



BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION SA INC.

NEWSLETTER

No. 35: Sept, 2009.

NEW MOTH PROJECT FOR BCSA *YOU CAN BE INVOLVED*

A new book is being planned to illustrate and identify caterpillars found in gardens and local reserves. We are seeking high resolution images of any caterpillars you discover. The majority of the caterpillars found will be moths and for many of them, as we do not know what species of moth they turn into, we are keen for members to rear them through to adults. See page 8 for information on how to do this.



This image taken in the Adelaide hills during the 1970's of a snout moth Lasiocampidae *Entometa apicalis?* (gum snout moth) is showing defensive behaviour. See page 3 for further images. Do you have transparencies in your spare room you can share with us. Photo: Jan Herridge (nee Forrest)

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It is with sadness that we report the death of member Duncan Rose of Houghton

WE NEED YOUR HELP AT THE FOLLOWING EVENTS:

Australian Plant Society Sale Wayville Showgrounds:

Saturday 10th October 10.00am - 12.30pm / 12.30pm - 2.30pm / 2.30pm - 5.00pm

Sunday 11th October, 10.00am - 12noon / 12noon - 2.00pm / 2.00pm - 4.00pm

Channel 7 Gardening and Outdoor Show: Allan Scott Park (Morphettville Racecourse)

Fri. 16th October, Sat. 17th Oct. and Sunday 18th Oct. 9.30 - 5.00pm. **Stall A, 1st floor.**

(3 sessions each day) 9.30am - 12noon / 12noon - 2.30pm / 2.30pm - 5.00pm.

Butterfly Festival 66 Ridley Grove, Woodville Gardens: 24th October 9.00am - 2.00pm

(2 sessions) 9.00am - 11.30am / 11.30am - 2.00pm

CONTACT: Jan Forrest 8297 8230 if you can help look after our stall at any of these events with dates and times you can attend and your contact details. Jan will return your call and advise the arrangements for collecting entry and parking permits to these events.

BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION SA. INC. for membership enquiries and annual membership payments (\$10):
Treasurer: 5 Oakleigh Road, MARION. 5043 S.AUST.

BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION SA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2009

The year saw Andy Young off to the jungles of Africa, Jill Davey Warren to New Zealand on a butterfly trip and Jan Forrest to Alaska; yes Jan did see at least four butterfly species. A national moth conference has just been held in Canberra and Andy will be reporting from that in a later newsletter.



Thanks to the work of the committee for their dedication and through Jan it has been another successful year for BCSA. Special thanks to our treasurer, Rowen Moore for keeping us in the black and with the sales of our book.

The highlights in our newsletter and activities have been:

- Excursion to Hallett Cove: Victor Gostin (geologist), Roger Grund (our butterfly guru) to see the rare 'Black and White sedge skippers' and explain the unique natural history environment at Hallett Cove.
- Disc of newsletters has been produced from 1 to 30 'the first ten years' we thank Trevor Rowe for doing the index, it was quite a challenge!
- Moth conservation was introduced and coincides with Peter Marriot's moth books produced by the Victorian Entomologist Society. During 'bring in your bugs', a SA Museum initiative saw a rare sun moth, which is endangered in Australia and not lodged in the South Australian Museum since the 1940's.
- Butterfly Challenge introduced (campaign for schools and community) in conjunction with the South Australian Museum's Backyard Biodiversity Program. Including the production of a Museum produced flyer promoting the challenge and inclusion of the challenge on the SA Museum website. Thanks Jan for the education programs helping to spread the butterfly word.
- Book reviews and recommendations
- Educational newsletter articles on protecting butterflies and habitats.
- Talks to environmental and Landcare groups continued.
- Displays and information booths at shopping centres, expositions with outreach exhibition panels.
- Members of Butterfly Conservation SA are working with staff at the SA Museum to provide three butterfly panels in the new Biodiversity Gallery which promote butterfly gardening.
- Thanks to members and others for their contributions to the newsletter, it is vital to keep the information and interest going. We are always looking for photos/stories of moths and butterflies.
- Memberships have grown each year to over 200.

