

Thanks

While we are always thankful

for the efforts of the multitude of people who contribute to NABA, this year we are especially thankful. After quite a few years of effort (and a few setbacks) the Visitors Pavilion at the National Butterfly Center is now a reality! More about this later.

The members of the NABA Board of Directors, who govern the direction of NABA, (see page 1 for a list), receive no financial compensation for their efforts nor are they reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses, such as travel expenses. In addition, many of them have made significant financial contributions to NABA.

Jim Springer serves as NABA Vice-President and Webmaster, and plays an important role in many of NABA's operations.

Jane V. Scott serves as NABA's Secretary-Treasurer, averaging 30 hour weeks working for NABA.

Karen Hillson has served NABA admirably as the volunteer editor of the *Butterfly Gardener*, producing a publication that is eagerly awaited by many NABA members.

NABA conducts a large and expanding butterfly monitoring program, including the 4th of July Counts, 1st of July Counts, 16th of Sept. Count, Seasonal Butterfly Counts, the Butterflies I've Seen database and the Butterfly Sightings webpages. The Butterfly Count portion of NABA's monitoring program is headed by Sharon Wander whose meticulous attention to detail has resulted in increasingly valuable count reports. The Count program team of Jane Hurwitz, Lisa Lewis and Jim Springer have done a great job of tracking the counts, dealing with paperwork, interacting with compilers and regional editors and increasing the accuracy of count circle centers. Of course, the Count Program would not be

possible without the hard work of all of the Regional Editors, Compilers and thousands of participants. Thanks to you all!

Thanks to Red-shift Technologies, and especially to Zi Chen and Matt Scott, for helping to update features of the online entry forms for the Butterfly Counts as well as the Butterflies I've Seen Database.

A big thank you to Mike Reese for maintaining the NABA Sightings webpages, dealing with the myriad formats (or lack thereof) of submitted information and photos!

The 2010 NABA Members Meeting was a great success. Lisa Lewis, the lead person coordinating the meeting, did a fantastic job of interacting with all the participants, arranging the field trips and all of the many other tasks associated with a large scale meeting. Thanks Lisa! Thanks also to all the field trip leaders and speakers (see article on pg. 14 for a list) and to the City of Mission for providing two vans and drivers for the farthest field trips.

The work at NABA HQ requires the concerted efforts of a team of people. members of the team include Jane V. Scott, Jane Hurwitz, who focuses on the Program for Butterfly Gardens and Habitats, Lisa Lewis, who focuses on membership services, chapter relations, the Count program and financial record-keeping, and Ralph Fylstra, NABA's accountant.

I'd like to thank Nancy Flint for helping NABA obtain a number of trademarks over the past year. Nancy, a trademark and patent attorney, has worked for NABA pro bono.

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, by giving talks and helping with educational outreach activities.

(continued on page 46)

Thanks (Continued from page 2)

As mentioned in the first paragraph, 2010 saw the construction of the Visitors Pavilion at the National Butterfly Center. There were many contributors to the National Butterfly Center (NBC) this year.

Thanks to Mary Ritch-Peña, who was the executive director of the NBC the past two years, for keeping the NBC afloat during a time of difficult transition. She was aided by Lila Ledesma and, recently, by Max Munoz and Flo Vela.

The National Butterfly Center Advisory Board has been helpful in all aspects of this project. Thanks to Jose Amador, Lucille de la Garza, Margaret McAllen, Miguel Nevarez, Ruben Plata, Tomas Tijerina and Mary Yturria for their support and for seeing this project through. Thanks also to Bill Ellis, who has served as an unofficial advisor and supporter for many years.

The National Butterfly Center web pages were recently updated and improved, largely through the efforts of Olivia Moore. Thank you Olivia, and good luck at Smith College!

The exhibits at the National Butterfly Center are in Spanish as well as in English. Thanks to Glenn Martinez and Karmin San Martin and Mireya Wright in the Department of Modern Languages and Literature at the University of Texas Pan American, for their help translating the exhibits at the National Butterfly Center into Spanish.

I'd like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Wendy Evans Joseph, Chris Cooper and to all of the staff at WEJ Architecture, especially Chris Good. Not only did they do a spectacular job of designing a building that looks great and was amazingly cost efficient, they are really good people. Imagine that!

Olivier van der Graaff, our general contractor, and Jane V. Scott, oversaw the construction of the Visitors Pavilion, a major, and time-consuming contribution. In November 2010, Jane spent three weeks in the Valley, making sure that all the necessary construction was completed correctly and on time.

Sergio Zavala, head of the planning department of the City of Mission helped coordinate much of the utility work at the site while Bill Filut brought in the electrical lines.

Although many people donated time and services, constructing a major building requires

significant funding. We are grateful that many funders recognized the importance of this project and made major financial contributions.

Donors who made major contributions to the construction of the Visitors Pavilion include the Brown Foundation (Houston, Texas), the Meadows Foundation (Dallas, Texas), the Robert J. Jr. and Helen C. Kleberg Foundation (San Antonio, Texas), Robert and Margaret McAllen (Weslaco, Texas), the City of Mission, the AEP Foundation (Columbus, Ohio), the City of McAllen, the Stanley Smith Horticultural Foundation (Sausalito, California) and Rhodes Realty (Edinburg, Texas).

American Butterflies depends entirely upon the generosity of authors and photographers who contribute their work free of charge. For their great volume 18 articles we thank Sonia Altizer, John and Victoria Carley, Linda Cooper, Jaap de Roode, Larry Gall, Fred Heath, Marc Minno, Dennis Olle, Kimberly Pegram, Mike Reese, Leslie Ries, Mary Ritch-Peña, Ron Rutowski, Jane Vicroy Scott, Priya Shahani, Don Stoltz, Ann Swengel, Rita Venable, Pat Wogan and Harry Zirlin.

Clearly, the photographs that accompany the articles add immeasurably to their impact. Thanks to all the photographers who donated the use of their photos to us, including the authors listed above and Richard Bartz, Ahmet Baytas, Thomas Bentley, Johanna Billings, Mark Brown, Roy Brown, Sue Cloutier, Jan Dauphin, Alana Edwards, Ken Fraser, Rob Gill, Shelby Heeter, Susan Hengeveld, Judith Huf, William Hull, Alison Hunter, Dan Jackson, Bart Jones, Tanya Jones, Wendy Evans Joseph, Lorraine Lynch, Kelly Michalek, Frank Model, Steven Munafò, James L. Monroe, Erik Nielsen, Scott O'Neill, Fran Pope, Alex Popovkin, Gil Quintanilla, Mike Reese, Christopher Rickards, Leena Robinson, Holly Salvato, Rob Santry, Eliya Selhub, Jim Snyder, Sparky Stensaas, E. Sternberg, Pat Sutton, Cat Traylor, Johan van Rensburg, Wade Wander and Kert Wogan.

Thanks to the judges of our photo contest, Rick Cech and Peter Post.

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