



BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION SA Inc.

NEWSLETTER

No. 10: March 2002

ATTRACTING BUTTERFLIES TO YOUR GARDEN

Certain plants are needed to attract butterflies to the garden, as a nectar source, a meeting place and for protection from predators. A garden should not be just a collection of plants which you like or are given, but rather a balanced environment attractive to living things.

“All man-made gardens are artificial to some extent and the more we try to impose order and tidiness on our surroundings the more we are interfering with nature” Newman (1967). Ref: Butterfly Conservation by T.R. New, a highly recommended read.

Butterflies are said to be “cold-blooded” and need a certain amount of warmth before they can become active. As soon as they are mobile they will search for the warmest, sheltered spot to bask in the



Photo R.H.Fisher Dainty (or Dingy) Swallowtail *Papilio anactus*

sunshine and then find a nectar source for refueling. The basic needs for butterflies are nectar, scent and bright colours. It is obvious that a garden which is cold, windswept, exposed, dark, neat and awash with pesticides has no attractions for butterflies, and they are not going to visit you.

Added artificial attractions in the garden can be “butterfly feeders”, but these are usually in enclosures such as butterfly houses. Like bird feeders they can entice butterflies to the garden with rewards. Usually they are a platform with bright coloured dishes which contain a syrup mixture of sugar and water. The downside of this is that bees and wasps are also attracted.

Inside this issue:

- Attracting Butterflies to your garden
- A checklist of Butterfly species for Scott Creek Conservation Park
- Butterfly Conservation in Action—members notes
- Membership renewal
- Nature Foundation SA
- National Community Link Awards
- New Members
- Notes
- Diary Dates

**EXCURSION:
Sometime in
October or
November to
Glenshera CP
Swamp near Mt.
Compass**

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A CHECKLIST OF BUTTERFLIES FOR SCOTT CREEK CONSERVATION PARK

Compiled by Roger Grund

BUTTERFLY	COMMON NAME	CONSERVATION STATUS in S.A.	PRESENCE IN PARK
SKIPPERS			
<i>Hesperilla chrysotricha cyclopsila</i>	Chrysotricha Skipper	V	Not seen. A possible candidate for reintroduction
<i>Hesperilla donnysa form delos</i>	Donnysa Skipper	L	Localized
<i>Hesperilla idothea clara</i>	Flame Skipper	V	Not yet recorded, but favourable habitat present
<i>Motasingha trimaculata trimaculata</i>	Dingy four-spot Skipper	R	Very scarce
<i>Ocybadistes walkeri hypochlora</i>	Southern Grassdart	L	Not yet recorded, but favourable habitat present
<i>Taractrocera papyria papyria</i>	White-banded Grassdart	R	Very scarce
<i>Trapezites phigalia</i>	Phigalia Skipper	V	Very scarce
TRUE BUTTERFLIES			
SWALLOWTAILS			
<i>Papilio anaetus</i>	Dingy Swallowtail	L	The odd vagrant seen. Breeds in citrus orchards & urban gardens
<i>Papilio demoleus sthenelus</i>	Chequered Swallowtail	NVa	Not yet recorded, but the odd vagrant likely to pass through in good years
WHITES AND YELLOWS			
<i>Belenois java teutonia</i>	Caper White	M	Migrant. Seen in spring
<i>Delias aganippe</i>	Wood White	R	The odd vagrant seen. Does not appear to be breeding in park
<i>Eurema milax</i>	Small Grass-yellow	M	Migrant. Seen in spring
<i>Pieris rapae rapae</i>	Cabbage White	C	Occasionally seen
BRUSHFOOT BUTTERFLIES			
<i>Danaus chrysippus petilia</i>	Lesser Wanderer	L	Occasionally seen
<i>Danaus plexippus plexippus</i>	Wanderer, Monarch	C	Occasionally seen
<i>Geitoneura acantha ocrea</i>	Ringed Xenica	R	Scarce in the damp gulleys
<i>Geitoneura klugii</i>	Common Xenica	C	Common
<i>Heteronympha merope merope</i>	Common Brown	C	Very common
<i>Junonia villida calybe</i>	Meadow Argus	C	Occasionally seen
<i>Polyura sempronius</i>	Tailed Emperor	R	Not yet recorded, but the odd vagrant likely to pass through in good years. Breeds in urban

