

Summer 2009

Editor: Kay K. Mitchell

Featured Mariposa

Zebra Swallowtail

Eurytides marcellus

The Zebra swallowtail butterfly is a common butterfly with distinctive black and white markings and elongated tails on its hindwings. It also has some small red and blue hindwing markings and strongly-scalloped hindwing margins. The caterpillar is yellow-green with black and yellow stripes. The Zebra Swallowtail has a wingspan of about 3.75-4.5 inches (9.5-11.5 cm).

Butterflies and moths undergo complete metamorphosis in which they go through four different life stages. It takes about a month for the egg to mature into an adult.

Egg: A butterfly starts its life as an egg. The female Zebra Swallowtail lays its spherical, pale green eggs singly on the pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*).

Caterpillar: The larva (caterpillar) hatches from an egg and eats leaves almost constantly. It is green with one black stripe and many yellow stripes (there is also a darker form of this caterpillar which is black with yellow and white stripes). Larva eat pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*). The caterpillar is pea green with yellow and black bands. They are cannibalistic.

Pupa: It turns into a pupa (chrysalis); this is a resting stage. As the body transforms into a butterfly, it neither eats nor drinks. A silken



girdle helps hold up the pupa. Some pupa delay emerging and overwinter before emerging.

Adult: A beautiful, flying adult emerges. There is no growth during this stage, but the butterfly will sip nectar. This adult will continue the cycle by reproducing. The Zebra Swallowtail lives for about 6 months in its adult stage

Adults who emerge during the spring are smaller, paler, and have shorter tails than later broods. Summer broods are larger and darker than the spring broods. Late autumn (October) broods are even larger and darker than the other broods.

The caterpillar's first meal is its own eggshell. After that, the caterpillars eat the pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*).

Butterflies can only sip liquid food using a tube-like proboscis, which is a long, flexible "tongue." This proboscis uncoils to sip food, and coils up again into a spiral when not in use.

Zebra Swallowtails drink sweet flower nectar. Unlike most butterflies, they are also able to collect pollen from some flowers (with their proboscis). They digest the pollen, and absorb its amino acids (proteins). This extra nutrition lets them survive, mate and lay eggs for long periods (up to about 6 months).

PROTECTION FROM PREDATORS

Caterpillar: The larva has a gland on its neck that gives off a strong, unpleasant odor when the caterpillar is threatened, keeping away dangerous wasps and flies that try to lay eggs in the caterpillar. This gland, called an osmeterium, is orange, y-shaped, and on the larva's neck.

Butterfly: The Zebra Swallowtail butterfly is not a poisonous butterfly, and does not mimic any poisonous species.

HABITAT AND RANGE

The Zebra Swallowtail is found from Southern Ontario, Canada, Minnesota and Wisconsin to New England to Florida and the Gulf States.

LIFE SPAN

It takes about a month for the adult to develop (from egg to pupa to adult).



Zebra Swallowtail Caterpillar



Pawpaw--Larval Plant

Featured Plant

Agastache--Black Adder Anise Hyssop



Bees and Butterflies Love the Smell of Licorice

by
Theresa Friday

Adult butterflies are attracted to gardens that provide ample flowers that offer sweet nectar. One plant that you may want to consider adding to your butterfly garden is Agastache (Ag-a-stach'-e).

Most gardeners know Agastache as anise hyssop because the spiky flowers smell like anise or licorice.

This is an emerging group of plants. Aggressive breeding has produced many new and exciting cultivars. Many are good perennials, but it's best to consider them as annuals until you know whether they will return in your area.

Most species are very upright, with stiff, angular stems clothed in toothed-edged, lance shaped leaves. Upright spikes of tubular flowers develop at the stem tips in summer. The flowers are usually white, pink, mauve, or purple, with the bracts that back the flowers being of the same or a slightly contrasting color.

Agastache plants are hardy, drought tolerant and low maintenance but they need to get acclimated before they really take off.

Select a site in full sun for best blooming and to keep the plants compact. The soil should be fertile and well drained. Wet feet will spell doom for the anise hyssop, so don't plant in wet areas or overwater.

Feed spring growth with a light application of a slow-release, balanced fertilizer. A mid-summer application will keep the plants at peak for the fall.

This year, a new cultivar called 'Black Adder' was added to the gardens at the Panhandle Butterfly House. This Agastache produces bottle-brush spikes that are covered in smoky violet-blue flowers and dark purple buds (calyxes) held over nice mid-green foliage.

