MONARCH JOINT VENTURE

2023

ANNUAL REPORT

MORE INFO:

info@monarchjointventure.org
www.monarchjointventure.com
@monarchjointventure

2233 University Ave W.
Suite 426
St. Paul, MN 55114

TABLE OF CONTENTS

About Us 3

From the Executive Director 5

From the Board 7

Western Monarch Population Coun 8

Eastern Monarch Population Count 9

Habitat Program Initiatives 10

Education Program Initiatives 14

Science Program Initiatives 18

Partnership Program Initiatives 22

Revenue & Expenses 27

2023 Staff & Board 30

ABOUT US

Mission:

Our mission is to protect monarchs and their migration by collaborating with partners to deliver habitat conservation, education, and science across the monarch range.

Vision:

Our vision is thriving monarch populations that sustain the monarch migration into perpetuity and serve as a flagship for the conservation of other plants and animals.

Values:

- **Conservation:** Our grassroots work for monarchs and their habitats fosters resilient ecosystems and sustainable actions for the long-term health of our planet.
- **Science:** The latest research guides our evolving conservation practices and leads our community engagement efforts.
- **Inspiration:** Educational efforts provide the latest scientific information and inspire others to be curious and take conservation actions that fit their communities' needs and resources.
- **Partnership:** Authentic, supportive, and mutually respectful engagement with stakeholders from across North America leads to scalable and sustainable solutions.
- **Leadership:** Bringing people together allows us all to work more effectively toward common goals while leveraging our various industries, backgrounds, and areas of expertise.
- **Inclusiveness:** Broad collaboration with stakeholders from diverse backgrounds creates an equitable environment for growth, sustained involvement, and innovation.

*Monarch Joint Venture's Commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: The conservation of monarchs and our environment requires all hands on deck. As a national leader in monarch conservation, we are committed to working to bridge the barriers across our society. We all deserve access to clean air, clean water, and safe outdoor environments in which to live, learn, play, and just be. To achieve our mission, we must foster diversity, equity, and inclusion for all to engage in this work and enjoy nature. We will work to address the biases within ourselves, the inequities within our organization, and the network of organizations committed to conservation. We commit to learning, listening, and taking action to build a healthier planet and a more just world for people, pollinators, and other living beings.

©Robert Seilheimer

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends of MJV,

As we reflect on the past year, I am thrilled to share a few highlights of our journey. Our year started with a remarkable partner network meeting hosted at the Desert Botanic Garden in Phoenix, Arizona. Here, amidst the beauty of the garden, we exemplified cross-sector collaboration by co-hosting with the Rights-of-Way as Habitat Working Group. Bringing together over 100 organizations, we engaged in vital dialogue and pursued collaborative conservation opportunities that transcend boundaries. This network continues to flourish and evolve, mirroring the dynamic ecosystems we seek to preserve.

In the realm of conservation, two fundamental principles resonate deeply with me: the complexity of our mission and the pivotal role of people in driving meaningful change.

Conservation is undeniably complex. Nonprofits like ours confront some of the world's most challenging issues, navigating a web of interconnected environmental, social, and economic factors. Despite limited resources and significant complexities, we confront emerging challenges with vigilance, flexibility, and creativity. Grounded in science, we educate and raise awareness to inspire action on this multifaceted issue. Embracing a collaborative and inclusive approach, we engage with our constituents at every level, seeking to improve pollinator habitat across landscapes far and wide.

Yet, amidst the complexity, one thing remains constant: meaningful change begins with people. The individuals comprising MJV are amazing colleagues, friends, and community members. I take immense pride in leading such a passionate, knowledgeable, and dedicated team. Scattered across the United States, our team members bring diverse expertise to the table, fostering collaboration and catalyzing conservation action within their communities. Together, we navigate the intricacies of conservation, transforming interactions into lasting partnerships that drive remarkable progress. As our network expands, our collective impact grows exponentially, underscoring the power of collaboration.

To each and every person who contributes to MJV's success:

- To our dedicated staff, who serve as the heart and soul of our organization,
- To our esteemed board, whose wisdom and vision guide us,
- To our invaluable partners, who amplify the reach and impact of our mission,
- To our generous donors and funders, who provide the lifeline for our work to flourish,
- And to our dedicated participants and followers, who champion pollinator awareness and action in communities far and wide,

I extend my deepest gratitude. Your support fuels our mission and propels us forward.

Yours in conservation,

Wendy Caldwell

Wendy Caldwell
Executive Director

©Wendy Caldwell

FROM THE BOARD



Inclusive collaboration governed this year at the Monarch Joint Venture (MJV) as we continued to embrace and grow our “all hands on deck” approach to making a meaningful impact in monarch conservation. As challenges to migratory monarch populations continue, our mission leads us to seek new ideas, fresh approaches, and alternative perspectives and to invite all parties to the table for dialogue about protecting monarch habitats and our own.

This year, our board had the pleasure of participating with the MJV staff in strategic planning exercises. Through these virtual and in-person meetings, my respect for this impressive collective of professionals continued to grow and deepen. Our team grew this year as well—by the close of 2023, our staff numbered 18 full-time, with other part-time and seasonal staff joining us throughout the year, all working across the four program areas of habitat, education, science, and partnership. And we’ve extended far beyond our headquarters office in Minnesota, with staff in ten states nationwide. With more people in more places, we can interact more with our partners and grow our conservation network even further.

