

Thanks

Many readers will notice that this issue of *American Butterflies* is a double issue. It includes volumes 14:3 and 14:4 and has significantly more pages than the usual issue of the magazine. The plan is for the next issue also to be a double issue, incorporating volumes 15:1 and 15:2 and to be published in June, 2007. This would then bring us roughly back on track for the publication schedule that was disrupted in the fall of 2005. Thank you for bearing with us during those trying times.

The fourth issue of each volume is our traditional time to thank the many people who have contributed to NABA in general and to *American Butterflies* in particular.

The NABA Board of Directors (see page 1 for list) continues to steer NABA in the right direction. Special thanks to Brian Cassie who, after 14 years of service and input has stepped down from the Board to focus on other activities.

NABA VP Jim Springer, NABA's webmaster, devotes increasing amounts of time and energy to NABA's website and to many other NABA activities. Jane V. Scott, NABA secretary/treasurer, oversees NABA's financial records, contracts, personnel matters and too many other important tasks to list!

The NABA on-line store is run by Sue Anderson. Sue has done a tremendous job, providing an important resource for NABA members and making NABA known to a widening circle of butterfly enthusiasts through the store.

Butterfly Gardener is produced by Karen Hillson. This publication, an important source of NABA chapter information and, of course, about butterfly gardening, complements *American Butterflies* and keeps getting better and better.

The NABA Butterfly Count Program is one of NABA's most important programs. Sharon Wander has stepped up to the plate and swung massive amounts of her time into the job of Count Editor. Working throughout the year, Jane Hurwitz coordinates Count mailings, interacts with Count compilers and processes Count forms. Thanks also to Mark Fairbrother who each year produces the amazing Table 2 of the Count Report — listing high counts for each species seen. And, thanks, of course, to the regional editors, compilers and thousands of Count participants for making this program

a valuable resource for scientists and butterfly conservation. Because of all of your efforts, the NABA Butterfly Count Program is now poised to move to a new level of scope and importance.

Thanks also to the many NABA chapter officers and volunteers who help us to help butterflies and butterflyers, by leading field trips, creating butterfly gardens, and by giving talks and helping with educational outreach activities.

NABA International Butterfly Park continues to be NABA's largest project. Executive Director Sue Sill has done a wonderful job in physically creating the initial gardens and of building community support for the project. She is well-assisted by Mary Ritch in the Park office, by Ray Escobedo in the gardens, by naturalist Javier de Leon, by educational specialist Carol Goolsby, by volunteer coordinator Lila Ledesma, by public relations assistant Susan Thompson and by many volunteers.

Thanks to the Advisory Board of NABA International Butterfly Park, which includes Dr. Jose Amador, Kika de la Garza, Lucille de la Garza, Margaret McAllen, Dr. Miguel Nevarez, Ruben Plata, Gilberto Quintanilla, Tomas Tijerina, Virginia Townsend, Mary Altman Yturria and Alicia Landry, for their persistent efforts that have succeeded in building strong community support for the Park, evidenced by the Gala to be held on May 5, 2007 in Mission, Texas. The Gala, an exciting night of celebration and fund-raising, would not have been possible without the Gala Committee, consisting of Luisa Ruiz, Yvonne Salinas and Nora Shah. They have done an incredible job. Thanks also to NABA's architect, Wendy Evans Joseph and her staff. Wendy is not only a very talented architect, she also believes in NABA Butterfly Park and has helped us in innumerable and generous ways to move this project forward.

And, all NABA members owe special thanks to Dr. Judith Wible, whose generous donations and pledges of support have enabled the Park to become a reality.

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