

Fall 2009

Editor: Kay K. Mitchell

## Featured Mariposa

### Cloudless Sulphur (*Phoebis sennae*)

Cloudless Sulphurs are butterflies in the family Pieridae. They are commonly found in open spaces, gardens, glades, seashores, and watercourses. Their range is wide - from South America to southern Canada; they are most common from Argentina to southern Texas and Florida. They are often visitors outside this range but become rarer further north. The breeding season is dependant on the climate of the area, from mid-summer to fall in the cooler areas, to year-round where the climate is warmer.

There are several similar species such as the Yellow Angled Sulphur which has angled wings or other sulphurs which are much smaller.

#### Life Cycle

The Cloudless Sulphur starts life as a pitcher-shaped white egg, eventually turning to a pale orange. Once the egg hatches, a yellow to greenish caterpillar emerges. This caterpillar is also characterized by stripes on its sides and the black dots in rows across its back. The caterpillar builds a tent in a host plant where it hides in the day, which may be partridge pea (*Chamaecrista cinerea*), sennas (*Cassia fasciculata*), clovers (*Trifo-*



*lium*), or other legumes (*Fabaceae*). The caterpillar grows to a length between 1 5/8-1 3/4 in. The caterpillar will form a chrysalis that is pointed at both ends and humped in the middle. The chrysalis will be either yellow or green with pink or green stripes. From the chrysalis comes a large butterfly (2 1/8-2 3/4") with fairly elongated but not angled wings. The male butterfly is clear yellow above and yellow or mottled with reddish brown below and the female is lemon-yellow to golden or white on both surfaces, with varying amounts of black spotting along the margin and a black open square or star on the bottom forewing. The adult butterfly feeds on nectar from many different flowers with long tubes including cordia, bougainvillea, cardinal flower, hibiscus, lantana, and wild morning glory.



Pupa



Senna(*Cassia*)



## Featured Plants

### Variegated Mahoe Sea Hibiscus (*Hibiscus tiliaceus* 'variegata')



Variegated Mahoe Sea Hibiscus (*Hibiscus tiliaceus* 'variegata'). Drought tolerant once established. Salt tolerant. Easily propagated by tip cuttings or air-layering. One of the most beautiful variegated plants I've seen. Stable variegation. New leaves unfurl crimson then fade into mosaic patterns of white, cream, and shades of emerald green. Grows into a large tree if planted in the ground. Great as a containerized specimen. Flowers are hibiscus like, open in the morning yellow, by afternoon are orange, and by early evening are scarlet red!

### Scabiosa atropurpurea 'Beaujolais Bonnets'

Scabiosa atropurpurea 'Beaujolais Bonnets' Hardy perennial. Pincushion flowers have always been pretty, but who knew they could be so unique? The deep purple-burgundy center tuft is surrounded by pale lavender petals. The overall effect is like a Colonial matron's bonnet!



Jude Groninger, Senior Laboratory Technician at the University of Florida West Florida Research and Education Center (WFREC).



# Volunteer Spotlight

## Jude Groninger

Jude Groninger is an exceptional volunteer. She gives her time and talent to the Panhandle Butterfly House gardens.

With the exception of a few years in New Orleans, Jude spent her whole life living in the countryside of Iowa and Minnesota. Her father was a biology and botany teacher, so she grew up learning about nature and plants.

Her love of nature inspired her to become a Nicollet County (MN) Master Gardener in 1989. After moving to Milton, she became a Santa Rosa County Master Gardener in 1998.

Thanks to her Master Gardener certificate and her knowledge and love of plants, she landed a job as a landscape design drafter. Since then, she has done lots of things in the world of horticulture including landscape design, landscape installation, managing landscape crews, managing a retail nursery, propagating, making Christmas wreaths and swags, greenhouse research and maintaining the University of Florida Milton Campus botanical garden.

Jude is a Senior Laboratory Technician at the University of Florida West Florida Research and Education Center (WFREC). Thanks to the WFREC's generosity, Jude has been able to grow new plants for the Panhandle Butterfly House for several years. She and other volunteers plant seeds, propagate cuttings and grow donated material from plant propagators. Each spring, Jude renovates the gardens by adding new plants and fresh color.

In addition to coordinating the propagation and installation of the plants, Jude uses her immense landscape design talent to keep the gardens balanced and in bloom all season. She includes a constantly changing palette of colorful food and habitat for the butterflies and other pollinators.

Because the Panhandle Butterfly House's mission is one of education, Jude ensures that all the plants are properly labeled and visible to teach and inspire our visitors.

