

Butterfly Gardening

Presentation for the “Burlington Men’s Garden Club”

March 28, 017

Gail Moore

Attracting Butterflies

- Butterflies are easy to attract into your garden landscape
- North Carolina has more than 175 butterfly species, some statewide, others within a specific region
- Butterfly watching has gained in popularity, though not nearly as much as bird watching
- National Butterfly Awareness Day, June 3rd - first Saturday in June

Attracting Butterflies

- They are colorful, diverse, and active during warm days
- They will thrive within a garden comprised of native plants in urban and rural settings
- Provide both plant types: nectar for adults and host for caterpillars
- Making a mud-puddling spot helps meet hydration and nutrient needs that nectar doesn't supply

Puddling Question Mark



How it Began

- My husband didn't like my garden outline
- So he redrew it to add his touch of whimsy
- I thought his cartoon would be too hard to maintain, so it got overruled



How it Began

- But my traveling plants were so glad to finally get out of pots
- Lots of shoveling of compost and mulch
- Thankful for having a pickup to buy in bulk and unload close to site
- Continually evolving



My Garden – First Year



June 2013



July 2013

Next Two Years



July 2014



June 2015

Last Year, May 2016



My Stuff

- Amaranth
- Bee Balm
- Black-eyed Susan
- Butterfly Bushes
- Clematis
- Columbine
- Coral Bells
- Cosmos
- Daylilies
- Foxglove
- Hardy Hibiscus
- Impatiens
- Jasmine
- Liatris
- Lilac
- Marigolds
- Petunia
- Sweet William
- Trumpet Creeper
- Verbena
- Weigela

What Butterflies Eat

- Host plants provide shelter for butterfly eggs and food for growing caterpillars; most herbs are good host plants (parsley, dill, fennel) so plant a garden buffet
- Nectar plants produce various flowers that provide liquid food for adult butterflies
- If you only want to attract butterflies that are passing through, then nectar plants are all that's needed
- If you want to provide a garden where butterflies will return, then provide various host plants

AYCE Herb Buffet

- Fast work stripping the parsley
- They moved to the dill next
- Fun to watch and it all grew back



Using Native Plants

- The relationship between butterflies and host plants is one reason having natives in the garden is so important
- Butterflies do most of their eating during their larval phase as caterpillars, feeding exclusively on the leaves of host plants specific to their species
- Plants have evolved to harbor chemical toxins in their leaves as a protection mechanism against hungry wildlife

Using Native Plants

- Each butterfly species has evolved to be resistant to the toxins of a select number of plants
- Exotic plants (non-native) are not used by many butterflies as they have no resistance to an exotics toxins
- Using plants native to our area are easy to grow as they have adapted to our environment
- Choose a variety of nectar plants to provide food throughout the season

Using Native Plants

- Provide plants with flowers of different size and depth to accommodate small and large butterflies
- Get trees, plants, and vines that do not need to be replaced each year
- Don't get discouraged if something doesn't work - been there and will be there again
- Visit local gardens and nature centers for ideas, also lots of info online

Host Trees/Shrubs

- Birch (*Betula*)
- Cherry (*Prunus*)
- Crabapple (*Malus*)
- Highbush Blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*)
- Huckleberry (*Gaylussacia*)
- Inkberry (*Ilex glabra*)
- Oaks (*Quercus*)
- Pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*)
- Pine (*Pinus*)
- Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)
- Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*)
- Sparkleberry (*Vaccinium arboreum*)
- Sumac (*Rhus*)
- Wax Myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*)
- Willow (*Salix*)

Host Herbs & Wildflowers

- Clover (*Trifolium*)
- Dill (*Anethum graveolens*)
- Fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*)
- Goat's Beard (*Aruncus dioicus*)
- Goldenrod (*Solidago*)
- Joe Pye Weed (*Eupatorium fistulosum*)
- Lupine (*Lupinus*)
- Milkweed (*Asclepias*)
- Passion Flower (*Passiflora incarnata*)
- Parsley (*Petroselinum crispum*)
- Sunflower (*Helianthus*)
- Snapdragon (*Antirrhinum majus*)
- Tall Verbena (*Verbena bonariensis*)
- Violet (*Viola*)
- Wild Indigo (*Baptisia tinctoria*)
- Wild Petunia (*Ruellia caroliniensis*)