We are looking forward to more of the same in the coming year with emphasis on education and promotion of Lepidoptera in general.

David Keane
Chairman

A big thank you to those that helped out on the BCSA information stand at the recent SAMuseum Roadshow 'Backyard Biodiversity' at Westfield MARION in June, and Westfield WEST LAKES during September.

At the 'Bring Us Your Bugs Day' on Oct 7th (see page 7) we hope that lots of caterpillars will be brought in for identification.

If you can help to 'caterpillar sit' some of these animals and rear them through to adults please contact Jan Forrest.

SNOUT MOTHS (Lasiocampidae) *continued from page 3.*

The adults are medium to large sized moths with broad forewings and often much smaller triangular rear wings. Not all species of Lasiocampid have the 'snout' which is actually a pair of modified palps.



***Entometa apicalis* (Walker, 1855)**
 (previously known as :
Lebeda apicalis)
LASIOCAMPIDAE

The adult moths of this species have brown forewings with dark markings, and orange hindwings.

The males are smaller than, and have similar coloration to the females, but have forewings that are narrower and have darker markings. The males have feathery antennae, and the females have thread-like antennae. The wingspan of the males is about 7 cms. The wingspan of the females is about 9 cms.

The caterpillar images above were taken in the 1970's and although the slides say *E. apicalis* this species may be *E. fervens*. The only way to find out is to find and rear more caterpillar through to adulthood. Photos: Jan Herridge (nee Forrest),

For more information about moths and their caterpillars go to the website on Australian Moths and Caterpillars by Don Herbison-Evans and Stella Crossley (donherbison-evans@yahoo.com). Adult photos came from the CSIRO 'moths on line' site www.ento.csiro.au/gallery/moths/index.php.



BRINGING NATURE HOME

Dr. Douglas Tallamy, University of Delaware
How you can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants.

Even though this book relates to American plants it can be adapted to anywhere in the world. Here is a summary of the content.

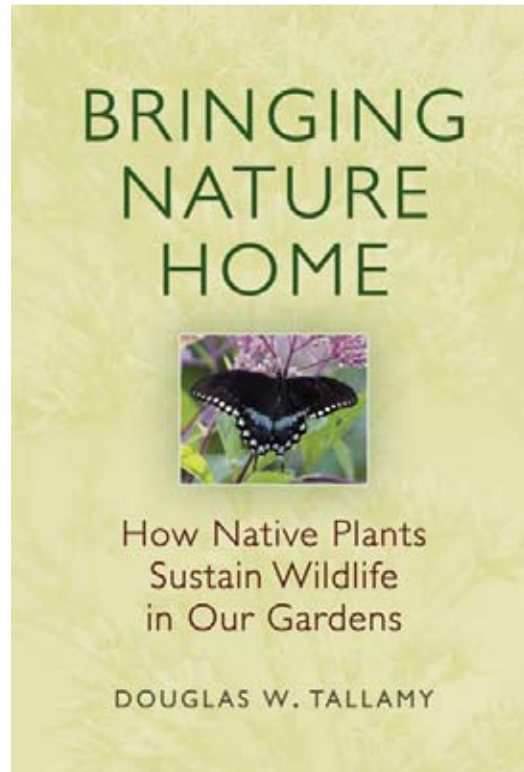
WITH THE ACCELERATING PACE of development and subsequent habitat destruction, the pressures on wildlife populations are greater than they have ever been in our nation's history. Fortunately there is still time to reverse this alarming trend, and gardeners have the power to make a significant contribution toward sustaining biodiversity.

As this revelatory book eloquently explains, there is an unbreakable link between native plant species and native wildlife. Indeed, most native insects cannot, or will not, eat alien plants. When native plant species disappear or are replaced by alien exotics, the insects disappear, this impoverishing the food source for birds and other animals. In many parts of the world, habitat destruction has been so extensive that local wildlife populations are in crisis and may well be headed toward extinction.

By favouring native plants, gardeners can provide a welcoming environment for wildlife of all kinds. This doesn't necessarily entail a drastic overhaul of existing gardens. The process can be gradual and can reflect both the gardener's preferences and local sensitivities.

