



Fluttering Friends

Our Mission: To study and research the population of butterflies found in our area, educate ourselves and the community through shared education, create butterfly gardens and habitats, conduct field trips, participate in the annual butterfly count, and have fun.

President's Message:

Hello butterflyers,

It goes without saying that these are unprecedented times. With social distancing, cancellation of events, and stay-at-home orders for a lot of us, trying to keep the butterfly club connected is definitely a challenge.

As Scott Anderson said, "The newsletter is now more important than ever!" In this issue you'll find pictures and reports from members about what's been happening in the butterfly garden to what's being seen in your gardens. Since we have more "downtime," book reviews have made a reappearance with five to get you started.

Cancelling the annual garden tour this month is disappointing, but we're looking at creative ways to still share this experience using social media. We're being forced to be more creative in all our approaches, and who knows, video conferencing of meetings may be a possibility.

We'd love to get your ideas on how best to keep the club connected. In the meantime, share your experiences and pictures with us!

Always keep butterflies in your line of vision!
Karen Rosenbeck

How are you doing with your 2020 Challenge goal?
We'd love to start hearing from members as we get closer to May.
Send us your reports—we plan to compile them to share with everyone.

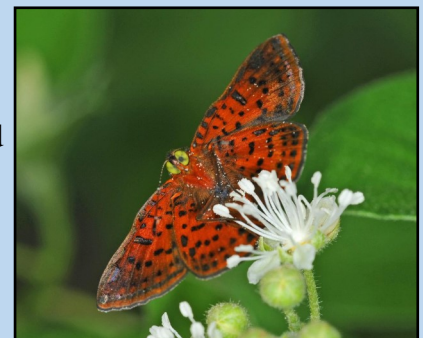
A message from Laura Bianco at NABA: **Bond with Butterflies**

Everyone here at NABA hopes that everyone, including all NABA members, stays safe during these difficult times.

The advice being given to slow the spread of Covid-19, is to stay home. While this is good and important advice, what is really meant is to avoid contact with other people, and the best way for most people to do this is to stay home – don't go to the supermarket, don't visit other people. However, as butterflyers, you have another option – go butterflying!

Yes, this is a good time to visit natural areas where there will be few, if any, people. If you do encounter people in a large natural area, it will be easy to avoid contact with them. And, because automobile traffic is almost non-existent, you may be able to roam farther afield than you could have when slowed by traffic. In addition, there may be close family members that live with you -- a spouse, children, parents -- who haven't completely shared your enthusiasm for butterflying. This is an opportunity (one that we wish we didn't have) to encourage them to get out of the house and join you in your pursuit of natural beauty. So, to revisit, maybe you can bond with butterflies and bond with family members at the same time!

Consider your safety; consider the safety of others.



What Members Are Seeing & Talking About

Suzy Patterson: Up to my eyeballs in butterflies! Heaven!



Above: Potted passionvine and various nectar plants; Zebra Heliconian and caterpillars

Nancy White: In my yard right now!! I hope the photos bring happiness to you all!



Row 1, L to R: Shaving brush tree (*Pseudobombax ellipticum*); Popcorn cassia (*Senna didymobotrya*)

Row 2, L to R: Blanket flower (*Gaillardia*); Seminoles/Florida hydrangea (*Dombeya burgessiae*);

Row 3, L to R: Balloon plant aka hairy balls milkweed (*Gomphocarpus physocarpus*); Vanilla orchid (*Vanilla planifolia*)

What Members Are Seeing & Talking About

Karen Rosenbeck: How surprised was I to find four hairstreaks voraciously nectaring on flowering cilantro? Very! With Scott Anderson's help, they were identified as Fulvous Hairstreaks, a first for me and on Marc Minno's "List of 78." They only stayed two days then probably moved on to find their host plants—Brazilian Pepper! Yeah, that plant! (I reported them on NABA's "Recent Sightings").



Since then, I've been paying close attention to any crazed-flying, tiny butterfly in my yard. Is it a hair-streak or is it a blue? During this exercise yesterday (3/24), I got a bonus and spied a pair of mating Cassius Blues on a biden leaf. Life goes on!

