EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Kim Bailey displays monarchs eclosing. Photo: Phyllis Stiles / Xerces Society

The North Carolina Arboretum is a campus of the University of North Carolina system which holds numerous adult education classes each week. The Horticulture & Landscape Design series covers everything from gardening with native plants, wildflower ecology, planting pollinator meadows, to removing invasive plants.

The Arborteum hosts an Integrated Pest Management conference each year.

Our Eco-Explorer program engages children with all kinds of insects on our campus and at public libraries.

Fourth Annual Monarch Butterfly Day, September 8
As part of a national effort to stave off the decline of monarch butterflies, the North Carolina Arboretum hosted its annual Monarch Butterfly Day inside the Arboretum's Education Center and throughout its gardens. Participants learned ways to help monarch butterflies, purchased milkweed, created make-and-take butterfly crafts, and witnessed monarch butterfly releases. The event drew hundreds (both monarchs and people!).

Monarch Conservation Mini-Symposium, Saturday, September 22
The mini-symposium was presented by: The North Carolina Arboretum, Bee City USA - Hendersonville, and Bee City USA – Asheville. Speakers included monarch educator, Kim Bailey; international monarch butterfly expert, Estela Romero; and researchers who have pioneered a new, more accurate way to measure overwintering monarch populations using a lidar, remote sensing, method, Dr. Nickolay Hristov and Dr. Louise Allen. During the day, participants had the opportunity to check monarchs for the parasite Ophryocystis elektroscirrha (OE) and following the symposium, some participants explored the Blue Ridge Parkway in search of monarchs along their migration route to Mexico.

Flight of the Butterflies Movie Screening, Saturday, September 22
Presented by The North Carolina Arboretum, Bee City USA - Hendersonville, and Bee City USA – Asheville, the "Flight of the Butterflies" is an awe-inspiring film that tells the story of extraordinary insect endurance and human perseverance. Viewers learned about the remarkable migration of the monarch butterfly and the determined scientist, Dr. Fred Urquhart, who spent 40 years trying to discover exactly where the butterflies mysteriously disappeared when they flew south for winter. This interconnected scientific adventure story spans not only thousands of miles, but generations. Following the screening, international monarch butterfly expert, Estela Romero, hosted a special Q&A focused around her hometown of Angangueo, Mexico and the nearby monarch overwintering sanctuaries.

POLLINATOR HEALTH & HABITAT

The North Carolina Arboretum has become a destination for seeing native plants used in ornamental landscapes.

POLICIES & PRACTICES

The committee is comprised of individuals from across the institution, and meets weekly to discuss this and other institutional goals and programs.

SERVICE-LEARNING

Service-learning projects include planting pollinator gardens at libraries, and enhancing on-site pollinator gardens. Furthermore, there are volunteers who regularly monitor milkweed for monarch eggs, caterpillars, and chrysalides.

CURRICULUM

The NC Arboretum offers year-round curriculum about gardening for pollinators and other wildlife through the adult education, continuing education, youth and family, and school programs.

EDUCATIONAL SIGNAGE

This year pollinator signage was added to our Forest Meadow and new Monarch Life Cycle sculpture.

CONTACT US!

Committee: The North Carolina Arboretum Mission Orchestration Team
Website: https://www.ncarboretum.org/education-programs/adult-education-classes/horticulture-and-landscape-design/