

## The Monarchs and More Network Meeting



## Speaker Profiles

### Nicole Alt

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)  
*Director, Center for Pollinator  
Conservation (CPC)*

#### *CPC Overview*

*Nicole Alt, is the Director for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Center for Pollinator Conservation. She's the Center's first Director and has over two decades experience working collaboratively with partners to advance conservation – finding opportunities, listening, seeking common ground, innovating, and supporting others.*

### Adam M. Baker, PhD

Davey Institute  
*Research Entomologist*  
*Assessing Predation of Urban  
Monarch Larvae  
in Urban/Rural Landscapes Using Clay  
Caterpillar Models*

*Dr. Baker is a research entomologist with the Davey Tree company. His dissertation explored the conservation of the iconic monarch butterfly in urban landscapes.*

### Kristen Baum

Monarch Watch  
*Director*  
*Resilient Landscapes for Monarchs*

*Kristen Baum recently joined the University of Kansas as the Director of Monarch Watch. She has been studying pollinators in the Great Plains for more than 25 years with a focus on the effects of land use and management practices on the distribution, abundance, and phenology of milkweeds, monarchs, and other pollinators.*

### Ashley Bennett

Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI)  
*Research Scientist*

#### *Evaluating the Use of eDNA to Detect Pollinators on Rights-of-Way*

*Ashley Bennett is a technical lead for transmission and distribution (T&D) environmental issues at the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI). Her research areas of focus include: vegetation management strategies for cost reductions and biodiversity conservation, pollinator conservation, UAV and satellite inspection techniques, and promoting the use and establishment of native seed mixes.*

### Chad Boeckman

Corteva  
*Global Regulatory Leader for  
Oilseeds*  
*Corteva Grows: Pollinator Initiatives  
with Key Partners*

*Chad Boeckman currently serves as Global Regulatory Leader for Oilseeds for Corteva Agriscience, and has a diverse background in ecotoxicology. Chad has a passion for monarchs and pollinators and engaging on biodiversity initiatives broadly.*

### Juan Botero

U.S. Department of Energy  
*Technology Manager, Solar Energy  
Technologies Office (SETO)*  
*SETO Overview*

*Juan Botero is a Technology Manager at the Solar Energy Technologies Office (SETO) at the Department of Energy (DOE). Juan's team executes funding opportunities and oversees selected research projects that address barriers for siting large-scale solar across the country. Juan oversees projects that are conducting cutting edge research on solar-wildlife interactions, agrivoltaics, community opposition to solar, and other siting topics. Juan has a master's in biology and bachelor's degree in wildlife science and lives in Arlington, Virginia.*



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## Speaker Profiles

### Crystal Boyd

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
(NFWF)  
*Senior Manager of Pollinator Programs*  
*TBA*

*Crystal Boyd is the Senior Manager of Pollinator Programs for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. She earned a Master's degree from the University of Colorado, where her thesis focused on the bumble bees of Colorado.*

### Casey Burns

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)  
Threatened and Endangered Species  
Specialist (Headquarters)  
*U.S Department of the Interior (DOI)*  
*and BLM Pollinator Summary*

*Casey Burns works for the Bureau of Land Management as the Headquarters Threatened and Endangered Species Specialist coordinating regional, national, and international pollinator monitoring and conservation projects. Previously, he has worked for BLM in Alaska and California and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service in Utah and California.*

### Erica Christiansen

Stantec  
Biologist  
*Remote Sensing Solutions: Quantifying*  
*Monarch Butterfly Habitat in*  
*Transportation Rights-of-Way*

*Erica is a wildlife biologist based in Madison, WI. She supports several organizations with their enrollment and participation in the Monarch CCAA.*

### Sam Cloete

Kannar Earth Science, Ltd.  
*President & CEO*  
*Multi-Seed Pellets for Pollinator*  
*Habitat Restoration*

*Sam is a champion of environmental stewardship and building nature-friendly agricultural products. Under Sam's leadership as CEO, Kannar has expanded from offering only seed colorants to a full portfolio of technologies supporting regenerative agriculture. These include seed applied and planting time technologies, and water use efficiency tools. Sam is originally from Cape Town, South Africa and resides in Atlanta, GA with his wife and five children.*

