

Fall 2008

Featured Mariposa

Giant Swallowtail

Papilio cresphontes

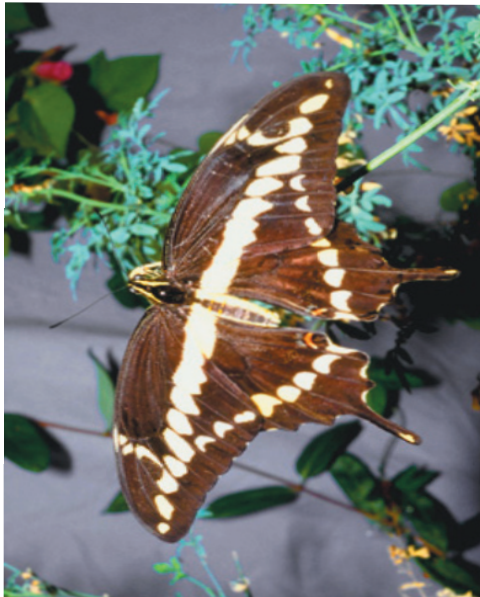
Family: Parnassians and Swallowtails (Papilionidae)

Subfamily: Swallowtails (Papilioninae)

The giant swallowtail prefers the native plants over citrus. Many Northwest Florida gardeners love to grow citrus. One common complaint is the damage from an ugly-looking caterpillar. This unusual looking caterpillar is known as the orange dog--the larvae of the giant swallowtail butterfly (*Papilio cresphontes*). All stages of the caterpillar look like wet, fresh, brown and white bird dropping.

Since this ugly duckling of the caterpillar world turns into one of the largest butterflies in our area, we don't recommend trying to control their voracious eating even though it may mean that your citrus is defoliated.

At the Panhandle Butterfly House this year, we offered these amazing butterflies a choice of three host or larval plants: the Meyer lemon, the Hercules' club and the common hoptree. What we discovered was that the caterpillar preferred the Hercules' club tree first, followed by the common hoptree. Only after both of these specimens were totally defoliated would the caterpillars migrate to the citrus. Therefore, to protect your citrus and support the



butterflies, plant one of these two native plants.

Hercules' club (*Zanthoxylum clava-herculis*) is a small tree native to the southeastern U.S. ranging from Virginia to eastern Texas and southeastern Oklahoma.

This tree has many common names including toothache tree, Hercules' club, Southern prickly ash, sea ash, pepperwood, prickly orange, sting tongue, tear blanket, pillenterry, prickly yellow wood, and wait-a-bit. The common names give away two distinguishing characteristics of this native tree—it is thorny and it tastes bad.

Hercules' club blooms in early spring. The panicles of pale green flowers are borne terminally—at the end of the branches. Each flower is followed by a follicle, a fruit that dries and splits to reveal a shiny black seed.

Young Hercules' clubs have thorns on the trunk and branches. As the tree ages, the bark overgrows the thorns forming odd corky bumps. Eventually, the tips of the thorns will either break off or be completely buried within the bark.

Zanthoxylum are members of the Rutaceae, the rue family, and like their cousins the citrus, all parts are aromatic. Hercules' club smells and tastes like bitter lime. If the thorns do not deter an herbivore, the taste will.

The common hoptree, *Ptelea trifoliata*, is the other native preferred by the orange dog. This deciduous North American native tree reaches about 15 feet in height with a spread of 10 to 15 feet and forms a broad, rounded canopy over a slender, grey trunk. The trifoliolate, four to six-inch long leaves are shiny and dark green on top, pale and hairy

below, turning yellow in fall before dropping. Inconspicuous greenish-white flowers appear in terminal clusters in June and July, their presence easily detected by the delicious orange blossom-like perfume. The blooms are followed by interesting, one-inch diameter, flattened, tan “wafers” which will persist on the tree if not first consumed by wildlife. In the past, this bitter fruit was used as a substitute for hops in brewing beer.

So if you are tired of the orange dogs eating your citrus, plant a native Hercules’ club or common hoptree. Both you and the caterpillars will be happier.

Theresa Friday
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Featured Plants

Hercules Club
Zanthoxylum clava-herculis

Hoptree
Ptelea tifoiliata

Hercules Club



s

Hoptree



Volunteer Spotlight: Andy & Isabel

Andy wore his “Free as a Butterfly” shirt and Isabel wore her butterfly earrings to the Panhandle Butterfly House Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon held on August 12, 2008. This was typical of a couple who devoted their time, energy and love to the Panhandle Butterfly House for the last twelve seasons.

Andy and Isabel Fraysse have been volunteers at the Panhandle Butterfly House (PBH) since its opening in 1997. They have donated hundreds of hours to educating our visitors about butterflies, butterfly gardening and butterfly conservation.

“Andy is a very knowledgeable volunteer.” said Theresa Friday, Extension Agent and PBH Chairman, “He has taught me some things, and I know our visitors have learned a lot from his experience and expertise.”

Kids always surround Isabel, probably because of her small stature. And because she is bilingual, she’s been able to make many of our foreign visitors feel welcomed.

Andy and Isabel have been some of our most dependable volunteers; always there to work the difficult-to-fill shifts. They also share a special ability to talk visitors into donating. We knew it was going to be a good day when Andy and Isabel worked.

We say goodbye to these two very special volunteers who are moving into a retirement home but promised to return occasionally if we really needed them.

Karen Broughton, Docent Chair, said “It has been a pleasure working with Andy and Isabel. Their support and knowledge has enriched the PBH Docent program.”



