

## **SCHOOLYARD HABITAT PROJECT**

### **Monarch butterfly habitat for TECS**

Sept 29, 2017

Committee organizers – Alisa Land Hill, Rob Krochmal

Participants: Misty Vest, Alisa Land Hill, Summer Scott Sexton, Noelle Hettlinger Til, Marin Lutz –Kramer, Vikki van Gorkum, Rashmi Sundaeswara, Miwa Morishita, Tracy Murphy, Amy Wiesberg, Juan Aguilar, Rob Krochmal, Marisa Kuizenga, Veronica Winston.

1. Intro and background- Alisa and Misty described the history of the project starting last year including visit by Dept of Fish and Wildlife, Michael Glen, who walked through campus and felt our school had many potential sites for introducing native plants that would support local flora and fauna. Discussed possible collaboration with Kizh Native American tribe to describe how native peoples used these plants for food, medicine, and ceremonial purposes. Alisa described possibility of potentially starting with a butterfly habitat and expanding to other habitats in the future.
  - Idea of looking at Natural History Museum butterfly garden as example.
2. Timeline – discussed the following –
  - Fall
    - plant selection
    - building infrastructure and irrigation (status of current drip system?)
    - soil preparation – weeding and compost
    - seed germination – children can do this w teachers in classroom.
  - Winter
    - Butterfly Week – discussed as a kickoff week
    - Plant seedlings and foundational plants
  - Spring – enjoy plants and butterflies.
    - Budget – discussed developing a new site, ideally central on campus such as the hillside adjacent to the spirit shack at bottom of the walkway. Another proposal was to refurbish and use the existing garden beds for planting monarch/ butterfly supportive plants. Ideally, main cost items would be the irrigation system and soil. Would try to use recycled materials for boxes.
    - Idea of applying for Western Growers grant to refurbish existing garden beds.
    - Could integrate new butterfly plants with a seating area
    - Can tie butterfly garden with science curriculum.
3. Volunteer Roles – discussed potential collaborative roles of parents, Topanga Watershed Committee, and members of the broader Topanga community.
4. Campus beautification goal – discussed possible use of parent artists through Art Trek/Art Committee (Tracy Murphy). Also discussed possible use of tile near garden bed and possibly on retaining wall with proposal from Topanga Art Tile (Paul Doolin).

5. Sub-group of those interested in writing a proposal for Fish and Wildlife – Alisa mentioned this need if we wish to expand to creating other habitats on campus for the future.
6. Fundraising ideas- discussed monarch kit sales, possible sales of a butterfly TECs shirt and or calender with children artwork. Pressed flowers can be used in art.
7. Children participation – germinating seeds, planting in garden boxes, learning about life cycle for art project potentially with Art Trek, learning via science class w Ms. Rena Benor.
8. Follow up action items –
  1. Plantand site selection / planning – Veronica, Vikky, Alisa
  2. Irrigation system – Summer
  3. Garden box construction/repair – contact class parents via Julianne to see if we have parental experts (contact Julianne Moore)
  4. Seed germination – Marisa will start hers, Vikky will look into sources.
  5. Butterfly week –Rob, Alisa, Summer (T shirt), Marisa
  6. Kizh tribe contact – Misty and Marin
  7. Native plant sales – Veronica shared 3 upcoming events –
    - CNPS South Coast Sept 30<sup>th</sup>
    - CNPS Los Angeles/Santa Monica MTNS oct 14-15
    - CNPS San Gabriel Nov 4<sup>th</sup>.

Other resources (from Veronica)

- Book – An Introduction to S. California Butterflies by Fred Heath (good book resource for butterflies and their plant sources for food and larvae).
- Plant list for butterfly garden:

1. Monarch butterflies

- -- native narrow leaf milkweed
- --California buckwheat
- --golden yarrow,

2. Painted ladies - asters and penstemon

3. California Dogface (state butterfly) - false indigo

4. Ceonothus silk moth –Ceonothus

5. Swallowtails- willow