Plants of the Month  
August & September 2018

**Announcement - BCBC Moves Meetings to Long Key Nature Center! Davie, FL**

Starting with our meeting Sunday November 18, 2018, BCBC will meet at Long Key Nature Center. Time: 2 to 4 pm. We feature: Sandy Koi, Adjunct Professor. She will present “Bucking the Taxonomic System: The Junonia Butterfly Clade”. All about Buckeye butterflies, a lot to learn. Long Key Nature Center, 3501 SW 130th Ave. Davie, FL 33330. We hope to see you Sundays.

**Announcing - Aug & Sept 2018**

**Broward County Butterfly Chapter**

**PLANT OF THE MONTH**

**Prickly Cactus Flower, Opuntia stricta**

Prickly Pear cactus flower provides nectar to butterflies, bees, ants, hummingbirds. It blooms spring through summer and provides food and shelter to animals. The plant is native to the state of Florida.

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Take Note!

Editor: PRossi. Feedback: Contact bcbcmail@gmail.com

**Amazon Users**

Please order thru website www.browardbutterflies.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 us your email address to receive our newsletters.

**Reminders**

Please take your Plants donated at each event or meeting home if not auctioned off.

**FACEBOOK PAGE** https://www.facebook.com/Broward-County-Butterfly-Chapter-1050990654972867/  
www.BrowardButterflies.org; bcbcmail@gmail.com

The Broward Chapter is part of the North American Butterfly Association

**Reminders**

Hope to see you!

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**MONTHLY MEETING**

**Tues August 14, 2018**

“Gardening Part II” by Steve Woodmansee, Botanist, Owner, Pro Native Consulting. Meeting: Social time 6.30pm, Meeting 6.50-8.30pm

Chapter meetings at the Extension Office 3245 College Ave Davie FL 33314—954-357-5270

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Gardens & Cacti

Julias like to host on the passion flower vine which can be *Passiflora incarnata* or *multiflora*. Hungry critters stay away from caterpillars because the *Passiflora* has an unpleasant taste. The male is the bright orange, while the female is a soft orange brown color with several dark bands on the wings. Julia caterpillars are brown with white spots, and black spikes poking out. Individuals have noted since last year’s storm in South Florida, Julias are not seen as frequently. Photo: gquintinilla, NABA.

The gardener Unwinds

If you had these local butterflies in your yard every day, Gulf Fritillaries, Zebra Longwings, White Peacocks, Monarchs, Monk Skippers, Cassius Blues and a Julia or two you would love the outdoors. Elaine Miers gets to relish this experience with critters at home every week.

To keep her butterflies content, she plants Wild Senna, *Senna marilandica* for sulphurs, a native to parts of FL. In her garden as well is Maypop, *Passiflora incarnata* host for the Gulf, Variegated Fritillary and Zebra. The Giant Milkweed, *Calotropis gigantea* grown for the Monarch's and for the Pipevine Swallowtails there is *Dutchman’s Pipe, Aristolochia tomentosa*. Tropical Milkweed is seen with some lovely nectar producing flowers.

She ordered Balloon Milkweed seeds, non-native to Florida, which came up for summer. They resemble Scarlet Milkweed with thicker stalks and leaves and white flowers, which drew in the Monarch's. Whenever Elaine strolls around in her garden she unwinds, especially when looking at the butterflies doing their twirling dance chasing each other which she describes as ‘tranquility’.

Prickly Pear Cactus

The cactus flower pictured is shaped like an open bowl, a small saucer that hummingbirds, butterflies and bees visit for nectar. Bees dives into the flower, shaking it to get as much pollen from the stamens as possible. The flower closes inward, called a thigmotactic behavior, it does this when stimulated, hardly needing the busy, energetic bee to start the process. The flower blooms April to August and lasts one day. The plant survives all types of environments. Pads can be planted as a new plant after a few days, forming dense thickets 8ft across up to 8ft tall, although the plant is generally more short than tall. The prickles from its pads, called glochids, can be difficult to remove from the skin, and that of the animal brushing against it. Another name for the pads are cladodes; they’re not leaves, but stems with fixed upright spines. Pads are sold and consumed when smoothed, devoid of all prickles. The jewel-colored fruits are eaten by humans and animals including birds.