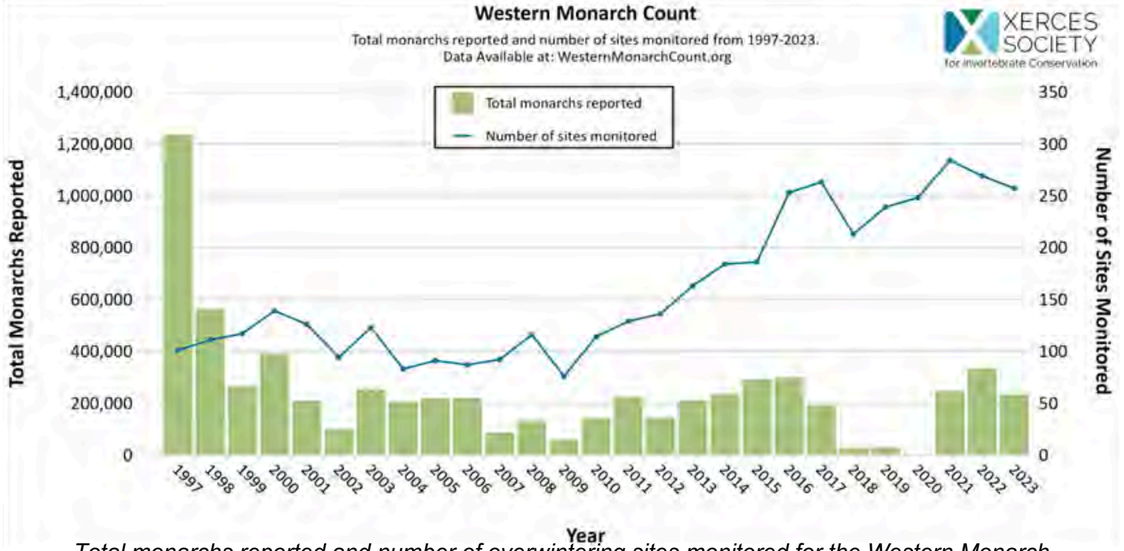
Perhaps I am most proud that our staff’s approach to leading monarch conservation embraces collaboration and a commitment to inclusive practices. Through hosting interns, they have provided conservation career opportunities for diverse professionals and have expanded our Spanish language programs and resources. The staff faithfully brings together diverse groups of conservation leaders, researchers, business professionals, farmers, and educators for productive dialogue on topics critical to monarch conservation. This leadership cultivates a team environment that extends throughout the MJV’s network to its staff and board—empowering us to stay connected as we undertake this “all hands on deck” approach, even though we are spread throughout North America. This year alone, our board of directors has worked with staff to cultivate major donors and an important land gift, continue to expand relationships with foundations and corporations and expand our program work, nearly doubling our annual budget. We could not conduct the bold work of our mission without the continued support of our partners, generous donors, and other supporters who make our work possible. We are grateful to all who have empowered our work to grow.

Thelma E Redick

Thelma Redick
Board Chair
Monarch Joint Venture

©Robert Seilheimer

WESTERN MONARCH POPULATION COUNT



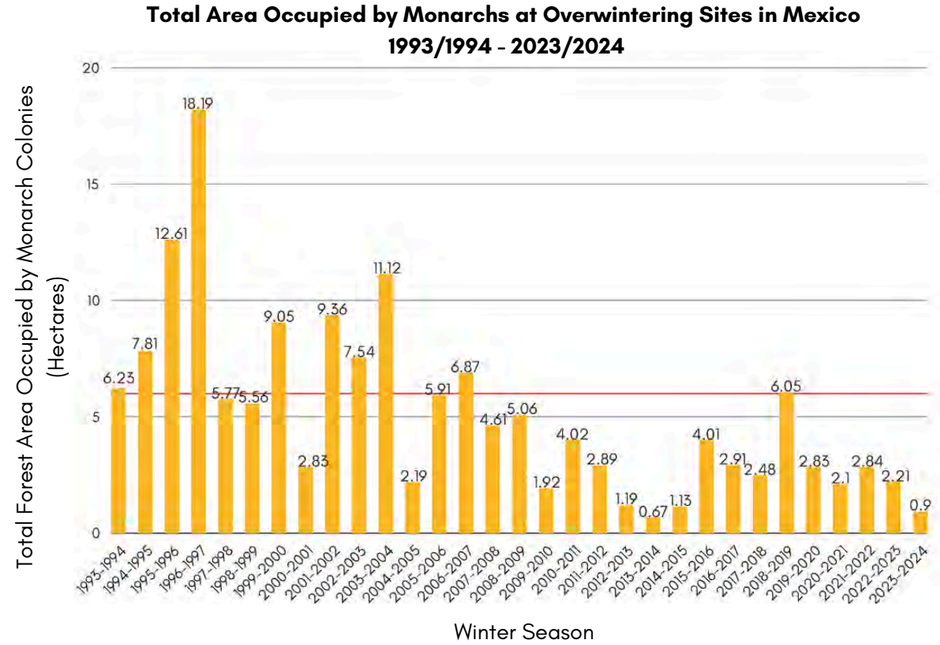
Total monarchs reported and number of overwintering sites monitored for the Western Monarch Thanksgiving count from 1997 to 2023. Image credit: Xerces Society