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A checklist of Butterflies for Scott Creek Conservation Park continued from page 2

BUTTERFLY	COMMON NAME	CONSERVATION STATUS in S.A.	PRESENCE IN PARK
BRUSHFOOT BUTTERFLIES			
continued			
<i>Vanessa itea</i>	Australian Admiral	L	Occasionally seen
<i>Vanessa kershawi</i>	Australian Painted Lady	C	Occasionally seen
COPPERS AND BLUES			
<i>Candalides heathi heathi</i>	Rayed Blue	R	Not yet recorded, but favourable habitat present
<i>Erina(Candalides) acasta</i>	Blotched Dusky-blue	L	Localized
<i>Hypochrysops ignita ignita</i>	Fiery Jewel	V	Not seen
<i>Jalmenus icilius</i>	Icilius Hairstreak	R	Not yet recorded, but favourable habitat present. Occurs in adjacent areas
<i>Lampides boeticus</i>	Long-tailed Pea-blue	L	Localized
<i>Lucia limbaria</i>	Small Copper	R	Not yet recorded, but favourable habitat present
<i>Nacaduba biocellata biocellata</i>	Two-spotted Line-blue	C	Scarce
<i>Neolucia agricola agricola</i>	Fringed Heath-blue	L	Not yet recorded, but favourable habitat present
<i>Ogyris amaryllis meridionalis</i> (coastal form)	Amaryllis Azure	C	Very scarce
<i>Ogyris genoveva genua</i>	Genoveva Azure	R	Localized
<i>Ogyris olane</i>	Olane Azure	L	Localized
<i>Theclinesstes miskini miskini</i>	Wattle Blue	L	Not yet recorded, but favourable habitat present
<i>Theclinesstes serpentata serpentata</i>	Salt-bush Blue	C	Not yet recorded, but favourable habitat present
<i>Zizina labradus labradus</i>	Common Grass-blue	C	Common

CONSERVATION STATUS DEFINITIONS : V=Vulnerable, R=Rare, L=Local (Uncommon), C=Common, M=Migrant, NVa=Northern Vagrant.

The above checklist is the result of surveys conducted during the 2000/2001 flight season. Notable records for the park are the Phigalia Skipper, Dingy four-spot Skipper, Ringed Xenica, and the Genoveva Azure. There are several butterflies that used to occur in the area, but are now likely to be extinct. These include the Chrysotricha Skipper and the Fiery Jewel, listed above. The skipper is a good candidate for reintroduction with the planting of *Gahnia seiberiana* in open streamlines. Other butterflies mentioned above as not being seen during the survey (although favourable habitat was present), are also possible candidates for reintroduction.

For further information refer to the website on South Australian Butterflies at <http://www.chariot.net.au/~rgrund/index.htm>

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To be useful to butterflies gardens have to be designed with an abundance of nectar plants, spread out around the garden. Butterflies like to patrol an area, flitting from plant to plant. A single plant would become too crowded, as they all end up on the same bush. Relative safety from predators, in the form of birds or other more aggressive butterflies like the monarch, also needs to be spread around.

Another haunt of butterflies is the sunny shallow soak or mud patch, and also the warm stones and rocks in sheltered places.

Generally plants favoured by butterflies have small multiple or composite flowers, and range in colour from pink to purple and blue. Other colours are also used to source nectar, but are not usually their preference.

It is important to realise that some exotic plants should not be grown near bushland areas or reserves of native plants, as they can escape into the wild. Check carefully when considering your selections.

The following plant list is a start to creating a garden which will bring butterflies in to feed. If you want them to stay and breed, well that's another story. The plants on which eggs are laid and caterpillars feed are not necessarily the nectar plants. Many butterflies need such things as native grasses and sedges, mistletoe, or introduced citrus trees and milkweed plants on which to breed.

