

Hazelwood HOA

NEWSLETTER *JULY 2023*

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Hazelwood Picnic

Our annual picnic, held in April, was a time to come together for food, fun, and fellowship. Story and pictures by Nan LoBue

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Hazelwood resident Hadley Campbell describes how we can help these beautiful and endangered butterflies

“What a wonderful time we had at the HOA picnic...Hazelwood is such a warm and welcoming community and today was a prime example of why we love it!”—*Sheri Sterling*

HOA Executive Committee

George Sterling, president

Will Repko, vice president

Deborah McLendon, treasurer

Karen Sanders, secretary

Newsletter editor: Nan LoBue



HAZELWOOD PICNIC BIG SUCCESS

Story and pictures by Nan LoBue

Beautiful weather, delicious food, and a dearth of pesky insects all encouraged 85 neighbors to turn out on April 16 for the Hazelwood picnic, and a wonderful time was had by one and all. Hosts Tom and Cyndi Buckhoff generously opened their spacious yard, which was the perfect venue for the annual gathering.

The children played games on the lawn while neighbors socialized, enjoying perfect spring weather and a delightful spread. Speaker Curt

Deal shared news about how incoming industry is likely to affect our community. A special shout-out to George Sterling, who engaged the speaker; Sheri Sterling, who organized the food and beverages; and Zach Buckhoff, who tirelessly moved tables and chairs.

Hey...let's do this again next year!





In the Neighborhood



IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

You've probably noticed that the Hazelwood covenants are a bit...out of date. Last year, the HOA Board recruited a committee of neighbors who have worked hard and carefully to update our covenants. The Board is currently reviewing the committee's draft and tweaking with final changes in preparation for presentation to all Hazelwood residents for voting. Your block captains will have more information for you this fall.

Several houses in the neighborhood have sold recently, and we all look forward to welcoming new residents to Hazelwood. The beautiful home of Warner and Celeste Spence at 134 Hazelwood Drive is currently for sale, so spread the word!

With all the rain we've had lately and the hot, sunny weather we're experiencing now, our lawns are growing rapidly. HOA president George Sterling reminds everyone that to keep our neighborhood looking its best, frequent lawn mowing is recommended. He also suggests that anyone who would like advice on lawn care should consider consulting Hazelwood resident John Parcels, who has a great deal of expertise.

Last, a reminder from the Board: anyone driving a golf cart in Hazelwood should make sure to comply with the [Georgia Code for Low-Speed Vehicles](#). We want everyone to stay safe!



MILKWEED AND MONARCHS

Story and pictures by Hadley Campbell

“While adult Monarchs will feed on the nectar from many flowers, their caterpillars depend entirely on **milkweed** as a food source.”

For those more than fifty years old, the milkweed plant was once a common sight, yet it is not as visible today. The most common variety found in our community today is *Asclepias Curassavica*, or tropical milkweed. Milkweed is the only plant upon which the Monarch butterfly will lay eggs for reproduction. While adult Monarchs will feed on the nectar from many flowers, their caterpillars depend entirely on milkweed as a food source.

The milkweed plant has a fascinating history in the Americas. Its name comes from the thick, white latex the plants secrete when broken or punctured. Though mildly poisonous, it was used by Native Americans as a remedy for many ills, from warts to indigestion, as well as chest pains and even the common cold.

In World War II, there was an acute shortage of kapok, the filler for life preservers produced by the United States. To the rescue came the lowly milkweed, whose seeds are encased in pods, with threadlike “floss” which is very buoyant. Children collected the pods, which were then processed to eventually fill tens of



thousands of life jackets for our troops.

Several homes in our Hazelwood subdivision have milkweed plants today, not for life preservers, but for attracting pollinators, especially the Monarch butterfly. This bright flutterer is 3 ½ to 4 inches wide, mostly orange in color with black stripes and white speckles. They “visit” our neighborhood at least twice a year, on their migratory paths during the spring and fall. Perhaps the easiest time to view them here is in late August through September, on their southern migration towards Mexico, for overwintering there.

The spring (northern) route brings them here in April, but since most milkweed here is just recovering from dormancy, the Monarchs find scarce food sources upon which to lay their eggs.

Monarchs have three to four generations annually, with the Mexico migrators living the longest, up to six months. That generation actually flies up to 3,000 miles, and these are the only butterflies known to migrate in two directions, as do many birds. The autumnal pattern in our section of the U.S. is southward, following the Atlantic seaboard, turning west above the Gulf of Mexico, and then wintering in Mexico.

Females lay small greenish-white eggs on the underside of milkweed leaves. In about four days these will hatch and the larvae begin feeding.



The caterpillar will molt several times before forming a chrysalis (approximately 10 days); then the adult emerges within 2 more weeks.

Monarch Watch is a non-profit organization, based at the University of Kansas, and they can provide answers to most of the questions you can imagine. They even provide numbered tags for Monarchs you raise and release for the migration to Mexico.

We have raised monarchs at home and school for more than a decade now and find the hobby both fascinating and fun. You can purchase milkweed seeds online or we'll give you some for free. The plants (Tropical Milkweed) are fairly hearty and prefer full sun or at least 5+ hours per day. You can raise them in a flower pot or in the ground, and most of ours have come back after the winter dormancy. The plants are for sale occasionally at local nurseries and even Lowe's, but we've found some purchased in late summer have been sprayed with pesticides, which kill the caterpillars when they hatch and eat the leaves.



It may take up to two years to get your plants fully grown (about 4 ft wide X 5 ft tall) but you can still attract Monarchs when the plants are smaller.

Since the Monarchs have been visiting our yard, we've had some lay eggs here every August now for more than ten years.



Monarch populations are currently severely diminished because of many factors such as loss of habitat and pesticide usage. You can make a difference. Estimates are that only ten percent of eggs laid make it to the adult stage.

Enjoy! Please call or email us with any questions. We'll try to answer. Or call for a "tour" in September!