Sitting at the dining room table I face the French doors and can see most of the garden including the bird bath and suet feeder.

Quite a show, especially early morning just after sunrise.

Lots of Gulf F floating around looking for passion vine. A sulphur or two every day, some swallowtails, an occasional Monarch and Zebra longwings and last Monday a Great Southern White came to the red penta.

I've heard they use mustard and nasturtium as hosts, I have nasturtium so here's hoping.

As water is scarce, no rain, I'm getting more daily visitors to the bird bath including a crow who brings food every morning and washes it in the bird bath before eating. A gourmet bird. Changing the water every day to keep them happy. I'm just a servant.

stay well
walk in peace

Lucy

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Sharing My Garden

Jean Evoy— Spring is the season when we begin to see new things flowering in our yards and natural areas. For me spring means THISTLES!! I know you may not want thistles in your yard, but go to a place like Scherer Thaxton when the thistles are in bloom and you will be rewarded with a bonanza of butterfly sightings. Put simply, butterflies **LOVE** thistles!

Eastern Tiger female on bull thistle:



Orange Barred Sulphur at Myakka State Forest:



Thistles also draw in native bees, wasps and beetles, like the Blue Mason bee ...



...and Flower Beetle.

You can pull up a chair and just watch the action as they jockey for space on their favorite flower. You may even see a Little Metalmark down in the prickly leaves ovipositing!



As we move into April and May, the Nuttall's Thistles will begin to bloom. With luck you may see an American Lady! (pic. By Bill Evoy)



You will certainly see several skippers like the Monk Skipper:

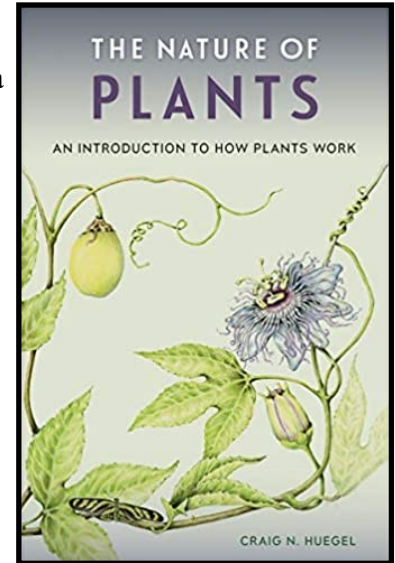


Editor: Purple Thistle (*Cirsium horridulum*) is a Florida native plant; thrives across a wide variety of soil types in full to part sun; 3-4 feet tall with spiny leaves; "impossible to control in a landscape setting with new plants appearing from underground suckers and from the copious fluffy seed that gets carried everywhere by the wind." (Craig Heugel) Plants are available at Sweetbay Nursery in Parish.

Book Reviews

Karen Rosenbeck: Several Florida authors have new books: **The Nature of Plants, An Introduction to How Plants Work**, by Craig Huegel and **Native Plants for Florida Gardeners** by Stacey Matrazzo and Nancy Bissett, Florida Wildflower Foundation.

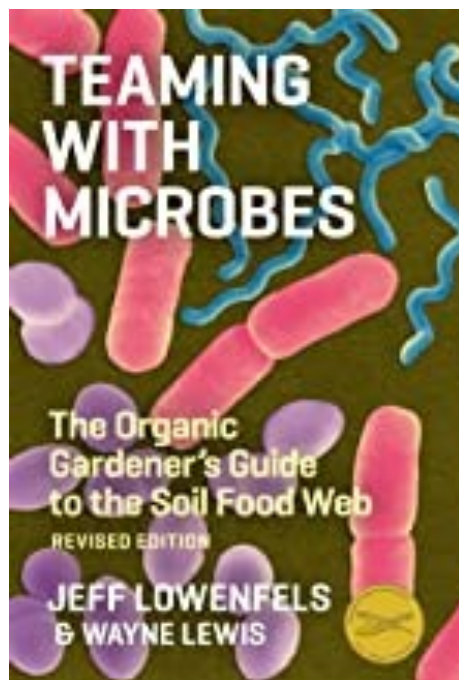
As reviewed by Marc S. Frank, extension botanist, University of Florida Herbarium, in **The Nature of Plants**, “Huegel explains plant structure and biology in a manner that is accessible and useful for the home gardener or weekend naturalist.” I especially was intrigued with the information in the last chapter on Plant Communication. We’re learning more everyday on how plants talk to each other!



