

November/December 2005

Announcing The Year of Citizen Science!

BFCI is dedicating 2006 to "Citizen Science" and will actively promote member and partner efforts that engage the public in habitat restoration, population monitoring and searches, butterfly gardening, and more! BFCI challenges each of its members and partners to take on meaningful citizen science projects; just be sure to report what you're doing back to the BFCI office (sgrow@aza.org). In 2005, BFCI focused on advancing its education and outreach goals (see progress report at www.butterflyrecovery.org), while maintaining recovery and restoration momentum. BFCI applauds all 2005 accomplishments, thanks all of its members and partners for their outstanding work, and looks forward to more in 2006.

Recovery Plan for Blackburn's Sphinx Moth Approved

The recovery plan for this endangered moth, found on only three of the seven main Hawaiian Islands, was approved on 26 August 2005 and can be accessed at: http://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plans/2005/050928.pdf.

Monitoring networks for those that hop, flutter, and fly

At AZA's Annual Conference in Chicago, IL on 16 September 2005, an inspiring panel described their participation in monitoring networks, the enthusiasm of staff and community members involved, and their contributions to local land management decisions. Dr. Doug Taron (dtaron@chias.org) from the Chicago Academy of Sciences, Dr. Jaret Daniels (jdaniels@flmnh.ufl.edu) from the McGuire Center for Lepidoptera and Biodiversity, and Sonia Di Fiore (sld@clevelandmetroparks.com) from Cleveland Metroparks Zoo focused on butterflies; Lisa Tryon (arklos@aol.com) from Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo focused on amphibians; and Anne Oiler (ANOILER@BrookfieldZoo.org) from Brookfield Zoo focused on bird networks. Contact these people with questions about getting involved.



Photo: Betsy Gagne, US FWS

North American Pollinator Protection Campaign Update

On 20-21 October 2005, almost 100 professionals from government, nonprofits, the private sector, and academia met at the National Zoo in Washington, DC to develop implementation plans for pollinator-friendly activities. As part of their respective NAPPCC Task Forces, Shelly Grow from BFCI will work on efforts to provide public land managers with pollinator-friendly best management practices while Ruth Allard from AZA will help develop a pilot program to assess a pollinator education curriculum. Ruth and her Task Force will issue a call for interest in participating in the pilot testing in November. Visit www.nappcc.org for more information.

New Insect Zoo at the Central Florida Zoo!

The Central Florida Zoo's new Massey Service Insect Zoo opened on 18 October 2005. This indoor exhibit expands the scope and educational possibilities of their existing year-round butterfly and sensory garden. The exhibit also features a caterpillar feeding station and a collection of Florida native butterfly specimens, donated by the McGuire Center.

Jumping into butterfly conservation at the Houston Zoo

When the Houston Zoo joined the BFCI, their enthusiasm was contagious. Within a year they had put together a series of research, restoration, reintroduction, and public awareness goals, invited the entire Zoo staff to participate in the new Butterfly Project, and had already begun many projects. In the first year staff participation in the Project grew from six to 26 and the activities addressed all aspects of local butterfly conservation. The Zoo began participating in Monarch Watch's tagging program and received enthusiastic praise and thanks when giving demonstrations on zoo grounds. Backyard Habitat was planted and is currently in the process of getting certified by the National Wildlife Federation. A Monarch Waystation has also been planted on-grounds.

Other staff were interested in reintroductions. After learning that the colonies of Zebra longwings disappeared from the Houston area in the 1980's, staff took it upon themselves to learn the reasons why and to learn how they could rear and reintroduce them. Research into permits, rearing techniques, and acquiring host plants and butterfly stock began. The Zoo hopes to launch this program in 2006.

Not satisfied with staying on-grounds, the Houston Zoo is working with public landowners, such as Harris County Flood Control, to find ways to introduce and restore habitats conducive to Houston area native butterflies. After attending meetings and discussions, these partnerships are forming fast.

In addition, butterfly team members presented at the Zoo's annual Educator Day, are developing graphics for the gardens and habitat, will host a butterfly festival during their migration celebration, plan to develop an education package for use by docents and Zoo Crew members, and hope to develop a Web site highlighting the Butterfly Project's progress. Leaders like these show us there really is an opportunity for everybody to get engaged in butterfly conservation.

Online permit application available soon: USDA-APHIS will soon offer an online permit application for imports. Look for updates on the BFCI listserv in November.

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
- ** 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
- ** 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 news:

BFCI is moving to a new host! After generously launching and hosting the BFCI since 2003, AZA has passed the role of Host Organization to an organization that will be named as soon as the ink is dry on the formal agreement. All parties involved will make sure the transition is as smooth as possible and we expect the physical move to take place in early 2006. BFCI is looking forward to the move and is eager to develop the partnerships and possibilities that will arise with this new arrangement.

Funding Opportunity: The Xerces Society is accepting applications for the 2006 Joan Mosenthal DeWind Lepidoptera Research and Conservation Award. Two grants for \$3750 will be awarded to students engaged in research leading to a university degree related to Lepidoptera conservation. Applications are due 19 December 2005. Visit <http://www.xerces.org/dewind.htm> for more information.

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).

