

May 11 is Endangered Species Day!

On 5 April 2006, the US Senate approved a resolution declaring 11 May 2006 "Endangered Species Day." Dedicate this day to spreading the word about endangered species and your efforts to help them and prevent future listings.

Wishing Well Finds a Home

To help members raise funds for membership dues and BFCI activities, members were asked to place a wishing well at their facilities and dedicate donated funds to the Initiative. The Butterfly House, whose wishing well has raised thousands of dollars for BFCI, further challenged members by offering to pay for the first well ordered. The Naples Zoo in Florida accepted the challenge and their new well is already raising money for butterfly conservation. Thanks to The Butterfly House for their generous offer and the Naples Zoo for accepting the challenge and supporting BFCI! If your institution is interested in purchasing a well, contact sgrow@aza.org.



Photo credit: Naples Zoo

Valuing Vulnerable Butterflies in Maryland

Concerned about possible declines in local butterfly populations, the Maryland Natural Heritage Program sponsored a survey from 2002-2004 to locate 24 of its 48 state-listed butterflies. Repeated efforts by teams of surveyors failed to locate ten of these target species, some of which had been spotted as recently as 2001 while others have been missing since the early 1900's. In response, this year the Maryland Entomological Society launched the "Maryland Butterfly Survey Conservation Awards Program." This program confers official recognition and significant, though modest, monetary compensation to field researchers who have shown sufficient proof of locating colonies of specific rare butterflies. To learn more, contact Richard Smith at Richard.Smith@jhuapl.edu.



Photo: Mitchell's satyr. Barb Barton/MI Natural Features Inventory.

Xerces Publication: Economic Value of Insect Services

Insects provide ecological services valuing more than \$57 billion a year to the US, according to an article in the April issue of *BioScience* (Vol. 56, No. 4, pages 311-323). The ecological services studied by John Losey at Cornell University and Mace Vaughn at the Xerces Society were limited to dung burial, pest control, pollination, and wildlife nutrition. Download the article at: <http://www.xerces.org>.

Florida Butterflies Need You

By: Dr. Jaret C. Daniels, Assistant Professor of Entomology, UFL

The Florida Butterfly Monitoring Network (FBMN) is a statewide, field-based conservation program that surveys the health of butterfly populations on protected lands throughout Florida. This citizen science initiative was established in 2003 by the McGuire Center for Lepidoptera and Biodiversity at the University of Florida in cooperation with Disney's Animal Kingdom and BFCI and directly involves public volunteers,

university scientists, zoo staff, state and federal land managers and biologists, and Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA)-accredited facilities. Current participating AZA institutions include Disney's Animal Kingdom, Lowry Park Zoo, Central Florida Zoological Gardens, Miami MetroZoo/Zoological Society of Florida, and the Brevard Zoo. The program also collaborates with the Illinois Butterfly Monitoring Network, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Office of Recreational Services, the Florida Natural Areas Inventory, University of Florida's Department of Entomology and Nematology, and various conservation land areas.

Total volunteer and AZA-member institution participation in training and field monitoring during 2004 and 2005 involved more than 135 individuals, including 65 citizen scientists and 70 staff members.

We need your help! The success of FBMN relies on trained volunteers and staff members to collect and submit data from sites across Florida. Every participant matters. Please contact Jaret C. Daniels (jcdnls@ufl.edu) to get involved.

Mitchell's Satyr Success in Toledo

The Mitchell's satyr (*Neonympha mitchellii mitchellii*) was listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act in 1991. Its 1998 recovery plan identified the need for research into captive rearing and reintroduction. To meet that recovery objective, the Toledo Zoo first used the Northern-eyed brown (*Satyrodes eurydice eurydice*) as a surrogate to develop a captive rearing protocol and then brought Mitchell's satyrs into the lab for the first time in July 2005. Larvae produced from these satyrs came through the winter better than expected and this year the Toledo Zoo will continue to refine its husbandry techniques, assess fidelity between the satyr and its host plant, *Carex* spp., and develop techniques for conservation breeding. For more information, contact Peter Tolson at ptolson@toledozoo.org.

Current 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
 - Chicago Academy of Sciences and Notebaert Nature Museum
- ** 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
 - Museum of Science
 - Naples Zoo
- ** National Aquarium in Baltimore
- ** The Oakland Zoo
- ** Oklahoma City Zoo & Botanical Garden
 - * Oregon Coast Aquarium
- ** Oregon Zoo
- ** Potawatomi Zoo
- ** 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

Association of Zoos & Aquariums (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.

'Tis the Season of Seasonal Exhibits

Brevard Zoo's butterfly exhibit, featuring swallowtails, runs from June 16 until July 31.

Brookfield Zoo's seasonal butterfly exhibit will run from May 27 – September 17 and is entering its sixth year with a facelift. The new pupa room is fully USDA-compliant and visitors can watch butterflies emerge through a viewing window at the entrance. The exhibit space will include new pathways, signage, plants, and water features. Be sure to stay for the daily keeper chat!

Cleveland Metroparks Zoo's "Butterfly Magic" exhibit will be open from May 19 through Labor Day. Tropical butterflies will be on display and information will be available about the Zoo's active role in local butterfly conservation.

San Diego Zoo's Wild Animal Park's "Butterflies and Orchids" exhibit has been extended through May 7.

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).