Native Plants for Florida Gardens profiles 100 native plants that can transform Florida landscapes. Divided into four main sections (Wildflowers, Flowering Vines, Grasses, and Trees and Shrubs), the plants are presented alphabetically by scientific name and include full page pictures, a general description, a quick-reference key (bloom color & season, sun and moisture needs and type of habit) and a standardized list of information that includes family name, native range, lifespan, bloom season, propagation, planting and care, site conditions, hardiness, and garden tips. I found it to be a great reference for the 100 plants that are included.

Michelle Bellerue: I thought this might interest the group.

As a docent at Lotusland (www.lotusland.org) in 2000, I was taught by the head botanist that understanding fungi is so important and that success with plants starts with the soil. I finally found a book, **Teaming with Microbes**, that explains this in more simple terms, so that the everyday gardener can learn how to make great soil.

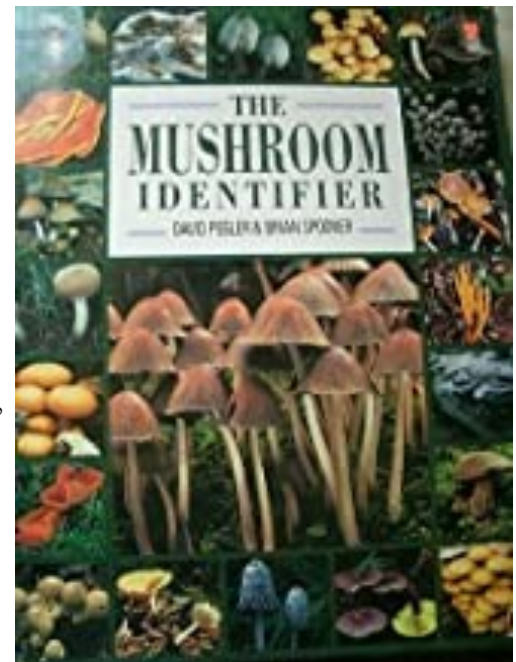


Soil Fungi

Lowenfels, Jeff & Lewis, Wayne. Teaming with Microbes: The Organic Gardener's Guide to the Soil Food Web, Timber Press, Portland, OR 2010, ISBN 978-1-60469-113-9

Mushroom Identification

Pegler, Davie & Spooner, Brian, The Mushroom Identifier, Smithmark, NY, Quintet Publishing, London, 1992, ISBN 0—8317-6195-4



Book Reviews

Butterflies of North America written by Susan McKeever and illustrated by Brian Hargreaves is one book in Thunder Press's Science Nature Guide Series geared to elementary and middle school students. First published in the US in 1995, it is 81 pages long with a solid index and glossary as well as references for Useful Organizations, Places to Visit and Useful Books.