Jude's first love is her two grandchildren. This is why you will see two brightly colored chairs gracing our gardens. The purple chair was dedicated to Jude for her continued support of the Panhandle Butterfly House. The small yellow chair was added for her grandchildren to sit and enjoy their grandmother's garden.



## Panhandle Butterfly House Award Winner

Theresa Friday, Extension Faculty at the UF/IFAS Santa Rosa County Extension Service and Panhandle Butterfly House Chair, recently received a national award for the Panhandle Butterfly House program. She is the national winner of the NACAA Search for Excellence Award in Landscape Horticulture.

The National Association of County Agricultural Agents (NACAA) is a professional organization geared toward Extension educators and other professionals who work in agriculture, horticulture, forestry and natural resources, 4-H youth development, community development, administration, aquaculture and Sea Grant, and related disciplines.

This award recognizes an NACAA member who has developed and carried out an outstanding extension educational program in horticulture. The program is judged on the level of community impact, the implementation of defined educational objectives, innovative program activities, the use of recognized teaching methods, measurable results and overall impact of the program.

Theresa received the Florida Association of County Agricultural Agents (FACAA) award in Orlando, in August and the NACAA award in Portland, Oregon in September.



## Summer Kiderpillar News

### “Kiderpillar” Favorites

“Kiderpillars” heading back to their routine school year brought an end to the summer tours. Around 1000 children and their adult chaperones enjoyed the tours this year. We were happy to welcome about 30 return groups from previous years. The bug display in the nursery area was a big “hit” with the boys. They delighted in feeding ants and mealworms to the voracious antlions, or “doodlebugs”, much to the disgust of most of the girls. Another addition to the tours this year was teaching the anatomy of the butterfly by dressing one of the children in butterfly wings, antennae, compound eyes and giving them a proboscis. The costumes were only available in pastel pink and to the surprise of us all, the guys didn’t mind a bit. They were happy to don the costume! The Guide Staff is looking forward to our hectic and busy schedule during “Monarch Madness”, and will enjoy our winter’s rest to gear up with new ideas and programs for the 2010 Spring Season.

Mary Peterzen--UF/IFAS Santa Rosa County Extension  
Master Gardener, Panhandle Butterfly House Tour Group  
Chair

### 2009 Spring/Summer “Kiderpillar” School Tours

Thanks to our 2009 Kiderpillar School guides

Joanne Connor	P.J. Danneker	Mary Gallerein
Fran Grissom	Shirley Hibbard	Sue Hufstader
Katie Tankersley	Jacque Larson	Frank Larson
Leanna Brennan	Sherri Marusich	Meta Seltzer
Edith Blankenship	Kay Zilka	Mary Peterzen

### Monarch Madness “Kiderpillar School”

The Panhandle Butterfly House’s award winning “Kiderpillar School” program will be offering tours during “Monarch Madness” in celebration of the monarch butterfly’s long journey. Mid October is the peak migration season in the Navarre area. We will be open for scheduled tours October 5, 6, 7 and 8, and the week of October 12-16. Larger tours may have the benefit of three separate lessons covering the life cycle and habits of butterflies, the journey of the monarch simulated in the gardens, and the ecosystem of the estuary and a freshwater pond. A combined group of UF/Extension Master Gardeners and community volunteers teaches the program. Tours will also be available after school hours to benefit youth programs. Please schedule a tour through our website or call the Santa Rosa County Extension Office at 850-623-3868.

## 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)  
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  
Lobby furniture  
Security system  
Security lighting

**PLEASE--WE NEED YOUR HELP!!**



## Recent Butterfly Sitings at PBH

### Gulf Fritillary



### Monarch



### Swallowtail

## 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](http://www.panhandlebutterflyhouse.org)



## Monarch Madness

Join the Panhandle Butterfly House in celebrating “Monarch Madness!” The Third Annual Butterfly Festival will be held Friday through Sunday, October 9-11 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Held at the scenic Navarre Park on Highway 98 in Navarre, Florida the festival offers fun for the entire family.

Monarch Madness highlights includes educational exhibits, larger-than-life bug displays and guest-speaker workshops that provide an insight into the world of bugs and butterflies and the benefits they provide.

Kids can make and take fun butterfly-related crafts and have an opportunity to release a live butterfly. The entire family will enjoy strolling through the vivarium– a screen structure housing hundreds of butterflies and the plants they love.

Carefully timed to highlight the seasonal monarch migration, kids will also be able to participate in tagging monarch butterflies. “The overwintering population this winter is expected to be small due to below normal rainfall in south Texas and northeastern Mexico. Monarchs are highly dependent on nectar and sources of water to fuel their migration. Learning how to help monarchs during this critical migration is extremely important” said Theresa Friday, Extension Agent in Santa Rosa County.

