



Flutterby News

15th Season Begins

The date was May 25, 1997. A Pensacola News Journal correspondent wrote...."Amidst colorful blossoms and fluttering butterflies, cameras clicked and children pointed, giggled and stared in awe when the Panhandle Butterfly House celebrated its grand opening. More than 400 people came to view the bughouse as Jack Wetherell, the driving force behind the project, affectionately dubbed it."

On April 14, 2011, the Panhandle Butterfly House will open for its fifteenth season. While many things have changed, some things have not.

What's new for 2011 includes a redesign of the gardens. The co-chairs for the gardens, Jeanne Blage and Kathleen Dooley, along with our facilities chair, Jay Reghre and a host of volunteers have been busy moving dirt. A fountain and ornamental pond have been added as well as an aquatic plant section. In addition, new air-circulating fans have been added to try to make the inside temperature more suitable for our human visitors. New curbing has replaced the tons of brick that lined the paths giving the gardens a cleaner and neater appearance.

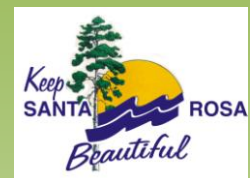
We also welcome a new docent coordinator, Jytte Fawzy. We are excited and proud to have many of our docents returning for another year of teaching the public about all things butterfly.

What hasn't changed is the Panhandle Butterfly House's commitment to the community and educating the public about the importance of butterflies and their role in our environment. Kiderpillar School is being offered again this year and is really filling up fast. So don't hesitate to schedule your youth group for a fun-filled educational tour of our facility.



**Volume 4 Issue 1
Spring 2011**

The Panhandle Butterfly House is a project of:



8581 Navarre Parkway
Navarre, FL

www.panhandlebutterflyhouse.org

Upcoming Class

How to Identify Butterflies & Taking Better Pictures

Theresa Friday, UF/IFAS Santa Rosa County Horticulture Agent, will provide information on how to identify local butterflies.

In **Taking Better Pictures**, "Photos 101", you will learn how to apply the basic principles of composition, exposure, and lens selection to improve the quality of your images. Taught by Rob Kepko of Rob's Camera in Pensacola, this is a basic photo class and photographers of all skill levels are invited. Rob will orient the class towards taking better butterflies photos. Remember to bring your cameras.

After the classroom sessions we will go into Navarre Park and the Panhandle Butterfly House vivarium to take photos.

Return to the Chamber conference room and Rob will critique your efforts to increase your learning experience!

When: **April 25, 10 AM to 3 PM** (A light lunch will be provided).

Where: Navarre Beach Area Chamber of Commerce building and the Panhandle Butterfly House, Navarre Park, Navarre Parkway, Navarre, FL 32566

Cost: \$35 paid in advanced. Proceeds go to support the Panhandle Butterfly House.

For more information or to register for this class, visit the Panhandle Butterfly House website at www.panhandlebutterflyhouse.org. Hurry, class size is limited.



What You Can Do To Help

The cost of everything continues to rise, including the cost of butterflies. To keep our large exhibit stocked with beautiful butterflies, we purchase many each week. The cold winter took its toll on the butterfly farmers and prices have risen. More than ever, your help is needed to raise money for the Panhandle Butterfly House.

There are several programs that individuals, groups, businesses and organizations can participate in and help us.

Butterfly Buddy: Do you work with a great group of people. Reward them by purchasing a week's worth of butterflies. A special release party will be scheduled for your invited guests.



Kaleidoscope Society: A flying group of butterflies is called a kaleidoscope. Become a member of our kaleidoscope by donating. Just complete the form on page five and mail it to the listed address.

Wish List: It takes a lot to keep our gardens looking nice and the butterflies well fed. See if you have anything on our wish list that you would like to donate. Go to www.panhandlebutterflyhouse.org to see our wish list.

Gift Shop: Looking for a butterfly related gift for someone special. Fly into our gift shop and take a look. Open Thursday-Saturday, 10 am to 3 pm.