Once you've grown them, you'll become a big fan and want every new Agastache that comes on the market. Once the butterflies are done with them, you can cut them for dried flowers, as well.

New Exhibit Goes Buggy

by

Theresa Friday

The Panhandle Butterfly House is hosting a new exhibit in 2009. “We Love Bugs” displays several local species of insects that are considered beneficial including antlions, mealworms, millipedes and lady beetles.

Many Southerners know them as “doodlebugs”. Doodlebugs are actually “antlions”. They get the name antlion because they are voracious predators of ants and other insects.

Many antlion larvae excavate a conical depression in sandy soil where they wait for prey to get trapped. When an insect falls in, the antlion seizes it and pierces it with its hollow, sickle-shaped mandibles. It injects a paralytic toxin with the first bite, and then the juices are sucked out through the antlion’s mandibles. If an insect escapes the antlion and tries to climb the walls of the pit, the antlion will flick grains of sand at it to knock it back down to the bottom.

Antlion larvae have been known to live anywhere from one to three years. Then they cocoon themselves for about a month, and emerge as a winged adult antlion.

Meet the mealworm. Mealworms are the larva form of the mealworm beetle, a species of darkling beetle.

Mealworms are typically used as a food source for reptile and avian pets. They are also provided to wild birds, in bird feeders, particularly during the nesting season when birds are raising their young and appreciate a ready food supply

Mealworms are high in protein, which makes them especially useful as a food source. They are also commonly used for fishing bait.

In nature, mealworms live in areas surrounded by what they eat under rocks and logs, in animal burrows and in stored grains. They clean up after plants and animals, and therefore can be found anywhere where “leftovers” occur.

Everybody loves ladybugs or lady beetles. Ladybug is a name that has been used in England for more than 600 years. The lady for whom they were named was the Virgin Mary. Most species of lady beetles are considered beneficial since they are predators.

Not all adult lady beetles are the characteristic orange with black spots. Like many beetles, lady beetles have larvae that look nothing like the adult. Some people believe the larvae look like small orange and black alligators; however, there is great diversity in the lady beetle family. Sometimes, gardeners mistake the lady beetle larvae for pests and spray chemical pesticides that kill them. This results in increased problems from real pests.

Come visit during our 2009 season and meet these beneficial insects that can help you control your pest population. We love bugs at the Panhandle Butterfly House.



Doodlebug or Antlion



Mealworm Beetle



Ladybug

Web Page!!
www.panhandlebutterflyhouse.org
Now donate with PayPal!!



Become a Panhandle Butterfly House Docent

Join our team of docents (trained volunteers) at the Panhandle Butterfly House in Navarre Beach. Docents contribute by educating, teaching, and helping visitors gain a better understanding of butterflies and of the natural habitat in which butterflies thrive.

Docents help monitor the Butterfly House, greet the public, provide casual interpretations, and answer questions. As a docent you have an opportunity to make a valuable and enriching contribution to the community. Schedules are very flexible-volunteer 1 day a week or 1 day a month!

After completing a training course, you will be prepared with the tools and knowledge to be successful. Class size is limited to ensure that we can provide individual attention and training.

The next class is scheduled for July 7, at 2 PM. To register, or request further information about becoming a docent, please email: docents@panhandlebutterflyhouse.org

The Panhandle Butterfly House is open to the public Thursday-Sunday, April 17th to September 6th 2009. Please visit our website <http://www.panhandlebutterflyhouse.org/>

New Quilt Opportunity Drawing “Instar” 63’ x 93’ (twin)

\$1/ticket or 6/\$5

Drawing October 11, 2009

Tickets available at PBH



Featured Native Plant

Amorpha fruticosa L.

Indigo bush, False indigo bush, False indigo,

Desert false indigo

Fabaceae (Pea Family)

USDA Native Status: Native to U.S.

False indigo-bush is a 6-10 ft., loose, airy shrub which often forms dense thickets. Plants develop a leggy character with the majority of their pinnately compound, fine-textured foliage on the upper third of the plant. Leaflets are velvety on the lower surface, margins frequently almost parallel, often abruptly rounded at both ends and with a notch at the tip. Flowers are small, purple to dark blue with yellow stamens extending beyond the single petal, crowded in narrow, 3-6 in., spikelike clusters at or near the ends of the branchlets, appearing from April to June. Fruit is small, up to 3/8 inch long and with blister-like glands visible under a 10x hand lens. This is a deciduous plant.