To help concerned gardeners, this clearly reasoned account includes helpful lists of native plants for different regional habitats.

Healthy local ecosystems are not only beautiful and fascinating; they are also essential to human well-being. By heeding Douglas Tallamy's affecting arguments and acting upon his practical recommendations, gardeners everywhere can make a difference.



Part 2 of the Moths of Victoria is now available from Entomological Soc. of Victoria.



Moths of Victoria - Part 2
Tiger Moths and Allies

			
OENOSANDRIDAE Stub Moths	NOFODONTIDAE Notodontid Moths	LYMANTRIIDAE Tussock Moths	ARCTIIDAE Tiger Moths/Footmen
		Part 2 features approximately 150 species in six families. Format is the same as Part 1 with every known moth in these families illustrated to scale as set moths and many presented as photos in natural positions. Publication date: mid 2009.	
NOLIDAE Nolids	HERMINIIDAE Herminid Moths		

The Entomological Society of Victoria is progressively publishing booklets covering all species of Victorian Moths using a seed grant from the Norman Wettenhall Foundation. Sales of each book will be used to fund following books. Parts 2 to 5 are in preparation now.

People wishing to be informed of Part 2 and future books are invited to register their interest with the Society:
secretary@entsocvic.org.au
or c/- 8 Adam St. Bentleigh, 3204



WHAT'S KILLING OUR BUTTERFLIES?

Part 2 - D.Keane

Many caterpillars are being eliminated by chemical use in the garden



Photos: above, caterpillar of the Dingy Swallowtail butterfly LFHunt.



right, caterpillars of the Common Grass-blue butterfly.

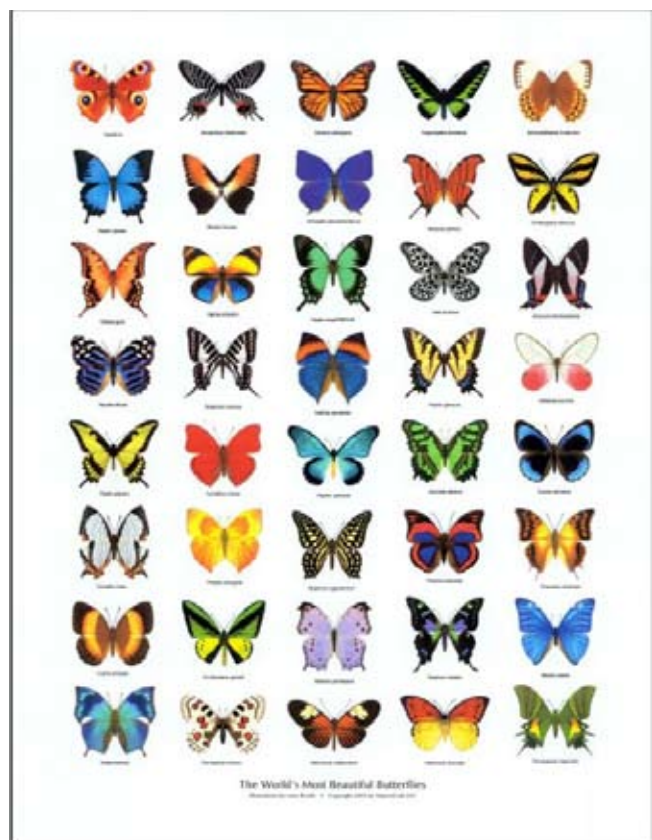
For more butterfly caterpillar pictures refer to 'Attracting Butterflies to your garden' the 2007 book by Butterfly Conservation SA. Members price \$20 plus \$6 postage for one book (retails \$29.95) contact Secretary Jan Forrest C/- SAMuseum, North Terrace, ADELAIDE. 5000.

