

BFCI is Migrating to St. Louis!

The BFCI is moving to the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis, MO, parent facility of AZA-member The Butterfly House! BFCI has been housed and supported by the AZA since 2002. We know the strong relationship with AZA and its (and our!) members will continue without a hitch and are eager to explore the opportunities that arise from being located at one of the oldest and most respected Botanical Gardens in the country. BFCI's mission is fundamentally linked to plant and habitat conservation and we hope to expand our partnerships with local and national gardens. The physical move will take place in early 2006; we'll keep you posted on this exciting change! Visit <http://www.mobot.org> to learn more about the Garden and <http://www.butterflyhouse.org> to learn more about The Butterfly House.

Proposed Critical Habitat for Endangered Butterflies

Fender's blue butterfly: On 2 Nov. 2005, the USFWS proposed 3,089 acres of land in WA and OR as critical habitat for the Fender's blue (*Icaricia icarioides fenderi*) and two plants, Kincaid's lupine and Willamette daisy. More information can be found in the Federal Register 70(211): 66491-66540 (<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/>).

Laguna Mountains skipper: On 13 Dec. 2005, the USFWS proposed 6,662 acres of land in the Laguna and Palomar mountains in San Diego County, CA as critical habitat for the Laguna Mountains skipper (*Pyrgus ruralis lagunae*). More information can be found in the FR 70(238): 73699-73717. Comments on the proposal will be accepted until 13 Feb. 2006.

The Butterfly Course is Endangered!

We need to reach the AZA Board of Regents' registration requirements for the *Techniques for Butterfly Conservation & Management* course by January 15th or we'll have to cancel the class. Please consider signing up today!

The course is scheduled for 24-26 April 2006 at the McGuire Center for Lepidoptera & Biodiversity in Gainesville, FL. Course topics include natural history and identification, captive propagation, host plant care & needs, field/lab research techniques, permitting/recovery planning basics, population monitoring, habitat restoration, butterfly exhibitry, education and outreach, and more. We encourage anybody interested in butterfly conservation to participate. For more information and/or to register for this course, please visit www.aza.org/prodev/ButterflyCon/ or contact Geri Noland at azatraining@aza.org or 301-562-0777 x238.

Santa Barbara Zoo Monitors Monarchs

SBZ staff and volunteers have tagged monarch butterflies for three years at Ellwood Mesa with Professor Walt Sakai from Santa Monica College, in conjunction with the Los Angeles Natural History Museum. The Ellwood Mesa property is an important over-wintering site for monarchs, and tens of thousands of monarchs cluster on its eucalyptus trees each year. To ward off development, the Santa Barbara community has successfully pooled substantial resources from various state agencies to acquire the property and maintain it as open space. SBZ staff and volunteers go to the site in December and January, each tagging 100 butterflies per visit. The smaller, western monarch population is less understood than the eastern, Mexico-bound population, and cooperation between citizens and scientists can increase understanding and help maintain this migratory phenomenon into the future.

Butterfly Encounter at the Birmingham Zoo

By: Tim Snyder, Curator of Birds (and Butterflies)

On Memorial Day weekend, the Birmingham Zoo opened its seasonal Butterfly Encounter. The 3000 sq-foot exhibit housed 700-1000 butterflies at any given time and focused on species found in Alabama. The exhibit was an instant hit and by the

time it closed after Labor Day weekend, 79,896 guests had visited these amazing creatures. And that's during a season when we experienced winds and rain associated with two major hurricanes and a tropical depression!

We had no butterfly exhibit experience when we began building the exhibit. Many thanks go to Martin Feather at the San Antonio Zoo and Amy Bodwell at the Brookfield Zoo for helping us overcome the obstacles associated with exhibits of this kind. Our exhibit was constructed mostly in-house within a budget of \$36,000, excluding the butterflies themselves. For the 2006 season,

we plan to add a conservation project concerning the endangered Mitchell's satyr in Alabama and to develop a monarch butterfly education program for school children in the Birmingham area. We hope 2006 will be an exciting and progressive year for butterflies at the Birmingham Zoo.

Traveling Butterfly Exhibit Arrives in Cleveland

Cleveland Metroparks Zoo's "Better Lives with Butterflies" exhibit has arrived and will be displayed at Zoological Society board meetings, special events, seasonal butterfly exhibits, and in education programs at the Zoo and throughout Metroparks. The exhibit was funded by a grant from the George Gund Foundation to BFCI, *the Wilds*, and five Ohio zoos to create butterfly habitat and increase awareness about butterflies.

