



A Publication for Concordia Elementary School:
LEARNING THROUGH NATURE is a Junior Gardener
Program for K-5 sponsored by the San Clemente
Garden Club and the Concordia PTA.

If you plant it...they will come!

Cultivators Corner

from The Teachers

5th Graders are learning about rainwater harvesting through their Rain Barrel Project. Rain barrels are recycled plastic containers which divert and collect rain water that flows off a roof, through gutters and downspouts and becomes runoff. Water captured in Concordia's rain barrels will benefit the butterfly garden plants and demonstrates a fun, practical application to reduce storm water runoff which otherwise pollutes the ocean! By recycling these food quality plastic barrels, students are also reducing landfill waste! At the end of the project, we will make available the instructions and supplier info for home garden applications. If you are interested in volunteering or just observing this project through its stages, contact Kris Ethington at kethington@cox.net.



Going Buggy

The Butterfly Lady (Kris Ethington)
Editor, kethington@cox.net

Do you remember when I added the protective fencing around the garden planter? Can anyone tell their family why this fencing is important to the caterpillars? Not only does the fence protect the seedlings on the edge of the planter but it also provides structure in the garden for caterpillars to make their chrysalides. When establishing habitats, we need to create a safe environment for all stages of the life cycle. Sometimes caterpillars use the woody plants nearby, but they often prefer to find more permanent structures like buildings, railings, or garden ornaments. Students observed this caterpillar behavior when two Monarchs emerged from their chrysalides that were attached to the fence! Some caterpillars use their own plant to make their chrysalides. Students watched this happen with the Cloudless Sulphur chrysalis on the Cassia plant. Can Mrs. Moon's students remember how the Pincushion Flower (*Scabiosa*) got its name? It was named for the pincushion used to keep sewing pins handy. The spent flower bud looks like a pincushion with pins stuck in it. The beautiful plant is a butterfly nectar favorite!

It's Time to Get DIRTY!!

Junior Gardener Activities

*Mrs. Martin's 3rd graders started habitat plant seeds indoors.

*Mrs. Moon's 1st/2nd graders planted lima beans and lettuce from their Science Pack.

*2nd/3rd graders will transplant seedlings to their garden planters in March. *Parent Volunteers requested!*

*2nd Graders will receive Painted Lady caterpillars for their in-class habitats soon! To order a butterfly habitat for home, go to <http://www.highlights.com>

*The new *California Friendly and Native Plant Habitat Garden* near the office was weeded and composted by 3rd grade teachers and volunteers and is ready for planting by participating 3rd grade classes in March.

*Participating 4th grade classes will begin their worm bin composting projects in March with instructional demos by The Worm Lady - Diane Bennett-Cheek.

* 5th graders participated in an art contest to create drawings in the Ocean/Butterfly themes. The selected designs will be painted on the barrels by students with assistance from San Clemente Art Association volunteers! * Club volunteers painted the base coat on the rain barrels.

*Parents interested in getting more involved in sharing the garden with students, conducting science walks, etc., can contact their student's teacher or Kris Ethington kethington@cox.net to be included in upcoming event notifications.

Gardeners Know the Best Dirt...check these out!

- **CHECK OUT** Concordia's District Website - Butterfly Garden Link: <http://cces.capousd.ca.schoolloop.com/>
- The Monarch Life Cycle - <http://www.linknot.com/Magic-Garden/Monarch-chrysalis.htm>
- **NEW****Plants for a CA or Western Butterfly Garden: <http://www.laspilitas.com/butterfl.htm>
- ALL LINKS Past/Present go to the San Clemente Garden Club - Junior Gardener Page <http://www.sanclementegardenclub.com>

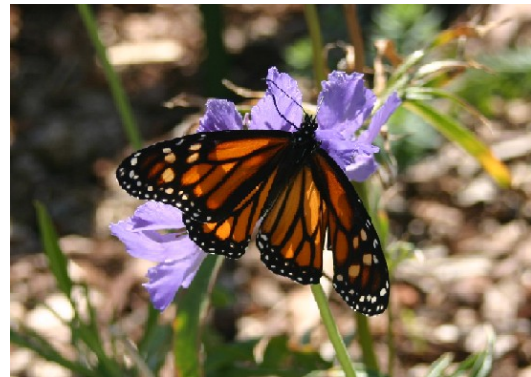
Sowing The Seeds of The Future!

Please submit garden related poems, short stories, art, or photographs by students to The Butterfly Lady. We'd love to share them with others here.

Haiku Poem Example:

Flying in the sky,
On flower nectar I feast.
Enjoy my beauty!

(source: NABA, Butterfly Gardener Magazine)



Recently emerged Monarch on Pincushion flower in Concordia's habitat garden! (photo by Kris Ethington)

Dew Drops...

The Butterfly Lady has been watering the garden for students as needed. Students will help water their seedlings in the garden beginning in March and by April, we need to develop a group of parent volunteers/families with alternates to help to sustain our habitat garden now and through the summer. Let us know if you want to help. Contact Kris at kethington@cox.net.