The main families of plants that attract butterflies are: Loganiaceae (buddleias), Compositae (daisies, thistles), Boraginaceae (heliotropes), Labiatae (salvias or sages), Verbenaceae (lantanas), Cruciferae (nasturtiums, cabbage), Dipsaceae (scabious, teasel).

Buddleia species are probably the most famous throughout the world for attracting butterflies, hence the common name "Butterfly Bush". *Buddleia davidii* and cultivars (pink, purple and white). Other buddleias such as *B. alternifolia*, *B. weyerana* (cream), *B. globosa* and *B. madagascariensis* (which are both yellow and the latter is quite rampant and invasive).

Verbena spp., either as annuals or perennials, have really bright colours.

Scabious spp., which is a weed of roadsides and woodlands but is often the only nectar source during summer months, has many pink to purple forms.

Lavenders attract lots of insects and butterflies.

Hebe or **Veronica** with its many varieties and colours are hardy plants used as a hedge.

Thistles are excellent for butterflies. There are a few cultivated ones in nurseries.

Lantana, which is a pest in the tropics, can be grown in the dry hot areas of SA.

Salvia spp. are plentiful and attract butterflies.

Stokesia spp., a small herbaceous perennial (daisy) with mauve flowers.

Erigeron karvinskianus, a garden fleabane which attracts coppers and skippers.

Vittadenia spp., which is a native having an abundance of pale purple flowers.

Taraxicum officinale, the **Dandelion**, similar to Cat's ear, grows well in abandoned lawns.

Valerian or "**Kiss-me Quick**" is very hardy.

Phlox are grown in cooler areas.

Clovers in lawns will attract blue butterflies, so **lucerne** and **small pea flowers** will attract.

Boraginaceae family of plants, such as **Heliotrope**, attract certain butterflies.

Sedum spectabile, which is an abundant flowering succulent. Keep in pots.

Annuals such as **Ageratum** and **Alyssum**.

Pentas in warmer areas.

References:

- Gardening for Butterflies – British Butterfly Conservation Society Ltd
- How to attract Butterflies to your Garden – Densey Clyne
- Butterfly Gardening by Tim New – Butterfly Conservation 1991

Compiled by D. Keane.



BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION IN ACTION—MEMBERS NOTES

Reproduced are excerpts from a letter from Peri Coleman outlining work in the StKilda Dry Creek Saltfields undertaken last year.

We are once again preparing to propagate *Adriana*. This year we will be taking tip cuttings from the stand of *Adriana* growing in the garden at 12 Beach Road, St Kilda. These plants were originally propagated from seed (by Southern Native Plant Nurseries). The seed was collected from the Dry Creek Saltfields, where a stand of 20 or so bushes continues to flourish south of St Kilda.

Over the last year we have planted, or provided to community groups for them to plant, over 200 *Adriana* seedlings. The plantings have covered the coast from Port Parham to the Barker Inlet Wetlands. In St Kilda alone over 50 *Adriana* plants have been used variously in garden plantings, to revegetate the seawall at the Mangrove Trail, and on new embankments in the saltfields. In most cases the plants were accompanied by supplementary plantings of other natives such as *Myoporum insulare*, *Melaleuca halimaturorum*, *Atriplex paludosa*, *Nitraria billardieri*, and *Rhagodia candolleana*.

Bitterbush Blue Butterflies were seen several times last Spring and Summer by people in the St Kilda area, so any new *Adriana* plantations stand a good chance of being found by the insects.

