

Atala Chapter News

WINTER/SPRING 2005

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**Do you know this butterfly??
Answer on Page 2**

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Our new home at Pine Jog

For the past 10 years, (I can't believe it's been that long!) the Atala Chapter has been very fortunate to be able to hold our meetings at the South Florida Water Management District. Kathy Malone, who has been our president and vice-president since the inception of our club, was an employee of the district and made the bimonthly arrangements for meetings. Thank you, Kathy! Now that Kathy has moved on to bigger and better things in Gainesville (see her article at the bottom of the page), we were in need of a new location.

Luckily, I ran into Ann Weinrich recently and thought to ask if it would be possible for us to hold our meetings at Pine Jog. Every-

one there agreed that it would be a terrific arrangement!

The main benefit of holding our meetings at Pine Jog is the location and ease of entrance. Those of you who have attended our meetings in the past know that we've had to go through security "ad nauseum" in order to gain entrance. Now we won't have that problem. Hopefully, as a result we will see more of you at our next meeting! We have a great spring planned. Go to page 4 for a list of our upcoming meetings!

For more information about Pine Jog's upcoming events, go to:
<http://www.pinejog.org/WebPages/PublicPrograms.htm>

A Butterfly Lover's Dream Job

by Kathy Malone

In a meeting at work the other day, someone remarked that Gainesville now has the highest number of lepidopterists per capita. Someone also said it wasn't like heaven working there, it was heaven. My sentiments, exactly, although I can tell you I really miss the warmer weather in south Florida!

My first four weeks at the Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida, have been wonderful. My office is a chip shot away from the new butterfly rainforest and my co-worker, Nikole, and I make it a point to visit it every day to do "research" for our project, formally named, "Project Butterfly WINGS." WINGS stands for "Winning Investigative Network for Great Science." We really do visit the rainforest to observe and to watch how the public observes...especially our

target audience for the project which is girls, ages nine to 14.

WINGS is a new, National Science Foundation funded project aimed at keeping girls interested in science, since research shows their interest falls off after elementary school. We are on the development end of the project. We are brainstorming ways to set it up—everything from teaching kids how to identify butterflies, to determining the monitoring protocol to designing the web site. "Keep it user-friendly and simple" is becoming our daily chant as we remind ourselves that kids need a hook to become interested and some enticement to participate over the long-term. This is an important challenge considering the program is totally in the "informal education" realm since delivery is through after school and weekend programs, not through the school curriculum. Initial delivery will be through voluntary 4-H programs. It will begin in Florida and expand to the southeast, then throughout the U.S., and maybe even serve as an international model. One of the later phases envisioned is to have master gardeners involved.



(continued on page 4)

Who Am I?? Butterfly Quiz

Learning your Sulphurs



by Linda and Buck Cooper

If you guessed that the butterfly on the front was a Large Orange Sulphur, you're right! If you didn't, read Linda and Buck's descriptions about how to distinguish these butter colored beauties.

In peninsular Florida there are four giant-sulphurs in the genus *Phoebis* – Cloudless (*P. sennae*), Large Orange (*P. agarithe*), Orange-barred (*P. philea*) and Statira (*P. statira*). Since Statira Sulphur is limited in distribution to coastal areas near its host plant, Coinvine (*Dalbergia ecastophyllum*), we will concentrate on the three you are most likely to see and attract to your garden. When sulphurs land they close their wings so you learn to identify them from their underwings (ventral view). You should also try to note their up-pawing (dorsal view) color seen in flight. Not only do males and females vary in color and pattern but also have seasonal variation with the winter (dry season) forms the most heavily marked. There are also subspecies of these that occur in south Florida and the Florida Keys. Keep in mind the time of year, the sex of the butterfly and where you are seeing them as you sort out the giant-sulphurs.