For over two and a half decades, the Xerces Society has led the Western Monarch Thanksgiving Count, cataloging the decline of the western monarch butterfly population. In 2021 and 2022, the monarch community was happily surprised by an increase in western monarch populations compared to the 2020 overwintering season, when only 1,914 were counted. However, the 2023-2024 western overwintering numbers demonstrated a decline. Over 400 volunteers surveyed 256 overwintering sites in late 2023, tallying a total of **233,394 monarch butterflies** across the western overwintering sites.

The total count of 233,394 monarchs represents a 30.43% decrease compared to last year but is similar to the population in 2021. It is not uncommon for insect populations to observe year-to-year variations in their numbers, but longer-term trends show a clear decline in the western monarch population. California overwintering groves were once covered in an estimated 4.5 million monarchs each winter. When the Western Monarch Thanksgiving Count began in 1997, over 1.2 million overwintering monarchs were observed at 101 sites.

Several factors, including temperature, rainfall, and the availability of milkweed and nectar resources across the western range, influence the annual influx of butterflies to overwintering sites. As we work together to collect data to understand western monarch population dynamics and threats, we must also scale up landscape conservation efforts. To help sustain and grow this population, we must seek opportunities to produce more widespread and higher-quality habitat across the western landscape.

EASTERN MONARCH POPULATION COUNT



MONARCH JOINT VENTURE

Scientists estimate that a minimum of 6 hectares of overwintering monarchs is needed to sustain the eastern populations (Semmens et al., 2016)

Data from 1994-2003 were collected by personnel of the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve (MBBR) of the National Commission of Protected Natural Areas (CONANP) in Mexico. Data from 2004-2024 were collected by the WWF-Telcel Alliance, in coordination with the Directorate of the MBBR. 2000-2001 number as reported by Garcia-Serrano et al. in 2004

The presence of the eastern monarch butterfly population in Mexico's oyamel fir forests this past winter was 59.3% less than the previous year, according to the most recent survey released by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Mexico. Monarch butterflies occupied 0.9 hectares, 1.31 less than the 2.21 hectares in the 2022-2023 overwintering season. This is the first time since the 2013-2014 overwintering season that the eastern monarch population has occupied less than one hectare.

The eastern monarch population is surveyed each winter starting in December, when monarchs are clustered together. Counting individual monarchs in these sites is too challenging, so researchers estimate the population by measuring the area they occupy (in hectares). Each hectare is approximately 2.47 acres, with the number of monarchs per hectare variable, but likely between 20-30 million monarchs per hectare (median 21.1, according to Thogmartin et al., 2017). Semmens et al., 2016 recommended a threshold of at least 6 hectares of overwintering monarchs to sustain a resilient eastern population and its migration. The current population size remains lower than the target of 6 hectares, driving continued concern for the migration and necessitating increased conservation action.

HABITAT PROGRAM INITIATIVES



Pollinator habitat near a hog barn. ©Tim Richter

The Monarch Joint Venture Habitat Program is dedicated to establishing, improving, and protecting monarch habitats throughout the country. A major driver of the decline of the monarch population has been the loss of breeding habitat, which is a core focus of our habitat program.

The MJV works across all land use sectors and has a particular emphasis on agricultural lands and corridors to improve habitat conditions and connectivity for monarchs and other pollinators. Our habitat staff, located in California and the Midwest, are primarily focused on engaging the agricultural community and implementing pollinator habitat projects on private working lands through funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's (NFWF) Monarch Butterfly and Pollinators Conservation Fund. Corporations, family foundations, and individuals have provided additional funding for on-the-ground habitat projects.

Central Flyway Habitat Technical Assistance

In 2023, the Monarch Joint Venture provided technical assistance to landowners, helping manage and create over 2,700 acres of monarch habitat across the eastern monarch's range. This included restoring 623 acres of land and transforming it into thriving, pollinator-friendly environments. In addition, MJV staff were instrumental in enhancing an additional 2,120 acres of existing habitat, improving conditions to better support monarch populations and other pollinators.

2023 Midwest Milkweed Plug Giveaway

In 2023, the MJV launched its first free milkweed giveaway program for landowners in the Midwest and Central Flyway. Through funding from tentree and the Ingraham Family Foundation, this program provided 7,560 milkweed plants to 105 landowners across 213 individual sites. This initiative enhanced 588 acres of habitat, primarily on or near agricultural land.