Admission is free but donations are encouraged and appreciated. Only through the generosity of our visitors are we able to provide the community this wonderful outdoor science lab.

For more information visit our website at [www.panhandlebutterflyhouse.org](http://www.panhandlebutterflyhouse.org) or call 850-623-3868.

## Workshop Schedule

Friday, Oct. 9 at 10:30 a.m.: Backyard Habitat with Emily Peterson of the Garden Gate Nursery

Friday, Oct. 9 at 1:30 p.m.: Santa Rosa Sound: Wet and Wild by Chris Verlinde, Sea Grant Ext. Agent

Saturday, Oct. 10 at 10:30 a.m.: Butterfly Bash in Your Own Backyard with Theresa Friday, Ext. Agent

Saturday, Oct. 10 at 1:30 p. m.: Big Beautiful Beneficial Bugs by Katie Tankersley, Master Gardener

## Status of the Monarch Population

As many of you know, the fall monarch migration is well underway. In July when I wrote the text for the Premigration Newsletter ([available for download at http://monarchwatch.org/tagging](http://monarchwatch.org/tagging)) it was already clear that the fall migration would be modest and certainly no larger than the migrations we have seen for the last several years. It is now clear that the migration this year will be smaller than any seen since the fall of 2004, a migration that resulted in an all-time low overwintering population in Mexico of 2.19 hectares.

The overwintering population this winter will probably be less than 4 hectares and could be much less if the long term drought that has persisted in much of Texas and northeastern Mexico doesn't abate. Monarchs are highly dependent on nectar and sources of water to fuel the migration through this region in October and November and, if the drought persists and nectar resources are scarce during this period, the number of monarchs reaching the overwintering sites will be reduced. There have been some recent rains in Texas but it is not yet clear whether these rains have been sufficient or widespread enough to provide the fall flowers needed by the monarchs.

Dr. Orley (Chip) Taylor, Director of Monarch Watch

[www.monarchwatch.org](http://www.monarchwatch.org)



# Reception Area Gets A New Roof

June 30th the reception area roof, damaged during Hurricane Ivan, was removed, repaired and replaced by Carroll Roofing Company of Pensacola.

Mr. Gene Carroll, of Carroll Roofing Company of Pensacola generously donated all labor and materials to replace the battered roof. Mr. Carroll's crew, coordinated by Mr. Carroll's son, Gene Jr., removed and replaced all the bad wood, and installed a new and very substantial membrane underlayment. They finished off the job with industrial flashing and 50 year sculptured shingles.

In addition to Mr. Carroll and his crew, we would like thank Mrs. Karen Pettinato of Pettinato Construction in Gulf Breeze, FL. She contacted Mr. Carroll on our behalf, coordinated between Carroll Roofing and the Butterfly House and obtained the required Santa Rosa County building permit for us.

This is a wonderful example of the community support that keeps our facility going. Our new roof is beautiful and will keep our butterfly collection, visitors and volunteers safe and dry for years to come. Our heartfelt appreciation goes out to Carroll Roofing and Pettinato Construction, without whom we would not have this beautiful new roof.



## Recent Donations

Goldmine Bingo  
Lunette Kovatch  
Peggy Gray  
Kathy Clark  
Doug Herzog, Ohopaki Contracting  
Gulf Isle Neighbors  
Richard Sowerwine  
Dr. Sonali Padhye, WFREC  
Nancy Morgan/Maebell Felan  
Stan and Karen Kuhn  
Stephen Sulli  
Blessed Star Montessori Christian  
Liz and Donnie Simmons  
Cynthia Eason/SR Teacher & Craft Supply  
Dr. Pete Vergot  
Navarre Quilt Guild  
Cristi Furman  
Gene Carroll, Carroll Company of Pensacola  
Karen Pettinato, Pettinato Construction  
David Kalb  
Oksana Leslie  
Eleanor Aspliden  
Chuck Dillmann  
Rachel Rothe  
Nikki Lyons  
Jennifer Brown  
Chryste LaJaunie  
Erin Casey  
Bob Moul



**Web Page!!**  
[www.panhandlebutterflyhouse.org](http://www.panhandlebutterflyhouse.org)  
**Now donate with PayPal!!**

## South Florida Endangered Butterfly

The Miami blue (*Cyclargus thomasi bethunebakeri*) (*Lycaenidae*) is a small, brightly coloured butterfly endemic to Florida.