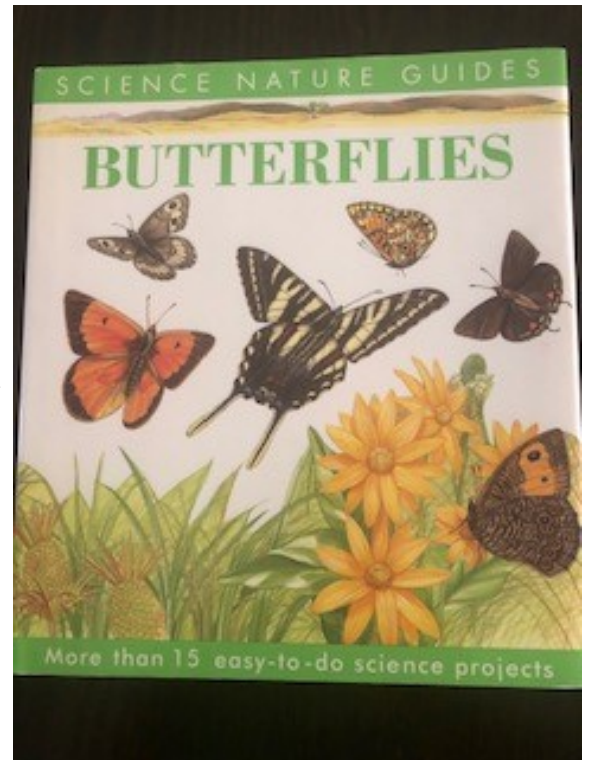
The book starts with an introduction explaining what is a butterfly and what to look for, explaining the parts of a butterfly, wing shapes, antennae, color and markings as well as families of butterflies. Subsequent chapters are organized by habitat, i.e. those found almost everywhere; bogs and wetlands; meadows and grasslands; deserts and mountains; woodland and clearings.

Ms. McKeever emphasizes the importance of keeping a record of each species of butterfly seen and provides instruction on what details to record. The book also includes more than 15 easy-to-do projects such as how to raise butterflies; how to make field sketches; and making a butterfly kite.

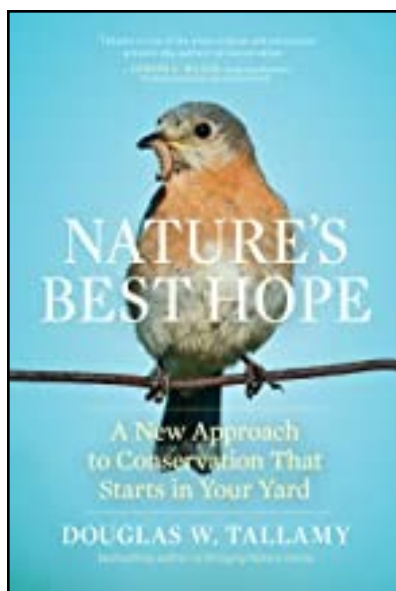
With its excellent illustration and straightforward text, it is an excellent introduction to discovering butterflies for children and adults alike. It is definitely a book that families could enjoy together.

It is available at the Sarasota County Library's juvenile collection with call number 595.78 and on E-Bay from \$ 1.06 and Amazon from \$ 3.00.

Happy reading! *Beverly Blair*



Karen Rosenbeck. This book was recommended to me by Anita Camacho, President of the Tampa Bay Butterfly Club: **Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation that Starts in Your Yard** by Douglas W. Tallamy.



Available on Amazon, here's their description:

Douglas W. Tallamy's first book, *Bringing Nature Home*, awakened thousands of readers to an urgent situation: wildlife populations are in decline because the native plants they depend on are fast disappearing. His solution? Plant more natives. In this new book, Tallamy takes the next step and outlines his vision for a grassroots approach to conservation. *Nature's Best Hope* shows how homeowners everywhere can turn their yards into conservation corridors that provide wildlife habitats. Because this approach relies on the initiatives of private individuals, it is immune from the whims of government policy. Even more important, it's practical, effective, and easy—you will walk away with specific suggestions you can incorporate into your own yard.

If you're concerned about doing something good for the environment, *Nature's Best Hope* is the blueprint you need. By acting now, you can help preserve our precious wildlife—and the planet—for future generations.

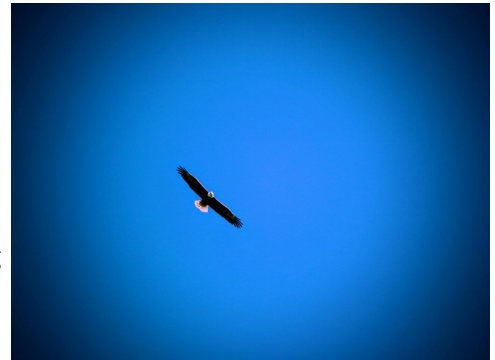
March 14, 202 Field Trip: Historic Spanish Point