Monarch Raring During Spring

Monarch raising is rewarding. Female monarchs find both giant and scarlet milkweed attractive. The caterpillars are also brought inside clinging onto leaves sometimes by accident, overlooked because they’re so tiny. Taking care of Monarch cats to make them feed well is like a dotting parent. Caterpillars spin their chrysalises almost in the blinking of an eye. The reward is the visiting four-year-old’s fascination to see the perfect male or female creature emerge on queue every time, ready to flap their wings in the breeze looking for nectar.
Saving Schauss Swallowtails and Miami Blue Butterflies

Hundreds of Schauss swallowtail caterpillars were released in the woods at John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park, Key Largo, FL recently. The effort is to make sure these beautiful creatures do not disappear. In 2012 only four Schauss butterflies were found in Southeast Florida and Florida Keys. Now, according to Dr. Jaret Daniels of the University of Florida’s Museum of Natural History, he is positive the path is bright compared to how it looked for the swallowtails about six, seven years ago. The program began in 2014, and the University of Florida scientists have produced more than 1,000 Schauss swallowtail larvae. More than 50 adult butterflies and 200 caterpillars were released onto Elliott Key, which is part of Biscayne National Park. The goal is to release more adult butterflies and caterpillars in other islands besides Elliott Key. The program is a collaborative effort with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

In addition, the team was responsible for releasing about 100 Miami Blue chrysalis at Long Key State Park. Both species have been critically imperiled. The Miami Blue butterfly had disappeared from the mainland and was found only in a few places on the Keys. This butterfly is about the width of a thumbnail; the Schauss swallowtail is approximately five inches. Jaret Daniels is the director of the McGuire Center for Lepidoptera and Biodiversity at the Florida Museum of Natural History. Credit: David Goodhue, Miami Herald, Jul 23, 2018.

Counting Butterflies

By Vice President Barbara DeWitt, Spring, 2018

Tagging Demo

By Vice President Barbara DeWitt, Spring, 2018

Tagging Monarchs. Mr. Nick Bodven of Southwest Florida started the tagging of monarchs on the west coast some years ago to see how far the non-migrating South Florida monarchs travel. It’s easier to tag a home-raised monarch than one in the field. Mr. Bodven provides his own tags printed with trace #s and a phone number; the lag goes harmlessly on the outer wing. Nick encourages you if participating in his program, to test monarchs for a parasite, Ophryocystis elektroscirrha (OE). The kit is available thru Nick or directly from the University of GA (UG). Scotch tape can be used too. It’s not difficult to do. When monarchs emerge from the chrysalis, a piece of clear tape is pressed against the abdomen creating an imprint, then transferred to paper which is mailed to the UG. They return results, the percentage the batch had of OE, which milkweed feeding Monarchs, Queens and Soldier have. For an accurate record of this, Nick supplies forms. His project is separate from the Monarch Watch Tagging Program, a citizen science endeavor helping migrating Monarchs reach Mexico. For more information visit http://nickiebodv.blogspot.com/

Counting Butterflies

Hello fellow Butterfly Counters and Enthusiasts!

If you would like to view the latest on our counts and hear about the interesting sightings please head over to the website at browardbutterflies.org under the Count Icon. If you have any questions, please contact Barbara DeWitt at badewitt@gmail.com

Meeting Place. We meet at the Broward Agricultural Extension Office, Aug 14, Sept 11 and Oct 9. After which we move to Long Key Nature Center, Davie, address below

Directions to the Extension. 3265 College Ave, Davie. From the south, I-595 West. Take exit 7. Merge into FL 84, turn on Davie Rd. Turn right onto Nova Dr. Turn left onto College Ave. Destination is on your right. It is the first building on your right. From the north. I-95 south to SW10th St. to the 869 Sawgrass Expressway (toll). After the Sunrise Blvd exit, merge onto I-595 East to Ft. Lauderdale. Take the University Dr. Exit, turn right onto University Dr. Stay in the left lane. At the 2nd light turn left onto Nova Dr. At the first light turn right onto College Ave. Destination is on your right. It is the first building on your right facing College Ave. The one story bldg. is opposite FAU campus, Davie. UF/IFAS are located behind the building.

Directions to Long Key, 3501 SW 130th Ave. Davie, FL 33330. From I-595, take Flamingo Rd, head west. The Center is off the 36th Court, opposite Flamingo Gardens.

Schauss, LindaCooper NABA

MiamiBlue, J.Glassberg NABA

Newly emerged Monarch after being a chrysalis below for approximately a week.

Photos: PatR

Meet Left, Coneopsis, tickseed. (attracts bees, butterflies) R-Purple Coneflower, perennial; (attracts butterflies, bees, seeds for birds). L-Shasta Daisy, annual (liked by butterflies, ants) and R-Lily (attracts butterflies, hummingbirds). Photos: PatR

Summer Blooms & Butterflies

Top left, Coreopsis, tickseed. (attracts bees, butterflies) R-Purple Coneflower, perennial; (attracts butterflies, bees, seeds for birds). L-Shasta Daisy, annual (liked by butterflies, ants) and R-Lily (attracts butterflies, hummingbirds). Photos: PatR