COLD SPRING — It could be called an oxymoron coincidence — the week the International Union for the Conservation of Nature added the monarch butterfly to its endangered species list, the Nature Conservancy unveiled a sculpture of a monarch at the Garrett Family Preserve.

The new sculpture was unveiled July 22 at the preserve to the east of Wildwood Crest and the Di- amond, a giant orange-hued sculpture created by artist Rubem Robierb. Barbra Brummer, state director of the Nature Conservancy, said hope is that monarch butterflies will find the new sculpture a place of refuge.

She said the organization purchased the Garrett Family Preserve in 1999 and several years later purchased a 24-acre parcel that arose following discussions of beach protection plans.

“People in front of the sculpture, you become part of nature,” she said. “You become a monarch butterfly with people together, and the Nature Conservancy prides the fact that we can bring people together and nature into stories.”

Champion said monarchs have a concern with weather conditions around the world. “I’m watching glaciers slide as if they were crumbling and falling apart,” he said. “I’m watching long- distance, large-area, multi-time fast events.”

While some may say it’s hot every summer, it hasn’t always been that way. Champion predicted in climate change 30 years ago is happening now, Champion said.

“Everything the science community predicted in climate change 30 years ago is happening now, Champion said. “We need to just say, ‘How do we solve it?’” he said.

“Either we fix it, how do we solve it? We’re powering everything we do with fossil fuels, “we’re powering our modern lives the way cavemen did,” Champion said.

“Where you share the message of what that sculpture means and the message and the story of the monarch, we can save them and you can save them with a sculpture like this,” Champion, Robierb, Brummer and Cape May Mayor Ken Wilde participated in a ceremonial ribbon-cutting.

Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

A ribbon is cut July 22 dedicating a giant monarch butterfly sculpture at the Nature Conservancy’s Garrett Family Preserve. From left are meteorologist Sam Champion, Nature Conservancy Director Barbara Brummer, artist Rubem Robierb and Cape May Mayor Ken Wilde.

The color of the sculpture reflects the many orange hues found on monarch butterflies, he said. The color appears different depending on the time of day.

Sum Champion, weather anchor for New York’s WABC 7 and former meteorologist for “Good Morning America,” said former monarch butter- fly conservationist, said some estimates have 70 percent.

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