

# 'Wonderland of butterflies'

## Group gathers to catch, tag monarchs

By EMILY GUNMELT  
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MOUND CITY, Mo. — On a nice, sunny Saturday, some might be out shopping, grabbing a bite to eat with friends or maybe working in the yard.

But in Mound City, a group of kids and adults made their way through the trails at Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge in search of monarch butterflies.

The junior naturalists, led by refuge naturalist Aman-



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Carrie Wilson holds a monarch butterfly caught on the Squaw Creek Wildlife Refuge Saturday afternoon before a group of volunteer butterfly catchers. The refuge hopes to catch and tag 500 monarchs during their migration through the U.S. from Canada to Mexico.

da Griffin, gathered in the to the fields with their nets outdoor classroom at Squaw to catch and tag as many Creek before heading out monarch butterflies as they

could, working toward the ultimate goal of 500.

The purpose of this activity, Ms. Griffin said, is to understand the migration patterns of the monarch butterflies. The University of Kansas started the project, and now people all over the United States, as well as Canada, are doing this, too.

"It's spreading in popularity because it's good research, and it's fun to do," she said. "Of our 500 monarchs captured last year, 12 tags were collected from Mexico."

Saturday, however, was not the best day to see an abundance of butterflies. "Our monarch population is a little bit low this year," Ms.