



About Our Cover

Every fall, hundreds of thousands of monarch butterflies (*Danaus plexippus*) undergo a tremendous migration, traveling as far as 3000 km from North American breeding sites to a small number of overwintering sites in the mountains west of Mexico City. Above, this monarch butterfly was found nectaring on goldenrod (*Solidago* sp.) late in the afternoon at the South Carolina Botanical Gardens in Clemson, South Carolina, September 2009. Adult butterflies like this one will spend three to six months making their way south to Mexico, where they will overwinter until the following spring. The following May, adults become reproductive and will return northward again, producing a number of generations every 2–5 weeks along the way. Although the monarch butterfly is not an endangered species, its annual migration is considered a threatened phenomenon by some. Clemson University Ecology students later tagged this monarch butterfly as part of a long-term effort to study this species and its annual migration. This butterfly was also sampled for parasites as part of a long-term monarch health-monitoring study described in the ecological field lab by Wells in this month's issue.

This photograph above was taken by Carrie N. Wells during a field lab in September 2009. Wells is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Biological Sciences at Clemson University. She used a Canon Digital Rebel XSi 12.2 MP digital SLR camera with Sigma 24-70mm f/2.8 EX DG aspherical macro lens. The articles in this issue of the *ABT* focus on inquiry learning.

scientific inquiry & the nature of the science of biology

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