By Scott Anderson

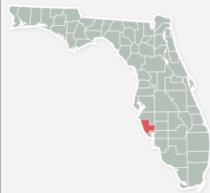


Our club's most recent field trip occurred on March 14. Ten members met at Historic Spanish Point for a nice guided tour and visit to the wildflower butterfly garden which has been under development for many years. Historic Spanish Point is a 30-acre museum and environmental complex located in [Osprey, Florida](http://www.historicspanishpoint.org). It is operated by the Gulf Coast Heritage Association, Inc. The museum includes an archeological exhibit of a prehistoric shell mound known as a [midden](#), a turn-of-the-century pioneer [homestead historic house museum](#), a [citrus](#) packing house, a chapel, boatyard, gardens and nature trails. Of course, we went to see some butterflies which we did. Our NABA submission to Recent Sightings pictured below shows we found 8 species and 28 individual butterflies. We were also very fortunate to be visited by a bald eagle that soared over our heads for quite a long while. You never know what you will find! If you weren't able to make the trip, all the information you need for a visit may be found on their website at www.historicspanishpoint.org.

Pics: Long-tailed Skipper (below, 2 pics); Zebra Heliconian (R); and Great Southern White.



14 Mar



Scott Anderson

Historic Spanish Point
Sarasota County, FL

1030am-1210pm, 73-78 degrees, sunny, calm,
with members of the NABA Sarasota Chapter

- Polydamas Swallowtail 3
- Great Southern White 1
- Orange-barred Sulphur 2
- Gulf Fritillary 2
- Zebra Heliconian 14
- White Peacock 2
- Long-tailed Skipper 2
- Fiery Skipper 2



LOOK WHAT IS NEW IN OUR BUTTERFLY GARDEN!

By Beverly Blair

Thanks to the terrific suggestion by Olivia Haynes and the hard work of Bob Haynes in assembling and installing, the Sarasota Butterfly Club has its own Little Free Library. A Little Free Library is a “take a book, return a book” free book exchange.

The Little Free Library movement came from humble beginnings. In 2009, Todd Bol of Hudson, Wisconsin, built a model of a one room schoolhouse as a tribute to his mother who was a teacher and who loved to read. He filled the model with books and put it on a post in his front yard. His neighbors and friends loved it, so he built several more and gave them away.

Rick Brooks of the University of Wisconsin-Madison saw Mr. Bol’s do-it-yourself project when the two men were discussing potential social enterprises. Inspired by community gift-sharing networks, “take a book, leave a book” collections in public places and especially by philanthropist Andrew Carnegie, Brooks and Bol saw an opportunity to achieve a variety of goals for the common good.

At the turn of the twentieth century, Carnegie set a goal to fund the creation of 2508 free libraries across the English-speaking world. Many of us may remember growing up or once visiting a Carnegie library. Carnegie’s goal inspired Brooks and Bol to set their own goal of surpassing 2508 Little Free Libraries by the end of 2013, and they exceed that goal in August 2012.

Why does book access matter? Academically, children growing up in homes without books are on the average three years behind children in homes with lots of books, even when controlled for other factors. One of the most successful ways to improve the reading achievement of children is to improve their access to books, especially at home. But two out of three children living in poverty have no books to call their own.

The addition of our Little Free Library could not have come at a better time for our greater community. With both public libraries and schools closed due to the COVID-19 virus, our Little Free Library is one of the few locations where community members of all ages cannot only enjoy the butterflies in our marvelous garden, but also can obtain a book.

The library has books available in it now, and we are asking members interested in helping to stock it, to bring not more than two books and one magazine to our next meeting whenever we are able to gather as a group again. We want both adult books and children books, both fiction and non-fiction. Initially, we want to limit magazines to those related to gardening and/or nature.