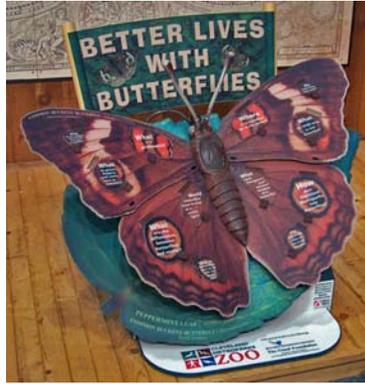


Credit: Tim Snyder. Birmingham Zoo's butterfly exhibit.

Members

(** Founding member; * Contributor)

** Abilene Zoo
** Akron Zoological Park
** Albuquerque Biological Park
** Audubon Nature Institute
** Binder Park Zoo
Birmingham Zoo
* Brandywine Zoo
* Brevard Zoo
Brookfield Zoo
** Bronx Zoo/WCS
The Butterfly House
** Calgary Zoo, Botanical Garden and Prehistoric Park
** Central Florida Zoological Park
** Chaffee Zoological Gardens
Chesapeake Chapter of the American Association of Zoo Keepers – Salisbury Zoo
** Cheyenne Mountain Zoo
** Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden
** Cleveland Metroparks Zoo
** Columbus Zoo and Aquarium
Como Park Zoo and Conservatory
** Connecticut's Beardsley Zoological Gardens
**The Dallas World Aquarium
** Detroit Zoological Institute
** Disney's Animal Kingdom
** Friends of the WNC Nature Center
** Fort Wayne Children's Zoo
** Henry Vilas Zoo



Credit: Cleveland Metroparks Zoo's traveling exhibit.



Credit: Santa Barbara Zoo. Tagging Monarchs.

Houston Zoo
** John Ball Park Zoological Garden
** The Living Desert
** Louisville Zoological Garden
** Lowry Park Zoo Eco-Conservation Committee
** The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore
Museum of Science
Naples Zoo
** National Aquarium in Baltimore
** The Oakland Zoo
** Oklahoma City Zoo & Botanical Garden
* Oregon Coast Aquarium
** Oregon Zoo
** Potawatomi Zoo
** Reid Park Zoo – Teen Volunteers
** Racine Zoological Gardens
** Roger Williams Park Zoo
** San Antonio Zoological Gardens and Aquarium
San Diego Zoo's Wild Animal Park
** Santa Barbara Zoological Gardens
** Seneca Park Zoo
* Steinhart Aquarium
** The Toledo Zoo
** Toronto Zoo
Utah's Hogle Zoo
** Vancouver Aquarium
** Woodland Park Zoo

Partners

American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA)
Environmental Defense
McGuire Center for Lepidoptera and Biodiversity
National Wildlife Federation
North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC)
US Fish and Wildlife Service
Xerces Society

Thanks to Our Supporters

As always, we thank our members, contributors, and partners for their dedication to BFCI's mission and goals.

Funding Opportunities

The US Fish and Wildlife Service is accepting applications until 23 January 2006 for its **Private Stewardship Grant Program**. This program funds individuals and groups engaged in voluntary conservation efforts on private lands that benefit imperiled species, including federally listed endangered or threatened species as well as proposed, candidate, and other at-risk species. For more information, visit: http://endangered.fws.gov/grants/private_stewardship.html. *This program benefits imperiled butterflies!* In August 2005, this program awarded \$143,000 to the Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission (www.albanypinebush.org) to support Karner blue butterfly habitat restoration activities on private lands in the Preserve. Congratulations to the Preserve Commission!

AZA's Conservation Endowment Fund provides financial support for the conservation and related scientific and educational initiatives of AZA member institutions and their collaborators. Applications are now available and are due 3 April 2006 (<http://www.aza.org/ConScience/WhatIsCEF/>). The CEF Web pages are a great resource for applicants. Recent additions to the pages include Frequently Asked Questions, Tips for Applicants, and a page with examples of successful proposals from past grant cycles.

Announce your butterfly efforts and activities in *BFCI News* by contacting Shelly Grow, BFCI Program Coordinator at: sgrow@aza.org or 301-562-0777 x263. To learn more about the BFCI, please visit our Web site (www.butterflyrecovery.org).

