

Monarch News

By Marilyn Cavicchia

Great news! Here's the date for the 1st meeting of the new year.

Monarch Special Interest Group:

Thursday, January 21, at 3:00 p.m. via Zoom

Please join the meeting, and please email me at

marilyn.cavicchia@gmail.com for the link.

At our first meeting, I will walk you through a project to plant milkweed seeds in milk jugs and put them outside for the winter.

[Click here for a link for the directions for the project.](#)

(The link is <https://monarchbutterflygarden.net/winter-sowing-milkweed-seeds-prepare-containers/>)

I have many milkweed seeds available for distanced pickup; some are for the tall variety of milkweed, and others are for a shorter variety that is also native here.

I am also hoarding plastic milk jugs, the plastic bins that salad greens sometimes come in, and other plastic containers that are fairly deep and not completely opaque. If you can save some containers like this and share them with me, please let me know. Prepping them for this project involves cutting or drilling holes in the bottom and also cutting almost completely through the middle of the jug. If you lack tools, I will trade prepped containers for ones that are empty and rinsed.

If you want to follow along and do the project during the meeting, besides seeds and a prepped container, you will need:

potting soil or seed-starting mix (not with moisture control or other special features, but also not the cheapest stuff, because it tends to be full of clay), and

duct tape (not any other kind of tape, because it will be outside for several months)

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ABOVE - what the jugs will look like for the rest of the winter:

RIGHT - This is what they will look like in spring, when the seedlings have sprouted and grown a bit but aren't yet ready to plant in the ground (I'll let you know when to remove the tape and open the top half):



Left - here's a close-up of an especially successful jug planter.

