

## Cheyenne Mountain Zoo Institutes Unique Program in Support of Conservation

The Cheyenne Mountain Zoo in Colorado Springs has instituted a program to fund multiple wildlife conservation projects at the Zoo and in the field. The Quarters for Conservation program allocates a portion of the fees paid for Zoo admission, memberships, and classes to wildlife conservation. Every time a guest visits the Zoo, they help to expand conservation efforts in the region and around the globe.



Cheyenne Mountain Zoo's Quarters for Conservation voting station

Photo: Jeanette Schwab

## BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

McGuire Center for Lepidoptera and Biodiversity, Florida Museum of Natural History,  
UF Cultural Plaza, 308 Hull Road, P.O. Box 112710, Gainesville, FL 32611-2710

From the fees paid to the Zoo, they allocate the following amounts to wildlife conservation projects:  
 \$0.25 from each admission fee  
 \$2.50 from each family membership  
 A portion of each education and animal program.

Of the thirty conservation projects formally proposed by Zoo employees, six were selected for guest voting. Cheyenne Mountain Zoo Keeper Chuck Miller successfully proposed butterflies as one of this fiscal year’s projects. Due to habitat destruction, illegal collection and environmental changes, several species of butterflies in Colorado are in need of conservation attention.

In February of this year, conversations began between Miller and BFCI to help select appropriate project goals. Soon after, Della Garelle, DVM, Cheyenne Mountain Zoo’s Director of Conservation and Animal Health; Seth Willey, ESA Recovery Coordinator at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Mountain-



**Keeper Chuck Miller with native butterfly conservation signage (also pictured at right). Photo: Jeanette Schwab**



**Photo: Jeanette Schwab**

One very unique aspect of the program is that the public determines the amount that individual conservation projects receive. On every visit, a “quarter” token is issued, and the recipient uses the token to vote for a conservation project that inspires them. The vote helps the Zoo to determine how much funding each project receives. The voting station, designed by local artists, is located in the Zoo’s entry plaza near the admissions booth. Additional votes can be made with real quarters with 100% of any added contributions going toward the voted project.

Prairie Regional Office and Leslie Elwood, Wildlife Biologist, Colorado Field Office of Ecological Services, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service came on board to help focus efforts and provide valuable information and ideas. Together, the group has taken the first steps in organizing a conservation program that can have a positive impact on both local habitat and

species recovery. The Zoo is planning action in the field through assisting with federally threatened Pawnee montane skipper habitat restoration and surveys. Through public education programs, the Zoo hopes to get the Colorado community engaged in caring for the skipper. According to Garelle, “Once the votes are tallied in April 2009, the Zoo will donate funds designated by Zoo guests to help protect Colorado butterflies.”



**Pawnee montane skipper, a federally listed threatened butterfly**  
**Photo: Mike Elson, U.S. Forest Service**

The Cheyenne Mountain Zoo takes all of its conservation efforts very seriously. Within the Zoo, they are protecting and breeding animals such as the black-footed ferret, mountain tapir, Mexican grey wolf and Wyoming toad to ensure their future survival. And to prevent the extinction of birds, reptiles, amphibians and mammals, they participate in more than 30 Species Survival Programs.

The Zoo also utilizes Conservation Action Plans – specific plans for meeting the conservation needs of endangered species, Taxon Advisory Groups – experts who provide insights into the conservation needs of entire taxa or groups of related species, and the International Species Inventory System (ISIS) – a global database of information on more than 2 million animals and their environments.



Beyond the Zoo’s walls, they play an active role in Regional Species Recovery Programs - programs that provide blueprints for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and their ecosystems, and the Field Conservation Program - a



program that conducts field research on endangered animals. In addition to their wildlife conservation, the Zoo also incorporates energy-saving exhibit design principles and promotes widespread recycling efforts.

For more information on this project, visit the Zoo’s website: <http://www.cmzoo.org/>  
 Stay tuned for project updates!!