Habitat Help Desk

The MJV's Pollinator Habitat Help Desk is a free resource uniquely positioned to support owners and managers of private working lands. We work with our vast network of partner organizations to provide pointed and regionally appropriate guidance for habitat goals of any size. In 2023, our staff answered calls and emails from 99 contacts to the Habitat Help Desk.
Phone: 1-337-HABITAT (337-422-4828)
Email: habitat@monarchjointventure.org



Western Kansas landowner habitat tour (top), Platte River State Park pollinator planting (bottom left). ©MJV
MJV habitat sign with new milkweed plugs from the 2023 giveaway (bottom middle). ©Christy Harvey
Monarch on milkweed plugs from the 2023 giveaway (bottom right). ©Patty Lyman

Monarchs and More Western Habitat Program

Our Monarchs and More Western Habitat Program (M&MWHP) provides free technical assistance, native milkweed plugs, and regionally specialized seed mixes for pollinator plantings on land in California and Southern Oregon. Over the past three years, we've worked with 118 land stewards across California and Southern Oregon and have enhanced 1,265 acres and restored 1,332 acres of pollinator habitat. Specifically, in 2023, we worked with 52 new and nine returning landowners, with 736 acres enhanced and 49 acres restored.



MJV staff practice IMMP at Matanzas Creek Winery, a participant of the M&MWHP. ©MJV

Monarchs and the Military

A collaborative effort was initiated between the US Forest Service, Monarch Joint Venture, Department of Defense (DoD), and other partners to increase support for at-risk pollinators across Department of Defense lands. In its inaugural year, this project has achieved significant milestones, including establishing collaborative working groups engaging over 300 DoD stakeholders, conducting ten site visits to military installations across the eastern monarch's range, and training 139 DoD staff and partners through habitat and monitoring workshops. Implementing 11 suitable habitat surveys, 34 Integrated Monarch Monitoring Program (IMMP) surveys, and four workshops across ten states underscores the project's commitment to comprehensive efforts. Virtual technical assistance provided to 42 installations has resulted in positive habitat improvements through pilot best management practices (BMPs), such as restoring pollinator habitat on closed landfill sites. The project addresses challenges such as limited data, adapting BMPs to diverse landscapes, and varying levels of pollinator familiarity among installations.

Looking ahead, the team plans to expand its robust monitoring efforts to determine baseline information, develop BMP technical guides, compile case studies, establish a resource-rich website, and continue close collaboration with DoD personnel. The project's dedication to building networks, increasing awareness, and supporting DoD wildlife conservation aligns with its goal of fortifying the conservation of at-risk pollinators while enhancing military readiness and ecological sustainability.





MJV Program Coordinator Mercy Manzanares at Camp Dodge Training Area (top left), Participants of the MidAtlantic training (top right), Fort McCoy Firing Range (middle left), Participant with butterfly net at Fort Sill training (middle right), Participant with milkweed at Front Range training (bottom). ©MJV

Learn more about MJV's Habitat Program Initiatives at monarchjointventure.org/habitat

EDUCATION PROGRAM INITIATIVES



NAMI participants inspect insects caught in a pooter. ©MJV

The MJV education program had another successful year delivering programming and outreach events that further the MJV's mission to protect and conserve monarch butterflies. The Monarch NECTAR Hub, our online learning platform, officially launched in the fall. Teacher workshops, monthly webinars, and public courses continued. Staff and volunteers also facilitated virtual and in-person presentations throughout the country.

Professional Development Workshops

The Monarchs and More Educator Institute (MMEI) focuses on professional development for formal K-12 classroom teachers and other educators. This program includes the North American Monarch Institute (NAMI) workshop and the Advanced Schoolyard Ecology Explorations (ASEE) workshop, with MJV's *Monarchs and More* curriculum forming the program's backbone. The US Forest Service International Programs is a generous funder of these workshops. Learn more about MJV's professional development workshops by clicking here.

North American Monarch Institute

Three NAMI workshops were held in 2023. In this multi-day intensive workshop, participants learn monarch biology and conservation basics, how to participate in monarch community science programs, and inquiry-based approaches to science education. Participants are introduced to these concepts through hands-on, participatory instruction. In 2023, the MJV hosted a NAMI workshop in Cleveland, OH, co-hosted in San Diego, CA with the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance, and co-hosted in Madison, WI, with the University of Wisconsin-Madison Arboretum.



NAMI participants experience activities they can later implement in their own classrooms. ©MJV

Advanced Schoolyard Ecology Explorations

One ASEE workshop was co-hosted with the UW Madison Arboretum in Wisconsin. This three-day follow-up workshop from NAMI allows returning participants to delve further into the world of conservation, community science, and schoolyard ecology.



ASEE participants in Madison, WI dive deeper into outdoor education activities. ©MJV

Monarch NECTAR Hub

The Monarch Network for Education on Conservation, Training, And Research (NECTAR) Hub launched in the fall of 2023. Our initial courses included: Mini Monarch Essentials, Complete Monarch Essentials, and Monarch Larva Monitoring Project training. On the NECTAR Hub, participants can learn about monarch biology, ecology, research, and conservation basics from self-guided videos and live Q&A sessions with MJV staff. In the first few months of this program's launch, 178 people signed up for courses through the Monarch NECTAR Hub. We have plans to add more courses in 2024, including a kids' course, a Spanish Mini Monarch Essentials course, and more! Check out the Monarch NECTAR Hub at learn.monarchjointventure.org.

