



# MONARCH HEALTH NEWS

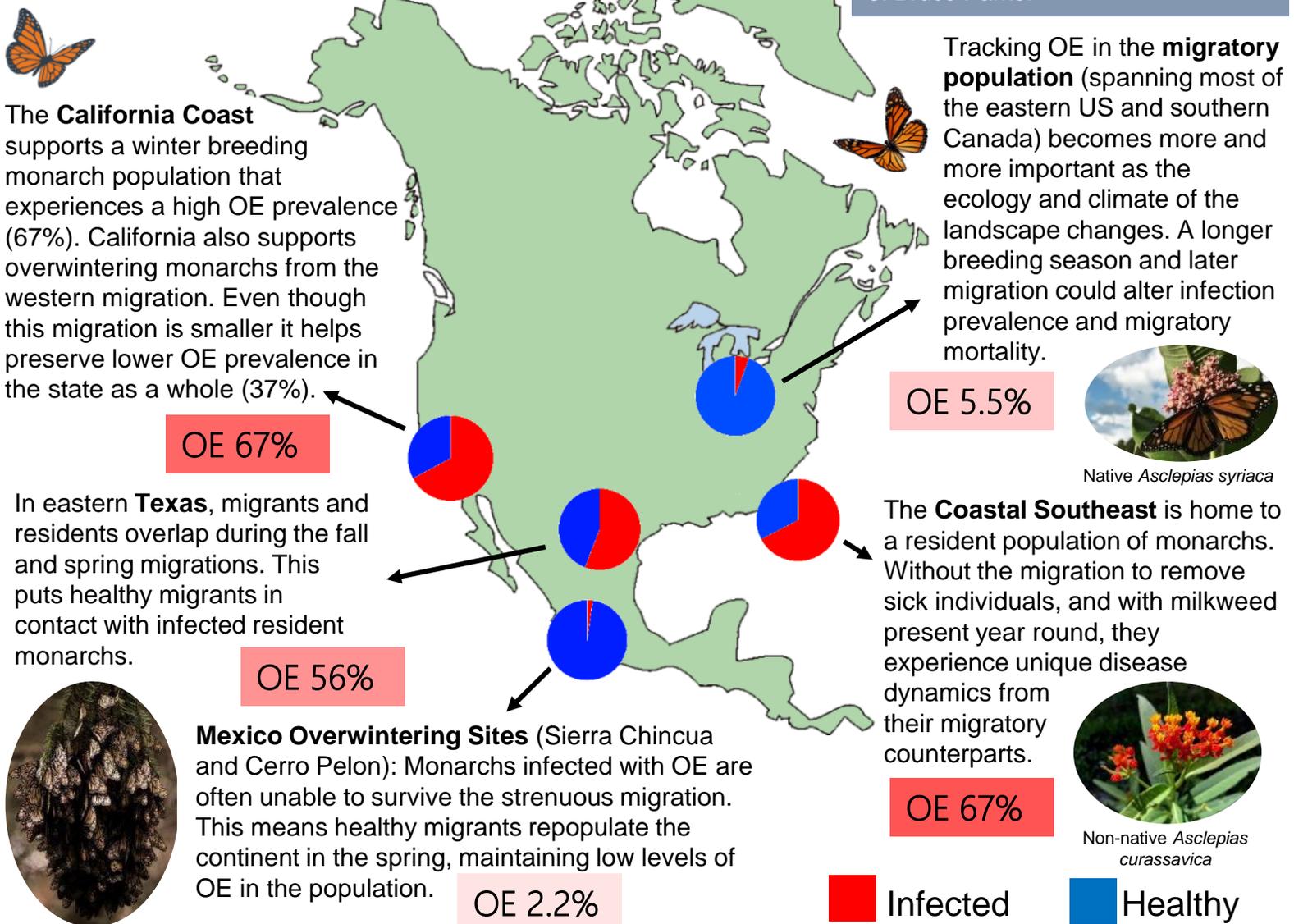
## 2017 MONITORING SUMMARY

Project Monarch Health year 11 is officially in the books! In 2017, **225** volunteers tested **7,356** monarch butterflies for the protozoan parasite *Ophryocystis elektroscirrha* (OE). This is the highest number of samples in Monarch Health history! Our citizen scientists sampled across 29 states in the US and 2 provinces in Canada. Take a look at the map below to see the OE prevalence of each region and what makes this parasite show different patterns between regions. This map especially highlights the elevated infection prevalence in regions where resident monarchs (that don't migrate) are present.

### OE Across the Continent

Why do we care about OE in each region?

- 11 Year Participants!**
- |                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. Richard Breen  | 4. Ilse Gebhard  |
| 2. Sharon Duerkop | 5. Sondra Cabell |
| 3. Bruce Parker   | 6. Chris Goodwin |





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### Citizen Scientist Spotlight: **Richard Breen**

Richard Breen has been helping monarchs since 2000 and has been involved with Monarch Health since its beginning in 2006. He raises awareness and interest for monarchs in his Wisconsin community through schools and libraries. In addition, he is currently working with the Monarch Encouragement Project, which works to increase pollinator habitat and establish new Monarch Waystations in his area. He says that he continues to participate in Monarch Health for “the love of monarchs, the joy of nature’s wonders, and the exercise”. We are thankful for Richard and all of our amazing volunteers!

## New Resident-Migrant Interactions Project

### CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

Our group at UGA recently launched a collaborative study, with scientists from three other universities, to investigate how a shift from migratory to sedentary behavior in monarchs might alter parasite spread and prevalence. We are currently recruiting citizen scientists to aid in more in-depth monitoring of milkweed sites in both the migratory range and in regions with resident populations.



#### Do you meet these criteria?

- Access to a site with at least 10 milkweed plants (ideally 30 to 100 plants)
- Interest in monitoring your site year round (southern sites) or during the time when monarchs are present (northern sites)
- Experience with or interest in participating in our sister citizen science project, the Monarch Larva Monitoring Project ([www.MLMP.org](http://www.MLMP.org))

#### Areas we are targeting:

- Coastal sites in TX, LA, MS, AL, and FL
- Eastern migratory range (WI, MN, MI, IA)
- Other sites are welcome!



*If you can commit to monitoring your milkweed site regularly using both **Monarch Health** and **MLMP** protocols, send an email to [monarchhealth@gmail.com](mailto:monarchhealth@gmail.com) for more information!*

## Congratulations to Our Recent Graduate!



After 4 years working for Project Monarch Health, Hayley Schroeder graduated from UGA with highest honors in May of 2018. She earned a B.S. degree in Ecology and a B.S.E.S. degree in Entomology and will be staying on in the lab as a research technician this coming year.

## Outreach Events



Our team visited many Georgia schools and local events, such as UGA’s Insectival and the Game Day STEM-Zone project, to help educate the public about monarchs, parasites, and more.