This shrub, which often forms thickets on riverbanks and islands, is occasionally cultivated in the northeast. Another False Indigo (*A. herbacea*) has whitish to blue-violet flowers in fan-like masses on top of the plant and gray-downy foliage with up to 40 leaflets. The genus name, from the Greek *amorphos* (formless or deformed), alludes to the fact that the flower, with only a single petal (the banner or standard), is unlike the typical pea flowers of the family.

Amorpha fruticosa is also a nectar plant for butterflies, bees and insects because of its fragrant flowers; plus it is a larval plant for the Southern Dogface, Silver-spotted Skipper, Gray Hairstreak and Hoary edge Skipper butterflies.



<http://www.panhandlebutterflyhouse.org/>

Wish List

- Small Garden Tiller
- Garden cart, light weight, heavy duty, rubber wheels
- 2 Gallon pump sprayer
- Fish nets
- Koi food
- Pond plants
- Amdro ant bait
- Roundup concentrate
- Rodent Control pellets for rats
- Insecticidal soap
- Coco Fiber 14" for hanging Baskets
- 22 Bags of "regular" Pine Nuggets
- 11 Bags of "large" Pine Nuggets
- 20 Large bags of Jungle Growth
- 2 Milorganite bags
- Mushroom compost
- Controlled release fertilizer
- Liquid fertilizer(Miracle Grow etc)
- Daylily & citrus fertilizers
- Weed B Gone
- Bottled water for tour guides etc.
- Cleaning supplies
- Flip chart, papere refills
- Latex gloves, size M
- Havahart small animal trap
- Roof
- Lobby furniture
- Security system
- Security lighting

PLEASE--WE NEED YOUR HELP!!



Butterfly Release with Docents at Work



Lorraine Hubbard & Jim Chason with a family



Lorraine Hubbard and visitor

How Can You Help

The best way for you to help the Panhandle Butterfly House is to support our fundraising events by joining our Kaleidoscope Society.

We are a non-profit 501c3 organization that relies on and receives 100% of your donation. 100% of each donation is tax deductible.

To join the Kaleidoscope Society, check the desired level of membership entitling you to receive newsletters and special mailings.

- | | |
|--|--------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Skipper | \$10 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Buckeye | \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Swallowtail | \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gulf Fritillary | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Painted Lady | \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Viceroy | \$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Zebra Longwing | \$1000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Monarch | \$1500 |

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____
 Zip: _____ Phone: _____
 Email address _____

Please make checks payable to:
 Panhandle Butterfly House
 PO Box 5208
 Navarre, FL. 32566

Donations can also be made using PayPal on our website
 5 www.panhandlebutterflyhouse.org

Endangered Butterfly

ENDANGERED BUTTERFLY

Hairstreaks: King's hairstreak (*Satyrrium kingi*)

(Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae: Theclinae: Eumaeini)

King's hairstreak is found along the Atlantic coastal plain from Maryland south to Florida and west through the Gulf states, both along the coast and inland, to eastern Texas. Its habitat is damp to swampy woodland and stream edges in a range of forest types. Adults are found mainly close to the larval hostplant, sweetleaf. King's hairstreak is uncommon or rare throughout its range and found only in small, localized populations. The principal threat is forest clearance leading to destruction or fragmentation of habitat.

Be A Butterfly Buddy

Are you planning a special event this summer? Maybe a family reunion, birthday, anniversary or wedding? A butterfly release at the Panhandle Butterfly House can be part of your celebration if you contribute \$325 to the Butterfly Buddy Program. The donation funds an entire week of butterflies.

A major expense at the Butterfly House is purchasing butterflies to maintain a consistent inventory of varieties, because an individual butterfly may live only 3-4 weeks. It costs \$8,000 annually to buy butterflies from our supplier in central Florida.

This year we are reaching out for partners to help supply butterflies through our new Butterfly Buddy program. Businesses, community groups and individuals are invited to purchase all or a portion of a week's shipment.

In return for your support, you will receive recognition through signage both outside and inside the Panhandle Butterfly House during your week.