Now for a more difficult species. The Yellowish Sedge Skipper larvae should be visible in about one month's time (if the species still exists in the area). After a very difficult summer, it was good to see that many of the thousands (yes, thousands) of *Gahnia*'s planted for the butterfly by UFBP, local schools and Delta Environmental Consulting last winter (May to June 2000) in the St Kilda area have survived. Many are looking small and scrawny. Quite a lot are starting to thicken into reasonable clumps. Some are even FLOWERING. As these are revegetation projects, none of these plants received supplemental watering. So it was a very nervous wait to see if any would survive last summer's killer dry period. Plantings at Thompsons Creek, the Model Aeroplane Club and the Saltfields Brooks Road site have all been very successful. These three sites received extra plantings of other native plants that would provide nectar sources to the butterfly, as well as the *Gahnia*, with total plantings edging up towards the 5000 plant mark. The St Kilda Road planting has not fared so well, the *Gahnia* being somewhat outcompeted by *Kikuyu*. We will be having a weeding at that site in the next month.

Garden plantings at St Kilda, and Penrice's plantings on their environmental mounds at their Osborne Soda Ash factory on the LeFevre Peninsula, are watered. These plants are doing very nicely, forming sturdy clumps with prominent flowering heads. They look very attractive and are getting some attention, so we may be able to encourage their use as a replacement for the more invasive introduced ornamental grasses used in landscaping.

Editors Note:

Peri also reported that the Butterfly Action Team will be reporting back to the Urban Forest Biodiversity Program on progress with the "YSS Butterfly and *Gahnia* filum Action Plan" in the next few months. Thanks Peri, we look forward to hearing more of your work. If anyone is interested in learning more of these projects or would like to assist contact BCSA Secretary for contact details.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Membership of BCSA is \$10 per annum and fees will come due in June 2002.

Enclosed is a reminder notice. Renew for 2003; join up a friend and know that you are helping to conserve our unique Australian Butterflies.

**NEW WEBSITE ADDRESS: 'Butterflies of South Australia'
(produced by Roger Grund) <http://www.chariot.net.au/rgrund/index.htm>**

NATURE FOUNDATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The Nature Foundation of South Australia with assistance from the Advertiser Newspaper are currently mounting a public campaign to raise funds for research into threatened South Australian Butterflies. Donations can be made to the Nature Foundation of SA, P.O. Box 448, HINDMARSH, 5007

Although Butterfly Conservation SA Inc. were not successful in gaining a National Australia Community Link Volunteer Award we did receive a Certificate of Recognition for our work with research into the Yellow Sedge Skipper on Yorke Peninsula. This project is on-going with local Ben Pavay liaising with local land owners to conserve appropriate habitat and hopefully the Yellow Sedge Skipper Butterfly.

Certificate of Recognition 2001

This certifies that

Butterfly Conservation South Australia Inc

was nominated for the

National CommunityLink Volunteer Awards



Mike Pratt
Chief Executive Officer
Australian Financial Services
National Australia Bank Limited



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Department of Family and Community Services



BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION SA Inc.

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Fundraising: Lois Hasenohr

Committee members: Marcus Pickett, Beth Keane, Lindsay Hunt, Mike Moore, John Hunwick, Bo Bowwayne, Trevor Rowe, Tim Gudgeon and Bob Edge

Honorary Member: RH (Bob) Fisher OAM

OUTREACH PROGRAM

AO size panels from the Exhibition "Where have all the Butterflies gone?" are available free of charge 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.

The full exhibition is also now available. It includes full sized panels, model and butterfly specimens. Contact Senior Exhibition Officer, at the SAMuseum for further details.

NOTES

Two second hand copies of the out of print book 'Butterflies of South Australia' by R.H.Fisher are available from the committee. Cost \$15

DIARY DATES

MEETINGS

Committee meetings are held monthly (usually the second Monday of the month) at 6.00pm in the Urrbrae Wetlands Resource Centre, Cross Roads, Urrbrae. All members are welcome to attend. If you would like further information or receive an agenda please contact the Secretary Jan Forrest at the address above.

WEB SITE (produced by Roger Grund)

'South Australian Butterflies' <http://www.chariot.net.au/~rgrund/index.htm>

We welcome the following new members:

GIL HOLLAMBY
KNOX ENVIRONMENT
SOCIETY (Vic)
HELEN GOLDNEY
JEFF COX

EXCURSION:

**Sometime in
October or
November to
Glenshera CP
Swamp near Mt.
Compass
- details in the next
newsletter**

