

## Improve Your Butterfly Conservation Skills!

Registration for the Techniques for Butterfly Conservation and Management (TBCM) course is open! This course is part of the American Zoo and Aquarium Association's Professional Training Program and is designed to increase the number of skilled professionals and volunteers available to support butterfly recovery. Participants will be introduced to the key elements of butterfly ecology, field techniques, and butterfly education and outreach. Course participants will include zoo, aquarium and nature center staff and volunteers, federal and state wildlife biologists, and other individuals involved and/or interested in butterfly recovery and conservation throughout the world. The course will be offered 18-20 April 2005 and will be hosted by the McGuire Center for Lepidoptera and Biodiversity, Gainesville, FL. For more details (including costs and travel info) and/or to register for this course, please visit [www.aza.org/prodev/ButterflyCon/](http://www.aza.org/prodev/ButterflyCon/) or contact AZA Training Administrator Geri Noland at [gnoland@aza.org](mailto:gnoland@aza.org) or 301-562-0777 x238.

## Butterflies and BFCI in Kansas City

Butterflies will be a prominent theme at this year's AZA Central Regional Workshop in Kansas City, MO on March 9-12, 2005. Monarch Watch director Dr. Orley "Chip" Taylor will be the keynote speaker and he, the BFCI, and the San Diego Zoo will co-host a workshop on creating successful butterfly education and outreach programs on 10 March. The workshop will include presentations on the new Monarch and Milkweed Initiative, outreach partnerships both on and off zoo and aquarium grounds, a new citizen-scientist monitoring network in Florida, and methods for teaching butterfly biology and behavior to young children. There will also be an Activity Swap, and we encourage educators to bring their favorite butterfly education activities and/or materials to share with your peers! All participants at the Regional Workshop are invited. Please contact Shelly Grow, at the BFCI, if you have any questions ([sgrow@aza.org](mailto:sgrow@aza.org); 301-562-0777 x263).

## Shipping Changes at USDA

USDA-APHIS' new shipping labels will direct all imported butterflies to Beltsville, MD for inspection. This change appears to increase overall shipping time and costs. Before utilizing these new labels, contact Mark Deering at the

Butterfly House ([mark.deering@mobot.org](mailto:mark.deering@mobot.org)) so that he can help you through the new process and can collect information about institutions' experiences with these labels. Mark will monitor changes in mortality caused by longer shipping times and the added costs to importers and will report this information to USDA-APHIS. We hope the butterfly exhibit community can act with a unified voice and to best work with USDA and ensure safe, efficient, and timely imports.

## Sacramento Mountains Checkerspot Butterfly Update

The Sacramento Mountains checkerspot butterfly (photo) is found near Cloudcroft, Otero County, New Mexico. The butterfly was proposed as endangered throughout its range on September 6, 2001. However, this proposal has been withdrawn by the Fish and Wildlife Service (see Federal Register, December 21, 2004 vol. 29, number 244) based on the conclusion that threats facing the species, as identified in the proposed rule, are not as significant as previously believed and therefore the species does not meet the criteria for listing it as threatened or endangered.



Photo: Eric Hein, US Fish and Wildlife Service

## Coming Soon! Butterfly Festival Manual

Planning a butterfly festival? Looking for new ideas? The Toledo Zoo, with support from the George Gund Foundation, has developed a Butterfly Festival Manual to make hosting a butterfly festival easier! The manual provides lists to help you prepare, templates for press releases, hints for getting local sponsors, suggestions for activities, and more! Keep your eyes open - it will be available soon.

## BFCI News

Since the original *BFCI News* was distributed in summer 2003, the BFCI has grown, taken on a staff person, and, in response to member requests, is committing to the production of a bi-monthly newsletter. Help make this newsletter useful to you by sending announcements about upcoming butterfly exhibit openings, butterfly-related workshops or activities your institution is hosting, recovery efforts you're engaged in, news on regulatory changes that affect butterflies and/or the butterfly industry, etc. Please direct this information to Shelly Grow, [sgrow@aza.org](mailto:sgrow@aza.org); 301-562-0777 x263).

## Thanks to Our Supporters

As always, we thank our members, contributors, and partners for their dedication to BFCI's mission and goals.

## Members

(\*\* Founding member; \* Contributor)

- \*\* Abilene Zoo
- \*\* Akron Zoological Park
- \*\* Albuquerque Biological Park
- \*\* Audubon Nature Institute
- \*\* Binder Park Zoo
- \* Brandywine Zoo
- Brookfield Zoo
- \*\* Bronx Zoo/WCS
- The Butterfly House
- \*\* Calgary Zoo, Botanical Garden and Prehistoric Park
- \*\* Central Florida Zoological Park
- \*\* Chaffee Zoological Gardens
- Chesapeake Chapter of the American Association of Zoo Keepers – Salisbury Zoo
- \*\* Cheyenne Mountain Zoo
- \*\* Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden
- \*\* Cleveland Metroparks Zoo
- \*\* Columbus Zoo and Aquarium
- Como Park Zoo and Conservatory
- \*\* Connecticut's Beardsley Zoological Gardens
- \*\*The Dallas World Aquarium
- \*\* Detroit Zoological Institute
- \*\* Disney's Animal Kingdom
- \*\* Friends of the WNC Nature Center
- \*\* Fort Wayne Children's Zoo
- \*\* Henry Vilas Zoo
- Houston Zoo
- \*\* John Ball Park Zoological Garden
- \*\* The Living Desert
- \*\* Louisville Zoological Garden
- \*\* Lowry Park Zoo Eco-Conservation Committee
- \*\* The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore
- \*\* Miami Metrozoo
- \*\* National Aquarium in Baltimore
- \*\* The Oakland Zoo
- \*\* Oklahoma City Zoo & Botanical Garden
- \* Oregon Coast Aquarium
- \*\* Oregon Zoo
- \*\* Potawatomi Zoo
- \*\* Reid Park Zoo – Teen Volunteers
- \*\* Racine Zoological Gardens
- \*\* Roger Williams Park Zoo
- \*\* San Antonio Zoological Gardens and Aquarium
- San Diego Zoo's Wild Animal Park
- \*\* Santa Barbara Zoological Gardens
- \*\* Seneca Park Zoo
- \* Steinhart Aquarium
- \*\* The Toledo Zoo
- \*\* Toronto Zoo
- Utah's Hogle Zoo
- \*\* Vancouver Aquarium
- \*\* Virginia Zoological Park
- \*\* Woodland Park Zoo

## Partners

American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA)  
Environmental Defense  
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National Wildlife Federation  
US Fish and Wildlife Service  
Xerces Society

To learn more about the BFCI, please visit the Web site ([www.aza.org/ConScience/bfci](http://www.aza.org/ConScience/bfci)) or contact Shelly Grow, Program Coordinator ([sgrow@aza.org](mailto:sgrow@aza.org); 301-562-0777 x263).