### Robert Coulson

Texas A&M University  
*Professor*  
*Monarch Conservation Strategies*  
*for Texas Roadways: Monarch*  
*Flight Diverters*

*Robert Coulson is an entomologist, landscape ecologist, and knowledge engineer. His research has been transdisciplinary in approach and directed to investigations of the activities and impacts of insects and other taxa in forest, prairie, savanna, and agricultural landscapes. The research addresses issues of significance to entomology, ecological science, and landscape-use management.*



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## Speaker Profiles

### Haley Diem

Sand County Foundation  
*Education and Outreach Specialist*  
*Sand County Foundation Pollinator Habitat  
School Grants Program*

*Haley Diem is the Education and Outreach Specialist with Sand County Foundation. In her role, she manages the Pollinator Habitat Grant Program, which supports schools in growing and planting native wildflowers as part of an experiential learning opportunity. She holds a Master's of Environmental Education degree from University of Minnesota Duluth, and her professional focus and personal passion is connecting people to the land.*

### Jay Diffendorfer

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)  
*Research Ecologist*  
*Climate and Habitat Change in Mexico and Texas*

*Jay Diffendorfer is a research ecologist at the Geosciences and Environmental Change Science Center, United States Geological Survey, in Denver, CO. He works on monarch butterflies, migratory systems and their conservation, urban systems, and energy-environment interactions. His work on monarch butterflies includes population demography, conservation strategies, land cover and climate change, and overwintering behavior in the western population.*

### Susan Dunlap

Aerulean Plant Identification Systems, Inc.  
*CEO*  
*Feedbutterflies.com: A Searchable Nectar-Plant Resource*

*Ms. Dunlap holds two US Patents for plant identification. She applied her knowledge of the plant kingdom to generate a nectar plant database feedbutterflies.com: a searchable nectar plant resource with over 10,000 entries.*

### Greg Emerick

Simple Business Automation  
*Owner*  
*Automation and Scale for  
Capturing and Processing Remotely  
Sensed Data*

*Greg Emerick, an accomplished entrepreneur and aviation expert, now leads SBA - Simple Business Automation, crafting innovative solutions to meet global conservation needs. For the past 12 years, Greg has been developing remote-sensing and object detection technologies for land-use applications using drones, color, thermal, and multi-spectral imagery from drones and satellites for large-scale land management activities, including annual and perennial agricultural plants and conservation applications.*

### Anthony Falk

Texas Native Seeds  
*Dan L. Duncan Endowed Director*  
*Texas Native Seeds: Developing  
Commercially Available Native  
Seed Varieties*

*Dr. Anthony Falk is the Dan L. Duncan Endowed Director of Texas Native Seeds.*

### Wes Fleming

Evergy  
*Senior Environmental Consultant*  
*Collaborative Conservation  
Benefits Pollinators*

*Wes is a Certified Fisheries Biologist with responsibilities in Water and Land Resource Management. He is experienced in a variety of regulatory compliance programs in the utilities industry.*





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### Jessica Fox

Electric Power Research Institute  
(EPRI)

*Conservation Biologist and Principal  
Technical Executive*

*Bee Better Electric: A National Third-  
Party Verified Program for Pollinator-  
Friendly Energy Projects*

*Jessica Fox is a conservation biologist leading  
efforts on water management, pollinators,  
environmental markets, ecosystem services,  
sustainability and related work.*

### Tim Fredricks

Bayer Crop Science

*Environmental Engagement Manager*

*On-Farm Biodiversity: Digital Tools and  
Collaboration Drive Conservation in the  
Agricultural Landscape*

*Tim Fredricks, Ph.D., Environmental Engagement  
Manager, has 14 years' experience with Bayer  
Crop Science and is responsible for  
coordinating projects and outreach directed to  
bees, monarch butterflies, and other pollinators  
or species of concern with a diversity of  
partners including NGOs, Government Agencies,  
and Industry Task Forces.*

### Elsa Gallagher

Bee & Butterfly Habitat Fund

*Habitat Program Director*

*Conservation Wins Through Solar  
Synergy/Seed a Legacy: Rooted in  
Collaboration*

