

Zoo Attracts Flying Zebras & Tigers

Learn How to Attract Them to Your Own Backyard

The event: While not as famous as their larger namesakes in the zoo, zebra longwing butterflies and tiger swallowtail butterflies can regularly be seen fluttering through the zoo. And on Saturday, April 2, 2005 Caribbean Gardens: The ZOO in Naples will offer two special times when guests can learn how they can welcome these native Floridians and other butterflies to their yards as well.

Local butterfly expert and artist Mike Malloy will do question and answer sessions with guests at the zoo's National Wildlife Federation® certified Backyard Wildlife Habitat®. Based on his own success in breeding and attracting butterflies, Malloy will share tips and insights with visitors about encouraging these delicate wonders into their own yards. Malloy will be speaking at 11:30 and 1:00.

The zoo is open daily from 9:30 to 5:30. Adult admission is \$15.95 and children ages 4 to 15 are \$9.95. Admission includes the zoo, botanical garden, Meet the Keeper Series, Alligator Bay Feeding, and the Primate Expedition Cruise as well as the zoo's two feature presentations: *Planet Predator* and *Serpents: Fangs & Fiction* which both feature live animals and exciting wildlife video. More at www.napleszoo.com.

When: Saturday, April 2, 2005 at 11:30 and 1 p.m.

Where: **Caribbean Gardens: The ZOO in Naples**
at 1590 Goodlette-Frank Road across from Coastland Center.

Why: Caribbean Gardens is a member of the national *Butterfly Conservation Initiative*. Butterfly watching is beginning to rival the popularity of bird watching. Yet for all the interest, many are still unaware that butterfly numbers and diversity are declining worldwide. In the United States alone, there are 23 endangered species. Butterfly gardening by creating a certified Backyard Wildlife Habitat® is one effective way practically anyone can help.

Photo: A photo of a zebra longwing butterfly in the zoo is available electronically by e-mailing tim@napleszoo.com

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CARIBBEAN GARDENS
ZOO

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CARIBBEAN GARDENS JOINS NORTH AMERICAN EFFORT TO PROTECT ENDANGERED BUTTERFLIES

Naples, FL – Caribbean Gardens today announced that it has joined the Butterfly Conservation Initiative (BFCI), a national program formed in response to the alarming recent decline in butterfly populations. The BFCI is designed to bring together non-governmental organizations and government agencies to aid the recovery of imperiled butterflies in North America. Current members includes 53 institutions accredited by the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA) as well as six partner organizations, including the AZA itself, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Wildlife Federation, the Xerces Society, Environmental Defense, and the McGuire Center for Lepidoptera and Biodiversity.

“While the zoo supports international conservation projects, we also feel strongly about local conservation since our members and visitors can get so personally involved,” says zoo director David Tetzlaff. “Butterfly conservation like so many other projects is most successful through community action. As an AZA accredited institution, we are dedicated not only to the animals in our care, but also to the conservation of wildlife and habitats as well.”

Currently, 23 butterfly species are listed as endangered or threatened under the U.S. Endangered Species Act, but that number is likely to grow unless significant efforts are made to halt population declines. Butterflies, like many invertebrates, are threatened across North America by habitat loss due to urbanization, excessive pesticide use, and the introduction of invasive plant species that overrun native plants that butterflies depend on.

Caribbean Gardens and other BFCI members aim to recover endangered butterfly populations and protect locally vulnerable populations by raising public awareness about habitat protection and by undertaking restoration efforts where appropriate. The participating organizations work together to involve the public in outreach, education and community conservation activities. To encourage local conservation efforts, Caribbean Gardens encourages what are known as Backyard Wildlife Habitats™. Citizens can get their backyard, school, or business certified by the National Wildlife Federation® by providing the four

requirements for wildlife: food, water, cover, and a place to raise young. There are nearly 50,000 certified habitats in the country that currently provide a place for butterflies, songbirds, and other wildlife. Habitats range from balcony gardens to large tracts of land. Most are in between – like the certified habitat at Caribbean Gardens. (More info at www.nwf.org)

The BFCI was founded in 2002 by the AZA and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and has hosted a number of workshops throughout the United States to address regional butterfly conservation concerns, compiled species profiles that include the conservation action priorities of each federally listed species, developed butterfly education materials, and supported members' activities, including host plant propagation, captive rearing and releases, habitat restoration, and outreach. The BFCI is supported through membership pledges and grants.

The American Zoo and Aquarium Association was founded in 1924 and currently represents 213 accredited zoos and aquariums in North America. AZA's mission is to support membership excellence in conservation, education, science and recreation.

Caribbean Gardens: The ZOO in Naples is one of the top 10% of American zoos accredited by the prestigious American Zoo and Aquarium Association. The 52-acre zoo is located at 1590 Goodlette-Frank Road in Naples across from the Coastland Center mall. In addition to the historic garden and rare animals, the zoo features a variety of innovative presentations. The two feature shows, *Planet Predator* and *Serpents: Fangs & Fiction*, are offered daily in the Safari Canyon theater. Guests experience close up views of live animals as well as stunning wildlife clips on video screens. Guests board the Primate Expedition Cruise to glide by islands inhabited by monkeys, lemurs, and apes live in natural habitats. Alligator Bay offers a daily feeding and guests have opportunities to meet the keeper at select exhibits every day. Visitors can also pick up a healthy lunch and snacks at the SUBWAY® Cafe and shop for wild gifts at tame prices in The ZOO Gift Shop. Caribbean Gardens welcomes guests daily from 9:30 to 5:30 with the last ticket sold at 4:30. To learn more, click www.napleszoo.com or call (239) 262-5409.

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An image of a wild butterfly at the zoo's NWF Backyard Wildlife Habitat™ is available digitally by e-mailing tim@napleszoo.com