

Monarch Butterfly

Biology and Conservation in a Changing World

Monarch butterfly populations have been declining over the last 25 years—essentially the entire time that we've been monitoring them. It is important to move beyond documenting this decline and focus on the challenge posed by monarch conservation and insect conservation in general. Karen will describe the amazing biology of migratory monarchs, how we can use data collected by scientists and the public to understand what is driving monarch numbers, and what we can do with that information.

Presenter: Karen Oberhauser, has conducted research on several aspects of monarch butterfly ecology. As a professor in the Department of Fisheries, Wildlife and Conservation at the University of Minnesota for most of her career, she taught Conservation Biology, co-founded the Monarch Larva Monitoring Project (MLMP), and used monarchs and the connections people feel for this amazing insect to promote greater understanding of science and conservation. As Director of the UW-Madison Arboretum from 2017-2023, Karen fostered a strong Participatory Science program that incorporated the MLMP and many other projects to engage the public in meaningful ecological data collection. Karen has authored over 100 papers on her research on monarchs, insect conservation, and participatory science. She has an undergraduate degree in biology from Harvard University, a degree in science education from UW-Madison, and a PhD in Ecology and Behavioral Biology from the University of Minnesota. Karen is passionate about the conservation of the world's biodiversity and building connections between humans and the natural world. She is a founding officer of the Monarch Butterfly Fund and has served on several state and national organizations focused on pollinator conservation and participatory science.



Wednesday, September 23, 2026

Socializing 5:30pm, Talk 6pm

Kickapoo Valley Reserve

S3661 State Road 131, La Farge, WI



**College of
Agricultural & Life Sciences**
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



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