*Elsa Gallagher, Habitat Program Director for  
The Bee & Butterfly Habitat Fund, has been  
creating partnerships to improve habitat for  
pollinators for the last 20 years as a Wildlife  
Biologist. From the Missouri Department of  
Conservation to The Bee and Butterfly Habitat  
Fund, she has used her passion and enthusiasm  
to deliver high-quality habitat projects on the  
landscape.*

## Speaker Profiles

### Emily Geest

Oklahoma City Zoo

*Postdoctoral Fellow in Conservation,  
Science, and Education*

*Creating Living Classrooms to  
Combat Monarch Declines*

*Emily Geest is a broadly trained ecologist  
who focuses on research that answers  
questions aimed at understanding how  
anthropogenic land-use change and land  
management decisions influence  
biodiversity, specifically concerning  
butterflies.*

### Sam Glinsky

Texas Department of Transportation  
(TxDOT)

*Vegetation Specialist*

*TxDOT's Participation in the Monarch  
CCAA – Environmental Factors:  
Drought*

*Sam Glinsky is a vegetation specialist working  
for TxDOT's maintenance field support team. His  
team provides support for statewide vegetation  
programs such as mowing, wildflowers, seeding,  
erosion control, herbicide, and more.*

### Amy Golden

Virginia Department of  
Transportation (VDOT)

*Land Stewardship Program Manager*  
*Mowing for Monarchs: Building a  
Business Case at VDOT*

*Amy Golden is the Land Stewardship Program  
Lead in the Office of Transportation  
Sustainability. Ms. Golden has led coordination  
between Maintenance and Environmental  
Divisions in the implementation of the  
agreement which entails educating various  
district managers and contractors on pollinator  
best mowing practices, herbicide treatments,  
planting, and set aside areas to meet VDOT's  
commitments under the Monarch CCAA.*



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## Speaker Profiles

### Andy Grinstead

Pollinator Partnership  
*Habitat Specialist and Project Wingspan  
Manager*  
*Project Wingspan: Sowing Success at the  
Grass Roots*

*Andy Grinstead is a natural resources steward with  
a passion for community engagement in  
conservation and environmental education.*

### Heidi Hartmann

Argonne National Laboratory  
*Land Resources and Energy Policy  
Program Manager*  
*Utility-Scale Solar and Pollinator  
Ecosystem Services*

*Heidi Hartmann (M.S.) manages the Land Resources  
and Energy Policy Program within the  
Environmental Science Division at Argonne National  
Laboratory. Heidi's career has been focused on the  
assessment of impacts of environmental stressors  
on human health and ecosystems, with an emphasis  
on stressors introduced by various types of energy  
use. Most recently she has supported the  
Department of Energy and Bureau of Land  
Management in projects assessing potential  
ecosystem services and environmental impacts  
from utility-scale solar development.*

### Aster Hasle

Field Museum  
*Lead Conservation Ecologist*  
*New Opportunities in Community Science*

*Aster brings their background in both ecology and  
geographic information systems to the Keller  
Science Action Center's Chicago Region  
Conservation Programs. Their current projects  
include conservation planning for monarch  
butterflies and other pollinators in urban areas,  
exploring eDNA in urban places, and conservation  
lands in Pembroke Township, Illinois.*

### Ed Henry

USDA Natural Resources  
Conservation Services (NRCS)  
*National Ecologist*  
*NRCS Activities and Perspectives  
About Monarchs*

*Edward Henry is the National Ecologist with  
the Natural Resources Conservation Service.  
Edward has 30 years of experience in the  
conservation field ranging from the field to  
the national/Federal level. His current job  
duties include biodiversity, pollinators,  
monarchs, invertebrate habitats, invasive  
species and ecology, and indigenous  
ecological knowledge.*

### Stephanie Hertz

U.S. Department of Defense (DoD)  
*Recovery and Sustainment  
Partnership Coordinator*  
*DoD Presentation*

