FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GOT MILKWEED?
LET’S BRING THE MONARCHS BACK TO TEXAS

The Native Plant Society of Texas and MonarchWatch are partnering in a new program called “Bring Back the Monarchs to Texas.”

Small grants will be made available to schools, nature centers, and other organizations to create demonstration gardens or “Monarch Waystations” with habitat for migrating Monarchs. The application process for grants is described on the Native Plant Society of Texas website at http://npsot.org/wp/education/bring-back-the-monarchs-to-texas/.

Also, growers are producing native milkweed under contract from the Native Plant Society of Texas which will be made available for use in demonstration gardens or which can be sold by conservation groups as a fundraiser to finance demonstration gardens.

Texas provides critical habitat on the primary migration pathway of Monarchs to their wintering grounds in Mexico. The availability of native milkweed host plants, so necessary to assure successive generations continuing north, has declined in Texas. Round Up ready crops, mowing of roadsides, parks and open areas and continued drought have all had an impact on the number of Monarchs surviving the southern journey to Mexico.

The purpose of this program is to raise public awareness for Monarch conservation, to produce and distribute milkweeds that support reproduction by Monarch butterflies, and to restore Monarch habitats through the Texas migration flyway.

The Native Plant Society of Texas wants to preserve our state’s rich biological heritage for future generations. It is a non-profit organization run by volunteers whose mission is to promote research, conservation and utilization of native plants and plant habitats through education, outreach and example. Find out more at www.npsot.org

MonarchWatch is an educational outreach program based at the University of Kansas that engages citizen scientists in large-scale research projects. Their website provides a wealth of information on the biology and conservation of Monarch butterflies and many children use it as a resource for science fair projects or reports. Visit the website at www.monarchwatch.com

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Link to Press Kit (optional)

For more information contact:

Jane Doe, Chair
Native Plant Society of Texas Bring Back the Monarch Committee
phone 987-654-3210
email Jane.Doe@npsot.org