Donate Online: To make your donating easier, you can donate online through PayPal. Just visit www.panhandlebutterflyhouse.org.

Commemorative Bricks: Honor someone by purchasing an engraved brick to be permanently placed in our conservation walk.

Lepidoptera Lookout

Skippers are often mistaken for moths because of their stout, hairy bodies and short, pointed wings. Their heads are as wide as their bodies. They are sometimes classified as an intermediate form between true butterflies and true moths.

Skipper Butterflies comprise nearly 3,000 species worldwide, 250 of which call North America home. Roughly one third of North American butterflies belong to this family.

Skippers are named for their quick, darting flight in which they seem to skip from one flower to the next.

Although its colors are generally dull and they are very small (wingspan of 1 to 1 ½ inches) the **common checkered skipper** is not that common. It gets its name from the checkerboard pattern on its wings; the male tends to have broader bands than the female. The body tends to be blue-gray with the small amount of "fuzz" which is seen in all skippers.

Skippers can be the most difficult butterfly species to identify; their markings are maddeningly similar.

They are typically found in open, sunny places with low vegetation and some bare soil including fields, roadsides, yards, gardens, and trails in woods.

The adults love to feed on nectar of some common white-flowering "weeds" including shepherd's needles, fleabane, and asters; also red clover, knapweed, beggar's ticks, and many others.



A rendition of the checkered skipper created by volunteer Katie Tankersley and displayed at the Panhandle Butterfly House.

How Does Your Garden Grow

Cat's Whiskers is a member of the mint family and is native to tropical East Asia. Its scientific name is *Orthosiphon stamineus*. In zone 8, consider this plant an annual since it is tender and will not reliably come back after a freeze. It's a good idea to collect seed in late fall or take stem cuttings to ensure that you continue this plant from year-to-year. It is relatively easy to propagate. In zones 9-11, it can be considered a reliable perennial.

Cat's Whiskers has beautiful dark green leaves and unusual flowers. The flowers may be white or bluish-purple. The blossom consists of an upright spike that contains long flowers and even longer stamens, reminiscent of cat whiskers. Flowering occurs on new growth.

This plant performs best in full sun. It will however grow with several hours of filtered light or spotty direct sun. Cat's whiskers is a shrub-type plant that will reach heights of two to three feet and spreads three to four feet. It is a good choice for English cottage style gardens and mixes well with other perennials. Cat's whiskers are also good container plants providing height and fullness to a mixed pot.

To prepare the soil for Cat's Whiskers, incorporate three to four inches of organic matter into the soil, working it in to a depth of six to eight inches. Regular watering and fertilization is required for this plant to achieve its best performance.

This plant is almost carefree. It does not have any serious pests, diseases or bad habits. Cat's Whiskers does however attract bees, butterflies and hummingbirds making it a good addition to any garden.



Volunteer Spotlight

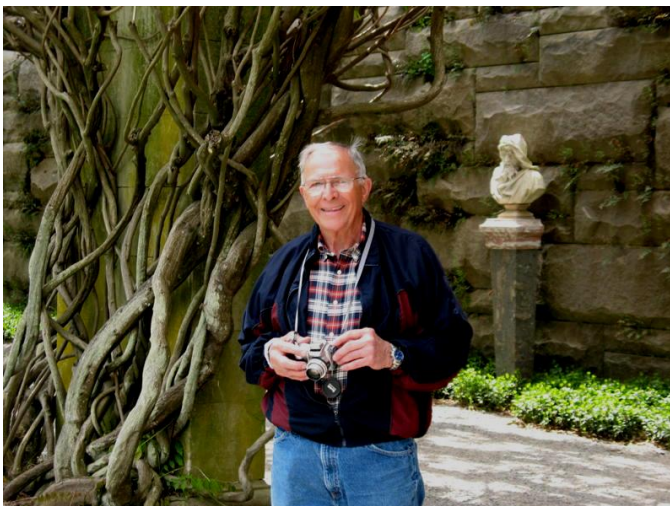
The Panhandle Butterfly House lost another dear volunteer on Saturday, January 15, 2011 following a short illness.

