

## Karner Blue Butterfly Recovery in Ohio

By: Peter Tolson, The Toledo Zoo

The Ohio Karner Blue Recovery Team met on 9 March 2007 and promulgated some plans for future releases of the Karner blue into the Oak Openings Region of Ohio. From 2007 through 2009, butterflies will be released at both the Moseley Barrens, a management unit of The Nature Conservancy, and the Lou Campbell Prairie of the Oak Openings Metropark. The Toledo Zoo has a goal of releasing a minimum of 250 butterflies at each site per year. From 2011 to 2015, we will gradually shift our efforts to the Meilke Road Savanna, an excellent example of oak savanna that was purchased by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Wildlife. Another key element in establishing connectivity of KBB populations within the Oak Openings Region will be the reintroduction of a population at the northern end of the Oak Openings in Michigan at the Petersburg Game Area- a historical locality for the Karner blue. The Detroit Zoo has accepted this challenge and Laura Palombi, Associate Curator of Invertebrates, is now growing lupine and making the preparations to bring the Karner blue to Detroit this summer. Both Zoos are working closely with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Ohio and Michigan Departments of Natural Resources to implement the new reintroductions.

## Laguna Mountain Skipper Workshop

By: Jaret Daniels, McGuire Center

On February 21, 2007, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Carlsbad California Field Office organized and hosted a workshop to discuss conservation and recovery planning for the Federally Endangered Laguna Mountain Skipper (*Pyrgus ruralis lagunae*). The program involved numerous presentations on topics ranging from conservation approaches for declining populations and butterfly genetics to monitoring techniques and captive propagation programs. The presentations were followed by extensive discussion. Several BFCI members and partners were in participated including Doug Taron (Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum), Mary Jo Anderson (Portland Zoo), Scott Hoffman Black (Xerces Society), and Jaret Daniels and Thomas Emmel (McGuire Center). The workshop was a tremendous success, and participants are committed to maintaining communication and further action planning in coordination with USFWS.

## Butterflies Take Advantage of Improved Habitat

By: Nicole Cavender, *the Wilds*

Since 2004, "The Butterfly Habitat" has been taking shape at the Wilds in Ohio. So far, over 12 acres of meadow have been restored and planted with a native perennials ideal for supporting large numbers butterflies and include both hostplants and nectar sources. The habitat also includes roughly 25 acres of woodlands and 2 acres of wetlands which adds additional support to native butterfly populations. An annual garden was planted at the entrance of the Wilds in 2006 and provides a bed of attractive color and an additional generous source of nectar.

Long-term data that track local trends in abundance are essential to revealing how the Habitat is being used by butterflies. So far, we have collected three years of data by regularly walking a fixed transect through the habitat and recording numbers of species as well as other observations. Based on our results, things are looking up for butterflies. In 2004, the first year of habitat improvements, 625 individual butterflies were recorded along the transect, while in 2005, 788 butterflies were recorded and in 2006, 1525 individuals were recorded; a 114% increase between 2006 and 2004. Species richness has increased 42% during this same time, reaching 37 butterfly species in 2006, up from 26 in 2004.



"The Butterfly Habitat" at *the Wilds*  
Credit: Ian Adams

## BFCI Moving to New Home

By Jaret Daniels, McGuire Center

The Butterfly Conservation Initiative is in the process of moving to the sunshine state. The McGuire Center for Lepidoptera and Biodiversity at the University of Florida and the Florida Biodiversity Foundation, Inc. will permanently host BFCI from its new physical home in Gainesville. The resulting transition will become complete in May 2007. The move will help provide the maximum support needed for the continued expansion of BFCI and its collaborative objectives, namely the conservation of threatened, endangered and vulnerable North American butterflies and the habitats that sustain them, with a focus on recovery, research and public education. Additional information regarding the transition will be made available to all members, partners and contributing institutions shortly. We look forward to an exciting year!

## Current Members

- \*\* Abilene Zoo
- \*\* Akron Zoological Park
- \*\* Albuquerque Biological Park
- \*\* Binder Park Zoo
  - Birmingham Zoo
  - Brookfield Zoo
- \*\* Bronx Zoo/WCS
  - The Butterfly House
- \*\* Calgary Zoo, Botanical Garden and Prehistoric Park
- \*\* Central Florida Zoological Park
- \*\* Chaffee Zoological Gardens
- \*\* Cheyenne Mountain Zoo
  - Chicago Academy of Sciences and Notabaert 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
  - Potawatomi Zoo
- \*\* Racine Zoological Gardens
- \*\* Roger Williams Park Zoo
  - San Diego Zoo's Wild Animal Park
- \*\* Santa Barbara Zoological Gardens
- \*\* Seneca Park Zoo
- \*\* The Toledo Zoo
- \*\* Toronto Zoo
  - Utah's Hogle Zoo
- \*\* Vancouver Aquarium
- \*\* Woodland Park Zoo

## Contributors

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

\*\* *Founding member*

## 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

**Butterflies at Brevard Zoo!** The Brevard Zoo's temporary butterfly exhibit opens on Father's Day weekend (June 16) and runs through July 31. Don't miss the exhibit, as it will not be offered again until 2009. For more information, visit: [www.brevardzoo.org](http://www.brevardzoo.org).

**ButterflyFest in Gainesville.** The Florida Museum of Natural History and McGuire Center for Lepidoptera & Biodiversity will host the second annual "ButterflyFest" on October 13-14, 2007. The event features interactive workshops, family-oriented activities, music, and vendors selling art, gardening, and other nature-related merchandise. Visit <http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/butterflyfest/> to learn more.

## National Education Efforts and Celebrations

*Endangered Species Day is 18 May 2007.* Celebrate the efforts of AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums to protect endangered, threatened, and locally vulnerable butterflies. To learn how BFCI members protect butterflies, visit: [www.butterflyrecovery.org](http://www.butterflyrecovery.org). For *Endangered Species Day* promotional materials, visit: <http://www.stopextinction.org/endangeredspeciesday>.

*Pollinator Week is 24-30 June 2007.* For informational and promotional materials, visit: [http://pollinator.org/pollinator\\_week.htm](http://pollinator.org/pollinator_week.htm).

## Thanks to Our Supporters

As always, we thank our members, contributors, 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 [bfcia@aza.org](mailto:bfcia@aza.org). To learn more about the BFCI, please visit our Web site ([www.butterflyrecovery.org](http://www.butterflyrecovery.org)).