Businesses and community organizations are welcome to supply a portion of the cost with a minimum donation of \$100. Individuals can contribute a minimum \$50 donation. Of course, there is no limit to the number of weeks you can participate. And all donations are fully tax-deductible. We are a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

Donations by check can be mailed to Panhandle Butterfly House, PO Box 5208, Navarre FL 32566, or by credit card at www.panhandlebutterflyhouse.org. If you would like more information, please call 850-623-3868 or fax 850-623-6151

The Panhandle Butterfly House is a program of the Santa Rosa Clean Community System, Inc.; University of Florida/IFAS Cooperative Extension Service, and the Florida Master Gardeners.



Recent Donations

Goldmine Bingo
Driftwood Garden Club
Pete & Mary Peterzen
Garden Gate Nursery
Karen Aucoin
Jan Beck
Emerald Coast Growers
Proven Winners
Lowe's
Pamela & Brian Riley
Bonni Finkel
Charles & Joyce Enghauser
Michael & Priscilla Thornton
Megan Lattanze
Peggy Gray
Escambia County Master Gardeners

www.panhandlebutterflyhouse.org

Panhandle Butterfly House Brings Home the “Gold”!

The Panhandle Butterfly House “Kiderpillar” School was awarded the Florida Master Gardener State Award of Excellence in the category of Service to 4-H and other Youth by UF/IFAS (Tom Wichman) at the 28th Annual Florida Master Gardener Conference in Coral Springs held October 20-22. Mary Peterzen, Tour Guide Chairman, received the plaque from Commissioner Gordon Goodin at the 2009 Season Opening on April 17. The plaque is now on display at the PBH. The Guides all received certificates for their participation.

“Kiderpillar” School focuses on Florida butterflies, their habitat, conservation, appropriate integrated pest management and healthy ecosystem education. Creativity and documented increase in knowledge of butterfly life cycles, beneficial insects, metamorphosis, butterfly life cycles, and host nectar plants were integral parts of earning this award. Twelve Master Gardeners and twelve community volunteers educated a total of 1448 children and teachers/chaperones from Santa Rosa, Escambia and Okaloosa counties from July 2007 to July 2009, giving a total of over 880 volunteer hours to Santa Rosa County for this project.



Mary Peterzen, Chairman, Kiderpillar School, Santa Rosa County
Commissioner Goodin

Fluttering Fascination

The Spring “Kiderpillar School” Tour season has produced wide-eyed fascination for over 380 children and 185 adults to date. Chris Verlinde, the Santa Rosa County Extension Marine Agent, gave a great educational lecture to the guides and we have been able to update the pond rotation. Leanna Brennan and Jacque Larson, two Master Naturalists/Master Gardeners brainstormed and Leanna wrote a pond/estuary lesson plan for the guides. Theresa Friday, our Santa Rosa County Horticultural Agent has completed three incredibly fascinating docent classes which will help us to increase our guide staff. The tremendous efforts of our tour guides are the rock of the successful “Kiderpillar” program. Appreciation goes to the following volunteers for their hours of teaching: Meta Selzer, Sue Hufstader, Fran Grissom, Mary Gallerein, Shirley Hibbard, Kay Zilka, Leanna Brennan Frank and Jacque Larson, Edith Blankenship, Jere Wright, Jytte Fawzy and the Docent Chair, Lorraine Hubbard.



Kiderpillar School Classes



Volunteer Spotlight

Blair Edward Blage

Blair Blage, Panhandle Butterfly House volunteer and beloved husband of Jeanne Blage, departed this life on March 3, 2009. Blair was a valuable friend and supporter of the Panhandle Butterfly House along with his wife Jeanne, for many years.

Blair grew up in Malvern, N.Y., with his parents, the late Rev. Arland Blage and Agnes Blage. Blair then served a tour in the Army and graduated from Brown University. In Indiana, Blair worked 33 years for Marsh and McLennan, an insurance brokerage firm, and was the Senior Vice President and Manager for the Indianapolis branch before retiring to Navarre with Jeanne in 1995. Many volunteer activities filled Blair's time in Navarre. And fortunately, the Panhandle Butterfly House was his main focus.

Blair played an important role in the rebuilding of the Butterfly House after Hurricane Ivan. During this major undertaking, Blair demonstrated his versatile skills and the endless youthful energy he always possessed. From top to bottom, working on the roof or sweeping a sidewalk, Blair was helping.

