August 2015

Welcome back!!

We have great things planned, events and speakers so we hope to see you!

Members Garden Presentation in May
We had a great turnout of over 40 individuals at our meeting. We got very silly in our garden hats. The open garden members tour was beautiful. A caravan of cars invaded Century Village to see Vicki and Lisa's extended garden. They explained that what started off as one small area expanded to an entire lot-size section of butterfly nectar plants and bromelids. Thank you both for a great tour. Ana Maria and Richard’s backyard is converted into a pond habitat with fish and frogs and some unusual plants like the False-mint, Sixangle foldwing and small native trees and plenty of larval host plants for guls and longwings. They even have visits from hummingbirds. Thank you all, it was a great experience!

Pat Rossi

Field Trips
Past & Future

SPRING FIELD TRIP UPDATE
Sue Arnold field trip in June was filled with butterflies and rescued animals. Can I tell you it was a blast of Okeechobee proportions? The air was hot, yet there was no rain at all, and the butterflies could do nothing but fill the air with flight!

Our field trips are always an adventure, our butterfly counts a learning experience. All thanks to the spot on work of Sue and Barb. Consider coming along sometime as we count butterflies or go on a trip.

UPCOMING TRIP
St. Mark’s Refuge Butterfly Festival Sat Oct 24, 2015. Depart on Fri Oct 23. Seven-hour drive. Several members will go. Check with Sue Mather at 954-205-5432 to sign up.

Reminders
Next meeting
Tues Aug 11
Hope to see you!

Amazon Users
Please order thru website
www.browardbutterfly.org.
BCBC earns 4% of your purchases. Silent Auction
Please ID donated plants. We accept natives and non-invasive plants. Signing In Notebook
Members & guests, please print your name. As a guest, please give

Get Well Soon
Addie best wishes for a speedy recovery, we will miss your sunny personality at our meetings

Broward County Butterfly Chapter has a new website
We have a new one thanks to the wonderful work of Ana Maria Agrusa, webmaster who made it possible. With help from member Miriam Avello and web developer Patrick Wong, she worked out all the kinks. We are delighted to experience this website www.browardbutterflies.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS
Tues Aug 11, 2015. Speaker: Carl Terwilliger, Meadow Beauty Nursery, Lake Worth, FL
"Attracting butterflies with host plants and unusual nectar sources" Terrific topic!


Contact us at www.browardbutterflies.org; email: BCBCmail@gmail.com
Chapter meetings at Tree Tops Park 3900 SW 100th Avenue, Davie FL 33328 – 954-357-5130

PLANT OF THE MONTH
Seaside Goldenrod
Solidago sempervirens
http://floridanativeplantseeds.com/butterflyplantseeds.htm

A Visit to the Sandy FAU Preserve

The day was humid yet the light breeze kept it bearable. There were university students and members from BCBC and the Atala Palm Beach Chapter.

We came to see butterflies and right away most interesting was the Zebra Longwing that had eggs on the Maypop passionvine, p.incarnata which grew around the oak tree looking like it just drank rain. There was also a male Julia to welcome us at the outset. Yet we couldn’t miss the Wild Lime and Cinneord at the entrance to the Tortuga Trail or the Opuntia. Chris of the Atala chapter said the prickly pear cactus was different it had yellow spines, glochids, instead of gray. She added that when the prickly pear flowers, the pollinator bees tickles the stamens and the anthers and filaments tightly pack the style, closing to assist in the pollination.

On the trail we also saw Lyonia ferruginea, staggerbush, which foliage provides food for deer and nectar for insects. We saw Tread Softly, with it’s gush of white blooms and stinging hairs. There was a small exotic Surinam Cherry and the sister bush adorned with cherries. There were clusters of what was presumed to be Eupatorium fistulosum, Joe Pye weed or Trumpetweed with faded pink flowers. Along the other side were the Bracken ferns that hugged the trail, which seemed proud of its large numbers. There was also Scrub Oaks and Chris pointed out the oval, elliptical

Nor did we miss the Solidago stricta, wand Goldenrods in its sun color bloom, or the poisonous Pokeweed, Phytolacca Americana. Looking down, there were patches of Bluestem, Schizachyrium scoparium grass. Larger patches of Paspalum setaceum beard-grass or tufted beard-grass, looked at home in swirls of sand. One surprise was a tall plant with white-pink flowers waving about, it was Tar Flower, Bejaria racemosa, flyweed or flycatcher, very comfortable in the scrub, waiting for the hapless pollinator to get stuck.

We passed a dead Racer snake; one group lagged behind, later Barb showed the picture of the parasized Buckmoth they discovered. It was an hour into our walk with bright sun and hot sands. We passed a lonely Sand Pine, Pinus clausa, The seeds are a good source of food for birds such as Scrub Jays. Along the trail there were several shady Live Oaks, Elliott Pines and Sabal Palmettos. Stuck among two large oak trees was an Autograph tree, Clusia rosea.

Towards the end of the trail that appeared in a flash was a giant Swallowtail busy at the top of the Hercules Club tree laying her eggs. Wrapped tightly around the trellis nearby were Passiflora suberosa and one other unidentified vine that attracted at least five Julias that were trying to ignore us to lay their eggs. A good time at the Preserve. Thank you Joseph for your invitation!

Photos: Buck Moth; Gulf Fritillary, Giant Swallowtail, B.DeWitt; Partridge Pea flower.P.Rossi; Joe Pye weed Wikipedia; Tread Softly & Bluestem grass, Wikkipedia, Partridge pea, P.Rossi, Tar Flower Wikkipedia.
COUNTING OUR FAB BUTTERFLIES

When you have the counts, it’s not predictable what you’ll find. Here are some interesting observations: In July, Art reported that at Crystal Lakes Scrub Zebras were plentiful although it was obvious there wasn’t the larval source to explain those numbers. What is good is that we have a large colony of Atalas at the Plantation Preserve, this was shared by Eve who said the June count revealed this abundant colony. What makes the location ideal for the population too are the nearby trees and shrubbery where they can rest.

Another July count supporter who visited Hillsboro Pineland natural area reported “my favorite sighting was the White Peacock butterfly because that’s one type I never see in my own yard! This particular one was close to the boardwalk and actually seemed to pose for a bit exposing his open wings, really pretty! The whole experience was wonderful, exploring a park I’d never visited before with the group in Deerfield. I’d certainly like to participate in another count. And thanks to you Chris you were a great group leader!” Linda.

Look for the notice to count in Fall. We have dedicated individuals leading all our counts. Consider coming along. The group meets at Long Key Nature Center, Tree Tops Park, Hugh Taylor Birch State Park and Crystal Lakes Sand Pine Scrub. Arrive at 830am; starts at 9am. The walk lasts approximately 2.5 hrs; with a break for lunch, then continues at 1pm. Look for a notice from BCBC. Contact B.DeWitt for more info: 954-599-1082 or bcbcmail@gmail.com.

Photo: Cassius Blue B.Richie.

B Swallowtail, G. Southern White at SueArnold by LiIM