Pesticides and Fungicides recommended for use in gardens in the 1940's & 1960's (some are still used today in 2008). The information is taken from books etc and is meant as guide to what may be still around in sheds and stores.			
Pesticides products used in the past		Pesticides products still used today	
Aldrin	Fenthion	Name	Comments (green safest)
Azinphos Ethyl	Lead Arsenate	Malathion (called Maldison in Australia)	When broken down it turns to Malaoxon (60 times more toxic)
Azinphos Methyl	Lime Sulphur	Pyrethrum	One of the most natural insecticides used today
BHC	Lindane	Bug Gun	Look for toxic properties
Carbaryl	Malathion	Mavrik (synthetic pyrethoid)	Broad spectrum killer. Kills aquatic life
	(Maldison)		
Chlordane	Menazon	Folimat (Omethoate)	Dangerous to bees. Acute toxicity
Chlorfenson	Methaldehyde	Kelthane (Dicofol)	Toxic to aquatic invertebrates and birds
DDT	Melvinphos	Rogor	(Cyclohexanone) Toxic
Demeton, /Methyl	Nicotine Sulphate	Carbaryl	Carcinogen from Union Carbide
Derris (Rotenone)	Oil Sprays	Lebaycid (fenthion)	Possible risks of irreversible effects/ health
Diazinon	Parathion	Mancozeb Plus	50% sulphur/toxic
Dichlorvos	Phosphamidon	Dipel (Bacillus thuringiensis) Bacterium	Toxic to all Caterpillars
Dicofol (Kelthane)	Soap, Soda	Derris dust (Rotenone)	A biocide (insects/mites) Toxic to humans and fish
Dieldrin	Tetradifon	Bordeaux	Copper sulphate & hydrated lime
Dimethoate	Thiometon	Nemacur	Toxic/hydrocarbons
Endrin	Toxaphhene	Diazinon	Highly toxic to water life and birds
Ethion	Vamidothion	Cyfluthrin	Suspected human organ toxicity
Fenson (PCPBS)	Zineb	Note: Suggested safer products – use as directed	
Note: Most above are no longer used in Australia.		Whilst products will have a specific target they can cause harmful environmental and human consequences. There are 1000's more on the market to combat pests and other wildlife.	
'Dangerous chemicals are often disguised in brands with catchy safe sounding names'			

CONSERVATION OF MOTHS

Moths contribute much in the reduction in fuel loads in forests, woodland and grasslands throughout the world; they are the mulching machines, munchers and pollinators when the sun goes down. Moths are second to bees in the pollination of flowers and the only insects besides carpet beetles that can digest and breakdown fur and hair.

One of these posters below are moths, the other butterflies. Can you tell which is which?



These striking posters by artist Larry Booth can be ordered from the website ‘Butterflybuzz.com’

2008 - 2009 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

STARTING BALANCE	\$6,116.28	at	01/07/2008
INCOMING			
Memberships	\$2,570.00		
Books	\$7,005.06		
Signs	\$448.60		
Donation	\$473.00		
Interest	\$234.05		
CD	\$113.00		
Unaccounted deposits	\$100.00		
TOTAL	\$10,943.71		
OUTGOING			
BBB	\$3,284.50		
Signs	\$0.00		
Admin	\$665.27		
Bank	\$4.00		
TOTAL	\$3,953.77		
TOTAL BALANCE	\$13,106.22		
Bank balance 30/06/2009	\$12,532.83		
*undeposited funds	\$573.45		

* money earned in 08-09 deposited after financial year

NOTES FROM THE 2008-09 AGM

Thanks were expressed to outgoing committee members Jill Davy and Trevor Rowe for their outstanding service to BCSA over many years. Trevor will continue to update the BCSA website and Jill will continue to monitor nearby book stores for stocks of our book. Rowan Moore will continue on the committee, however he has relinquished his role as Treasurer. Thanks were expressed to Rowan for his work as Treasurer during such a busy time following the book launch.

Welcome to new Treasurer Mike Moore and committee member Vanessa Duran-Racero.

It was agreed to extend the option for members to pay up to 5 years in advance.

Agreed that a category of life membership be included in the constitution at the next AGM. The committee to work out wording and a fee scale.

A motion to increase membership fee for those that receive their newsletter by post **was lost**. This was considered difficult to administer however members that receive their newsletter by post are to be encouraged to provide their email address and tick the box which indicates they are happy to receive their newsletter via email.