*Stephanie Hertz serves as the Recovery and  
Sustainment Partnership (RASP) Coordinator  
for the Office of the Secretary of Defense.  
The RASP is a partnership between the DoD  
and Department of the Interior focused on  
developing and promoting conservation and  
recovery initiatives for threatened,  
endangered, and at-risk species while  
promoting increased flexibility for military  
mission activities. As the Coordinator for  
DoD, Stephanie focuses on proactive,  
innovative and collaborative approaches that  
enhance implementation of the Endangered  
Species Act, sustain and enhance the military  
mission, and achieve greater conservation  
outcomes for species.*



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### Isis Howard

Xerces Society for Invertebrate  
Conservation  
*Western Monarch Community Science  
Specialist*  
*Xerces' Community-Powered Monarch  
Initiatives*

*Isis manages the Xerces Society's annual  
Western Monarch Count and the Western  
Monarch Milkweed Mapper community science  
projects. She also supports land managers and  
partners on monarch habitat issues and works  
to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion goals  
in our program work.*

### Dave Hunter

Crown Bees  
Owner  
*A Collaborative Strategy for  
Pollinator Conservation*

*Dave Hunter is the founder and owner of Crown  
Bees, whose company is an advocate to help  
people raise 25% of the native bee population.  
He founded the professional Orchard Bee  
Association and is a published author.*

### Deborah January-Bevers

Houston Wilderness  
President  
*Texas Monarch Flyway Strategy*

*Deborah January-Bevers has been involved with  
public policy around the Greater Houston region  
and the State of Texas for over 35 years,  
serving as President & CEO of Houston  
Wilderness for the last 11 years. She received  
her Bachelor of Arts from the University of  
Texas at Austin in 1985 and her J.D. from the  
University of Houston Law Center in 1992.*

## Speaker Profiles

### Karen Klinger

Field Museum  
GIS Analyst  
*Field Museum Monarch Community  
Science*

*Karen Klinger is a GIS Analyst in the Keller  
Science Action Center at the Field Museum. She  
has been a lead on a variety of projects  
including the Rights of Way Habitat Database,  
Monarch Community Science Project, and  
Calumet Voices National Stories website.*

### Steve Letkowski

PSE&G  
Environmental Supervisor for  
Vegetation Management  
*REVEG: Balancing Habitat Enhancement  
Alongside Reliability*

*PSE&G's Veg Management program strives to  
make the most out of the land we are  
responsible to maintain by working with  
required regulators as well as with property  
owners, researchers, garden clubs, and  
environmental organizations. As a life-long tree  
lover and a tree scientist for the past couple  
decades, Steve is grateful and enthusiastic to  
be in the position of helping spearhead and lead  
many of these efforts while keeping the lines  
safe and reliable.*



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### Kelvin Limbrick

ComEd  
Vegetation Management Sr. Program  
Manager  
*Goats as a Vegetation Management  
Solution*

*Kelvin is an ISA Certified Arborist, IL Licensed Pesticide Applicator, and published Ornithologist responsible for restoring ComEd's 5300 miles of transmission rights of way to prairie for safety and reliability, as well as the Monarch CCAA. Kelvin oversees many different programs including herbicide, targeted grazing, focus area transition to ComEd prairie, CCAA data collection, contractor education and training, and partnerships with the Illinois Prairie Path, local zoos, and Morton Arboretum.*

### Josette Lewis

Almond Board of California  
Vice President & Chief Scientific  
Officer  
*Pollinator Conservation on  
Agricultural Lands in California*

*Dr. Lewis is Vice President and Chief Scientific Officer for the Almond Board of California, a grower-funded nonprofit. She oversees research, environmental stewardship and industry communications.*

## Speaker Profiles

### Emily May

Xerces Society for Invertebrate  
Conservation  
*Pollinator Conservation Specialist,  
Pesticide Program  
Conserving Monarchs - We Need to  
Talk about Pesticides*

*Emily received a master's of science in Entomology from Michigan State University, where she studied pollinator habitat restoration and the effects of pest management practices on bee communities. Her work with Xerces since 2015 has focused on supporting crop pollinators through habitat creation and protecting beneficial insects from pesticides.*

### Will Meeks

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)  
Regional Director, Midwest  
TBA

