

Nectar News



Official Newsletter of the Southeast Michigan Butterfly Association

December 2015

Mission Statement:

It is our mission to share our knowledge to educate people about Lepidoptera and their habitats, to instill and foster a passion for nature in others, and to establish and preserve the environment for butterflies, skippers and moths.

Membership Dues:

Time to renew your membership. **Membership dues are \$15 per person.** If more than one family member wants to join, the second family member receives their membership for only \$7.50. This family member discount can be used for up to four additional family members.

Dues can be paid at the monthly meeting or mailed in to Semba address.

Butterflies and Ecology

Butterflies and moths make up a large group of insects known as the Order Lepidoptera (lep-i-DOP-ter-ah). The name—from the

Greek *lepido*, "scale," and *ptera*, "wings"—refers to a prominent feature of adult butterflies and moths, the tiny scales that cover the wings and the rest of the body.

Because butterflies are sensitive to environmental change, scientists look to them as signals that indicate the health of the environment. Many butterflies are closely linked to specific plants and habitats, so an increase or decrease in their diversity tells us about the changing quality of a place and the impact of that change on other animals.

Butterfly caterpillars are voracious plant-eaters, yet they play an important role in plant survival. It has been estimated that arthropods—the large group of animals that includes all insects—consume 20 percent of the earth's vegetation each year. By chewing and digesting leaves, caterpillars cycle nutrients and energy through the ecosystem, making valuable sources of nutrition available to other plants and living organisms. If you've ever raised caterpillars, you know how much *frass* they produce! On the following page is a list of butter-

fly houses to visit throughout the USA!

Board Members for 2016 :

- **President:** Carolyn Sohoza
- **Vice President:** Brendon Weil
- **Secretary:** Diana McCormick
- **Treasurer:** Carolyn Sohoza
- **Communications Director:** Monica McCormick
- **Event Committee Chair:** Brenda Dziedzic
- **Habitat Committee Chair:** Kathy Bey and Karen Jewell
- **Past President—**Brenda Dziedzic
- **Membership Committee Chair:** Megan Ellis

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Butterflies and the Environment

One of nature's best indicators of the health of an environment, butterflies teach us a great deal about habitats and change.

Butterflies are found on every continent but Antarctica.

The U. S., alone, is home to about 700 different species of this beautiful and loved insect. Butterflies play a number of roles in the ecosystem. They act as a pollinator and as a food source for other species, acting as an important connector in a thriving ecosystem web.

Here's a list of some of the butterfly houses in the USA. Some are open all year round, some seasonal.

The Original Butterfly House and Insect World
6750 McGulpin Street
Mackinac Island, MI 49757

Fred & Dorothy Fichter Butterflies Are Blooming exhibition at Meijer Gardens (Largest temporary tropical butterfly exhibition in the nation),
Meijer Garden/Tropical Conservatory.

March 1st - April 30, 2016,
1000 East Beltline Avenue NE,
Grand Rapids, MI 49525,
1-(888) 957-1580

Reiman Gardens
Iowa State University
1407 University Blvd.
Ames, Iowa 50011
Phone: (515) 294-2710
(Open year round),

Audubon Insectarium
Butterflies in Flight
6500 Magazine St.
New Orleans, LA 70118
Phone: (800) 774-7394,
(Open year round),

Butterfly Pavilion
6252 West 104th Ave.
Westminster, CO 80020
Phone: (303) 469-5441,
(Open year round),

Milwaukee Public Museum
Puelicher Butterfly Wing
800 West Wells Street
Milwaukee, WI 53233
Phone: (888) 700-9069,
(Open year round),

Detroit Zoo
Woodward Avenue and 10 Mile Road (I-696)
Royal Oak, MI 48067
Phone: (248) 541-5717
(Open year round),

Dow Gardens
1809 Eastman Avenue
Midland, MI 48640
Phone: (800) 362-4874,
(Seasonal),

American Museum of Natural History
Butterfly Conservatory
Central Park West at 79th Street
New York, NY, 10024,
(Seasonal),

