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Media Contact: Harmony Verna
Phone: 203-984-9215
Email: hverna@cvhfoundation.org

The Catherine Violet Hubbard Animal Sanctuary Hosts FREE Annual Event
Monarchs, Meadows & More!
All ages invited to join a one-of-a-kind pollinator party in Newtown, CT

Newtown, CT – September 4, 2024: The Catherine Violet Hubbard Animal Sanctuary is excited to announce that they will be hosting their free annual event Monarch, Meadows and More on September 22nd from 12 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., at 8 Commerce Road, Newtown CT. The sanctuary invites curious minds and outdoor enthusiasts to join them in exploring the wonders of butterflies, bees, birds, pollinators, the plants that sustain them and how to protect these important creatures. September is the ideal time to witness the endangered Monarch as their migration path runs straight through Connecticut.

According to the CT Chapter of the Northeast Organic Farming Association (CT NOFA), changing landscapes from meadows to lawns, and farmland to subdivisions, pose a real threat to food production and pollinator species. "With 19% of CT's native plants listed as endangered and the remaining populations in declining numbers, we are facing a precipitous decline in our pollinator populations," states CT NOFA.

That's why the Catherine Violet Hubbard Animal Sanctuary in Newtown, CT is taking extraordinary measures to protect and provide sanctuary for these fragile creatures and is excited to celebrate its 12,000 square foot Ecotype Project pollinator garden and restored meadows with the community on September 22nd. As an official Monarch Waystation, certified firefly habitat and a North American Butterfly Association (NABA) Certified Monarch & butterfly garden, the sanctuary is committed to creating, conserving and protecting pollinator habitats.

Each year, more than 200 people attend this family event, which greatly increases public knowledge of native plants, beneficial insects, butterflies and tangible ways of protecting pollinators. This event is critical now more than ever given the recent classification of the Monarch butterfly as an endangered species. Those interested in attending can register here.

Event highlights include:

- Monarch butterfly tagging through Monarch Watch
- Meadow net sweeping and insect discovery
- Bird exploration
- "Catherine's Craft Corner" and art station

- Launch pollinator plant seed bombs to populate the meadows
- Native pollinator plants for sale
- Adoptable dogs from Lucky Dog Refuge

The sanctuary is committed to supporting and protecting the natural environment through education initiatives and land stewardship of its 34-acre property. The sanctuary has made significant positive impacts on the land and continues to implement new initiatives to foster the diverse ecosystem of meadows, woodlands, waterways and trails. 2021 marked the completion of the sanctuary's three-year pollinator protection initiative which included the re-establishment of a 4-acre native meadow habitat, installation of a 12,000 square foot ecotype pollinator garden and creation of an apiary supporting approximately 1 million bees. Additionally, the on-site community and pollinator gardens have previously harvested over 6,000 pounds of produce, as well as provide critical shelter, sustenance & migration space for butterflies, hummingbirds, bees and other pollinators.

"We are thrilled to be hosting our annual Monarchs, Meadows & More event once again and open the doors of our sanctuary to both returning and new faces," said Jennifer Hubbard, President of the CVH Animal Sanctuary. "Butterflies were some of Catherine's favorite creatures and she would stop in awe every time she saw one. This event is a way for us to honor her love of butterflies by sharing the knowledge needed to protect and care for their survival."

On June 8th, the Monarch butterfly was ceremoniously renamed the Catherine Butterfly for one day in memory of Catherine's 18th birthday. Monarchs, Meadows & More continues that legacy of protecting and educating about our precious pollinators.

For more information on Monarchs, Meadows and More or to learn more about the Catherine Violet Hubbard Animal Sanctuary, please visit cvhfoundation.org.

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More about the Catherine Violet Hubbard Animal Foundation

The Catherine Violet Hubbard Foundation is a Connecticut-based nonprofit organization working to promote compassion and healing through human-animal connection. The foundation was started in 2013 to commemorate and honor the life of Catherine Violet Hubbard, a six-year-old victim of the Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy and passionate animal lover. In 2014, the CVH Foundation was awarded more than 34 acres of CT state farmland by a unanimous legislative decision, which would become home to the Catherine Violet Hubbard Animal Sanctuary. Since its inception, the organization has raised more than $9 million in funding, supporting its breadth of programming that by honoring the human-animal connection, is providing tools and skills that translate into compassionate and accepting human-human interactions. Specifically, the sanctuary focuses on environmental stewardship, provides no cost humane education curriculum and community workshops, aid for seniors to keep and care for their pets, and property revitalization efforts. Through caring, educating and protecting animals,

the sanctuary's programs have become recognized as a beacon for fostering human empathy and promoting harmonious coexistence among all beings.