Cloudless Sulphur is the most common and widespread large yellow butterfly. Though a resident, huge numbers also migrate into the state in the fall. Males are greenish to lemon yellow and have few markings on their underwings. Females are lemon yellow, sometimes suffused with pink and often are heavily marked with brown splotches. Females also have a broken forewing post-median line. As a first step, try to observe the dorsal surface of the wings as seen in flight. If the tops of the wings are orange or shows flashes of orange, it is not a Cloudless Sulphur. One way to separate Cloudless from Orange-barred is their antennae color – most Cloudless have pale antennae while Orange-barred has very dark antennae. Host plant for both these species is *Senna* (formerly *Cassia*).

Orange-barred Sulphur is the second most common large yellow butterfly and is slightly larger than Cloudless. Males are yellow with orange bars

on the dorsal forewings and an orange scaling on the dorsal hindwings. Females vary in color from whitish-yellow to yellow-pink.

Winter females are heavily marked with reddish brown splotches and have a heavy pink suffusion on the underwings especially along the hindwing margin. Both sexes have a broken forewing post-median line. You usually see only a flash of orange against yellow in flight and do not have the impression the overall butterfly color is orange, like Large Orange Sulphur. If you have sulphurs hanging around sennas in your garden they are most likely either Cloudless or Orange-barred.

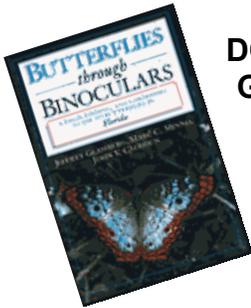
Large Orange Sulphur is more tropical and limited in range though they do migrate up the state in the fall. We occasionally have them visit our garden in central Florida. In flight you get a strong sense that the butterfly is very orange overall. Males are a rich orange dorsally and ventrally. Females vary from white to pink to yellow-orange. Both sexes have an unbroken diagonal mark on the ventral forewing that is diagnostic. Host plants are Blackbead (*Pithecellobium keyense*), Cat's Claw (*P. unguis-cati*) and Wild Tamarind (*Lysiloma latisiliquum*), all of which grow in south Florida and the Florida Keys.

Sulphurs can be complicated but with a little practice you will be able to separate most of them. Even if you can't, enjoy the sunny spirit they bring to your garden.

All Photos by Jack Everett EXCEPT male Cloudless Sulphur and Large Orange Sulphur on cover by Linda Cooper, and top view of Orange-barred Sulphur (posed photo of dead butterfly) by Alana Edwards.



Upcoming Field Trips



DON'T FORGET YOUR FIELD GUIDE AND BINOCULARS!!



Please verify all directions on a map before you leave home. I make mistakes!

Saturday, February 26, 2005—Juno Dunes Natural Area (west tract) and Sweet Bay Natural Area—These are two areas recently opened to the public, both with boardwalks and observation platforms. By visiting these distinct ecosystems, we should see a good number of species. Bring a picnic lunch.

Take I-95 to Donald Ross Road. Go East to US Highway 1. Take a left (north) and the entrance to Juno Scrub will be on the left. We will meet at 9:00am at the entrance.

Saturday, March 26, 2005 —DuPuis Management Area and Port Mayaca— See how the butterfly garden at DuPuis has changed. Then we'll head over to Port Mayaca to check out such specialties as Hackberry Emperors, Malachites, and others! This will be a joint field trip with the Martin County Native Plant Society. Come out and we'll share our plant and butterfly knowledge with one another.

Take I-95 to Blue Heron Blvd. Blue Heron West to the Beeline (710). Go about 20 miles. Just before the bridge to Indiantown, take a right on the junction for Hwy 76, then in about 1/8 of a miles take a left on Hwy 76. The entrance for the DuPuis Visitors' Center is ~7miles on the left. We will meet at 9:30am.

Butterfly Count – Mark your Calendars! We need your help!

Central Circle will be conducted on **June 25**.
North Circle will be conducted on **June 26**.
South Circle will be conducted on **July 2**.

Sunday, July 10- Highlands Hammock Butterfly Count – A chance to see numerous species of swallowtail and always the Little Metal-mark. Make sure you bring bug repellent and shoes you don't mind getting wet! Also, bring picnic lunch.