North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences
Living Conservatory 11 West Jones St.
Raleigh, NC 27601
Phone: (919) 733-7450,
(Open year round),

The Butterfly House
Obee Road
Whitehouse, Ohio 43571
Phone: (419) 877-2733,
(Seasonal),

Academy of Natural Sciences
Drexel University
1900 Benjamin Franklin Parkway
Philadelphia, PA 19103
Phone: (215) 299-1000,
(Open year round),

The Houston Museum of Natural Science
Cockrell Butterfly Center
5555 Hermann Park Dr.
Houston, Texas 77030
Phone: (713) 639-4629,
(Open year round),

San Antonio Zoo
Caterpillar Flight School
3903 North St. Mary's Street
San Antonio, Texas 78212
Phone: (210) 734-7184,

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(Seasonal),

The Key West Butterfly & Nature Conservatory
1316 Duval St.
Key West, FL 33040,
(305) 296-2988
www.keywestbutterfly.com

Coming Soon:

Growing Great Gardens

Seminar presented by Taylor Garden Club & Taylor Conservatory, Saturday March 12, 2016. This year's subjects: Dirty History: Bringing Paradise Home - Think Outside the Hosta: Cool Alternatives to Shade - If You Could Only Choose One: The Gold Standard - Plants Too Good To be Rare. More information to come! This is an excellent garden event held at Wayne County Community College in Taylor with speakers, workshops, lunch, marketplace to shop.

Calendars

We have a few more Semba Calendars left if anyone wants a beautiful 2016 calendar with our member's photos! \$12. We'll have some at the January Semba meeting.

Monarch Waystation

Certification Requirements:

Monarch Watch is a nonprofit educational outreach program based at the University of Kansas that focuses on the Monarch butterflies, its habitat, and its spectacular fall migration. If you would like to certify your monarch habitat and help support Monarch Watch's conservation efforts, there is a \$16 non-refundable application fee. Sign is \$17. Application and sign bundle is \$33 purchased all at once.

Requirements:

Size— No minimum area requirement, however a truly effective Monarch Waystation will be at least 100 square feet. The total area may be split among several sites at your location.

Exposure— At least 6 hours of sun a day.

Plants, Drainage, and Soil Type are other interesting considerations for the Waystation.

Register your butterfly garden!

More information at:

Monarchwatch.org

Upcoming Presentation:

Taylor Garden Club's January meeting: The speakers are Gerald and Deborah Wykes presenting: "Tales Of a Heroic Weed", how Michigan's Common Milkweed played an important role during WWII. (I guess Milkweed isn't just for Monarchs).

THURSDAY JANUARY 21 7:00 PM, Taylor Sr. Activity Center, 6750 Troy, Taylor. Free.

You can email Nancy Smith at smithnan88@yahoo.com if you think you'll be attending.

Contact Us:

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SEMBA

PO Box 851301

Westland, MI 48185



Calendar of Upcoming Events

January 2016

20th, at Nankin Mills, 7:00 p.m.

Cheryl English, "Pollinator Preservation Strategies for the Home Garden".

February 2016

17th, at Nankin Mills, 7:00 p.m.

Professor Mark Hunter, University of Michigan, "Monarchs, milkweeds, and disease: Current patterns and future problems".

March 2016

16th, at Nankin Mills, 7:00 p.m.

TBA

April 2016

20th, at Nankin Mills, 7:00 p.m.

Anna Szczotka/"Rain Gardens".

May 2016

18th, at Nankin Mills, 7:00 p.m.

"Container Gardening", Carolyn Sohoza will show us how to put together planters designed to attract specific butterfly species, and the containers will be auctioned off!

June 2016

15th, at Nankin Mills, 7:00 p.m.

Chad from Hidden Savanna Nursery, "Landscaping with Natives: It's More Than Just Pretty Flowers".
Presentation and Plant Sale!

July 2016

20th, 7:00 p.m.

TBA

Mailing Address Label

SEMBA Membership is \$15 per person and \$7.50 additional family members.

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