



JASON LEROUX (2)

She's a Butterfly Hero!



Genevieve Leroux, 13, is a hero to monarch butterflies. And it all started with *Ranger Rick*!

Four years ago, Genevieve read in this magazine about the National Wildlife Federation's Butterfly Heroes program. (The National Wildlife Federation is the group that publishes *Ranger Rick*.) Monarchs lost much of their habitat as people built towns and planted crops. Butterfly Heroes encourages people to plant gardens that provide food for monarchs and their caterpillars.

Genevieve read that monarch caterpillars eat only milkweed leaves. So she decided to start growing milkweed from seed. Soon, she had enough

of the plants to share with friends, family, and people in her community.

Once she had transformed her own backyard into a monarch haven, Genevieve monitored the butterflies. She placed lightweight ID stickers on their wings (**circle**) so people around the country were able to keep track of the insects as they migrated through North America.

Thanks to her work with butterflies, Genevieve won the Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes. The prize gives \$10,000 to kids who help people or the environment.

Last year, Genevieve moved

to Canada.

But she's still planting milkweed for monarchs! And she has some advice for other kids who want to do the same. "Look up the native milkweed and other flowers of the area you live in and use those to make your garden," she says. "It's also awesome to certify your garden as a National Wildlife Federation Wildlife Habitat. Then your garden can serve as an example for others to follow!"

To learn how to turn your yard into great place for wildlife, visit nwf.org/Garden-for-Wildlife.