*Take I-95 to Blue Heron. Go West to the Beeline (710). The Beeline through Indiantown to SR70. Go West on SR70 through Okeechobee to SR98. Go North on SR98 to SR27. Go North on SR27 into Sebring. Take a left onto Highlands Hammock Rd. (also called 634. Landmarks: traffic signal and Bar-B-Que restaurant). We will meet at the Ranger Station at **9:00am**. ~2 ½ hours from WPB.*

Saturday, July 16 - Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park Butterfly Count— Kissimmee Prairie has the highest diversity of butterflies in the state of Florida.

*Take I-95 to Blue Heron. Go west to SR 710 (Bee Line Highway). Take SR 710 to Okeechobee which is approximately 70 miles. At Highway 70, turn left (west) and continue through the city of Okeechobee Turn right onto Hwy.98 and continue about 15 minutes. Turn right (north) on SR 700 and continue for another 15 minutes. Bring a picnic lunch. We will meet at **9:00am** at the main entrance kiosk.*

Sunday, July 17, 2005—Sue Arnold's Wildlife Rehabilitation Center Butterfly Count

Take I-95 to Blue Heron. Go west to SR 710 (Bee Line Highway). Take SR 710 to Okeechobee which is approximately 70 miles. At Highway 70, turn left (west) and continue through the city of Okeechobee. Turn right onto 441 (Parrot Ave.) and continue north about 10 minutes. Take a left onto NW 144th Street and go about 2 1/2 miles. Take a left on NW 30th Terrace. You will see a sign here for Arnold's. Continue to the end of the road. We will meet at 9:00 by the butterfly garden.

Upcoming Meetings

Meetings will now be held at Pine Jog Environmental Education Center in West Palm Beach. Take I-95 to West Palm Beach (Forest Hill exit.) Turn West on Forest Hill Blvd. & go to Jog road. Go North on Jog Rd. to Summit Blvd. Turn East on Summit Blvd. Look for the Pine Jog entrance on the North side of Summit Blvd. **Meetings begin at 7 p.m.**

Monday, January 31, 2005—Don Stillwaugh, a biologist with Pinellas County, will tell us all about the Swallowtails of Florida. Don gave an amazing presentation last January about Hairstreaks. Don't miss this one! You will learn a lot!

BUTTERFLY BASH -SPECIAL MEETING
Sunday, April 3, 2005 2:30-4:30PM at Pine Jog There will be two presentations: Ted Fleming will talk about the research he's done on the roosting habits of Zebra Heliconians, and Alana Edwards will show slides of Un-



usual Keys butterflies and their larval plants. There will also be a raffle with a lot of great prizes! A \$3.00 donation is requested. **If you have any small butterfly items or plants that you would like to donate, please bring them along! We will be raffling and selling items as a fundraiser.**

May 16, 2005—Rick Cech, author of the new *Butterflies of the East Coast : An Observer's Guide*, will tell us about his adventures while writing this beautiful book (I've already had a sneak peek! It's amazing!). Order your copy today so that you'll have it for the meeting when he will sign your book.

Monday, June 20, 2005—At this meeting we will prepare for the 4th of July Butterfly Count. We encourage you to attend this meeting even if you don't plan to count at one of the public sites as there will be an ID Slide show at the end of the meeting.

Special Events

Mounts Plant Sale — Sat, April 23 9-5 and Sunday April 24 9-4. *Take I-95 and exit at Belvedere Road. Go west about 2.5 miles to Military Trail. Turn left (south) on Military Trail and stay in the right hand lane. Go about 0.2 miles. Turn right onto Golf Road (at the Division for Driver's License) and park at the Hutcheson Agriculture Center. Call 561/233-1757 for more information.*

Naturescaping: An Earth Day Event at John D. MacArthur Beach State Park—Saturday, April 16, 2005, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. *Naturescaping: An Earth Day Event* Call 561/624-6950 for more information.

