



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Bring Back the Monarchs in Texas Talk at the Westside Community Center**

**New Braunfels, TX** – The Westside Community Center (WCC) and Comal Master Gardeners are working together to bring important information about preserving monarch butterflies in Texas. On Tuesday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Center, Texas Master Naturalist Cathy Downs will be discussing the Monarch butterfly migration decline and the reasons for concern in Texas and elsewhere. She will also address current efforts to restore major Monarch flyways through Texas.

Downs will identify several local native milkweeds needed for the spring migration as well as native nectar plants and the importance of fall blooming. Downs, a Master Naturalist with the Hill Country Chapter, is a Monarch Watch Conservation Specialist with Monarch Watch, currently chairs the Bring Back the Monarchs to Texas program for Native Plant Society of Texas, and is a certified Monarch Larval Monitoring Project educator.

The free presentation will be held in the Westside Community Center lunchroom and light refreshments will be available for participants. Registration is through the library online calendar ([www.nbtexas.org/1511/Library-Calendar](http://www.nbtexas.org/1511/Library-Calendar)) or you may call the WCC Office, at 830-221-4630, for registration assistance.

“We are thankful for the assistance the Comal Master Gardeners have given to the start of a butterfly garden at the Westside Community Center garden. This past fall, several Master Gardeners donated plants and their time to get things started,” said Jennifer Hernandez, WCC’s Outreach Coordinator. “With the recent freeze, many of the milkweed plants are struggling and it heightens the concern for the Monarchs way of life. We are excited about her and the knowledge she will bring to the session. If you have ever thought about starting a butterfly garden, want to learn more about Monarch preservation, need help with identifying plants to start a butterfly garden, or just enjoy nature, this presentation will pull at your heart strings, so register early.”

The Westside Community Center is located at 2932 S. IH 35.

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