

BFCI News

July-August 2005

NEW BFCI Web site at www.butterflyrecovery.org

This Web site highlights the butterfly conservation efforts of BFCI members and partners, provides tools and resources for butterfly conservationists, and facilitates communication among organizations protecting North American butterflies and the habitats that support them. Thanks to the Butterfly House for providing financial support for the site design. Come have a look!

Florida Butterfly Monitoring Network Continues!

Congratulations to the McGuire Center for Lepidoptera and Biodiversity! The FL Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's State Wildlife Grants Program has awarded them over \$27,500 for the continuation of the FL butterfly monitoring network project through June 30, 2006.

North American Pollinator Protection Campaign



NAPPC (www.napcc.org) has become the BFCI's seventh partner organization and is comprised of voluntary partners representing government agencies, non-government organizations, environmental groups, garden groups, landowners, scientists, farmers,

businesses, and private individuals, each concerned with some aspect of pollinators and/or pollination ecology. NAPPC's partners include: USFWS, NPS, USDA, USGS, Wildlife Habitat Council, Xerces Society, NWF, National Gardening Association, Defenders of Wildlife, and The Nature Conservancy.

NAPPC recently spearheaded a proposal to the National Academy of Sciences National Research Council for a study of the "Status of North American Pollinators" and is heading a letter-writing campaign to the US Postal Service promoting a pollinator stamp series meant to raise pollinator awareness among the general public.

BFCI Members and Certified Habitat

The National Wildlife Federation's (NWF) Backyard Habitat (www.nwf.org/backyardwildlifehabitat/) program helps people develop, and then certifies, wildlife-friendly habitat. Ten of BFCI's 53 participating AZA-accredited zoo and aquariums have on-site Backyard Habitat, while another two have state-certified habitat. Twelve additional AZA-accredited facilities are either developing or have certified Backyard Habitat, demonstrating the popularity of these certification programs among AZA institutions. In March 2005, Monarch Watch launched its **Monarch Waystations** program (www.monarchwatch.org/ws/), where 10,000 milkweed and nectar-filled habitat patches will be planted along the

monarch's migration corridors within the next three years. These habitat certification programs create quality habitat, are great education tools, and offer zoo and aquarium visitors a take-home conservation activity. Report your certified habitat to the BFCI so accurate counts of accredited zoo and aquarium participation in these programs can be maintained.

Butterfly Designated as Endangered in Canada

In their May 1-6 meeting, members of the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC)



Ottoe Skipper

designated the Ottoe Skipper (*Hesperia ottoe*) as endangered. COSEWIC is an advisory board for the Species at Risk Act (SARA), and their designation will be forwarded to the federal government in August. The federal government is

responsible for granting species legal protection under SARA. The Ottoe Skipper is dependent on prairie remnants, and is listed on state lists in a handful of U.S. states. COSEWIC also designated the White Flower Moth, another prairie-specialist, as endangered.

Butterfly Designated as Candidate Species in US

On May 11, the Federal Register published US Fish and Wildlife Service's Candidate Notice of Review, classifying



Miami blue butterfly. Jaret Daniels, Ph.D. McGuire Center

the Miami blue as a Candidate species for listing under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The McGuire Center for Lepidoptera and Biodiversity has reared the Miami blue in captivity since 2003 and releases have supplemented wild populations since May 2004. Miami blue populations were thought to number around 50 adults in 2003.

Symposium on Threatened, Endangered, and At-risk Species on Department of Defense and Adjacent Lands

BFCI's Shelly Grow and AZA's policy specialist Colleen Fahey attended the Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program's (SERDP) Symposium and Workshop on 7-9 June. Although invertebrates did not receive a lot of attention, there is potential for future partnerships, particularly through the Private Lands Initiative. DoD supports proactive conservation to avoid future species listings and restrictions. <http://aec.army.mil/usaec/natural/natural03a.html>.

BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

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Members

(** Founding member; * Contributor)

- ** Abilene Zoo
- ** Akron Zoological Park
- ** Albuquerque Biological Park
- ** Audubon Nature Institute
- ** Binder Park Zoo
- * Brandywine Zoo
- Brookfield Zoo
- ** Bronx Zoo/WCS
- The Butterfly House
- ** Calgary Zoo, Botanical Garden and Prehistoric Park
- Caribbean Gardens, The Zoo in Naples
- ** 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
- Houston Zoo
- ** John Ball Park Zoological Garden
- ** The Living Desert
- ** Louisville Zoological Garden
- ** Lowry Park Zoo Eco-Conservation Committee
- ** The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore
- ** Miami Metrozoo
- ** 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
- ** Virginia Zoological Park
- ** 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.

Important Dates:

Nationwide: National Public Lands Day is 24 September. This is an all-volunteer effort to improve public lands in the US. Visit <http://www.npld.com/> to find projects in your state or to become a site manager. Please let Shelly Grow, sgrow@aza.org, know if you become involved in this project.

Western North Carolina Nature Center's *Beauty of Butterflies* exhibit kicks off on 2 July with *Nectar Collector Day* and runs through 5 September.

Oklahoma City Zoo & Botanical Garden's butterfly exhibit runs 20 May – 1 October.

Oregon Zoo: *Winged Wonders* is open 21 May 21- 14 September. For information on butterfly photography classes, visit http://www.oregonzoo.org/Education/adults/adults_photography.htm.

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).

