

NABA News and Notes

National Butterfly Center (NBC)

The past few months have seen a number of positive developments at the National Butterfly Center.

First, NABA is very pleased to report that we have a new Executive Director. Norman Winter joined the National Butterfly Center on March 15, 2011. Norman has been executive director of the Texas Pecan Growers Association and of the American Rose Society. Although he was in Georgia, serving as Vice President of Brewton-Parker College before moving to the National Butterfly Center, Norman began his career as the Texas A&M Extension Horticulturist for Hidalgo County, Texas, so he is very familiar with, and comfortable in, the Lower Rio Grande Valley. See the continuation of NABA News and Notes on pg 39) for more about Norman Winter.

Second, NABA is in the process of selecting landscape architects to design the gardens around the newly completed Visitors Pavilion. NABA formed a committee, chaired by landscape architect Fritz Steiner, who is Dean of the School of Architecture at the University of Texas at Austin; and including Wendy Evans Joseph, the architect (along with her partner, Chris Cooper) of the Visitors Pavilion; Norman Winter, Executive Director of the National Butterfly Center; Lawrence Sheerin, President of Starr Produce; and Jeffrey Glassberg, president of NABA.

NABA then invited 20 of the top landscape architect firms in the United States to submit proposals for the new gardens. Sixteen of the firms submitted proposals, many of them quite extensive. From the proposals, the committee selected three firms as finalists. The principal landscape architects of each of these three firms will visit the National Butterfly Center during the first week of May to discuss the project with NABA personnel. Following this visit, NABA will select the landscape architects who will help NABA design what will be ground-breaking and unique gardens.

Third, the National Butterfly Center has hired Chris Watenpool to head the plant nursery. Chris has a strong background in native plants of the Lower Rio Grande Valley and previously grew native plants for the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. She has already overseen an expansion of the plant nursery at the Butterfly Center, more than doubling its space. The new nursery space was constructed by NBC employees Max Muñoz and Homer Gonzalez, assisted by a volunteer crew from Americorps.

Butterfly Gardener

As previously reported, Karen Hilson will be stepping down as Editor of *Butterfly Gardener* following the publication of the Summer 2010 issue. Karen has done a great job and we all owe her our gratitude!

Beginning with the Fall 2010 issue, Jane Hurwitz will become the new editor. We look forward to a continuing evolution at Butterfly Gardener. If you have butterfly gardening information, stories or photos, we encourage you to share them with Jane by mailing them to: Butterfly Gardener, 4 Delaware Rd., Morristown, NJ 07960; or emailing them to hurwitz@naba.org

American Butterflies

American Butterflies is currently seeking an assistant editor. Depending upon the skills of the individual chosen, duties may include soliciting articles for the magazine and/or layout and design. Position includes a modest honorarium. If interested, please email a letter of interest, including relevant background and experience, to: glassberg@naba.org.

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Cover photograph of a Gray Hairstreak caterpillar eating Guayacan flowers was taken on March 20, 2011 at Falcon Heights, Starr Co., TX by Berry Nall. See the article about Gray Hairstreak lifestyles on pg. 22.

Readers Write

There's still the Marquesas

I was saddened to read about the loss of Miami Blues in the fall 2010 issue of *American Butterflies*. As the eminent naturalist William Beebe said

“The beauty and genius of a work of art may be reconceived, though its first material expression be destroyed; a vanished harmony may yet again inspire the composer; but when the last individual of a race of living beings breathes no more, another heaven and another earth must pass before such a one can be again.”

Niki Fuller, Honolulu, HI

Facebook

NABA now has a facebook page! Stay in touch with both national developments and news from the NABA chapters. You can access NABA's facebook page by going to NABA's home page, www.naba.org and click on “Find Us on Facebook”. There you'll find the latest information and photos from NABA and you can post your own comment and photos.

In addition, the National Butterfly Center has its own facebook page. If you would like to stay abreast of developments and butterflies at the National Butterfly Center, either go to the NABA home page and click on “National Butterfly Center” or go to www.nationalbutterflycenter.org and click on “Find Us on Facebook.”

Butterfly Buzz

To receive your NABA member's 10% discount at www.butterflybuzz.com, please enter the code (with the letters in NABA all capitals): NABA410

(NABA News and Notes Continued)

Public Relations

NABA is looking for an individual with a background in publicity and marketing to help NABA reach new audiences. This position includes a modest honorarium. If interested, please email a letter of interest, including relevant background and experience, to: scott@naba.org.

Members Photo Gallery

If you would like one of your photos to be considered for this feature, please submit no more than two, high resolution, interesting and unusual photos of either adult or immature butterflies taken of wild, unmanipulated butterflies or immatures in the United States, Canada, or Mexico. Photos should be in digital form, and should be uncropped and unaltered/ minimally altered. Send your entries on a CD to: NABA Members Gallery, 4 Delaware Rd., Morristown, NJ 07960.

Butterfly Gardens and Habitats

NABA's Butterfly Gardening and Habitat program is continuing its face-lift and expansion. New web pages are emphasizing native plants for butterfly gardens, with photographs, cultural information about garden plants and the butterfly garden certification program.

Experienced butterfly gardeners are invited to participate by providing information on butterfly gardening in their region and/or photographs of butterfly garden plants from their region. We welcome regional garden specialists, garden photographers who wish to share their work, and gardeners who are passionate about native plants.

Interested gardeners should send an email to hurwitz@naba.org requesting more information about the ways that NABA members can participate in spreading the word about butterfly gardening.