Outreach Events, Presentations, and Workshops

In 2023, the Monarch Joint Venture (MJV) actively engaged with diverse audiences through a robust schedule of outreach activities. Our efforts included hosting, cohosting, and participating in numerous events, presentations, and workshops to promote awareness and conservation of monarch butterflies and other pollinators. These activities reflect our ongoing commitment to outreach, allowing us to introduce new audiences to our mission while maintaining strong engagement with our existing supporters.

Specifically in 2023, the MJV:

- Hosted 16 events, presentations, and workshops, engaging over 250 participants.
- Cohosted 10 events, presentations, and workshops, reaching over 410 people.
- Attended 66 outreach events as an invited guest, connecting with more than 10,630 individuals.

Monarch Conservation Webinar Series

The Monarch Conservation Webinar Series connects audiences with the latest monarch conservation topics with free monthly webinars. This series is a unique opportunity to hear from experts from various interdisciplinary fields related to monarchs, other pollinators, their habitats, and the threats and pressures that make conservation urgent. Each live webinar is recorded, closed-captioned, and saved in the MJV's Webinar Archive for later viewing. In 2023, the webinar series hosted 11 webinars, reaching over 1,870 people.



MJV booth at the Minneapolis Monarch Festival. ©MJV











MJV staff and partners at The Almond Conference (top left), MJV staff and partners at the MN state fair during Pollinator Day (top right), Participants show off a monarch at the Indiana DNR and MJV monarch tagging event (middle left), MJV plant sales at the Minnehaha Art Festival (middle right), MJV Intern Johanna Rivera at the Dia De Los Muertos celebration in St. Helena, CA (bottom). ©MJV

Learn more about MJV's Education Program Initiatives at monarchjointventure.org/education

SCIENCE PROGRAM INITIATIVES



IMMP staff training at Mount Diablo, CA. ©MJV

MJV's science program continued to deepen our insights into the population trends of North American monarchs and their habitats through the lens of several growing programs. We onboarded dozens of new participants using our monitoring protocols to evaluate their projects, including the Integrated Monarch Monitoring Program (IMMP) and Monarch Larva Monitoring Project (MLMP). The newly formed MJV Data and Information Working Group, comprising a dozen partner organizations, created a new Monarch Database Resource Guide to enhance the use and sharing of monarch data.

Research Review

In March of 2023, the MJV published the 2022 Research Review, the third annual review of academic literature on monarchs and their habitats. The broad MJV network, including several MJV staff, read and synthesized 69 papers and presented highlights during April's Monarch Conservation Webinar Series. The review of 2023's papers will summarize over 80 papers!

Integrated Monarch Monitoring Program (IMMP)

The Integrated Monarch Monitoring Program (IMMP) is a national program that collects data on milkweed, nectar plant, and monarch use from multiple land-use types and regions. In 2023, MJV field staff, other professional conservation staff, and volunteers monitored 273 sites across 18 states. Several sites were visited more than once, for a total of 1,264 visits. Additionally, two new papers utilizing IMMP data were released. Using data from a project-based field team and other IMMP participants, authors found that monarchs were less prevalent at sites managed for Golden-winged warbler habitat than at other IMMP sites nearby. The authors also provided suggestions for improving habitat for the warblers and monarchs in northern Wisconsin and Minnesota. To view the complete list of publications utilizing IMMP, click here.



Collection of photos from the MJV field technician IMMP training for monitoring California Bureau of Land Management lands. ©MJV

Monarch Larva Monitoring Project

The MJV co-manages the Monarch Larva Monitoring Project (MLMP) with the University of Wisconsin-Madison Arboretum. Developed in 1997 by researchers at the University of Minnesota, the MLMP involves volunteers from across North America and New Zealand in monarch research. The project collects long-term data on larval monarch populations and milkweed habitat and focuses on monarch distribution and abundance during the breeding season.

In 2023, 195 volunteers contributed data from 30 states, provinces, and territories, completing 3,189 monarch density surveys (Activity 1) and collecting 409 larvae to study survival and parasitism (Activity 3). To continue to grow engagement in this program, the MJV co-hosted three virtual MLMP trainings in collaboration with the UW Madison Arboretum, which trained 102 people.

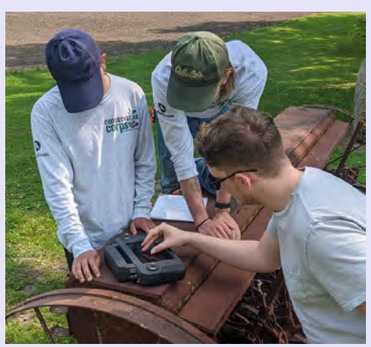
Remote Sensing

2023 was a big year for MJV's remote sensing program! The MJV completed the validation of its common milkweed remote sensing algorithm and tested it in the field via multiple partner projects. The MJV's business partner, Simple Business Automation, released a new platform to facilitate using the remote sensing tool called POLLi. MJV contributed to testing and refining an application to automate flights for improved accuracy and safety. The team also started developing a new model to detect several habitat characteristics, such as flower and grass coverage. These advances improve the program's applicability by assessing metrics important to monarchs and pollinators. Interest in the program is sky-high; two new projects and a growing number of financial contributors ensure the program will continue to grow in 2024!

