

Butterfly, Frog, and Bird Monitoring Information

Inspired by last year's *Monitoring networks for those that hop, flutter, and fly* workshop in Chicago? BFCI will display a poster at AZA's annual conference in Tampa, FL, 25-30 September 2006, featuring updates on various networks (amphibians in Connecticut, birds in Illinois, and butterflies in Florida, Illinois, and Ohio) and resources for tapping into local monitoring networks. Participation in these networks boosts staff morale and knowledge about local fauna and demonstrates commitment to local conservation. Be sure to stop by! Dr. Jaret Daniels, cofounder of the Florida Butterfly Monitoring Network, will be available to answer questions.

To List or Not to List – Findings from FWS

On 8 August 2006, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) responded to petitions to list three butterfly species under the Endangered Species Act. FWS found there was not sufficient evidence to merit the listing of either the Hermes copper butterfly (*Hermelycaena [Lycaena] hermes*) or Thorne's hairstreak butterfly (*Callophrys [Mitoura] grynea thornei* or *Callophrys [Mitoura] thornei*). However, they found the listing of the Sand Mountain blue butterfly (*Euphilotes pallescens arenamontana*) may be warranted. Comments on this third petition must be submitted by 10 October 2006 to sandmtblue@fws.gov. More information is included in FR Vol. 71, No. 152: <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html>.

Butterflies for All Ages at Disney

Disney's Animal Kingdom is introducing high school students to careers in field biology and highlighting butterflies as conservation subjects. During the three-month long After-School Program, students learn about conservation messages and related careers through presentations and field studies. Given Disney's leadership in butterfly conservation action, it is not surprising that butterflies as environmental indicators are featured as one of the six themes covered, followed by discussions about field biology careers. Lessons cover the life stages of a butterfly, define indicator species, and explain how butterflies help measure environmental health. Participants practice basic butterfly identification in terms of "family" (i.e. what does a swallowtail look like, sulphur, etc.) and then learn to use identification books to identify to species level. Butterfly bingo and other games help students practice quick identification of common FL species. During the field study, students learn proper butterfly collection and release techniques. For more information about this program, contact Courtney Carroll at: Courtney.A.Carroll@disney.com.



Photo Credit: Courtney Carroll. Disney Animal Kingdom's After-School Program

Monarch Waystations - Monarch Watch

By: Chip Taylor, Director, Monarch Watch

As we all know the greatest danger to wildlife is the loss of habitat. Monarchs are faced with habitat loss in Mexico due to illegal logging at the overwintering sites and are losing ground to development, shifts in agricultural practices, and roadside management in the United States. The primary monarch habitat is farmland and we are losing 3000-4000 acres of these habitats per day due to development. Frustrated by these habitat losses Monarch Watch embarked on a campaign to create Monarch Waystations. Our goal is to inspire citizens, schools, and organizations to create habitats for monarchs and to alert the public to the continuing loss of habitats for all forms of wildlife. Fortunately, monarchs are a species we can do something about; if we create the habitats they will find them. These habitats also attract an abundance of other butterflies, pollinator species, and a variety of birds.

To learn more about Monarch Waystations, please visit <http://www.monarchwatch.org/ws/>. Our program is still small but is growing. There are now more than 783 certified and registered Waystations. Help us spread the word - Create, Conserve and Protect Monarch Habitats.

Editor's challenge: Currently six BFCI member facilities have certified Monarch Waystations including the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo (9 Waystations on Metroparks property), Central Florida Zoo, Detroit Zoo, Oklahoma City Zoo, The Butterfly House, and Western North Carolina Nature Center. Let's do more!

Managing Pollinator Populations

The US Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Agroforestry Center has published the first two of a four-issue series on pollinator conservation in *Agroforestry Notes*. Written by Xerces Society staff, these technical notes provide agroforesters with detailed information to design or adjust agroforestry plantings to most benefit native bees and other pollinators.

Agroforestry Notes #32 provides an overview of the habitat needs of crop-pollinating native bees, while *Notes #33* addresses how nectar and pollen sources can be included in riparian buffers, wind breaks, forest farming, silvopasture, or alley cropping. The *Notes* are available at: http://www.xerces.org/Pollinator_Insect_Conservation/Agroforestry_Notes.htm

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
- 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

Thanks to Our Supporters

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

Important Dates:

BFCI at AZA's Annual Conference! Learn what the Initiative has accomplished in 2006, some of the plans for 2007, and help determine Initiative-wide priorities. BFCI will be meeting from 4:00-5:00 on Friday, September 29, 2006 in Tampa.

Nationwide: National Public Lands Day is 30 September 2006. 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.

Pollinator Symposium in Washington, DC: On 18 October 2006 partners of the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign will hold a one-day symposium, "Pollinator Partnership: Protecting Plant-Pollinator Interactions Worldwide," hosted by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Forest Service. For more information and to register, visit: <http://www.pollinator.org>.

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).

