

Karner blue butterflies in Rhode Island!

Roger Williams Park Zoo received permits from US Fish and Wildlife Service to rear Karner blue larvae for the state of New Hampshire. The RWPZ has long cultivated the Karner blue's host plant, lupine, which is transplanted to a restoration site in NH. RWPZ's contribution to Karner blue conservation is continuing to grow and on 30 June, Lou Perrotti of RWPZ picked up 104 first instar larvae from a Karner blue rearing facility in Concord, NH. The Zoo plans to rear the larvae to pupae and will then return the pupae to NH, where the emerging butterflies will be bred and released. By rearing the larvae, RWPZ is significantly helping the NH Fish and Game Department's reintroduction efforts in Concord.

Invertebrates in Captivity Conference (IICC)

Butterflies were well represented at the Sonoran Arthropod Studies Institute's (SASI) July 2005 conference. Seven presentations focused on butterflies and butterfly exhibits. BFCI's Shelly Grow presented on members' and partners' use of education and outreach to influence butterfly conservation, while BFCI members Diana Tancredi from the Bronx Zoo/Wildlife Conservation Society discussed their new butterfly garden and insect carousel, and Amy Bodwell from Brookfield Zoo discussed a technique to evaluate the impact of a butterfly exhibit on visitors' knowledge and caring about butterflies. Visit www.sasionline.org for more information.

Sneak Preview: Butterflies at AZA's Annual Conference

Monitoring networks for those that hop, flutter, and fly. On Friday, 16 September from 8:30-10:00, Dr. Doug Taron from the Chicago Academy of Sciences, Dr. Jaret Daniels from the McGuire Center for Lepidoptera and Biodiversity, Sonia DiFiore from Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, Lisa Tryon from Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo, and Anne Oiler from Brookfield Zoo will share their experiences with butterfly, amphibian, and bird monitoring networks. The purpose and benefits of all monitoring networks are similar, all networks are a lot of fun for staff and can incorporate volunteers and visitors, and they are a great way to contribute to local conservation and management efforts.

Butterfly Education in 2005: What's Next? On Friday, 16 September from 10:30-11:30, Shelly Grow will discuss progress made in 2005 on BFCI's education and outreach goals, how that fits into the Initiative's strategic plan, and where the Initiative will be going in 2006.

For more information about AZA's Annual Conference in Chicago, visit http://www.aza.org/ConfWork/AC_Intro/

Working to protect at risk Northwest Butterflies

By Scott Hoffman Black and Mace Vaughan, Xerces Society

Open prairies full of wildflowers and butterflies were once as much a part of the Pacific Northwest landscape as old growth forests and salmon. Over the last century most of these grasslands have been converted to agriculture and urban development and butterfly species dependent upon these grasslands, including the Mardon skipper (*Polites mardon*), Taylor's checkerspot (*Euphydryas editha taylori*), and Island marble (*Euchloe ausonides insulana*), are facing extinction. The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation collaborates

with federal, state, and local agencies to protect and manage the prairie habitat with known populations of these species, conducts searches to find additional populations, and works with scientists to develop recovery plans.

The Mardon skipper is a small, tawny-orange butterfly dependent upon native, fescue-dominated meadows. In 2004 and 2005, we discovered 13 new sites in southern Oregon. We are now working with the BLM and Forest Service to manage these sites.

The Taylor's checkerspot is a colorful black, orange, and white butterfly. Working with lepidopterist Dana Ross, we found a population of about 500 individuals in 2004, the third-largest known population of the species. We are working to control invasive plants on this site, which is managed by the Benton County Parks Department. We work with Benton County, the Bonneville Power Authority, US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and private landowners to protect other sites as

The Island marble butterfly is white and green, with a marbled texture under the hind wings. Not seen since 1908, the butterfly was believed extinct until one small population was found on San Juan Island in Washington in 1998. Working with the WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, WA Natural Heritage Program, and FWS, we embarked on an ambitious search across the San Juan Islands this summer. Two small populations were discovered and we will work with federal and state agencies to protect and manage its remaining habitat.

With luck and work these butterflies will remain with us long into the future.

Editor's note: *The Oregon Zoo provided partial funding for the Island marble efforts and is working to captive rear Mardon skippers and Taylor's checkerspots to support field conservation efforts.*



Photo: James Miskelly.
Island marble butterfly.

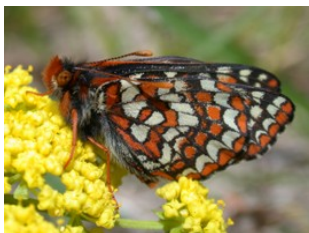


Photo: Dana Ross.
Taylor's checkerspot.

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



Photo: Tom Kogut/ US Forest Service. Mardon skippers.

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 at Caribbean Gardens
** 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

We welcome the **Brevard Zoo** in Florida, the **Museum of Science** in Massachusetts, and the **Birmingham Zoo** in Alabama as BFCI's newest participating organizations!

Important Dates:

Nationwide: National Public Lands Day is 24 September. This is an all-volunteer effort to improve public lands in the US. Visit <http://www.npld.com/> to find projects in your state or to become a site manager. Please let Shelly Grow, sgrow@aza.org, know if you become involved in this project.

Western North Carolina Nature Center's *Beauty of Butterflies* exhibit runs 2 July – 5 September.

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

Oregon Zoo: *Winged Wonders* is open 21 May - 14 September.

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).