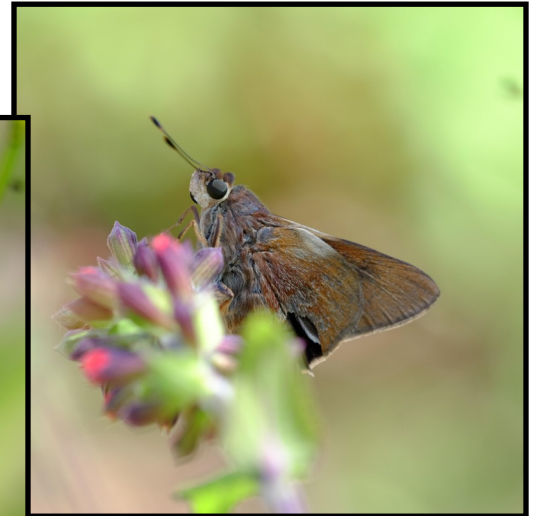
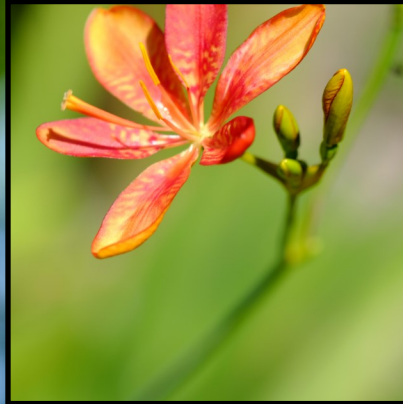
The Friday gardeners will check the box weekly and Beverly Blair (bjblair@hotmail.com) and Barbara Rothman (barbara.j.rothman@gmail.com) have agreed to take leadership in keeping the library stocked.

Sources used: www.littlefreelibrary.org



More Happenings in the Butterfly Garden

Four great photos over the past week in the butterfly garden by Delia Smith:



A March 6th surprise thank-you basket from the garden crew to Karen on a not-so-great hair day!



Veronica Battles outdid herself in refreshing the Catherine and Richard Labrie Butterfly Garden sign (including a new post!) and painting our other “lawn furniture!”

Thank you, Veronica!

And, as Catherine used to say, “Thank you to all our garden angels!”



- April 4-5, 2020, Save Our Butterflies week-Florida. end with Dr. Jeffrey Glassberg in Davie,
- April 18, 2020, 10 am, Saturday, Field Trip: Palma Sola Botanical Park and Robinson Preserve. Palma Sola, 9800 17th Ave. NW, Bradenton, FL 34209 and Robinson Preserve, 1704 99th St. NW, Bradenton, FL 34209.
- April 23, 2020, Thursday, times/locations tbd: Members' Home Garden Tour. Open to members and their invited guests only with guest fee.

Pending:

- May 9, 2020: NABA Butterfly Count. Jean Evoy, limited.
- May 28, 2020, 10:30 am, Thursday, Program Meeting: Annual Members' Meeting and Potluck. Report back results from 2020 Challenge; Sarasota Garden Club, 1131 Blvd. of the Arts, Sarasota, FL 34236.
- July 23, 2020, 9:30 am, Summer Breakfast Social. Der Dutchman, 3713 Bahia Vista, Sarasota, FL 34232.
- August 6-9, 2020, North American Butterfly Association 2020 Members' Biennial Meeting. Santa Fe, New Mexico.
- August 27, 2020, 9:30 am, Summer Breakfast Social. Der Dutchman, 3713 Bahia Vista, Sarasota, FL 34232.

**Interested in helping us plan our butterfly club activities?
Join the Butterfly Club Board either as a permanent or rotating member.**



PLANNED GIVING

Estate planning isn't only for the wealthy. If you have an interest in charitable giving, you may want to provide for the causes you care about. To create your estate plan, you will need to work with an attorney who specializes in wills, trusts or estate planning.

A gift to the Sarasota County Butterfly Club can make a significant impact in our ability to continue our mission and support the conservation of butterflies and there are a number of ways to include SCBC in your estate plan. If you might consider a gift to our organization, we would be delighted to work with you and your advisors to explore the many options. For

more information, contact Will Hayes, will.hayes5751@gmail.com.

Legal Disclaimer: Legal counsel should be consulted prior to making any decision on planned giving. The information above is intended to provide general information on gift giving and should not be used as specific legal, tax or investment advice.



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