

Butterfly Town, USA Transcript

Time code	Speaker	Dialogue
1.	Narrator	<p>Biologists around the world report that insect populations are shrinking.</p> <p>Monarch butterflies/ are one species which is endangered.</p> <p>Protecting butterflies/ means we need to maintain their habitats.</p> <p>For Monarchs, a canopy of trees is essential.</p>
2.	Narrator	This is the story of one man's vision to maintain a threatened butterfly sanctuary in Pacific Grove, California.
3.		TITLE: BUTTERFLY TOWN, USA
4.	Narrator	This sanctuary is one of the oldest Monarch overwintering sites in California.
5.	Bob	The Monarchs, they're this incredible gift, but we really have a responsibility because they come here, to Pacific Grove
6.	Narrator	In recent years, this butterfly grove like so many habitats throughout the world, has faced both natural

		challenges and internal dissent.
7.	Bill	This issue of how best to preserve the sanctuary is a classic situation in many ways. We've had a lot of contention, and so in terms of how to find the right city policy, it's very difficult.
8.	Pat Herrgott	Since the city has owned this butterfly grove sanctuary, they have neglected it, they have dug it up. Two or three years ago, the city hired an arborist who decided to cut over there, where the monarchs first come when they come to the grove in October. It's a tragedy.
9.		FADE TO BLACK. FADE FROM BLACK.
10.	Narrator	Bob Pacelli, a local videographer, whose been filming butterflies for more than 20 years, decided to take action.
11.	Heidi	The first time I met Bob was, he was riding his little bicycle and it has little bells - it tings and tings - and I was like "Who is that crazy guy on that bike?"
12.	Moe	Bob Pacelli, he's an icon, he's a celebrity, everybody knows Bob. He loves to talk to people. He would stop anybody on the street and just visit and, you know, give you his opinion
13.	Bob	I didn't intend to become the Monarch dude. If you had asked me five years ago, would I be sitting here talking about the Monarchs and the trees, I would've looked at you like you're seriously nuts
14.	Barb	He might not have a PhD in Science behind his name, but he's been there on a daily basis. He uses a lot of his own money, his own time. His old pick up truck. Most people don't know what he's done – bringing the plight of the monarch sanctuary, to the public's mind, letting them know that there is truly a huge problem here.
15.	Narrator	For years, a struggle had been escalating between city staff who were

		charged with maintaining the sanctuary and activists, who felt the sanctuary was not only being neglected, but harmed.
16.	Frances	We had a crisis here in 2009, in the sanctuary, when there was heavy, heavy pruning of some of the eucalyptus trees on the south border.
17.	KARINA RUSK CHANNEL 7 NEWS	<p>Many people blame an aggressive tree trimming operation in the sanctuary for decimating the monarch habitat.</p> <p>City staff authorized the cutting, but didn't even follow Pacific Grove's own rules for protecting its treasured insect.</p>
18.	Monarch_BobIntvu_1 1222013_7 02:25:32;1 0 02:26:05;1 0	<p>So, I went up there and I was shocked.</p> <p>I went down to the Chamber and I grabbed Moe Ammar out of his office. And we walked around the sanctuary going, "Oh my God, Look at this." This wasn't a trim here and there. This was just a massive annihilation, and uh right in the places where the Monarchs were</p>
19.	Stuart	The instigation for the tree-trimming on the southern end, um, according to my recollection, because I wasn't consulted before that, was that one of the eucalyptus had dropped a branch in the neighbor's yard. And that's just an unacceptable liability from the City's point of view.
20.	Narrator	<p>Some city officials say that their concern with liability dates back to 2004 when, a woman was killed by a falling branch.</p> <p>They refer to that event in 2004, as the motivation for the trimming in 2009.</p>

