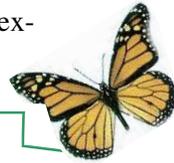




MUDPUPPY'S POND

Butterflies are a Beautiful Part of the World!

Yes, we do see fewer butterflies today than we did fifty years ago. Habitats have changed around where we live. How many abandoned fields are a couple of houses or streets down from where we live? How much time do we spend poking around outdoors in overgrown untended areas in our backyards? Outside, sharp eyes and curiosity and exploring will still find butterflies. Butterflies are fascinating.



True or False?

Butterflies taste with their feet. *(true)*

Butterflies spin cocoons. *(false)*

Butterflies have good eyesight. *(true)*

Some butterflies hibernate. *(true)*

Some butterflies eat carrion. *(true)*

Butterflies will drown if they get wet. *(false)*

A True Miracle!

When the caterpillar turns into the chrysalis, it slowly becomes liquid inside the chrysalis and then reforms into the adult butterfly!



Butterfly Predators: Birds, mice, dragonflies, spiders, toads, preying mantis, lizards, wasps, frogs.

Real NO-NO

Please never buy butterflies for release at special events because of disease and mixing exotic genes.

Did you know...? *Butterfly wings are covered with millions of scales that wear off over time. The scales are what give the butterfly wings their color, pattern, and iridescence. The colors and patterns provide camouflage for some, a warning of poison to predators for others, and eyespot of a flash of bright color to scare away predators for others, and a dark surface to absorb the sun's rays in the morning when the butterfly is warming up. The scales also protect the wings from scratches.*

Butterflies, Come Hither to my Garden!

Plant the right plants and the butterflies will come.

First, a few basic rules:

- Butterflies love sun, so pick a sunny area for your new plants.
- Provide protection from wind, such as shrubs.
- Provide water—a shallow terracotta plant saucer with an island of pebbles is great.
- Use native plant species, not hybrids.
- Place flat rocks around for butterfly basking.
- **NO PESTICIDES** or non-organic fertilizers.

In other words, plant the beautiful flowers that grow in our fields and woods.

Butterflies eat the nectar from some plants and they lay their eggs on other plants (called larval host plants) where the eggs hatch and the caterpillars eat the plant leaves. Surprisingly, the host plants for several of the most common butterflies grow near our houses. Here are some examples: Clovers, dandelions, violets, milkweeds, willow, elm, and cherry trees, sunflowers, bee balm.

A few of the most common Missouri Wildflowers that butterflies use for nectar are: asters, milkweeds, mints, phlox, goldenrod, clover, Queen Anne's Lace, daisy, coreopsis, sunflowers, coneflowers, and blazing stars. Our native flowers never need to be fertilized, sprayed with pesticides, and seldom need to be watered. They were here before we were and they know how to grow by themselves.



Butterflies will come to feeders but not the commercial "butterfly feeders". Butterflies love watermelon slices. They also like bananas that have been frozen and then defrosted (mushy). So a spot in the butterfly garden for a feeding area will attract butterflies. These are such beautiful little beings, just a few plant additions each year and a few adjustments to your yard will encourage them to move in and become your neighbors.

—Carla Bascom