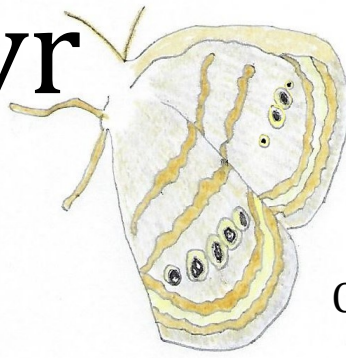


The Lonely Satyr

For Butterfly Enthusiasts
of Indiana, Michigan, Ohio



October 1, 2025

Monarchs in the Spotlight: Takeaways from the 2025 Summits

Phoebe Redfield, Conservation Director for Pollinator Partnership, has generously offered to share additional Monarch information with us to close our newsletter season. Thank you, Phoebe, for compiling these notes and helping us to stay current about all of the initiatives helping Monarchs.

Phoebe wrote, “This summer, two of our Lonely Satyr friends, Bee Redfield and Cody Wilson of Pollinator Partnership, had the privilege of attending major gatherings focused on monarch butterflies and reporting back to us. Bee joined the North American Monarch Summit in Minnesota, while Cody attended the International Monarch Science Symposium in Kansas. Both events brought together scientists, land managers, and community members who share a passion for these migratory wonders.” We hope you enjoy these highlights:

From Minnesota, The North American Monarch Summit (Monarch Joint Venture)

- **Tri-National Legacy:** Karen Oberhauser reminded us that monarchs have united people across Canada, Mexico, and the U.S. for more than 40 years. Conservation has always been tri-national, just like the butterflies’ migration.
- **Pesticides and Policy:** A key panel dug into the EPA’s new *Insecticide Strategy*, which looks beyond “the label is the law” and instead uses mapping, models, and mitigation plans that make more sense for wide-ranging species like monarchs.
- **Community Science Power:** Chip Taylor of Monarch Watch emphasized that without decades of tagging and volunteer observations, we’d be “flying blind” about monarch population cycles and climate effects.
- **Creative Fixes:** James Tracy shared a Texas project using simple “flight diverters” to guide monarchs up and over highways, cutting butterfly roadkill by almost 50%.
- **Planning for the Future:** In Mexico, Cuauhtémoc Sáenz Romero’s team is planting fir forests upslope to prepare for a warmer climate where today’s monarch roosting areas in Mexico may no longer survive.
- **Solar Farms as Habitat:** Lee Walston of Argonne National Lab showed how adjusting solar panel height and mowing schedules can make solar fields prime pollinator habitat.
- **Little Things Matter:** Even the type of glue used in monarch tagging can affect survival! Research found that eyelash glue kept tags secure with the lowest mortality, out of all adhesive types tested.
- **Community Planting Psychology:** A zoo program found guests were twice as likely to plant milkweed plugs over seeds, which is a reminder that ease and immediacy encourage action.

Takeaways cont'd.

From Kansas, The International Monarch Science Symposium (Monarch Watch)

- **The Rearing Debate:** John Pleasants (Iowa State) shared that while rearing greatly improves early-stage survival, from ~26% in the wild to ~82%, reared monarchs still only migrate at half the success of wild individuals. The net result? Reared butterflies are about 1.6 times more likely to reach Mexico. Still, even rearing half a million adds just a fraction of a percent to the overall migratory population. For many people, hand-rearing monarchs remains an entry point into conservation: it sparks curiosity, builds empathy, and gets kids and adults alike engaged with nature. At the same time, some in the scientific community worry that large-scale rearing could give a false sense of population recovery. It's a reminder that while rearing has value as an educational tool, it can't replace habitat protection and landscape-scale conservation.
- **Heat & Habitat:** Cheryl Schultz (Washington State) showed monarchs lay more eggs in shaded milkweed than in full sun during extreme heat, highlighting the importance of habitat variety.
- **Chemical "Fingerprints":** Micah Freedman (University of Toronto) used cardenolide markers to trace monarchs back to their host milkweed species. Results revealed many western monarchs are linked to the non-native *Asclepias curassavica*.
- **Parasite Awareness:** Matthew Bolek (Oklahoma State) advanced understanding of *Ophryocystis elektroscirrha* (Oe), the protozoan parasite that weakens monarchs.
- **Pharmacophagy in Adults:** Nancy Lawson and Michael Boppre highlighted monarchs' surprising use of non-milkweed plants to ingest chemicals with potential health benefits, which opens new questions about adult diet.