What's killing our butterflies

continued from page 5

The Orchard butterfly (*Papilio aegeus aegeus*) below are a rare visitor to Adelaide gardens. The caterpillars feed on citrus and are often poisoned by growers and horticulturists. The caterpillars look like bird droppings and are unwelcome by them, the design is to camouflage against predators. 'This butterfly was more common in the Mt Lofty Ranges during the early 1970's'. Ref: Butterflies of South Australia, Fisher.

The information in this article is of a general nature and warns against improper and unnecessary use of chemicals. Always read the label and follow manufacturer's advice. Natural means of control is encouraged by Butterfly Conservation SA.



Above: Male Orchard butterfly *Papilio aegeus aegeus*.
Below female and caterpillar. Photos RHFisher.



Quote from Francis Bacon 1561-1625:
"God Almighty first planted a garden; and indeed it is the purest of human pleasures" Ref: *Reader's Digest 1967 (I wonder if God meant that his animals would be deprived for what humans call pleasure).*

INVITATION to all 'Butterfly people' to a get-together in Sydney.

WHEN: Sat 21st and Sunday 22nd November.
 VENUE: not provided
 COST: for the two days is \$A178 and includes lunch, morning and afternoon teas.
 CONTACT: skyeblackburn@hotmail.com OR jacqui@madambutterfly.co.nz OR jacqui@monarch.org.nz

Saturday 21st November 2009
 8.30am Registration
 9am Welcome Skye Blackburn
 9.15am The Evolution of Butterflies Eddie Tsyrlin
 9.45am Introduction to Butterflies of Australia D Herbison-E.
 10.30am BREAK
 10.45am Developing Your Business/Marketing JKnight
 11.15am Exhibits & Displays Eddie Tsyrlin
 11.45am BREAK to set up for Teleconference
 Midday IBBA New Orleans, USA Link Up All (Keynote Speaker in New Orleans)
 1pm LUNCH
 2pm Photographing Butterflies Don Herbison-Evans
 2.30pm Optional visit to Sydney's Wildlife World - Admission \$A31.95 per person, complimentary Guided Tour courtesy Head Invertebrate Keeper
 OR Free time until evening programme
 7pm Meet for Sydney Harbour Dinner Cruise not included in Conference price (optional)

Sunday 22nd November 2009
 8.30am Coffee & Mix & Mingle
 9am Monarch Host Plants Jacqui Knight
 9.30am Presentation(s) to Schools Skye Blackburn
 10.30am BREAK
 11am Hydroponics vs Soil Rick Donnan
 11.30am Migration & Tagging Jacqui Knight
 Midday LUNCH
 1pm Integrated Pest Management Skye Blackburn
 1.30pm Nigel Venters' Handpairing Video P Humphreys
 2pm Butterflies as a Tourist Attraction Fiona Barden, Coffs Harbour Butterfly House, Bonville, NSW
 2.45pm Q&A
 3pm Conclusion

Contact Jan Forrest for a copy of this email.

BREEDING BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS

To breed caterpillars you need to collect the correct food plant. This is the plant on which the caterpillar is feeding. Some caterpillars feed on a specific plant species others on plants of a similar type such as grasses, gums and pea flowering.

One option is to use a potted plant with a cover made from flywire fastened to a frame. This arrangement is suitable for breeding caterpillars or for confining ovipositing females.

Another option is to use an aquarium where fresh cut food plant is placed on a daily basis.

Some moth caterpillars pupate underground and will require a few centimetres of soil and leaf litter in which to burrow. They may remain underground for several months.

Other caterpillars require leaves or stems to form a shelter in which they form a cocoon (moths) or chrysalis.

When the butterfly or moth emerges their wings will be wet and crumpled. They need to be able to climb up onto a stem or 'ladder' to fully expand and dry their wings.

Recording and photographing all stages of development is important to ensure our knowledge of each species is expanded. Please make sure you send your photographs to BCSA with details such as locality and dates for each species recorded with permission for us to use your images in our book, newsletter and displays.

