

Butterfly Festival Manuals Have Arrived!

Butterfly Festival Manuals, developed by Mitch Magdich at the Toledo Zoo with support from the George Gund Foundation, are available to help you plan your butterfly festival. BFCI members have received a copy in the mail, and the manual is also available electronically at: http://www.aza.org/ConScience/BFCI_Educ/

Showcase Your Butterfly Education Activities in MO

On 10 March 2005, AZA Central Regional Workshop's keynote speaker, Monarch Watch director Dr. Orley "Chip" Taylor, the BFCI, and the San Diego Zoo will co-host a workshop on butterfly education and outreach programs. Presentations by Dr. Taylor, Donna Dupske (The Butterfly House), David Walker (the Oklahoma City Zoo & Botanical Garden), and Dr. Jaret Daniels (the McGuire Center for Lepidoptera and Biodiversity) will be followed by an Activity Swap. We ask participants to bring butterfly education activities and/or materials to share. All participants at the Regional Workshop in Kansas City, MO are invited. Please contact Shelly Grow if you have any questions.

Enroll in the *Techniques for Butterfly Conservation and Management* course!

This course is designed for zoo, aquarium and nature center staff and volunteers, federal and state wildlife biologists, and others involved and/or interested in butterfly recovery and conservation. Topics covered include butterfly ecology, field techniques, and butterfly education and outreach. The course, part of the AZA's Professional Training Program, will be offered 18-20 April 2005 at the McGuire Center for Lepidoptera and Biodiversity in Gainesville, FL. Registration deadline is 17 March 2005. For more information and/or registration, visit www.aza.org/prodev/ButterflyCon/.



Photo: Oregon Zoo's butterfly captive rearing laboratory.
Credit: Michael Durham, Oregon Zoo

Update on Shipping Changes at USDA

New USDA-APHIS shipping labels direct imported butterflies to Beltsville, MD for inspection. Martin Feather (mfeather@sazoo-aq.org) at the San Antonio Zoological Gardens and Aquarium is compiling information to help monitor the effect of this change and asks butterfly importers to send him information about the shipments, including the exporter, dates materials were sent and received, and any losses attributable to the new labels. The butterfly exhibit community is dedicated to working with USDA-APHIS to ensure safe, efficient, and timely imports.

Zoos and Aquariums: Committing to Conservation Update

At ZACC's North America Conservation Initiative Workshop in January, Shelly Grow was invited to present on how the BFCI helps build conservation capacity by facilitating collaborations, networking colleagues, providing butterfly conservation resources, and focusing disparate butterfly conservation efforts. Butterfly conservation was mentioned repeatedly as one of zoos and aquariums most significant contributions to local conservation. Butterfly efforts are seen as a starting point for establishing a variety of partnerships.

Butterfly Conservation at the Oregon Zoo

The Oregon Zoo's lab staff is busy with ongoing captive rearing projects involving four butterfly species. For the fifth year OZ raised endangered Oregon silverspot butterflies (*Speyeria zerene hippolyta*) for release on the Oregon Coast, and along with the Woodland Park Zoo and the Oregon Coast Aquarium, released 142 larvae last summer. OZ finished a

CEF grant-related project involving work with Washington State University researcher Dr. Cheryl Schultz to rear Puget blue butterflies (*Icaricia icarioides blackmorei*) and compare size, morphology and behavior of *ex-situ* reared and wild butterflies. Preliminary results suggest significant differences in size; *ex-situ* butterflies are smaller. OZ has also partnered with the WA Department of Fish and Wildlife to raise two federal candidate species, the Taylor's checkerspot (*Euphydryas editha taylori*) and the Mardon Skipper (*Polites mardon*). Larvae of all but the Puget blue butterflies are currently in the OZ lab and the Taylor's checkerspot diapause phase will end in March. OZ will receive adult

Oregon silverspots and Taylor's checkerspots from this year's cohorts later this spring and early summer. To learn more, contact Mary Jo Andersen at andersenm@metro.dst.or.us or David Shepherdson at shepherdsond@metro.dst.or.us.

Important Dates:

California: The San Diego Zoo's Wild Animal Park's 12th annual *Butterfly and Orchid Event* runs March 19th-April 3rd.
North Carolina: The Western North Carolina Nature Center's *Beauty of Butterflies* exhibit opens July 2nd with its Nectar Collector Day celebration and continues until September 5th.
Grant opportunity: AZA's Conservation Endowment Fund proposals are due 2 May 2005. Butterfly-related projects received support in three of the last four funding cycles – here may be your chance to initiate or expand your butterfly conservation activities!

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
- ** 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
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US Fish and Wildlife Service
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Thanks to Our Supporters

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

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.aza.org/ConScience/bfci).

