

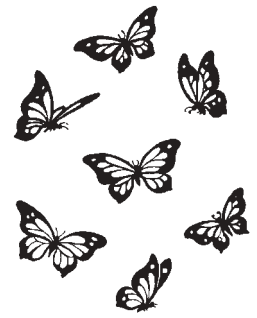


# MICHOACAN REFORESTATION FUND

La Cruz Habitat Protection Project

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL OUR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS

*Feliz Navidad y Prospero Año Nuevo*



Holiday Newsletter • 2003

SHARING WITH YOU THE HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR SEVENTH SUCCESSFUL YEAR OF PLANTING TREES  
IN AND AROUND THE MONARCH OVERWINTERING AREAS IN MICHOACAN, MEXICO.

**IN THIS, OUR 7th YEAR, THE MICHOACAN REFORESTATION FUND HAS SUCCESSFULLY PLANTED ANOTHER 300,000 NEW SEEDLINGS** in the monarch overwintering area. We reached a significant milestone this season with the planting of our 1st millionth tree, bringing us to a grand total of 1,150,565 trees planted! The Board of Directors and invited guests met on the 2nd of October to celebrate this milestone.

Local Mexican MRF/La Cruz organizer, Padre Angel, alone coordinated the planting of 150,000 of these seedlings on the slopes of Cerro Pelon, a big mountain which lies at the southern most part of the monarch reserve. In 1998 communities living around the mountain suffered a major landslide. For the last three years, Padre Angel has been working with the families that live in the area to plant 150,000 trees each year.



Thanks to a special contribution from one of our generous donors, we were able to finance the purchase of a used 9-ton truck to transport the hundreds of thousands of seedlings that are produced at the La Cruz nursery each year. This truck will cut transportation costs significantly, and make it easier for Jose Luis Alvarez and his assistant, Jose Luis Mondragon, to coordinate on-time delivery of seedlings to participants. The truck will also allow us to allocate more of your donations to growing trees. In fact, because of this and a significant increase in expected donations for next year (see below), MRF and La Cruz have begun the propagation of 400,000 seedlings for planting in 2004.

**MRF ATTRACTS MEXICAN FUNDING.** We are very pleased to announce that for the first time, MRF and the Cruz,s reforestation projects will be receiving funds from a Mexican source. The Bimbo Group, a major Mexican food producer and distributor, has agreed to donate a substantial grant to support reforestation in 2004 bringing our total number of trees to be planted in 2004 up to 400,000. The Bimbo Group has been involved in reforestation efforts and

children,s educational programs throughout Mexico. We look forward to working with Bimbo and are delighted that a Mexican concern has chosen to add restoration of the monarch overwintering areas to their list of projects.

**MONARCH TEACHER NETWORK** Classroom teachers in the Monarch Teacher Network are supporting the work of the Michoacan Reforestation Fund through fund-raisers at their schools. The Monarch Teacher Network began in August 2001 when eighteen (pre-k-8) New Jersey teachers took part in a 3-day teacher workshop “*Teaching and Learning With Monarch Butterflies.*” In August 2002, ninety more teachers took the workshop. In This past August, 220 teachers participated in workshops that were sited in NJ and Ontario. The Network is composed of workshop veterans who are encouraged to share information

and resources and are eligible to apply for fellowships to visit the monarch sanctuaries in Mexico. In addition to conducting activities at their schools, many of them help to teach Network workshops the following year. The Monarch Teacher Network is sponsored by EIRC ([www.eirc.org](http://www.eirc.org)) a NJ public agency located near Philadelphia, with funding support from the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation. Major support has also been provided by the New Jersey Education Association. For more information, contact Erik Mollenhauer at ([erikm@eirc.org](mailto:erikm@eirc.org)).



## THE INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S GROVE.

This past June MRF and the La Cruz Habitat Protection Project, in coordination with Journey North and the



Monarch Butterfly Sanctuary Foundation, helped to start another new program—the International Children's Monarch Reforestation Forest in the Monarch Overwintering Area. The program emphasizes our relationship with nature and cooperation between Mexican and U.S. school children to preserve it. The planting was done in large part by the children themselves.

School children who participate in Journey North, an organization that specializes in education about migratory species in the Americas, raised the \$7500 that funded the planting of 15,000 seedlings on school-owned property near a monarch sanctuary in the community of El Rosario. As the forest matures under the eyes of the successive classes of school children, it will teach the children that an intact forest leads to less erosion, and cleaner air and water.

Jose Luis Alvarez said of working with the energetic children, "I personally enjoy planting with the children... There is always much joy, laughter and hope."

### The Michoacan Reforestation Fund Board of Directors.



Left to right: Mia Monroe, Bob Small, Maraleen Manos-Jones, D.J. Agnew (seated), Dr. Lincoln Brower, Jose Luis Alvarez, Director of Laz Cruz Habitat Protection Project, and Vickie Rinehart—Ed Rashin attended in spirit.

**FOOTNOTES.** Be sure to visit us online at our new website ([www.michoacanmonarchs.org](http://www.michoacanmonarchs.org)). Please note that we now have a .org address instead of the .com used in the past. You can also find us online through The Rainforest Site ([www.therainforestsite.com](http://www.therainforestsite.com)) and Ecology Fund website ([www.ecologyfund.com](http://www.ecologyfund.com)). The Ecology Fund site benefits the monarchs more directly, but both are worth a look.

Watch your mail boxes for the Art For The Animals gift catalogue. The catalogue will feature Pine Needle Art and copper vases made by monarch area artisans. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of these items will benefit the artisans themselves and MRF/La Cruz reforestation projects.

**CONTRIBUTION FORM.** A mail-in contribution form has been enclosed in this newsletter. If this form has been lost or separated may send your check or money order to:

Michoacan Reforestation Fund,

628 Pond Isle

Alameda CA 94501

All donations are tax deductible.

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If you are interested in lending your services, please contact Bob Small at ([danausbob@earthlink.net](mailto:danausbob@earthlink.net)), 510-337-1890 or Maraleen Manos-Jones at ([mmjbutterfly@msn.com](mailto:mmjbutterfly@msn.com)) or 718-398-3096.

For more information on the Michoacan Reforestation Fund, the La Cruz Habitat Protection Project, or Spirit of the Butterfly tours, please visit ([www.michoacanmonarchs.org](http://www.michoacanmonarchs.org)) or ([www.spiritofbutterflies.com](http://www.spiritofbutterflies.com)).

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