A group of Marine volunteers instantly recognized Blair's role as an efficient leader as he directed them in how to wrap the vivarium for the seasonal closing. He always had a kind word with his instructions. Any type of clean up or repair work Blair would be there. The first to work! The inside reception room, as well as the outside garden area were both touched by Blair's hands. From replacing sprinkler system heads to the construction of the shade house benches, he was there to help. Blair could work as a docent, be a guide for Fun Fest activities, direct traffic and parking in front of the Butterfly House and speak to members of the public about the butterfly case display.

One of the biggest gifts Blair gave to the Panhandle Butterfly House was that he was never too busy with anything else to work on any problem, large or small. Blair truly shared with Jeanne the enthusiasm of the purpose of the Butterfly House. Behind the scenes, acting as a true ambassador for the Butterfly House, Blair's dedication and work will always be appreciated by the Panhandle Butterfly House, its volunteers and the local community.

A new feature of the Butterfly House will be a "Teaching Gazebo" dedicated to Blair. In celebration and memory of his life this outdoor classroom will be used for educational programs for children and adults. The gazebo will enhance the beauty and the functionality of the Butterfly House, the Navarre Park area and will be enjoyed by all in our community. Blair would have enjoyed sitting in the shade of this new project looking over the many flowers and the various butterflies they attract. Blair will always be remembered as a special person and a very special volunteer. Blair is survived by his wife Jeanne, a wonderful family of daughters with their spouses, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, a brother and so many friends who will miss him greatly. We thank you Blair for all you have given us.

Donations in memory of Blair can be made to the Panhandle Butterfly House in Navarre at P.O. Box 5208, Navarre FL 32566



In Loving Memory

Blair Edward Blage

February 16, 1935-March 3, 2009

*God looked around his garden and
found an empty place, he then
looked down upon earth and
saw your tired face. He put his arms
around you and lifted you to rest,
God's garden must be beautiful, he
always takes the best. He knew that
you were suffering, he knew you
were in pain, he knew that you
would never get well on earth again.
He saw the road was getting rough,
all the hills were hard to climb, so he
closed your weary eyes and whispered
"Peace be thine." It broke our hearts
to lose you but you didn't go alone,
for part of us went with you
the day God called you home.*

Francis M. Weston Audubon Society Award

Congratulations to the Panhandle Butterfly House and all our wonderful volunteers that make this project possible. We received the 2009 Curtis Kingsbery Education Award from the Francis M. Weston Audubon Society at their annual meeting held Thursday, May 28th. The award is for “increasing awareness of Florida’s biological diversity through the study of butterflies and their habitats”.

Interestingly, the award is named after an uncle of one of our Santa Rosa County Master Gardener, Donna Barker. Curtis Kingsbery was past president of the Francis M. Weston Audubon Society in Pensacola and its field trip chairman for more than twenty years. He was also a board member of AOS; Regional Reporter for Northwest Florida for Audubon Field Notes/American Birds; and compiler of the Pensacola Christmas Bird Count and other surveys, including the Breeding Bird Survey for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

After retiring from the insurance business, Curtis developed and taught three weekly birding classes under the auspices of Pensacola Junior College. He encouraged his students to become concerned environmentalists and led them on field trips to various birding locations in the Southeast United States. He also initiated birding and nature trips to Alaska, Costa Rica and Arizona.

Theresa Friday

Gulf Breeze Garden Club Butterfly Release

On June 2, 2009, the Gulf Breeze Garden Club purchased a week’s worth of butterflies through our Butterfly Buddy program. A donation of \$325 will buy a week of butterflies and we are most grateful for their help and support of the Panhandle Butterfly House.



Johanne Fleming



Santa Rosa County Commissioner, Bob Cole, presents Audubon award to Mary Peterzen.



Margaret Harshman



Boots Clutter

New in the Garden

Lo & Behold - a New Series of Miniature Butterfly bush

Undoubtedly, the most exciting news in Butterfly bush has to be the introduction of a new series of Miniature plants called Lo & Behold. The first release is Lo & Behold 'Blue Chip' and as the name indicates it has blue flowers. Other colors will be introduced over the following years. Lo & Behold plants are remarkable for several reasons. Their small 20" mounded habit make for the perfect flowering ground cover or container plants. Unlike other Butterfly bush, this series is continuous flowering. That's right continuous flowering without the need to prune or deadhead.



***Open now until Labor Day, Thurs.-Sat.
10am-3pm, Sunday noon-4pm***

www.panhandlebutterflyhouse.org

Panhandle Butterfly House
PO Box 5208
Navarre, FL. 32566