		Concerned residents point out that the cutting in 2009, took place far from where the visitors to the sanctuary actually walk.
21.	Narrator	The city stood by their decision to prune the trees. Angry citizens challenged the city's action.
22.	Sally	When I visited the Monarch grove recently, I was very shocked to see the trees and the way they were cut this year. The wind blowing through the sanctuary may be what keeps the monarchs away.
23.	Bob	From my perspective of 20 years of filming up there, the spots where they hang onto are gone. We really need to make some radical decisions after February as to some sort of restoration that we could do.
24.	Moe	Bob opened our eyes and by showing up at various City related meetings and Chamber meetings and, to a large extent he was a wake up call to the city of Pacific Grove — hey you have a problem and that problem needs to be taken care of.
25.	The Former Mayor – Carmelita Garcia	A mistake was made. Our municipal code was not followed. If you go back and you look at the records and reports and what have you as far as procedure goes with the trimming of the trees. So for that, you know, I extend a public apology.
26.	Narrator	In 2008, citizen scientists counted more than 17,000 Monarchs in the sanctuary. After the branches were cut, the count dropped dramatically, to less than 800 butterflies.
27.		FADE TO BLACK
28.		FADE FROM BLACK
29.	Bob	I was really bummed out about the monarchs

	And I looked up and I saw these trees. And I thought, you know what? If I could get these trees, boy what holes they could fill.
30.	Narrator	The events that followed Bob's decision to act, became known as "Operation Pacelli."
31.	Bob	I went to the internet. And I went to the Western Monarch Newsletter, and I started writing things up, saying, "Hey," you know." This is what I'm proposing to do. Get some big trees in boxes and try to fill the holes and see if I can stop the wind gap."
32.	Bob	Nobody's ever done this before. I mean I really did have my doubts and I can't say that I was like – Yeah, I figured it out. No, I was racked with, (laughs) I was racked with doubt.
33.	Narrator	Lincoln Brower, a highly respected Monarch butterfly ecologist was one of the first scientists who reached out to Bob. Lincoln offered to advise him on rebuilding the canopy.
34.	Brower	Bob kept me up on what's going on and maintaining the micro-climate in the habitat at Pacific Grove has been an ongoing battle.
35.	Brower	It's really important that you have an appropriate sheltered area around the colony. Kingston probably knows more about this than anybody in the world.
36.	Narrator	Kingston Leong is a retired Biology Professor who has spent more than 20 years studying the habitats of monarch butterflies. One of his goals is to improve their over wintering sites.
37.	Kingston	With Bob Pacelli and the idea of bringing in potted plants into a grove

		where you can move them to wind gap area or areas within a grove that have very little lower branches, and, in turn, buffer the winds as they approach the grove, he actually is recreating the conditions destroyed when it was heavily pruned.
38.	Narrator	Researchers and citizen scientists share a growing concern about the future of the monarchs.
39.		
40.	Brower	The monarch migration is absolutely unique in the whole animal kingdom. And this migration of so many individuals from such a huge area, are being threatened by habitat loss.
41.	Brower	One issue is global warming..... one of the things that's happening with climate change is that it's not only getting warmer, the fluctuations are getting broader.
42.	Brower	There has been a lot of illegal deforestation in Mexico, right in prime overwintering sites. It has not been stopped.
43.	Brower	And now, what has happened in the last decade in the United States is the development of genetically engineered agriculture, where corn and soy bean crops have been selected to be resistant to high-powered herbicides. So, in the spring, after the seeds are planted, the native vegetation comes up. The milkweeds, which are the food plants of the monarch butterflies - come up. And then the fields are sprayed and everything is killed, except the soybean or the corn.
44.		
45.	Brower	

		<p>And so I really worry that we could lose the monarch butterfly migration</p> <p>And the types of overwintering groves that you find in California, like in Pacific Grove.</p>
46.	Narrator	The people of Pacific Grove began working together to learn more about the problems they face. And in this case, how they could help with Operation Pacelli
47.	Roger Pasquire	I came here in support of this butterfly project. I know that I'm going to be donating at least one tree.
48.	Esther	I'm here to speak in support of Robert Pacelli's plan, Operation Pacelli.
49.	Monte Sanford (August 18, 2010 PG council meeting)	The short-term plan that Bob Pacelli is kinda spearheading here of putting those potted trees in. That effort needs to be acted on, as soon as possible.
50.	Narrator	The City Council approved the plan to bring potted trees into the sanctuary.
51.	Narrator	Before the Monarchs arrived in 2010, more than 40 potted trees were moved in.
52.	Bob Aroll	Set to opera music. "Look at that Baby, see that fills that hole perfectly."
53.	Narrator	That year, butterflies returned in greater numbers throughout California. With the canopy restored, the Monarch count in Pacific Grove increased by more than 500%
54.	Narrator	In the Spring of 2011, plans moved forward, and the City, Activists, Volunteers, Students and Scientists,