It was once locally common across much of the south Florida mainland south through the Florida Keys to the Dry Tortugas.

Over the last few decades, ever-expanding urbanisation and the associated loss of coastal habitat have led to a significant reduction in the taxon's overall geographical distribution and numerical abundance.

The butterfly is currently limited to two small extant populations in the Lower Florida Keys, making it one of the most imperilled insects in North American and warranting a state of Florida listing as endangered.

As part of a large-scale, model cooperative recovery programme led by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the University of Florida, the National Park Service, and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, efforts are underway to conserve the butterfly through captive propagation, organism re-introduction to state and federal lands, and research on the biology, population ecology, genetic diversity, and non-target impact of mosquito control adulticides.

JARET C. DANIELS

Department of Entomology and Nematology, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, USA, and Florida Museum of Natural History, McGuire Center for Lepidoptera and Biodiversity, Gainesville, FL, USA  
[www.naba.org/miamiblue.html](http://www.naba.org/miamiblue.html)



Miami Blue (*Hemiargus thomasi*)  
©J Glassberg



Miami Blue (*Hemiargus thomasi*)  
©J Glassberg

### Support Butterfly House via Amazon.com

Did you know that every time you spend a \$1.00 at Amazon.com 4 to 6 cents of that can come to the Panhandle Butterfly House?

All you have to do is go to our website and link to Amazon.com: click on one of the Amazon icons, or one of the suggested books on our Amazon Associate page, or do an Amazon.com search from our webpage.

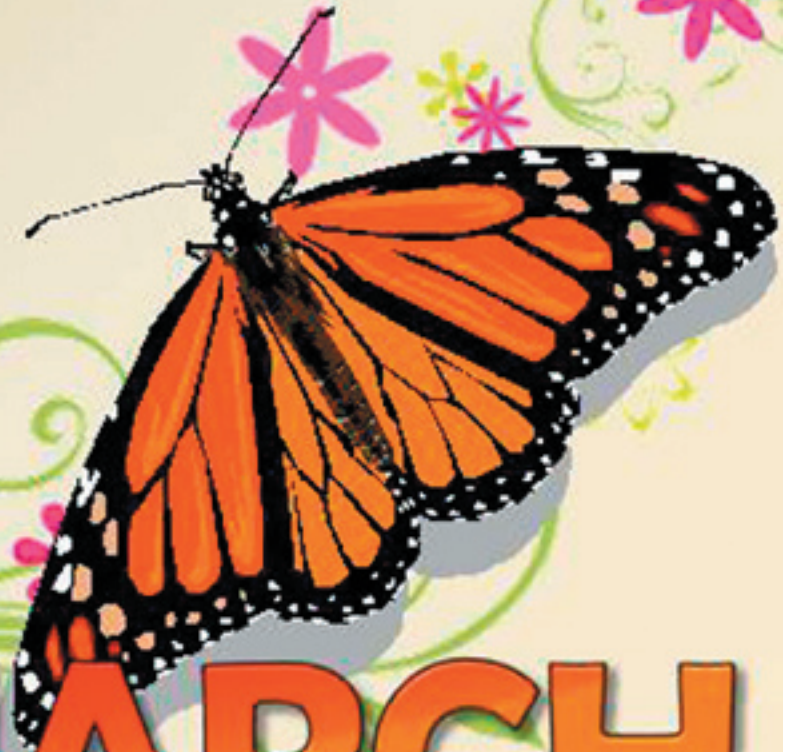
Then whatever you purchase on that visit, the Butterfly House will receive a percentage of your total purchase. This DOES NOT COST YOU A PENNY. The prices are the same whether you go to Amazon.com directly or through our link.

Please bookmark our website and always link to Amazon.com from The Panhandle Butterfly House.

Thanks for your continued support!



*The  
Panhandle  
Butterfly  
House  
presents....*



# MONARCH MADNESS

Open to the Public October, 9, 10 and 11, 2009 10AM to 3PM, Monarch Madness is the celebration of the Monarch butterfly's long journey. Mid October is the peak migration season in the Navarre area. Come join us at the Panhandle Butterfly House and grounds at the scenic Navarre Park on Highway 98 in Navarre, Florida. The festival offers fun for the entire family.

Admission to Monarch Madness is free but donations are encouraged and appreciated. Only through the generosity of our visitors and our community are we able to provide the area this wonderful outdoor science lab.



**Monarch Madness**  
**October 9-11, 2009**      **10am-3pm**  
**Panhandle Butterfly House**

Panhandle Butterfly House  
PO Box 5208  
Navarre, FL. 32566