## Just a Reminder!

This year’s AZA National Conference will feature a session entitled, “Creating a Nexus for Recovery: AZA-FWS Alliances for Butterfly Conservation.” The session will be moderated by Dr. David Shepherdson, Conservation Program Scientist at the Oregon Zoo.

Speakers and topics include:

- Stephanie Sanchez, Program Coordinator, BFCI - “The Butterfly Conservation Initiative: Developing Partnerships for Cooperative Conservation.”
- Dr. Jaret Daniels, Assistant Director for Research, McGuire Center for Lepidoptera and Biodiversity – “Paving the road to recovery in south Florida: A cooperative conservation model for imperiled butterflies.”
- Dr. David Shepherdson, Conservation Program Scientist, Oregon Zoo – “Saving Pacific Northwest butterflies: The role of zoo alliances, agency partnerships and NGO support.”
- Dr. Peter Tolson, Director of Conservation and Research, The Toledo Zoo – “The Mitchell’s Satyr Working Group: creation of a federal- state- AZA nexus for recovery of an endangered wetland butterfly.”

### Come Meet BFCI!

BFCI has reserved a meeting room at the Conference.  
**Monday, September 15 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm**  
**room 203B**

## WNC Nature Center's Seasonal Exhibit is a Success!

Located on a 42-acre natural heritage site in Asheville, North Carolina, BFCI founding member, the Western North Carolina (WNC) Nature Center, provides a wonderful array of plants and animals native to the region. On June 28, the Center opened its annual seasonal exhibit: "The Beauty of Butterflies", an enclosed, walk-through exhibit open through September 5. This is the fifth season for the exhibit which features species native to Southern Appalachia.



Photo: WNC Nature Center

"It is a very popular exhibit," said Savannah Trantham, a Nature Center employee. "People start asking in January when it will open and how long it is going to stay open."

During a recent visit to the Center, WNC Nature Center, Education Program Specialist and exhibit organizer, Eli Strull, provided BFCI with a tour of the exhibit space. "We average 30,000



Photo: WNC Nature Center

visitors a season. The exhibit has proven to be so popular, the Center has had to extend its run to 10 weeks," said Strull.

The exhibit opening was celebrated with a Nectar Collector Day featuring face painting, arts and crafts and butterfly games. Adults learned about attracting butterflies to their gardens and about common butterflies in Western North Carolina. Visitors also tried their hand at pollinating by transferring pollen via paintbrushes in the heritage garden at the Center's educational farm.

The WNC Nature Center also participates in the Monarch Watch tagging program. Eli Strull also organizes this very popular volunteer activity. For the past three years, groups composed of adults and youths have travelled to sites on the Blue Ridge Parkway to assist in tag-



Eli Strull trains tagging volunteers  
Photo: WNC Nature Center

ging Monarchs on the butterflies' migration north. Strull strives to monitor for peak activity and tag when migrating is heaviest through any given area. "It is a big guessing game, and lots of people help us determine the time we should be out investigating and tagging," said Strull. Tagging volunteers operate on an on-call basis to maximize tagging success.



Photo: WNC Nature Center

This year will be the fourth year that the Nature Center has utilized tagging sites along the Blue Ridge Parkway and the second year that local Blue Ridge Parkway staff have been actively involved in the program.

For more information visit: [www.wildwnc.org](http://www.wildwnc.org)



## Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Adds Butterflies to their Wildlife Viewing Website

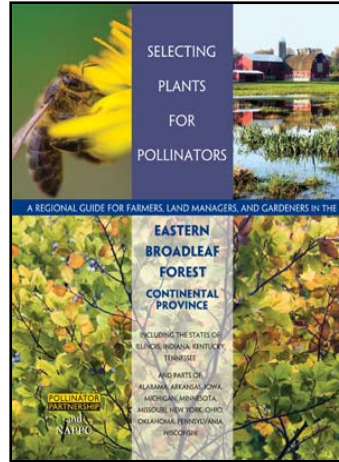
With the popularity of butterfly watching growing nationwide, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has launched a butterfly viewing section <http://myfwc.com/viewing/butterfly/index.html> to the very popular wildlife viewing portion of their website.