“Kiderpillar” School



Community Pride Award



Karen Broughton, SRMG and Docent Coordinator, Theresa Friday, SRC Extension Horticulture Agent, Shirley Brown, Navarre Chamber of Commerce, Jeanne Blage, SRMG and Coordinator of inside and outside gardens.

On April 20, 2008, we received the Community Pride Award certification for the beautification of the gardens at Panhandle Butterfly House from the Navarre Chamber of Commerce. This large sign was on display in the Gardens for a month and then went on to someone else in the community. A framed certification has been in our display case this summer.

Jeanne Blage
Chairman of the Gardens, PBH

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

Butterfly Festival Flutters into its 2nd Year

Come celebrate the wonder of nature's favorite quick-change artist – the butterfly – at the Panhandle Butterfly House 2nd Annual Butterfly Festival on October 10, 11 and 12.

Held at the scenic Navarre Park on Highway 98 in Navarre, Florida the festival offers fun for the entire family. From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. attendees can enjoy walking through the vivarium– a screen structure housing hundreds of butterflies and the plants they love. The festival shines a light on the needs and lifecycle of one of our most colorful insect friends.

Carefully timed to highlight the seasonal monarch migration, children will also be able to participate in tagging monarch butterflies. Many questions remain unanswered about the fall migration of the monarch population east of the Rocky Mountains. How do the monarchs move across the continent, i.e. do they move in specific directions or take certain pathways? How is the migration influenced by the weather and are there differences in the migration from year to year? We need data to answer these questions. Only through tagging monarchs during their migration will we be able to obtain sufficient information to answer these questions.

“At a time when butterflies and other pollinators are in serious jeopardy from loss of habitat and pollution, there's no better opportunity to learn about ways we can all live a little 'greener' to save our local environment and its most delicate inhabitants,” said Theresa Friday, Extension Agent in Santa Rosa County.

The Butterfly Festival will also include children's activities sponsored by Santa Rosa County 4-H. Adults will have the opportunity to bring in samples of their lawns or plants and speak with Florida Master Gardeners. Butterfly-related merchandise and resource guides will be available for sale.

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 or call 850-623-3868.

All programs and related activities sponsored for, or assisted by, the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences are open to all persons without discrimination with respect to race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, political opinions, or affiliations.

Theresa Friday Extension Faculty

UF/IFAS Santa Rosa County Extension

Summer “Kiderpillar” School

“Kiderpillar School” tours have been busier than our wildest expectations this summer. Our busy guides have instructed approximately 1000 children and chaperones/teachers. This is a huge increase from our 341 tour participants in 2007. Twice we have trained guides and they have cumulatively volunteered over 500 hours since mid April! Our staff now includes, Edith Blankenship, PJ Danneker, Nita Ellithorpe, Patricia Fandt, Mary Gallerein, Fran Grissom, Shirley Hibbard, Sue Hufstader, Jacque Larson, Sherri Marusich, Casey and Courtney Metzger, Kim (“Kaci”) Moore, Art Parrish, Mary Peterzen, Shanna Sasser, Meta Selzer, Katie Tankersley, Jere Wright, and Kay Zilka.

Reservations are now being taken for “Kiderpillar” School tours during mid-October, featuring the Monarch Migration. We will be open for scheduled tours October 6, 7, and 9, and the week of October 13-16. Last October we were able to schedule many school groups, and hope to be able to handle more this year. Large tours will have the benefit of a triple rotation covering the life cycle and habits of butterflies including a journey through the vivarium, monarch migration taught in the gardens and pond ecology. We are proud to say that our curriculum meets the Sunshine State Standards for Florida. In order to schedule a tour, please go to our website, <http://panhandlebutterflyhouse.org/>

Mary Peterzen



Third Quarter Donations

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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 |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Monarch | \$1500 |

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

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

Monarch Butterfly Tagging Planned

During this year's Butterfly Festival, children will have the opportunity to participate in an important research project--- tagging of monarch butterflies during their migration to Mexico.

This will be the seventeenth fall season of monarch tagging sponsored by Monarch Watch at the University of Kansas. Tagging efforts and the subsequent recoveries of tagged butterflies, contribute to scientists' overall understanding of the dynamics of the monarch population.

One of Monarch Watch's long-term goals is to assure the perpetuation of the monarch migration in eastern North America. To accomplish this goal, they must monitor the monarch population. Thousands of volunteers across the United States participate in this program each fall.

The tagging process is quite simple. Once a monarch is caught and held properly, a small paper tag is placed on the hind wing of the butterfly. This does not harm the butterfly nor impede its ability to fly. It is then released to continue its migration.

The majority of the recovered tags are obtained in Mexico. Early each year, scientists from Monarch Watch visit the overwintering sites, particularly El Rosario and Sierra Chincua, where they purchase tags from local residents. The ratio of untagged to tagged monarchs is quite high and it takes most residents several hours to find each tag among the butterflies visiting sites along streams or dead butterflies on the trails and under the monarch covered trees.

The information on the location, date and circumstance of the recovery is collected and put into the recovery database. Monarch Watch then calculates the distance according to latitude and longitude to obtain information for the straight-line course (a minimal estimate for the distance the monarch traveled). The recovery information is available as soon as it is entered and both the tagger and the person who recovered the tag can view the record online at

<http://www.monarchwatch.org/tagmig/recoveries.htm>.





Volunteers: Bob Luecht, SRCVOL
Blair Blage, SRCVOL



Julie Valente, Navarre Garden Club
Margaret Fraser, SRCMG



Julie Valente

Butterfly Festival October 10-12

www.panhandlebutterflyhouse.org

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