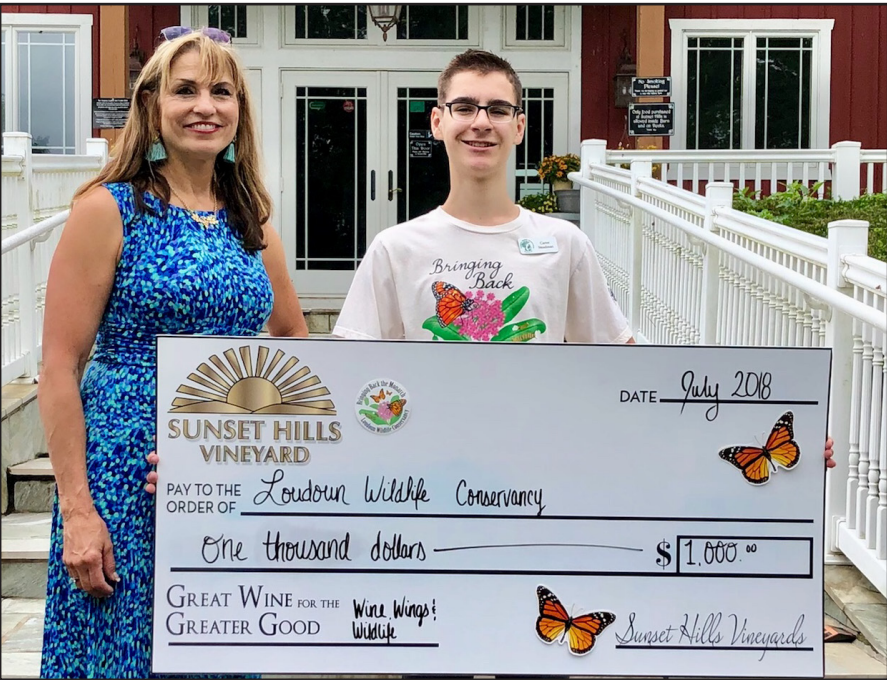


Wine Makers Partner with Teen Citizen Scientist and Nonprofit to Support Wildlife

Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy

Photo by Sarah Steadman



Diane Canney presents a \$1000 Donation to Carter for Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy

"1,271" replied young Carter Steadman when asked how many Monarch butterflies this thirteen year old has hand-raised since he was eight. He's been dubbed "The Monarch Kid," and with caterpillars in hand, Carter charmingly answered this and other questions during the annual Wine, Wings, and Wildlife event at Sunset Hills Vineyard in partnership with local nonprofit, Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy.

Carter and other citizen science educators intrigued winery guests at information tables filled with interactive displays about the magical Monarch butterflies and their conservation needs, local birds--especially Eastern Bluebirds, and native wildlife like the event's most surprising feature, an albino Red Cornsnake named Colonel Popcorn sharing a "don't fear, let me be" message.

The event celebrated its third year on July 21 at Sunset Hills in Purcellville but has also been held at 50 West Vineyard in Aldie.

Mike and Diane Canney's Loudoun County vineyards are examples of a successful mission to bring compassion and advocacy for wildlife and habitats into viticultural practices. Successful wine production depends upon healthy grapes, and healthy grapes require healthy land. The native plants, pollinators, birds, and other wildlife, like native snakes, all have important roles in this shared success story. But more than that, the Canney's share a passion for preserving wildlife and habitats with Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy, whose vision is, "...people and wildlife thrive together."

As a certified wildlife habitat and one of the largest solar facilities in Loudoun County, Sunset Hills is very focused on earth friendly practices. They grow healthy and clean fruit as organically as possible by avoiding pesticides which enable these vineyards to have a healthy and thriving habitat for their Monarch butterfly waystations full of native milkweeds and nectar flowers,

as well as monitored Bluebird box trails. Mowing practices are thoughtful of seasonal wildlife needs, and seeding for native flowers is intentional for pollinators. At both vineyard properties, these wine growers are innovative stewards of the environment.

And they don't do it alone! There is a coordinated team of excited Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy volunteers working in partnership. When Carter isn't serving as the winery's Monarch Ambassador--regularly visiting the winery waystations to collect Monarch eggs and caterpillars to raise and release as a means of boosting the migratory population, he works with 50 West's Bluebird box trail lead, Ken Dzombar, and other Loudoun Wildlife volunteers to monitor native cavity nesting birds. Sunset Hills volunteers estimate they have raised over 100 bluebirds per year, totaling over 800 since they opened nearly ten years ago. 50 West is in its third year with an extensive 15-box trail and sings the success of nearly 200 fledged native birds to date.

In addition to such dedicated action,

the Canney's have donated funds each year to Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy to honor these amazing creatures and the volunteers like young Carter who protect and support them. This year, their \$1000 donation followed the Wine, Wings, and Wildlife event, along with plans to expand the event next year.