Included in the site is information on how, when and where to best spot butterflies in the state. The webpage also offers links to the [Butterfly Conservation Initiative](#) (BFCI), its host institution, the [McGuire Center for Lepidoptera and Biodiversity](#), at the [Florida Museum of Natural History](#), BFCI's [Florida Butterfly Monitoring Network](#) and the [Imperiled Butterflies of South Florida Workgroup](#) (IBWG).



A set of four booklets on Florida's butterflies will be available this fall for \$7 from the University of Florida's [Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences \(IFAS\) Extension Bookstore](#) website.

## North American Pollinator Protection Campaign Ecoregional Planting Guides Now Available



BFCI partner, the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC), has released helpful guides to planting pollinator friendly habitats in your garden!

One of the most difficult aspects in selecting appropriate plants for a pollinator garden is knowing what works in your part of the country. NAPPC's new ecoregional planting guides

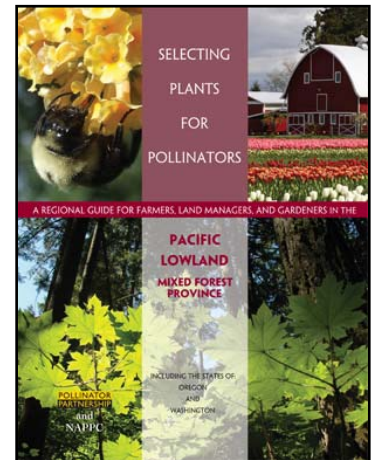
are tailored to specific areas of the U.S. The first in the series are:

- [American Semi Desert](#)
- [California Coastal Steppe](#)
- [Cascade Mixed Forest](#)
- [Central Appalachian Broadleaf Forest](#)
- [Chihuahuan Desert](#)
- [Eastern Broadleaf Forest Continental](#)
- [Eastern Broadleaf Forest Oceanic](#)
- [Laurentian Mixed Forest](#)
- [Middle Rocky Mountain Steppe](#)
- [Outer Coastal](#)
- [Pacific Lowland](#)
- [Prairie Parkland](#)

Over the next 15 months, they will be creating guides for every region of the country, 35 total!

On the website, you can find out which ecoregion you live in by simply entering your zip code.

The guides may be downloaded directly from the website. Inside each guide you'll find 24 pages of native planting information, all in full PDF Format.



Guides are available at: <http://www.pollinator.org/guides.htm>



## Current Members

\*\* Founding Member

- |   |   |
|---|---|
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| ** Albuquerque Biological Park              | ** The Living Desert                    |
| ** Binder Park Zoo                          | ** Louisville Zoological Garden         |
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| ** Bronx Zoo/Wildlife Conservation Society  | Naples Zoo                              |
| The Butterfly House                         | ** The Oakland Zoo                      |
| ** Cheyenne Mountain Zoo                    | ** Oklahoma City Zoo & Botanical Garden |
| Chicago Zoological Society - Brookfield Zoo | ** Potawatomi Zoo                       |
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| ** Friends of the WNC Nature Center         |   |

### Contributors

- Brandywine Zoo
- Brevard Zoo
- Chesapeake Chapter of the American Association of  
    Zoo Keepers – Salisbury Zoo
- \*\* Oregon Zoo
- \*\* San Antonio Zoological Gardens and Aquarium
- Steinhart Aquarium

### Partners

- Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA)
- Environmental Defense
- McGuire Center for Lepidoptera and Biodiversity
- National Wildlife Federation
- North American Pollinator Protection Campaign  
    (NAPPC)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation

## Thanks to Our Supporters!

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

**Announce your butterfly efforts and activities in *BFCI News* by contacting the BFCI Program Coordinator at: [ssanchez@flmnh.ufl.edu](mailto:ssanchez@flmnh.ufl.edu)**

To learn more about the BFCI, please visit our website ([www.butterflyrecovery.org](http://www.butterflyrecovery.org))