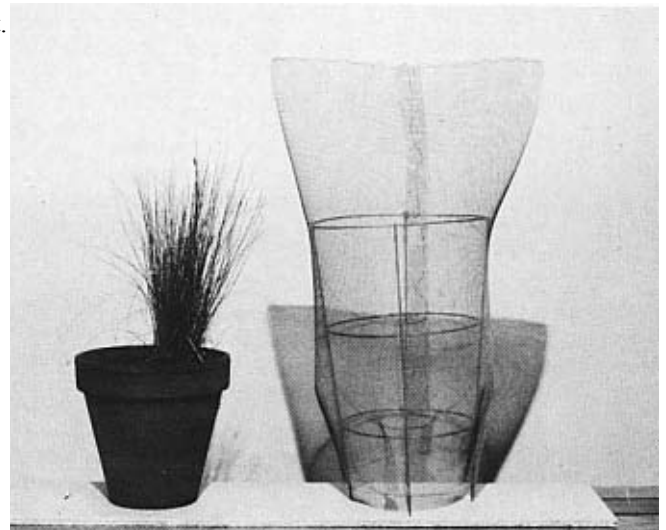


Illustration from 'Butterflies of South Australia' RHFisher 1978 page 63 see further details on breeding.

BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION SA Inc.

Chairman: David Keane

Secretary and Newsletter Editor: Jan Forrest OAM C/- South Australian Museum, North Terrace, ADELAIDE, 5000 ph (08) 8207 7503.

email <jan.forrest@samuseum.sa.gov.au > or <forrestjan@adam.com.au>

Treasurer : 5 Oakleigh Road, MARION. 5043 S.AUST.

OUTREACH PROGRAM

The full exhibition and AO size panels from the Exhibition "Where have all the Butterflies gone?" are available from Jan Forrest at the South Australian Museum for use by Landcare and other Conservation groups at seminars, conferences and workshops or just for display. Included are five introductory panels, and seventeen panels from seven habitat areas: Coastal, Grasses, Mallee, Urban, Migration/Vagrant, Eucalyptus Forrest/Woodland, Arid, Wetland and Lower South East.

DIARY DATES

MEETINGS - Committee meetings are normally held bi-monthly (usually the second Monday of the month) at 6.00pm in the Urrbrae Wetlands Resource Centre, Cross Roads, Urrbrae or at a committee members home. All members are welcome to attend. If you would like to attend please contact Secretary Jan Forrest.

Next Meeting: 12th October 6.00pm, 30 Churchill Avenue, CLARENCE PARK.

Aust. Plant Soc. sale and display: Sat 10th 10-5 and Sun 11th October, 10-4.

Channel 7 Gardening and Outdoor Renovation Show: Allan Scott Park (Morphettville Ricecourse) Fri 16, Sat 17 and Sun 18 October 9.30am - 5pm.

Butterfly Festival Ridley Grove: 24th Oct. 9am - 2pm

WEB SITES

"Butterfly Gardening" - www.butterflygardening.net.au

'Butterfly Conservation SA Inc.' <http://www.chariot.net.au/~bcsa/index.htm>

'South Australian Butterflies' (Roger Grund private site)

- <http://www.chariot.net.au/~rgrund/index.htm>

'Butterfly Watch' and 'Butterfly Challenge' - SAMuseum website

www.samuseum.sa.gov.au then click on 'Whats On' then 'online exhibitions'.

Teacher Resources (Jackie Miers) - http://www.teachers.ash.org.au/jmresources/butadelaide/Butterflies_of_Adelaide.html

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

Sally SHAW

Nele FINDLAY

Jane MANIFOLD

Valerie WEBB

Mandy WILD

KESAB

Helen STEINWEDEL

Jasmin ROSE

Libby NEULING

Ashley BERGEESH

MODBURY SCHOOL

REMINDER NOTICES FOR OUTSTANDING

MEMBERSHIP FEES WERE MAILED WITH THE LAST NEWSLETTER AND A NUMBER OF FEES FOR THE 2009-2010 FINANCIAL YEAR ARE STILL OUTSTANDING.

If you are unsure of your financial status please call secretary Jan Forrest.

