our Pollinator Garden for monarch caterpillars.

When found, these black-and-gold (no, I'm not referencing a Pittsburgh sports team) caterpillars are then relocated from their host plant to the "butterfly tank" on the west porch.

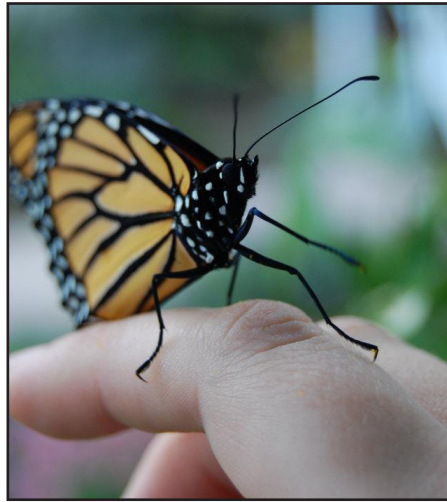
Just like the hero in Eric Carle's beloved book *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, our little friends eat and eat and eat (only milkweed leaves, though – no sausages or ice cream), until they are ready to pupate. That's when the real



Monarch larvae feed on milkweed leaves in the Goodell butterfly tank.

magic happens. They crawl up the tank and hang upside down in a J formation. After several hours, they molt one last time and form a jade green chrysalis. In the chrysalis they stay for about two weeks. After that, they emerge as a majestic monarch butterfly.

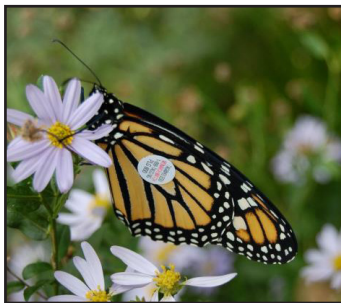
This is when the project comes into play. All monarch butterflies born at Goodell Gardens during late summer (August and September) are tagged with official MonarchWatch.org tags. These tiny stickers are placed upon the forewing of the butterfly, and each has a unique code. These codes are used



After being reared by staff and volunteers, an adult Monarch is prepared for tagging and release.

to track the migration patterns of the butterflies. We also record the date of their emergence and their sex (males have black dots – scent pouches – on their hind wings, females do not).

This year, Goodell staff, volunteers and visitors raised more than 50 monarch butterflies (only 50 were tagged). These butterflies are now making their way to Texas and Mexico, where they will overwinter. Next summer, the butterflies will be back, laying their eggs on our milkweed plants. Although they won't be the exact same butterflies we raised this season, they will be the grandchildren and great-grandchildren of those butterflies. And that, dear readers, is why nature is so neat. If you would like to learn more about the MonarchWatch.org project, find out how to help the monarchs or become an official monarch way station, visit their website.



OUR THANKS GO TO...

... the following volunteers who gave so generously of their time and talents during the 2011 season:

Terri Birchard, Sue Scarlett, Linda Lacny, Linda Stull, Thelma Pascaran, Mary Weber, Anna Kirk, Cody Hitchcock, Megan Swift, Matt Till, John Wojtecki and Grandma 'Boots'. We also thank our Board of Directors, who graciously donate their time to help us meet our goals.

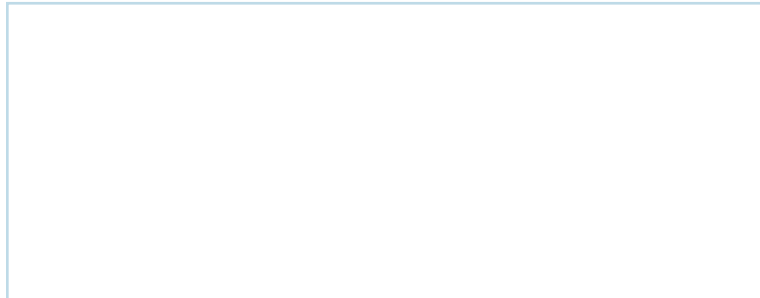
The Gardens would also like to thank Eclectic Etceteras Coffee House, Fred Parker, Heidi Strausser and Kim Masternak of the Edinboro Art & Music Festival, The County YMCA, Lori Burke, Sam and Noelle Kim, Crawford County and Erie County Master Gardeners, Mike McGrath Enterprises, Scarlett Glass, the Gillespie Foundation, Arts Erie, the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, the GE Foundation, the Erie Community Foundation, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, PASA, and our many Farm Market and Harvest Festival Vendors, as well as our many educators, entertainers and students.

If you would like to volunteer, give us a call!

GOODELL GARDENS & HOMESTEAD



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P.O. Box 156
Edinboro PA 16412



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HOURS
Wednesday - Sunday
11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
May - October