

Northwest Zoo & Aquarium Alliance Workshop

By: Ruth Allard, Interim Assistant Director Conservation & Science, AZA

In October, the Northwest Zoo and Aquarium Alliance hosted the *Northwest Butterfly Recovery Workshop Part II* at the Oregon Coast Aquarium (OCA). *Part I* had built partnerships among agencies and organizations committed to butterfly recovery. This year's workshop, coordinated by US Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) Nancy Pollot, Woodland Park Zoo's Erin Sullivan, and OCA's Kerry Carlin-Morgan, focused on integrating scientists and education specialists working on butterfly recovery, and developed collaboration strategies.

More than thirty attendees represented two FWS offices; USDA's Forest Service; The Nature Conservancy; Western Oregon University; the North American Butterfly Association; City of Eugene, OR; Master Gardeners; the Jane Goodall Environmental Middle School in Salem, OR; Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA), and four AZA members: OCA, Oregon Zoo, Seattle Aquarium, and the Woodland Park Zoo.

The workshop included presentations on Northwest species, related conservation projects, and AZA and BFCI members' ongoing butterfly education and outreach efforts. Education and outreach action items conveying conservation messages about Northwest butterflies and their habitats were developed for key audiences: educators, kids, landowners, and land managers. An implementation plan was also developed. On the second day of the workshop, participants joined additional volunteers in planting over 1000 *Viola adunca* at a restoration site on Forest Service land. *V. adunca* is the host plant for the federally threatened Oregon silverspot butterfly, and this area is one of only four sites in which the butterfly is found today.

The meeting and planting were a great success, and participants are committed to maintaining communication and further action on behalf of the region's butterfly recovery priorities. A Northwest Butterfly Recovery listserv has been created to facilitate communication. To join, contact Erin Sullivan at erin.sullivan@zoo.org.



Photo: David Walker

Butterflies and Backyards in Utah

Utah's Hogle Zoo's seasonal butterfly exhibit featured native butterflies and highlighted their natural histories, the positive impacts of butterflies and insects on the environment, and the connection between the exhibit and visitors' backyards. Interpreters emphasized three conservation messages: how to provide habitat for local butterflies, the importance of not disturbing or touching wild animals, and the role of pollinators in the environment and how to promote their survival.

Expanding the Belt in New York

In summer 2006, the Seneca Park Zoo celebrated the fifth year of its Butterfly Beltway Project. With significant support from the Daisy Marquis Jones Foundation, the project has grown from five butterfly gardens in 2002 to 50 in 2006. The Zoo's 40 sites are located primarily at children's facilities and senior living centers. By engaging the public in the Butterfly Garden Challenge of planting nectar and host plants in the region, the Beltway gained an additional ten gardens this year. Monarchs raised by a nearby butterfly company are released at the Zoo's project sites in the fall. This year, 454 butterflies were tagged with Monarch Watch tags (www.monarchwatch.org) as they began their journey south. The Beltway project engages and delights the Zoo's community, and makes a difference in the quantity and quality of butterfly habitat in Western New York.

Brevard Zoo Begins Monitoring Florida Butterflies

By: Michelle Smurl, Curator of Animals

The Brevard Zoo's animal collection has 550 animals on Zoo grounds, representing 156 different species. But these are not the only animals found on Zoo property; native wildlife shares the 70 acres of predominantly natural habitat. During the past two summers, Brevard Zoo exhibited native butterflies so guests could encounter these insects up close and learn about their importance in the ecosystem. This endeavor inspired the Zoo to study the wild butterflies that also call the Brevard Zoo home. Thus began the Brevard Zoo's Citizen-Scientist Project.

During the summer of 2006 butterfly enthusiasts, many motivated by our exhibits and related events, gathered at the Zoo for an intense training session led by Dr. Akers Pence, the state coordinator of the Florida Butterfly Monitoring Network (<http://www.flbutterflies.net/>), based at the McGuire Center for Lepidoptera & Biodiversity.

In September, ten newly trained volunteer Citizen Scientists and three Zoo staff began to monitor the Zoo's wild butterfly population. Transects of representative habitat were created, searched, and the butterfly life was recorded. The first day's search yielded 110 butterflies representing 16 species. All information collected is submitted to the McGuire Center for entry into the FBMN database.

These volunteers are contributing valuable information to a serious scientific study. The data they collect will be used to help develop conservation and management strategies to protect Florida's dwindling butterfly populations. Since September, Brevard Zoo volunteer citizen scientists have recorded 26 different butterfly species on Zoo property.

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
Museum of Science



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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 for Invertebrate Conservation

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

Study Confirms Pollinator Population Decline and Need for Population Monitoring: A National Research Council report shows “demonstrably downward” population trends for some North American pollinators. One obstacle to quantifying population trends was the lack of pollinator population data, prompting the authors to call for stepped-up efforts to monitor these creatures and improve understanding of their basic ecology. The executive summary is available at: http://newton.nap.edu/execsumm_pdf/11761.

Promote Pollinator Awareness: In 2007, a US Postal Service stamp series will feature pollinators to raise awareness of the role these organisms play in our food system and environment (see artwork above). Encourage visitors to seek out these stamps!

US Senate Resolution 580 declares June 24-30, 2007 to be National Pollinator Week. Help draw attention to the plight of our nation's pollinators by hosting related activities that week. Tell us about your programs so we can share your creativity with other members.

Funding Opportunity: The Xerces Society (www.xerces.org) is accepting applications for the 2007 Joan Mosenthal DeWind Lepidoptera Research and Conservation Award. Grants support students engaged in Lepidoptera conservation-related research.

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).