Tools for Farmers: John Losey (Cornell) introduced "monarch multiple seed pellets" which are a way to install complete monarch habitat with standard farm equipment, lowering labor costs.

Looking Ahead

Across both meetings, one theme was clear: monarch conservation is a shared journey. From farmers and scientists to backyard gardeners and butterfly enthusiasts, everyone has a role to play. Whether it's rethinking how we design solar farms, choosing pollinator-friendly planting strategies, or simply tagging butterflies in your own yard, each step adds up to give monarchs more room to survive and thrive.

Butterfly Sightings

Right: Viceroy
Credit: Janet McGowan
Lydick Bog, South Bend, IN
9/1/2025



Right: Red Admiral
Credit: Mary Durand
LaGrange Co., IN
9/9/2025



Butterfly Sightings

Right: White Admiral

Credit: Ronda Spink & Talus Rutgers

UP, Michigan

8/15-8/17, 2025

In addition to the photographs shared here, Ronda and Talus also reported:

Atlantis Fritillary

Laurentian Skipper

Gray Hairstreak

I'm sure these are "life list" butterflies for several of us, so thanks for sharing!



Right: Milbert's Tortoiseshell

Credit: Ronda Spink & Talus Rutgers

UP, Michigan

8/15-8/17, 2025



Butterfly Sightings

Right: Compton Tortoiseshell
Credit: Ronda Spink & Talus Rutgers
UP, Michigan
8/15-8/17, 2025



Right: Leonard's Skipper
Credit: Ronda Spink & Talus Rutgers
UP, Michigan
8/15-8/17, 2025



Community Calendar

Contact the event host prior to traveling to make sure it's not cancelled.

Saturday, October 4, 11, 18, 25

12:00 - 4:00 pm

Native Seed Collection

Presbyterian Chapel of the Lakes, 2955 W. Orland Rd., Angola, IN

Volunteers needed. Join Blue Heron Ministries to collect seeds for future projects. Volunteers will meet at the Chapel, then travel to different locations. Call 260-316-2498 to ask questions and sign up.

November 14-16

Environmental Education Association of Indiana

Annual Conference

Clifty Falls State Park, IN

To learn more visit eeai.org/2025-Conference

The keynote speakers are "The Bug Chicks."

(No endorsement or discrimination of specific events or vendors on this community calendar is intended or implied.)

Additional Butterfly Sightings

Leslie Arnold

August in LaGrange Co., IN

Monarch (male)

Pearl Crescent

3 Eastern Tailed-Blues

August at Lake City Bank, Kendallville, IN

Red Admiral

Silver-spotted Skipper

emPOWER

us to cross the finish line!

PLEASE JOIN US FOR AN AFTERNOON OF GIVING

We're transforming our humble barn into a vibrant headquarters for restoration, community, and stewardship. Construction is underway – but we need your help to finish strong without taking on debt.

October 19th
12 - 3pm

Help us reach our \$10,000 goal!



- Powers Hamburgers
- Seed gathering in the prairie
- Construction update + funding progress
- Sneak peek at upcoming events
- Tours of our seed room
- and... a Silent auction!!



VISIT BLUEHERONMINISTRIES.ORG TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS OPPORTUNITY TO BE STEWARDS OF OUR FATHER'S CREATION WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF COMMUNITY



Please continue to turn in photos for the rest of the year. I will feature them in May 2026. Local sightings are my favorite part of the newsletter, so please report what you're seeing. Don't be shy!

To subscribe and submit, contact:

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