		worked together to plant the potted trees.
55.		FADE TO BLACK
56.		FADE FROM BLACK
57.	TITLE	TWO YEARS LATER
58.		FADE TO BLACK
59.		FADE FROM BLACK
60.	Narrator	Bob's vision to attract more Monarchs to the sanctuary continued to expand. He brought in additional boxed trees to create an even more protective canopy.
61.	Narrator	Bob's passion for this project in the Sanctuary, comes in part from what he filmed as a video production officer for the United Nations during the Balkan wars.
62.	Bob	"There's refugees, there's monarchs, there's trees, they're all alive...if you don't do what needs to be done, they'll be dead. Cuz, it's all about life, all you can do is try to keep as many things alive as you can.
63.	Narrator	While the new trees sat in their boxes, Bob and the City disagreed about whether or not to plant them.
64.	Stuart	Bob Pacelli, you know we started off with a very cooperative relationship. We had a little bit of back and forth, but we did plant a substantial number of trees. And I thought everything was fine. We still have the potted trees here, and they could be moved around to fill gaps as needed, but I was really adamant that they shouldn't go in the ground.
65.	Frances	These 24" boxed eucalyptus trees were dying, if Bob had not continued to water them and fertilize them and take care of them throughout the last year, so he decided to go ahead and plant them.
66.	Bill	We had really felt as a City that we'd reached the point where there were

		enough trees in the ground and that we really needed to take a break from that until we get a better fix in terms of how our tree coverage is going to evolve
67.	Scott	When City tells him, that he can't do things because of bureaucracy, when it's the right thing that needs to be done, he's going to see it gets done. And I love that. He just wants to cause a little bit of trouble, but for all the right reasons.
68.	Heidi	The struggles he's had with the City - it's like they don't understand the concept that if you don't maintain an environment - all those butterflies over their public buildings and all over everybody's mailboxes - it's not going to mean anything – Pacific Grove isn't going to be a grove anymore - it's going to be a desert
69.	Narration	A Tibetan monk a student of the Dalai Lama. —brought water from the sacred river Ganges to bless the newly planted trees.
70.	Rinpoche	<i>Earth, Fire, Water, Air. When speaking of these four elements, Water is especially sacred</i> In general, for all living beings, a place of habitat is important. A butterfly makes its home where there are trees and its favorite grasses.
71.	Kim	We were talking about how the decrease in the butterflies was happening here due to a lot of the cuttings of the trees and, also, the trees that were coming down around the sanctuary. And it was very upsetting to me, so, when he started planting the trees in here to try and build a little buffer for the butterflies, so they had something to hang onto during these winds - I wanted to help in some small way, and so I offered to water the trees for him.

72.	Kim	I like to think about what the trees will eventually look like in the future, long after I'm gone. I just hope they are still here for future generations to see.
73.	Mike	We know we don't have the resources as a city, both financially or for the staff both to go in and get the work done in order for this sanctuary to thrive. So we rely on our friends and neighbors in the sanctuary. Unfortunately, the trees were planted, without Dr. Weiss's instruction or guidance, and what we're doing now is we're reevaluating whether or not those trees that were planted can stay.
74.	Title	Beautification and Natural Resources Commission meeting, July 18, 2013
75.	Weiss	It was an all very well thought out, documented plan. We had explicitly stated that the remaining potted trees should not go in the ground – it's fine to leave them around, move them, fulfill their function while the other trees were growing in and creating a permanent fix and um--
76.	Crosstalk	<p>Bob: You know, I have to honestly disagree with you, Sir. Not only were they put in the ground but they were approved by the City Council to do so.</p> <p>(head of BNRC tries to stop him)</p> <p>Bob: I'm sorry - Robert's Rules - that's just such an inaccurate- (BNRC guys tries to get him to stop)</p> <p>Bob: Sorry to interrupt</p> <p>Stuart: I'm gonna leave that to you guys.</p> <p>Scott: We'll table that to next week. This is an informative walk-</p> <p>Bob: Well its not, its about a living thing called a sanctuary.</p> <p>Scott: No this meeting right here, is a meeting about walking and learning from our city experts.</p>