Jim Chason was a docent at the Panhandle Butterfly House. But, he brought so much more to us than his work with the public. Jim was there to do whatever was necessary, literally keeping an eye on the facility—since he could see it from his home on Navarre Beach.

Jim served in the United States Navy for four years. He transferred to the Department of the Navy where he served as a civil servant for over 30 years. He retired in 1997 and moved to Navarre Beach, Florida. He was a kind and considerate man and would help anyone in need. He was very active in the community and enjoyed being with people and telling stories. Most of all, he loved and cared for his family and he will be missed very much by everyone that knew him.

According to Jim's fiancé, Lorraine Hubbard, "Jim really enjoyed the butterfly house and especially loved talking to all the visitors about butterflies, the environment and the community in general and how much it had changed over the years. He enjoyed people and they seemed to enjoy chatting with him. There was nothing he wouldn't do to make it easier for the other docents. He will be missed by everyone that knew him at the butterfly house."

The family suggests donations in his memory be made to one of the following: The Panhandle Butterfly House, P.O. Box 5208, Navarre, Florida 32566 www.panhandlebutterflyhouse.org or Caring and Sharing of South Santa Rosa County, Inc., P.O. Box 5521, Navarre, Florida 32566 www.santarosacares.com



Donor Spotlight

Due to the generosity of our very special donors, we are still able to offer free admission to the Panhandle Butterfly House.

Thanks to the following donors who contributed during the first quarter of 2011.

Goldmine Bingo
Driftwood Garden Club
Ocllo S. Malone
John and Sandy Connor
Thomas and Michelle Weatherly
Penny Detscher
Martin Fawzy
Navarre Garden Club
C.W. Ritter
Sandy & Bobbye Winchester
Annie Barnes
C.C. & Sara Connell
Lorraine Hubbard
Catherine Gregory
Chris & Marci Vedrani
The Truth Seekers
Patricia Fandt & Jim Danos
First Baptist Church of C'Belle
Inc
Mary Davis
Jeanne Skeer
Jeanne Blage
Bill & Karen Broughton
Geo & Margaret Conover
William & Linda Cook
Linda Bartlett
Paul Delory
Gene & Lunette Kovatch
Jerry & Karen Patee (Donation
in the name of Kay Mitchell)

Thank you !

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

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

This donation can be "in memory" or "in honor" of someone special. When doing this, please advise to whom we should send the acknowledgement card and newsletter.

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ **State:** _____
Zip: _____ **Phone:** _____
Special Notes: _____

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

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

Caterpillar Capers

The larval form, or caterpillar, of the common checkered skipper has a black head and the body color varies from yellowish to light brown.

Caterpillars make folded-leaf nests in which they live and feed, and fully-grown caterpillars hibernate.



They love to eat several plants in the mallow family (Malvaceae) including mallow (Malva), hollyhock (Althaea), alkali mallows (Sida), and velvet-leaf (Abutilon),

Butterflies through a Child's Eyes

Come celebrate spring with a scheduled educational tour at the Panhandle Butterfly House in Navarre. Kiderpillar School, an award winning educational program, is scheduling tours for the 2011 Season. They will be available Monday through Wednesday from April 18th through August 31st.

The tour visit consists of a basic lesson on butterfly conservation, the life cycle and habits of the butterfly followed by a journey through the vivarium, viewing live Florida butterflies, their nectar and host plants and the nursery featuring metamorphosis. "Kiderpillar School" meets FCAT Sunshine Standards.

For details or to schedule a tour, visit our website, <http://panhandlebutterflyhouse.org/> and click the page "Come Visit Us".



Panhandle Butterfly House

8581 Navarre Parkway

www.panhandlebutterflyhouse.org

850-623-3868

Open to the Public

Thursday, Friday and Saturday

10 am to 3 pm

Public Release of Butterflies
Saturday, April 16 at 10:30am
First 100 children