Nectar Plants

- Aster (*Aster*)
- Black-Eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)
- Blazing Stars (*Liatris*)
- Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)
- Coneflowers (*Echinacea purpurea*)
- Dianthus Family (*Dianthus*)
- Lantana (*Lantana camara*)
- Lupine (*Lupinus*)
- Mexican Sunflowers (*Tithonia rotundifolia*)
- Shasta Daisy (*Leucanthemum*)
- Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*)
- Salvia (*Salvia*)
- Sunflower (*Helianthus*)
- Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*)
- Yarrow (*Achillea*)
- Zinnia (*Zinnia elegans*)

Miss Huff

What I learned the hard way...



- Fantastic perennial
- Magnet attractor, grows fast, and constant showy flowers
- Research where you want to place this lantana, you might not be able to move it the next year

My 2016 replacement waiting for a location.

Night Visitors Too!



- My new summer project
- Basically, position a blacklight or mercury vapor lamp to shine on a white sheet
- Another way to attract moths is to smear a bait mixture onto a tree trunk
- YouTube video:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=elzZq3lUb6M>
- Moth Party:
<http://www.birdsandblossoms.com/gardening/garden-bugs/throw-party-attract-moths/>

Tobacco Hornworm



Do Butterflies “Sleep?”

Not really, they become inactive due to temperature



- Butterflies hang upside-down underneath something to hide for protection from evening rains and early morning birds
- Butterflies with warning coloration tend to sleep more in the open to signal birds that they might be poisonous
- Able to fly off if disturbed

Butterfly Weed



- Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*), member of the milkweed family
- Favorite food for Monarch's
- Plants disappearing due to land development and spraying
- Nectar source for adult butterflies

Butterfly Milkweed



- Pink Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*)
- The only food of Monarch caterpillars, as attracts Queens and Soldiers
- Unique bicolored white and pink flower heads
- Does well in moist locations

Which Red Butterfly Do You Have?
<http://butterflies.heuristron.net/butterflies/redCompare.html>

Red Butterflies

[Viceroy Butterfly](#)



[Queen Butterfly](#)



[Monarch Butterfly](#)



[Soldier Butterfly](#)



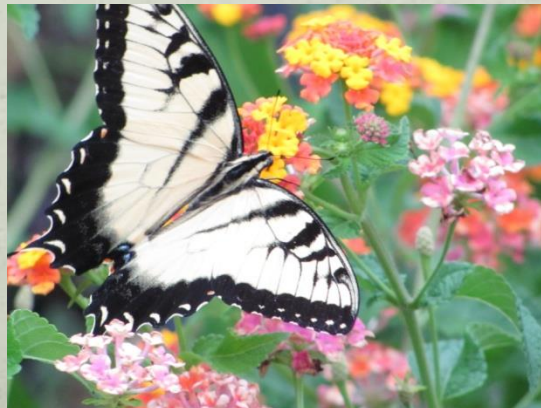
Pest Management - Beware

- Minimal use, a caterpillar won't make it the adult stage using pesticides
- Bees won't make it either, even if spraying after hours
- Many stores are evolving to sell plants from growers NOT using Neonicotinoids (neonics)
- The pesticide is intended to remain active within the plant for a period of time
- Neonics (like imidacloprid) are a broad-spectrum systemic pesticide which flows throughout the entire plant
- These pesticides are contributing to Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) in honeybees, and possibly other pollinators



Some NC Butterflies

- American Lady
- Common Buckeye
- Giant Swallowtail
- Golden Banded Skipper
- Gulf Fritillary
- Hackberry Emperor
- Monarch
- Painted Lady
- Queen
- Question Mark
- Silver-spotted Skipper
- Soldier
- Tawny Emperor
- Variegated Fritillary
- Viceroy
- Yucca Giant Skipper
- Zebra Swallowtail



