

Monarch butterflies migrate south

By Olivia Fawcett
Staff Writer

Fall is here and that means apples, changing leaves, cooler weather, football and one of the most fantastic events of nature, the Monarch Butterfly migration. Every year, thousands

of monarch butterflies make the 2,500 mile migration from Canada down to Mexico. No problem for an insect that weighs less than an ounce. The arduous journey across North America requires the lives of four generations of butterflies.

Why do the monarch butterflies make such

a physically demanding journey? They are in fact the only insects in the world that migrate such an intense distance. The monarchs migrate for two reasons; the first being that they cannot withstand the freezing weather in the northern and central part of the continent. The second is due to the fact that the plant that the larvae (aka caterpillars) eat does not grow in the southern regions. Therefore, they must make the trip back up north to places where the plants are plentiful.

The migration is already underway; the butterflies began their journey back in August. However, now is the time to see the butterflies throughout the month as they make their way through the Great Smokey Mountains towards the Gulf of Mexico. The best place to view them is Wagon Road Gap at milepost 412.2 south of Mt. Pisgah on the Blue Ridge Parkway.



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Dax and Kevin- Go to the doctor

by Karam Boeshaar



KB 2011