International Monarch Monitoring Blitz

The MJV collaborated with members of the Trinational Monarch Conservation Partnership to help coordinate the 7th annual International Monarch Monitoring Blitz. The MJV's participating volunteers, through MLMP and IMMP, collected data on summer breeding monarchs and their habitats. In total through the six official participating community science projects, more than 1,780 participants across 76 North American states, provinces, and territories shared nearly 4,000 observations of monarch butterflies and milkweed plants. Volunteers observed 13,222 monarchs and 40,616 milkweeds. To learn more about the International Monarch Monitoring Blitz, visit cec.org/international-monarch-monitoring-blitz







Field Research

Over the summer field season, the MJV team worked on two habitat monitoring projects using the IMMP.

Monitoring California Bureau of Land Management Lands

The MJV deployed a field team to monitor monarch habitat on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands throughout California. 2023 marks year one of a three-year project to collect baseline data and establish long-term monitoring plots using the Integrated Monarch Monitoring Program (IMMP). Our field team conducted 111 milkweed and blooming plant surveys across 12 BLM field offices. They documented eight milkweed species native to California: *A. albicans*, *A. californica*, *A. cordifolia*, *A. eriocarpa*, *A. erosa*, *A. fascicularis*, *A. speciosa*, and *A. subulata*. This season, 48 monarchs (23 adults and 25 larvae) were observed on BLM lands. View the 2023 field technicians' journey here.

Milkweed on Agricultural Conservation and Federal Lands

The MJV collaborated with the Conservation Corps of Minnesota and Iowa to hire two Individual Placement (IP) team members in 2023. The IPs collected data for projects funded by the US Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Both projects explored the patterns and density of milkweed on different landscapes, including Conservation Reserve Program lands, wildlife refuges, and surrounding conservation areas. Employing the MJV's new remote sensing technology, they used drones to survey over 50 locations in Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, and Wisconsin. Both projects are expanding into 2024, during which more data will be collected across various land uses near these federal conservation investments. The MJV is also excited to welcome the two IPs as full-time staff in 2024. View the 2023 Drone Technicians' blog post here.



Left page: MJV's AmeriCorps member flying drone (left), MJV's AmeriCorps members learning how to operate drones (middle), MJV staff and partners tag monarchs (right).
Right Page: MJV Field Technicians among a large population of showy milkweed (*Asclepias speciosa*) while completing surveys. ©MJV

Learn more about MJV's Science Program Initiatives at monarchjointventure.org/science

PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM INITIATIVES



Tim Fredricks and Aimee Hood hold tagged monarch butterflies. ©MJV

The Monarch Joint Venture leads a network of over 130 federal and state agencies, non-governmental organizations, businesses, and academic programs working to protect the monarch migration across the United States. The MJV's network of partners represents a wide range of organizations using an all-hands-on-deck approach to conserving this important species. While the Monarch Joint Venture's primary focus is on the monarch, we collaborate with a diverse range of organizations dedicated to broader conservation efforts, including pollinator protection and general environmental conservation.

Monarch Conservation Meeting

In early March, more than 170 attendees from over 105 organizations came together at the Monarch Conservation Meeting at the Desert Botanical Gardens in Phoenix, Arizona. Co-hosted by the Monarch Joint Venture (MJV) and Rights-of-Way as Habitat Working Group (ROWHWG), the event brought together partners from 35 states to discuss current research, initiatives, and case studies. Participants shared resources, networked, and explored new engagement opportunities. Over the busy two-and-a-half-day meeting, they learned from more than 35 presentations on monarch conservation science and initiatives, received high-level agency updates, and participated in ten breakout sessions to discuss tools, updates, and best practices and to connect stakeholders by sector and geography to enhance dialogue and collaboration.



Group photo of MJV partners at the 2023 Monarchs and More Meeting (top), Field trip to South Mountain (left), Lighting presentations at the partner meeting (right top), Meeting attendees participate in community science activities (right bottom). ©MJV

Partner Working Groups

The MJV launched and facilitated three working groups for partners in 2023 - the Communications Working Group, the Data & Information Working Group, and the Partnership Working Group. These groups met and worked virtually throughout the year, sharing knowledge and skills, connecting with one another, and developing outcomes beneficial to the broader MJV community. The Communications Working Group developed communications resources, including a photo archive, a guide on creating media kits, and justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion resources. The Data & Information Working Group created the Monarch Database Resource Guide, a list of monarch-related datasets researchers can utilize. The Partnership Working Group developed a survey to gather feedback on the benefits and needs of partners and planned virtual regional meetups to launch in 2024.

Partner Grants Program

When funds are available, the MJV administers a Partner Grants Program to support monarch conservation actions carried out by our partners. In cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service International Programs, the MJV has awarded and continues to administer over $650,000 in partner grants since 2022. Round 1 includes 18 conservation projects carried out between January 1, 2022 - and December 31, 2023. Round 2 launched in 2023 for 12 projects to be carried out between October 1, 2023 - March 31, 2025. Members of the MJV Partner Network who receive a grant are responsible for managing all projects funded by that grant. In doing so, they support the MJV's broader priorities outlined in the implementation framework, which include habitat conservation, education, science, and partnership.