Diane shares, "...this summer, if you are fortunate to catch a glimpse of the bright orange Monarch butterfly in flight, remember that they are preparing for their long migration to Mexico. Or when you see an Eastern Bluebird, try to imagine when the skies were so filled with these birds that Thoreau remarked in wonder that they 'carry the sky on their back.' Just a few weeks ago, both of these winged beauties were either eggs in nest or on a milkweed leaf." Indeed, there's a good chance you'll see both at Sunset Hills or 50 West...and you may even meet Carter on duty in the meadow.

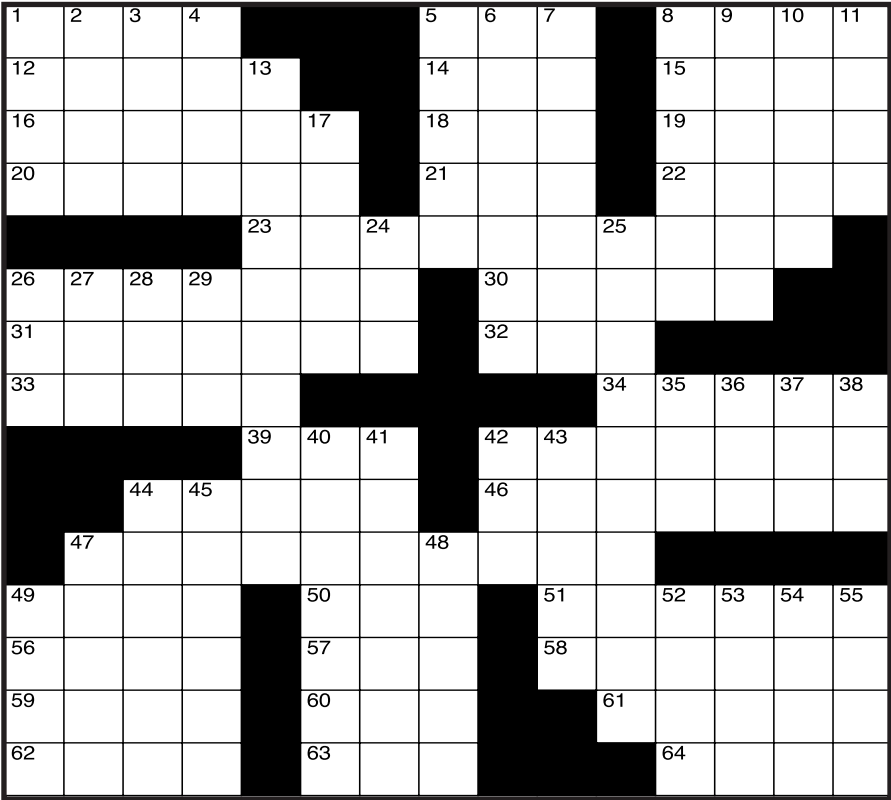
Learn more about Monarchs, Bluebirds and other citizen science programs at LoudounWildlife.org.

Photo by Sarah Steadman



Carter Steadman teaches about Milkweed, the Monarch caterpillar's host plant

PUZZLES



CLUES ACROSS

1. Nui, Easter Island
5. Midway between south and southeast
8. Small mark
12. Small antelope
14. Protects from weather
15. Goddess of women and marriage
16. City in Washington
18. Independent voters association
19. Bird genus
20. Train line
21. Annoy
22. Waste matter
23. 41st President
26. Type of cracker
30. Remove
31. Looked quickly
32. The habitat of wild animals
33. Type of gene
34. Humble
39. Barrels per day (abbr.)
42. Respectful compliments
44. Star Trek: The Next Generation doctor
46. Pithy remark
47. Sums up
49. Tailless amphibian
50. American Gaming Association (abbr.)
51. After seventh
56. Czech River
57. Folk band Iver
58. Kids ride this
59. Ancient Greek City
60. Liquefied natural gas (abbr.)
61. Net
62. Colors clothes
63. Midway between east and southeast
64. Japanese beverage

CLUES DOWN

1. Island north of Guam
2. Biblical region
3. Scottish ancestor
4. Hills in northeast India
5. A way to cook by baking
6. Attacked ferociously
7. Furniture with open shelves
8. Burt Reynolds film
9. A way to examine
10. Plant of the goosefoot family
11. Job
13. Capable of being thought
17. One seeded fruit
24. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
25. Platitudes
26. Very fast airplane
27. Pet detective Ventura
28. Resinous substance
29. Explosive
35. Purse
36. Swiss river
37. Separately managed account (abbr.)
38. Electron scanning microscope (abbr.)
40. Fable
41. Mythical monsters
42. Whale (Norwegian)
43. Domed recesses
44. Member of U.S. Navy
45. Cause to be loved
47. Expression of surprise
48. Jessica __, actress
49. Drove
52. Commands to go faster
53. Chinese dynasty
54. Military vehicle
55. Chinese Muslim