

NEW Butterfly Outreach Resources Available Online at:
http://www.aza.org/ConScience/BFCI_Educ

- *Butterfly Festival Evaluation*

Carol Saunders from the Brookfield Zoo, with support from the George Gund Foundation, developed and analyzed surveys conducted at three Ohio butterfly and bug festivals. The report includes survey results, messages visitors remembered, favorite activities, and recommendations for future festivals.

- *Education and Outreach Session Report*

The AZA Central Regional Workshop in Kansas City featured a session on Butterfly Education and Outreach Programs. Presentations described monarch habitat restoration, partnerships, the FL butterfly monitoring network, and techniques for teaching butterfly biology as important outreach opportunities. This report includes the presentations and education activities that were shared.

Update on USDA Shipping Changes

Thank you, Mark Deering (The Butterfly House) and Martin Feather (San Antonio Zoological Gardens and Aquarium) for working with USDA-APHIS to maximize butterfly importation efficiency! USDA Red and White shipping labels are once again available upon request for Los Angeles, San Francisco, JFK-New York, and Miami.



Painted lady butterfly. Whitney Cranshaw, Colorado State Univ., www.insectimages.org.

Entomological Society of America – Eastern Branch

Shelly Grow was invited to discuss how zoos and aquariums conserve butterflies through education. Shelly emphasized zoo and aquarium strengths, such as their ability to reach huge audiences, provide diverse and positive hands-on experiences with butterflies and habitat protection, increase environmental literacy, and spearhead public awareness campaigns. In a setting where universities, natural history museums, 4-H clubs and USDA Extension were prominent, it was exciting to remind people of the resources zoos and aquariums provide.

Important Dates:

Nationwide: National Public Lands Day is 24 September. Contact Shelly Grow if you're interested in participating in this all-volunteer public lands enhancement effort.

North Carolina: The Western North Carolina Nature Center's *Beauty of Butterflies* exhibit opens July 2nd with Nectar Collector Day and continues until September 5th.

New York: The Albany Pine Bush Preserve's *Pine Bush Lupine Festival* will take place on 21 May from 11am-3pm.

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

Painted Lady Mass Dispersal

By: Peter Siminski, The Living Desert, 16 April 2005

A mass migration of Painted Ladies is occurring through the California deserts. In the Sonoran Desert's Coachella Valley, we saw our first P-lady on 15 January and on 12 March I made informal counts of 140 to 240 P-ladies per hour in the southern Mojave Desert near Amboy. On 19 March, I counted 1,100 to 1,900 per hour near the Salton Sea. The Coachella Valley migration peaked in late March and by mid-April the passage was less than 100 per hour.

Large flights were reported in southwestern AZ and 500 P-ladies were seen per hour north of Los Angeles. Surfers north of San Diego reported large numbers of butterflies in the surf spray and Coachella Valley car wash businesses detailed extra

staff to remove the splattered insects from cars. By early April, counts of up to 1,500 per hour were reported in the San Francisco Bay area and the Central Valley of California. At the same time, the first reports of P-ladies were coming in from WA state and Idaho.

The P-lady migration differs from that of the Monarch in that it is less understood, not notable each year, and is primarily one way (north). P-ladies die in cold weather areas and repopulation is dependent on southern source populations located in subtropical deserts like the Sonoran Desert and tropical arid lands like the Mexican Sinaloa thornscrub. Reinvasions extend north to southern Canada, but it is unknown whether a single P-lady or multiple generations are required to complete the journey. The southward migration is not notable and some people believe that it does not occur at all. Others believe a southern migration occurs but has not yet been documented. P-ladies are the world's most widespread butterfly and source populations in North African and Middle Eastern deserts invade Europe in some years, just as they do in North America. Mass migrations coincide with good vegetative growth in source areas and usually coincide with climatic events like El Niño years and rainy winters. The last big migration in the California deserts was in 1998.

During a mass dispersal event in the 90's, sections of Interstate 10 were shut down because "clouds" of P-ladies interfered with drivers. It is hard to believe that a butterfly weighing less than half a gram could slow the tyrannosaurus-sized vehicles driven by southern Californians. It is good to be humbled by nature. Power to the butterflies!

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
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- ** Cleveland Metroparks Zoo
- ** Columbus Zoo and Aquarium
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- ** Connecticut's Beardsley Zoological Gardens
- **The Dallas World Aquarium
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- ** 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
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- Utah's Hogle Zoo
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- ** Woodland Park Zoo

Partners

American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA)
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National Wildlife Federation
North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC)
US Fish and Wildlife Service
Xerces Society

We welcome **Caribbean Gardens, the Zoo in Naples** as the newest BFCI member and the **North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC)** as our newest partner organization. See the next newsletter or visit www.nappc.org for more information about NAPPC.

Thanks to Our Supporters

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

A Special Thanks

Thanks especially to those members who have recently renewed their pledge commitments to the BFCI, including: the Chaffee Zoological Gardens, Audubon Nature Institute, Binder Park Zoo, the Toledo Zoo, John Ball Park Zoological Garden, San Antonio Zoological Gardens and Aquarium, Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, Fort Wayne Children's Zoo, the Steinhart Aquarium, Friends of Western North Carolina Nature Center, and the Santa Barbara Zoological Gardens.

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)

