

# 10 QUESTIONS: Marsha Caudill

By Shirley Belcher. To suggest a member to profile for "10 Questions," call Director of Operations Lisa Biedenbach, 513-217-4915, or email lbiedenbach@centralconnections.org.

## When did you get interested in butterflies and start raising them?

In 2014 when I belonged to the Shovel and Hoe Garden Club. We started a discussion about the monarch butterfly and how amazing it was that they migrate to Mexico in the winter. I said, "I'll Google that."

## What fascinates you about them?

From a tiny egg a caterpillar emerges. The caterpillar eats milkweed for 2 weeks and grows rapidly. Then it metamorphoses into a beautiful chrysalis for 2 weeks and then hatches into a beautiful monarch butterfly.

## What skill do you need to raise butterflies?

There is no skill to raise butterflies, just a desire. You need access to plenty of milkweed (the only thing they eat) and about 4 weeks to spend watching and feeding your caterpillars. I tell people it is the perfect pet: feed for 2 weeks, watch the chrysalis until it turns dark black, and watch it hatch and release.

## Why do you want to save butterflies?

I hope my little effort of saving butterflies can help with the increase of monarchs so that my



*Member Marsha Caudill raises the large migratory American monarch butterfly that has orange-brown wings with black veins and borders and a larva that feeds on milkweed.*

great grandchildren will be able to enjoy them. In the wild only about 20 percent of monarchs will survive. Bringing them into your house to raise increases their survival rate to 98 percent. I can help people get started saving monarchs. It is fun and exciting. I watched 25 monarchs mature this summer so far!

## Why will you travel to Mexico to learn more about butterflies?

My husband and I plan to travel in February to the Sierra Madre Mountains in Mexico with the Natural Habitat Adventures & WWF (World Wildlife Fund) to see where monarchs migrate for the winter months November through March. It is warm in

these mountains, and the monarchs hang on the oyamel fir trees by the millions.

## Have you been to Mexico? What do you know about Mexico regarding butterflies?

I have not been to Mexico, so I'm really looking forward to this trip. Mexico is trying to strengthen tourism with tours to the butterfly habitat because the trees the butterflies hang on are threatened by logging.

## Do you have other travel interests besides Mexico?

Hopefully our whole family will travel to Ireland in 2019.

## What other activities interest you?

I have been knitting since I was 12 years old. I started playing pickleball 5 years ago and love it! Gardening is also one of my passions. I love to share my garden produce. I have 8 grandchildren—5 in Florida and 3 here. I always love doing things with them.

## What is your work experience?

I was lucky that I didn't have to work when my 3 girls were growing up. I was the Girl Scout leader, softball coach, basketball coach, etc. When I had an empty nest, I worked at Shirley's Sewing Shop in Franklin doing alterations. I also worked at Millie's as a hairdresser when the girls were small.

## How long have you been a member of Central Connections and why did you join?

Over 17 years. I first joined to golf with the Armco Girls. 🌿