DuPuis Management Area's Earth Day—Saturday, April 23, 2005. 10 a.m.—2 p.m. Presentations, activities for kids, bus tour and more! Call (561) 686-8800, ext. 3339.

(Dream job —continued from page 1)

A little about the McGuire Center and butterfly rainforest...these really are a must see! You can peer into the Miami Blue lab and see the butterflies and scientists working on them. This spring, a cadre of researchers will be hired to conduct a variety of lepidoptera-related research projects. Three floors of specimens will be housed at the center, making it the largest collection in the U.S. Another gee whiz figure: At any given time, there are 2,000 individual butterflies in the rainforest, with up to 70 species, although the museum has permits for 120 species that can be seen throughout the year. We had the good fortune of seeing an atlas moth last week that had just been released—a not so common sight given they are resource-intensive to rear as caterpillars, so the museum does not routinely get them in as cocoons. Be sure to visit on a warm, sunny day, as the butterflies will not be active under about 50 – 60 degrees or when it's shady. Try to visit during the week after lunch (after the school children) or on a non-holiday weekend. There were 2,500 visitors the day after Thanksgiving, which was more than on opening day in August!

If you know of a 4-H group that might like to participate in Project Butterfly WINGS, please let me know. Or if you simply will be up in the Gainesville area and want to stop in, let me know that too. You can e-mail me at kmalone@flmnh.ufl.edu or call me at the museum at (352) 846-2000, ext. 488. I hope you will come by!

*Editor's Note:
 The Atala Chapter wants to sincerely thank Kathy for everything that she has done over the past ten years to help keep our chapter running. **Best of luck to you and we'll miss you!***



Kathy in the field with her new coworkers, Nikole Kadel and Marilyn Roberts

MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

*Spotlight on
The Everetts*



Our involvement with butterflies began when we met. Jack had always been artistic. On our first date he even showed me pictures of his oil paintings! I'd always been interested in and involved with the environment and organics. We live in Wellington. The clear cutting of the land had begun for the Wellington Mall, which tore at my heart strings each time I drove by.

Coinciding with all of this, we visited the Epcot English butterfly garden and Jack (John) saw a program on TV with Alana being interviewed by Steve Bass. We decided that a butterfly garden would allow us to "think globally and act locally". We would create our own butterfly garden, providing an environment in which butterflies could thrive!

Thus began our research (we were totally ignorant on the subject). We immersed ourselves in butterfly info and picked out a spot in front of our kitchen window to begin our butterfly garden. Jack went to set out our first passion flower vine. Before he could even place it on the ground, a Gulf Fritillary came and started laying eggs on it. We were hooked! He was fascinated and I realized that the butterflies truly needed these plants!

Jack was stimulated artistically and went off to a pawn shop to buy his first camera, then a used camera store to get his first macro lens when he discovered that he would need it to take better photos. Our initial research had shown us very few quality shots of different butterflies in their different stages of their life cycle. I asked that he get as many as possible. We also had discovered that many butterfly photos were either of dead or inhumanely treated butterflies. So, I also asked that he only photograph them in their own habitat. In our quest we were led to many fellow Atala Chapter members who inspired us and helped us out at various stages. Jack queried Teri Jabour at the Master Gardener building at Mounts. The connection was

revitalized more when I went to volunteer at Blowing Rocks Preserve.

During a visit to the Fair Penni Redford Bullard spent much time with us explaining the process, showing us plants and encouraging us. We met Jim & Colleen Wiiggins who invited us to their home. Colleen's love, caring and sharing of her knowledge coupled with Jim's great photos further inspired and stimulated us (Colleen's teaching of the children was personally inspiring to me). Donna Leone, Carl Terwilliger and the Abells were incredibly helpful with plants, contacts and much more. Marthanne Mitchell, Ann Kilmer, Evelyn Somerville, Barbara Liberman, Kathy Malone, Barbara Kuebler, Dale Ruth, Hal Wiedemann, and the Edwards were all great examples.