AZA SAFE Monarch

SAFE Monarch, an initiative within the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) Saving Animals From Extinction (SAFE) program, unites accredited zoos, aquariums, and external partners to protect imperiled species. Of the 40 AZA conservation programs, SAFE Monarch is the sole insect-focused endeavor. The SAFE Monarch Network encompasses 97 AZA-accredited institutions and external partners. Collaborative efforts have expanded notably, including appointing a dedicated SAFE Monarch Program Coordinator housed with MJV since January 2023.

A suite of tools, including the SAFE Monarch Network website, has been launched to enhance engagement and information sharing among AZA institutions. A recent survey conducted by SAFE Monarch revealed significant contributions from participating institutions. Among the findings, 88% reported dedicated monarch/pollinator habitats covering approximately 315 acres. Additionally, 95% of respondents engage in education and outreach activities, focusing on non-formal programming and community outreach. Furthermore, program partners have made strides in community science monitoring, with 58% participating in projects such as iNaturalist, Monarch Watch Tagging, and Journey North.







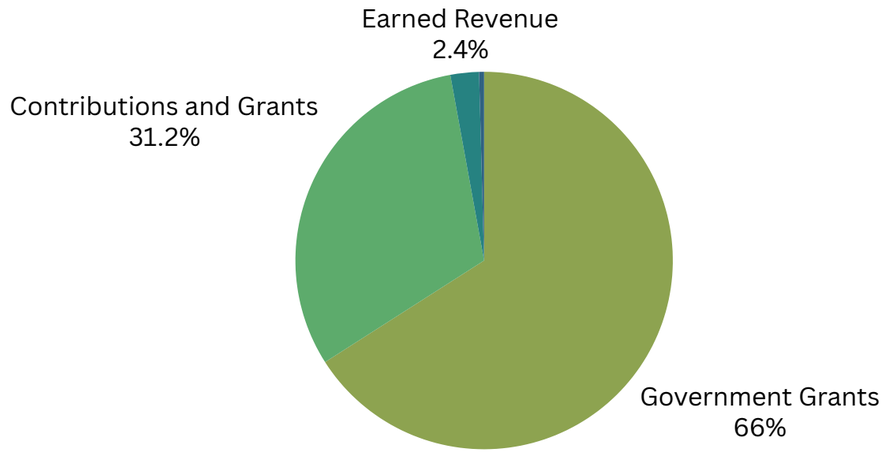


MJV partner logos (top) ©MJV, Metro Blooms and MJV at Minnehaha Falls Art Fair (middle left) ©Metro Blooms, Partner Grant Program Photos: Pheasants Forever Knife River pollinator habitat establishment (middle right) ©Pheasants Forever, and Partners from an urban community farm in Fresno county pick up their habitat kits (bottom) ©Xerces Society

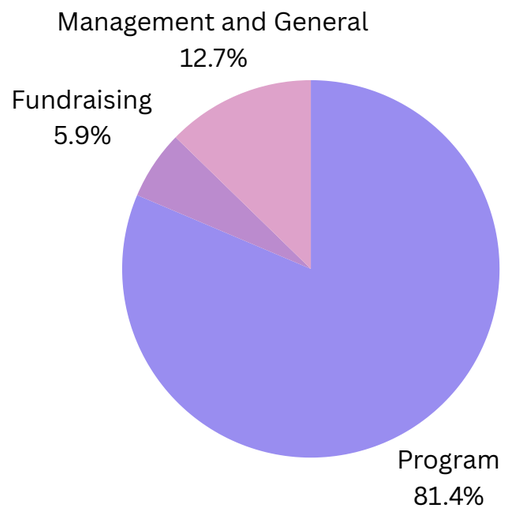
Learn more about MJV's Partnership Program Initiatives at monarchjointventure.org/partnership

REVENUE & EXPENSES

Total Revenue: $3,045,625



Total Expenses: $2,143,337



End of Year Net Assets: $1,580,231

©Wendy Caldwell

$1,000+ Funding Organizations

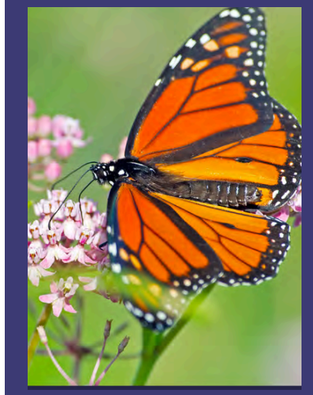
- Agricultural Biotechnology Stewardship Technical Committee
- Almond Board of California
- Apex Clean Energy
- Bayer Crop Science
- Blank Park Zoo
- Bureau of Land Management
- Bushel Boy Farms
- Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden
- Corteva Agriscience
- Covia Solutions, Inc.
- Duke Energy Foundation
- Fabricon Foundation
- Fresno Chaffee Zoo
- Greensboro Science Center
- Holly Yashi
- Indiana Natural Resources Foundation
- Lenfestey Family Foundation
- Merjent, Inc.
- Moon Valley Organics
- National Cooperative Highway Research Program
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Nextera Energy Foundation, Inc.
- Ruth and August Bohn Family Charitable Trust
- Saint Paul Central Music Boosters Club
- Saint Paul Garden Club
- San Diego Zoo
- SCI Northeast Indiana Chapter
- Seneca Park Zoo
- Shavlik Family Foundation
- Stantec
- tentree
- Triscuit
- True Leaf Market
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- US Forest Service
- Walker Foundation



