

Magnitude 4.2 earthquake hits Oregon, no damage reported

SPRINGFIELD (AP) — Some Oregonians woke on the Fourth of July to a significant jolt when a magnitude 4.2 earthquake struck near Springfield and Eugene.

Hundreds of people reported to the U.S. Geological Survey that they felt the quake, which struck at 8:42 a.m. Saturday.

USGS Geophysicist Paul Caruso says there usually isn't any damage from quakes lower than magnitude 5.5.

City of Springfield officials said they haven't received any reports of damage from residents or to infrastructure.

The Oregon Department of Transportation, which conducted visual inspections of bridges in the Eugene-Springfield area, said there was no damage to any roadways or bridges.

The quake was centered about 12 miles east of Eugene. It was about four miles deep, which Caruso says is considered shallow.



Tales from a Sisters Naturalist

by Jim Anderson

Saving the monarch butterfly

The monarch butterfly is in a world of hurt. Right off the bat it has problems because it's so unique; it's a migratory insect that flies thousands of miles to survive winter, then return to continue life in northern latitudes — and they travel right through our neck of the woods.

Everyone knows birds migrate and do it in astounding numbers, astounding ways and astounding distances. They're built for it. Some shore birds stop for refueling in North America and then make the next hop of their flight non-stop to South America and return the following spring. But an insect? A butterfly?

Unlike a bird, when the monarch begins its voyage back to its summer haunts the individual never gets there. Monarchs move by generational progress. To survive as a species they must have the plants to produce the next generation of monarchs to continue the voyage north, and there is

only one type of plant they can use: milkweed.

That's where you, me, and the rest of the human society along the monarch's flyways come into the picture. We must supply them with not only the milkweed, but the nectaring plants as well. I say, "must," because it's we humans who have destroyed — and are still destroying — the habitat monarchs MUST have to survive on Earth.

And it's not very difficult. All you have to do is pick out an area in your front or backyard, corner of your kitchen garden or picnic area where you'd like to see Monarch butterflies stop on their way north and south, or better yet, spend the summer with you. The area you set aside will be known as a Monarch Waystation.

Run on down to Tumalo Gardens, or Wintercreek Nursery over by the USFS headquarters and you can purchase everything you need to begin your very own Monarch Waystation on your very own property. You can also contact Monarch Watch at (Shop.MonarchWatch.org.) for seed and other monarch supplies.

The more people who take on this project the less chance the monarch will end up on the Endangered Species List, and the more joy you will have when that magnificent insect grows from egg to adult. That in itself is quite a show.

Here's all you'll need: Showy milkweed (*Asclepias speciosa*) and narrowleaf



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An adult monarch butterfly stops on a Mexican sunflower (*Tithonia*).

milkweed (*Asclepias fascicularis*). Narrowleaf will grow in this area, but the Showy Milkweed will often do better, with adequate irrigation. The following list of nectaring plants is just a suggestion; some of you master gardeners know more about what you can grow and enjoy than I do ... and yes, hummingbirds will also enjoy your efforts.

- Blue sage (*Salvia farinacea*).
- Chia (*Salvia*

columbariae).

- Scarlet sage (*Salvia coccinea*).
- *Tithonia* torch, Mexican Sunflower (*Tithonia*).
- Zinnia, dahlia mix (*Zinnia elegans*).

If you have any questions, suggestions, or just want to share what you're doing — or about to do — to ensure survival of the monarch butterfly, feel free to send me an email: jim@northwestnaturalist.net. Love to hear from you.

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