### Julia Michaels, PhD.

Hedgerow Farms/NativeSeed Group  
Research Ecologist/VP of Scientific  
and Public Affairs  
*Growing Commercially Available  
Milkweed Rhizomes for Restoration*

*Dr. Julia Michaels is the Restoration Ecologist for Hedgerow Farms, and the V.P. of Scientific and Public Affairs at the NativeSeed Group. She works to help source, grow, and design native seed mixes for pollinators.*





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### Gillian O'Doherty

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)  
*National Ecologist/Roadside Pollinator  
Program*

#### *DOT/FHWA Presentation*

*Gillian O'Doherty is an Ecologist with the FHWA Office of Project Development and Environmental Review (HEPE) at FHWA Headquarters in Washington DC. She is an ecologist with an MSc in Restoration Ecology of Terrestrial and Aquatic Systems and 20 years of experience working in the restoration and transportation fields on a variety of project types.*

### Jack Pizzo

Pizzo & Associates, Ltd./Pizzo Native  
Plant Nursery LLC  
*President / Senior Ecologist / Principal  
Landscape Architect / CPBM*

#### *Monarch Haven! Creating Habitat for a Thousand Monarchs from Bare Soil in a Sea of Corn and Beans*

*Jack's passion and profession for over 35 years is ecosystem restoration and growing native. He practices what he preaches on his two farms as 69 of his 80 acres are protected is conservation easements.*

## Speaker Profiles

### Erin Posthumus

USA National Phenology Network  
*Outreach Coordinator*

#### *Floral Forecasts: Predicting Shifts in Monarch Nectar Resources*

*Erin Posthumus coordinates local, regional, and national data collection projects for the USA National Phenology Network (USA-NPN), a national-scale monitoring and research initiative based at the University of Arizona. The USA-NPN is focused on collecting, organizing and delivering phenological data, information, and forecasts to support natural resource management and decision-making, to advance the scientific field of phenology, and to promote understanding of phenology by a wide range of audiences.*

### Sara Rensing

Wild Ones

#### *Education and Program Coordinator Measuring the Impact of the Native Plant Movement*

*Sara is responsible for Wild Ones education and program administration, including strategy, development, reporting, and budgeting for programs such as the Lorrie Otto Seeds for Education Grants, Native Garden Designs, Wild for Monarchs, Wild Ones Journal, and educational webinars.*





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### Schyler Rhea

Wildlife Habitat Federation (WHF)

Conservationist

*Grasslands for Wildlife*

*Schyler Rhea works with individuals, organizations, and private landowners to help conserve Texas habitat with a primary focus on restoring native prairie habitat and grasslands throughout Texas.*

### Mike Rizo

U.S. Forest Service (USFS)

Program Specialist, International Programs

*Mike Rizo works for International Programs of the U.S. Forest Service (USFS IP) where he focuses on conservation of monarchs and other migratory species through the development of strategic partnerships and alliances that ultimately become part of larger conservation networks. Within this framework, he is most passionate about fostering programs for urban, rural, and indigenous communities in the U.S. and Latin America that increase participation in conservation programs while also incorporating community priorities into all projects.*

### Amy Snelgrove

Texan by Nature

Data and Project Manager

*Oil and Gas Rights-of-Way: A Route to Recovery*

*With 30 years of experience working on natural resource and endangered species issues, Amy's role at Texan by Nature is facilitating the organization's conservation projects with business partners and providing geospatial support to all programs within the organization. Before joining Texan by Nature, she led a geospatial and information technology resources lab where she worked with an interdisciplinary team of researchers focused on high-profile, state, regional, and national conservation issues.*

## Speaker Profiles

### Chris Stein

National Park Service (NPS)

Program Manager, National Heritage Areas (Midwest)

*Operation Pollination Overview*

*Chris has been a park ranger for more than four decades protecting and interpreting some of the most iconic places on Earth. Only in his fourth decade did he realize that protecting "the little things that run the world" in the communities where we live is just as important as protecting a well-known park.*

### Chris Taliga

USDA Natural Resources

Conservation Services (NRCS)