		Bob: Excuse me, I'm sorry, sorry to interrupt.
77.	Weiss	Bob's right its not a museum piece its a living thing, it's a living forest, but its under our management. When you plant trees too close together, it's gonna create a very very dense thicket, that won't let in enough light for the Monarchs. You really don't want to crowd your forest.
78.		Shot of tree
79.	Bob	I ran into Stuart at the Sanctuary. So, I used this as an opportunity, because he and I were there alone to go ahead, and go, OK Stuart, what's up?
80.	Weiss	I was asked to make a recommendation in my role as a professional consultant to the city as to what to do. And my recommendation is to basically to pull out the unauthorized trees that are planted too densely.
81.	Bob	As I told Stuart, I'm not going away. And as the Russians learned in Afghanistan and we learned in Vietnam, you can't mess with the locals. I live here. And I, for better or worse, have a relationship with a very small town. And I can use that relationship to help the Monarchs. And, you don't have to respect it, because you don't live here. But I do.
82.		
83.	Bill	One of the dilemmas for anyone who operates with the public interest in mind - and the public process - has to recognize that we're dealing with public money and public energy and there's a process for that - and that can be very frustrating for some of our citizens - and they may not have patience for it.
84.	Frances	He's an authorized City volunteer and even the most recent planting of the eucalyptus trees had been authorized in a management plan that the City wrote two years ago, So, that's part of the tension that we sometimes feel here. I refuse to feel it because I'm authorized to do this,

		and if they don't like it, that's tough.
85.	Barb	Bob, is truly trying to follow what the original 2010 and most of the 2011 plan was all about. And quite frankly, in planting these trees, he's actually followed the management principles set by Weiss, which is a resiliency and redundancy.
86.	Bob	When they were campaigning against the, the um trees that we put in the ground, at first I uh, took it personally. And that hurt. But then it really hurt when I realized, it was the Rinpoche. It was Heidi. It was Frances. Cuz, when they attack me, but you're also attacking all these wonderful people who made what I did, not something that I did, it's something that we did.
87.	Bill	The concern was, some of those plantings were beginning to damage the irrigation system needed to maintain the trees in the early stage, and that's something we really cannot have.
88.	Mike	In fact, a complete irrigation system and all the valves had been removed, which ranged in cost between five and seven hundred dollars. We immediately contacted the police, as we would in any vandalism case, and had the police conduct an investigation and fill out a report.
89.	Mike	One of the friends of the Monarch grove sanctuary who was observed in the sanctuary recently, was part of their inquisition as to why this happened
90.	Barb	And you'd ask Mr. Zimmer, "What's going on?" You either not get a response at all or uh, "Oh, you know, it's Bob Pacelli's fault. It could have been Bob Pacelli's fault now and then. But, I think Bob Pacelli's been blamed for a whole lot of things that he shouldn't have been blamed for.
91.	Bob	About the police showing up at my door. I mean we're growing something here. "we're doing things that people never did before. ")
92.	Narrator	The police visited Bob's home three times. No charges were pressed.
93.		Fade to black. Fade from Black.

94.	Lincoln	<p>My studies of the monarch butterfly are, to me, very rewarding because of the comprehensive relationship of the species to other species and it's just one example –</p> <p>and then you multiply this across all the insects, across all the birds, across all the mammals, all the amphibians, that's a library of information that we were given when we inherited the earth - and now the problem is we are destroying this immense library by letting so many species go extinct –</p> <p>And it can't go on.</p> <p>.</p>
95.	Lincoln	<p>One of the things that's been rewarding to me is that I see that people really do care about the monarch - and I would like to see this extended towards caring for all forms of life</p>
96.		
97.	Barb	<p>It's extremely difficult for someone, especially Bob, who's been watching the movement of butterflies for years, to watch what's happened at this sanctuary.</p> <p>From listening to what scientists have said, he was truly trying to follow, what we were supposed to be doing.</p>
98.	Bob	<p>The new trees that we planted this year, actually made me humble in a lot of ways. Because, uh, we put those trees there.</p> <p>If they weren't there, who knows? So... when the future comes, we'll know we did the best we could do.</p>
99.		Fade to Black
100.		Fade from Black

101.	Narrator	Visitors to the sanctuary can see that the trees planted by the community, do, provide an ideal winter home for migrating Monarch Butterflies.
102.		In the year following the most recent tree planting the pacific grove monarch sanctuary saw double the number of butterflies.
103.		Fade to Black
104.		Fade from Black
105.		Credit Roll
106.		Fade to Black
107.		(THE END)