Through all of this Jack kept photographing and teaching himself more about the process. His photos were incredible and through Teri he got an exhibit of his work first at the Nature Conservancy's Blowing Rocks Preserve then at the Disney Wilderness Preserve. In Kissimmee, we were blessed to meet Buck and Linda Cooper. They shared their knowledge and love of butterflies along with inspiring us as a couple sharing butterfly activities.

Jack has won several local and national photographic awards and continues to exhibit his work at different parks and other sites. In February look for them at the Wellington library! Inspired by the aforementioned people and others and my husbands wonderful photos I've been on a mission of education. I've

helped establish butterfly gardens at different schools, churches, youth and senior citizens centers. I also go to these places and others, teaching the butterfly life cycle and gardening for butterflies.

It continues to amaze me where that first passion flower vine has led us. Our whole yard is now a butterfly and wildlife habitat in the middle of suburbia. Jack will continue his new found passion for photography. I will continue to strive to help children of all ages to learn about butterflies and how they can do their part in helping to save these fantastic creatures from extinction. Thanks to all of you, mentioned or not, for your love, sharing, caring and inspirations!



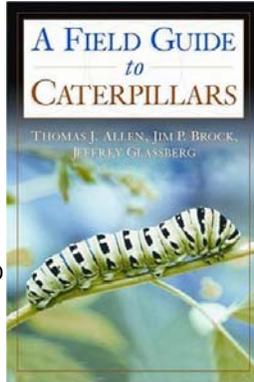
**Common Buckeye
Photo by Jack Everett**

Books of Interest.....

with commentary from Amazon

A Field Guide to Caterpillars by Thomas J. Allen, Jim P. Brock & Jeffrey Glassberg *Due to be released Feb. 28, 2005*

This is the most comprehensive guide to these creatures available. It contains all the information necessary to find and identify the caterpillars of North America--from Two-tailed Swallowtails, some of the largest butterfly caterpillars at just over two inches when fully grown, to tiny Western Pygmy-Blues. Caterpillar seekers will learn how to distinguish between butterfly caterpillars and moth caterpillars, where and how to find caterpillars, and the visual differences between young and older caterpillars. Each species section describes how to identify the caterpillar, complete with brilliant photos. To make for easy field use, each caterpillar's key physical features, abundance, habitat, and major hostplants are listed on the same page as its photo. The book also contains a special section on butterfly gardening, how to raise healthy butterfly caterpillars, and provides a thorough list of the plants butterflies most like to feast on. From the concerned gardener

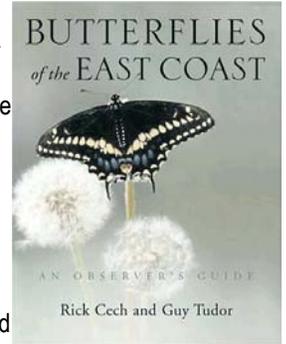


who wishes not to kill caterpillars that may one day become beautiful butterflies to the serious butterfly wishing to take the hobby to the next level, this remarkable guide will provide all of the information necessary for an enriching caterpillar experience.

Butterflies of the East Coast : An Observer's Guide by Rick Cech & Guy Tudor *Due to be released April 2005*

Rick Cech is a seasoned field observer who has spent years studying and photographing East Coast butterflies. His substantial first-hand experience with both the common and rare species in the region adds much depth and new insight to the commentary.

- 234 full-page species accounts and accompanying range maps
- 950 large-size color photos
- 215 photos of individual host plants and habitats
- 735 high-quality photos of butterflies and caterpillars
- Introductory chapters detailing the subtle ecology of the East Coast region
- An overview of current scientific literature and observational findings
- Descriptions of diapause and host plant strategies and defensive chemistry, and
- User-friendly with clear, concise text



ATALA CHAPTER OF THE NORTH AMERICAN BUTTERFLY ASSOCIATION

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*Send your email address to
atala@prodigy.net for updates on
butterfly related topics and events
throughout the year!*

We're on the WEB!

<http://www.naba.org/chapters/nabaac/index.html>