Plant Ecologist

*USDA PLANTS Database Update*

*Christine Taliga is a Plant Ecologist with the USDA NRCS National Plant Data Team where she is working to develop and curate a national plant pollinator interaction database. She has worked for NRCS for over two decades and has extensive field experience in restoration ecology.*

### Alyssa Taylor

Monarch Joint Venture (MJV)

AZA SAFE Monarch Program

Coordinator

*AZA Monarch SAFE: Engaging Zoos and Aquariums in Monarch Conservation*

*Alyssa Taylor is a Program Coordinator with the Monarch Joint Venture supporting the AZA SAFE Monarch Program. She facilitates the project coordination, communications, and content management of the AZA SAFE North American Monarch Program as well as supporting MJV's education and partnership efforts. Saving Animals From Extinction (SAFE) focuses on the collective expertise within AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums and leverages their massive audiences to save species.*



# SPEAKER PROFILES

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### Wayne Thogmartin

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)  
*Research Ecologist*  
*Revised Extinction Risk Assessment*

*Wayne Thogmartin is a research ecologist with the US Geological Survey's Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center in La Crosse, Wisconsin. His research focuses in large part on determining risks faced by imperiled species, including birds, bats, butterflies, bees, and, of course, monarchs.*

### Tony Tipton

Columbia Gas/NiSource  
*Leader, Land Services and*  
*Vegetation Management*  
*Cross-Sector Collaboration*

*Tony Tipton is a 1985 Graduate of Morehead State University. He began his career with Columbia Gas/NiSource in April 1995. He is currently the Manager of Vegetation Management for the Columbia Gas companies within the NiSource portfolio which includes KY, MD, PA, VA, and OH. In 2008 he was asked to develop and manage the IVM program which he continues to lead today. He is married to his beautiful wife Jennique and has 3 children. His office is located in Lexington, KY.*

### Ryan White

SnapLands LLC  
*CEO/Founder*  
*Ecological Restoration and 25 Years*  
*of MMRV*

*Ryan White is a cowboy, ecologist, and climate scientist of Fort Collins, Colorado, Bringing over two decades of professional expertise in large-scale natural resources management and nature-based impact accounting.*

## Speaker Profiles

### Victoria Woodhouse

Canadian Wildlife Federation (CWF)  
*Habitat Program Manager*  
*Monarch Habitat Restoration in*  
*Canada*

*Victoria Woodhouse is a Habitat Program Manager at the Canadian Wildlife Federation where she manages the Rights-of-Way program and the Canadian Rights-of-Way as Habitat Working Group. Victoria also holds a seat on the Rights-of-Way Stewardship Council and is Co-chair of the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign, Managed Lands Task Force.*

## Moderators

### Iris Caldwell

University of Illinois Chicago  
*Program Director*

### Wendy Caldwell

Monarch Joint Venture  
*Executive Director*

### Caroline Hernandez

University of Illinois Chicago  
*Assistant Program Director*

### Matthew Mulica

Keystone Policy Center  
*Senior Project Director*



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### Planning Team

**Brianna Brumbaugh**

Keystone Policy Center  
*Senior Program Coordinator*

**Iris Caldwell**

University of Illinois Chicago  
*Program Director*

**Wendy Caldwell**

Monarch Joint Venture  
*Executive Director*

**Caroline Hernandez**

University of Illinois Chicago  
*Assistant Program Director*

**Matthew Mulica**

Keystone Policy Center  
*Senior Project Director*

**Lily Peppers**

Monarch Joint Venture  
*Partnership Coordinator*

**Megan Petraitis**

University of Illinois Chicago  
*Senior Program Manager*

**Alyssa Taylor**

Monarch Joint Venture  
*AZA SAFE Monarch Program Coordinator*

**Catherine O'Reilly**

University of Illinois Chicago  
*Partner Coordinator*

**Alison Little**

University of Illinois Chicago  
*Partner Coordinator*



# SPEAKER PROFILES

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American  
Petroleum  
Institute



**CPKC**



**Stantec**



**CORTEVA™**  
agriscience

**merjent®**

**nationalgrid**

**syngenta®**



**california  
almonds®**  
Almond Board of California

**MONARCH FLYWAY**  
— INNOVATIONS —