Eastern Tiger Swallowtail



Painted Lady



Monarch

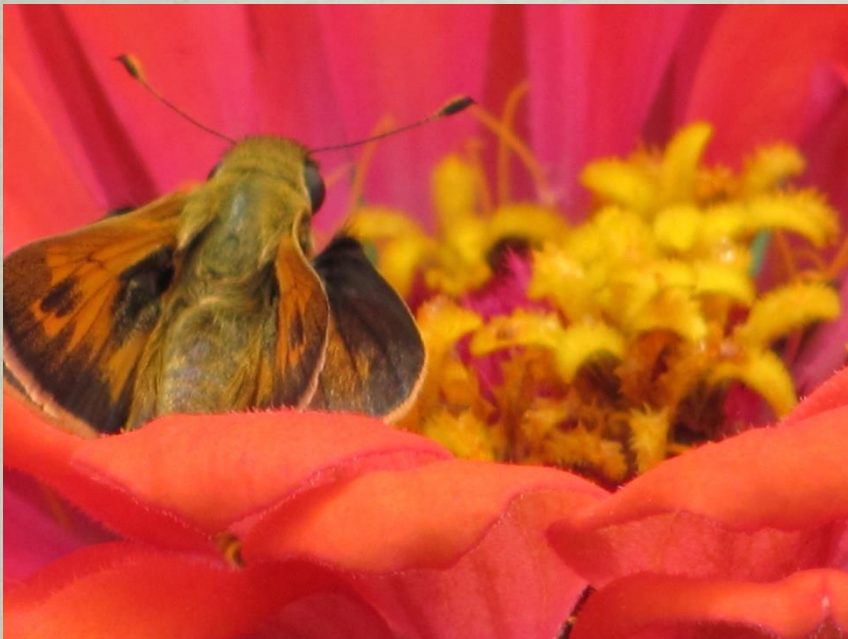


Variegated Fritillary



Sachems

Male on Zinnia



Female on Lantana



Hummingbird Moth (Clearwing)



*The End
&
Thank-You!*

Questions?

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Nurseries

- Camellia Forest Nursery, west of Chapel Hill
www.camforest.com
- Cure Nursery Native Plants, Pittsboro
curenursery.com/
- Growing Wild Nursery
www.growingwildnursery.com
- Niche Gardens, west of Chapel Hill
www.nichegardens.com/

Nurseries

- Plant Delights, south of Raleigh
www.plantdelights.com/
- The JC Raulston Arboretum at NC State, in Raleigh
jcra.ncsu.edu/
- The North Carolina Botanical Garden, in Chapel Hill
ncbg.unc.edu/

Resources

- Altius Directory - www.altiusdirectory.com/Society/national-butterfly-awareness-day.html
- Carolina Butterfly Society - carolinabutterflysociety.org/
- National Butterfly Center - nationalbutterflycenter.org/
- charlotte.about.com/od/StateSymbols/a/The-State-Butterfly-of-North-Carolina.htm
- content.ces.ncsu.edu/butterflies-in-your-backyard

Resources

- www.charlottenaturemuseum.org/museum/exhibit/3/Butterfly-Pavilion
- www.dpughphoto.com/common_butterflies
- http://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/pollinators/Monarch_Butterfly/habitat/index.shtml
- www.gardenswithwings.com/what-is-a-butterfly-garden/host-plants.html
- www.thebutterflysite.com/northcarolina-butterflies.shtml

Resources

- millionpollinatorgardens.org/
- northcoastgardening.com/2015/02/nurseries-neonicotinoid/
- www.birdsandblooms.com/gardening/
- www.butterfliesandmoths.org/checklists?species_type=0&tid=1885
- www.butterflyhighway.org/native-plants
- www.carolinanature.com/