Tagged monarch butterfly. ©MJV

Leadership Circle

The Monarch Joint Venture is especially grateful to these individuals who, in 2023, contributed $1,000 or more:



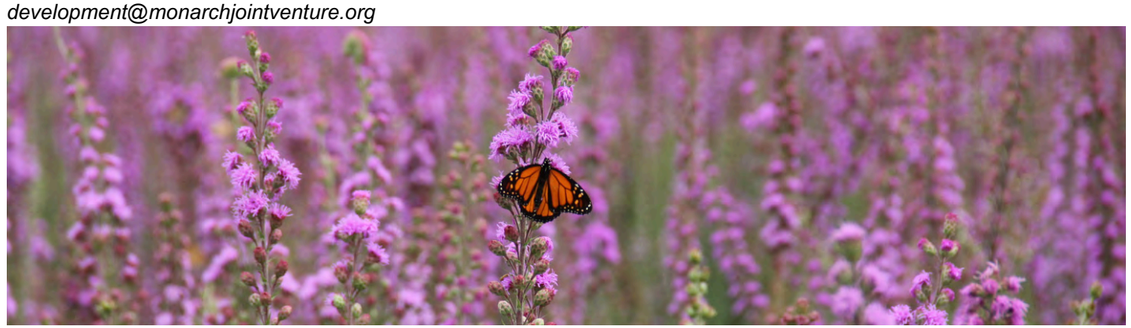
Gerald Axelbaum
Tracy Baldwin
Roger Benjamin
Pam & Erik Gahr-Hobbie
Jennifer & Eden Geetter
Liz Goehring
Therese Saxe & David Hage
Helen & Daniel Lindsay
Ann Hobbie &Jeff Benjamin
Jeanine & Zach Holden
Cindy Ingold
Deborah Kravik
Lieberman Family
Karen Oberhauser
Jessica & Brad Pihlstrom
Thelma Redick
Jill & Brian Reynolds
Laura Sanders
Kathleen Schlemmer
Samuel Schwartz
Janice Sharp & Brian Bowman
Stephanie Watkins
Kari Wenger
Anonymous

INDIVIDUAL DONORS, $500 – $999

Individual donors play an essential role in ensuring the success of the MJV and our partners. Thank you to the following supporters who have become part of our movement to protect the monarch.

Karen Barnwell
Doug Cameron
Chris Carvalho
Shelly Culea
Ronald Faas
Russell Ginns
Kathleen Johnson
Lewis Giving Fund
Lynn Hobbie and Kevin Little
Lane Lockrem
R. Scott Radford
John Thorne
Margaret Tolboom
Elisabeth Young-Isebrand

**Donors, if there is an error or omission in this list, or you wish for your gift to be anonymous, please contact development@monarchjointventure.org*



Monarch butterfly on blazing star. ©MJV

2023 STAFF & BOARD

MJV Staff:

- Wendy Caldwell, Executive Director
- Christine Sanderson, Program Director
- Misty Boos, Program Director
- Catherine Kitchin, Operations Manager
- Katie-Lyn Puffer, Education Manager
- Jennifer Thieme, Science Manager
- Robert Seilheimer, Development Coordinator
- Elizabeth Egan, Communications Coordinator
- Rita Morris, Outreach Coordinator
- Lily Peppers, Partnership Coordinator
- Stephanie Rohdy, Partnership Coordinator
- Jenna Totz, Education Coordinator
- Jacob Koenig, Midwest Habitat Coordinator
- Brittany Smith, Central Flyway Habitat Program Coordinator
- Sarah Gomes, Western Science Coordinator
- Erin Arnsteen, Western Program Coordinator
- Mercy Manzanares, Program Coordinator
- Laura Lukens, Program Coordinator
- Alyssa Taylor, AZA SAFE Monarch Program Coordinator
- Laura Molenaar, Education Specialist
- Leah Darst, Education Specialist
- Sarah Dugan, Education Specialist
- Luis Osorio, AmeriCorps Member, Remote Sensing Field Technician
- Josiah Velner, AmeriCorps Member, Remote Sensing Field Technician
- Johanna Rivera, Environment for the Americas Intern
- Clarissa Ortega, Environment for the Americas Intern
- Aimie Olson, Field Technician
- Sierra Teemsma, Field Technician

MJV Board:

- Thelma Redick, Board Chair, Vice Chair
- Dana Boyle, Board Chair
- Liz Goehring, Secretary
- Jan Sharp, Treasurer
- Grant Bowers
- Doug Cameron
- Ann Hobbie
- Sandy Law
- Beth Lebow (Ex Officio)
- Joshua Mutic
- Maxwell Schwartz
- Court Whelan
- Sheila Williams Ridge



Monarch butterfly on prairie blazing star. ©Wendy Caldwell