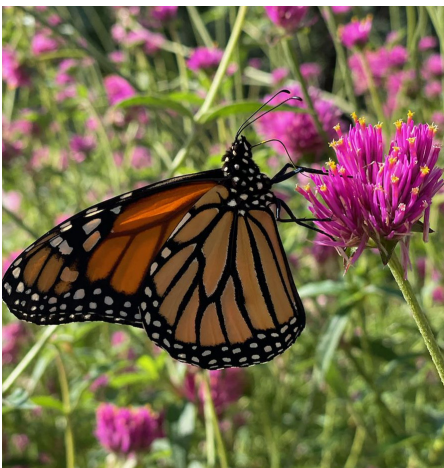


GUIDED TOUR

MYRIAD BOTANICAL GARDENS

Friday, September 13
Butterfly Tour Fall 2024



Monarch Butterfly

(Danaus plexippus)

The Monarch Butterfly is perhaps the most widely recognized and well researched butterfly of all the butterflies. They are known for their incredible migration that takes place each fall. As they migrate through Oklahoma on their journey to Mexico, they have been known to roost overnight in the Bald Cypress Trees just outside the Children's Garden. Monarch numbers are threatened due to habitat loss and pesticide use. One of the best ways to help ensure their survival is to plant plenty of native milkweeds, which is the only food source of monarch caterpillars.



Gulf Fritillary

(Agraulis vanillae)

The Gulf Fritillary can also be called Passion Butterfly due to its love of Passionflower as its host plant. This bright orange colored butterfly can be found in the gardens from summer to fall. It loves to nectar on all of our colorful annuals and perennials throughout the grounds. These guys can be frequently found fluttering around the Maypop vines by the stairs heading down to the lake.

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Common Buckeye

(Junonia coenia)

The Common Buckeye is another butterfly to frequent the Gardens. You need to have your eyes closed to the ground to get a glimpse of this beauty. They are a relatively low flying butterfly who will often be seen perched on a patch of bare soil on the lookout for a female. They tend to like hanging out near our DG pathways in the Water Wise section and around the Color Curve beds. Their host plants include snapdragons, plantains, wild petunias and frogfruit.



Painted Lady

(Vanessa cardui)

The Painted Lady butterfly is the most widespread of all butterfly species and can be found on almost every continent. They can be seen in abundance in the spring and fall. The Painted Ladies can often be found nectaring on plants in the sunflower family such as asters and coreopsis. They lay their eggs on thistles, mallows and various legumes. The caterpillars spin a small web nest amongst the leaves in which they use as a shelter in which to live and feed.



Cloudless Sulphur

(Phoebis sennae)

If you see a speck of yellow fly past you as you're walking outside, it's more than likely a Cloudless Sulphur butterfly. They are strong, fast fliers and soar through the air on warm, sunny days. They are attracted to the same types of tubulars, brightly colored flowers as hummingbirds are typically seen on. The Cloudless Sulphur has an extremely long proboscis (mouthpart used for feeding) which lets them have access to nectar that is typically unreachable to other butterflies. They host legumes such as Partridge Pea and Wild Senna.

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American Lady

(*Vanessa virginiensis*)

The American Lady is like the Painted Lady except for the fact it has two large eyespots on the underside of the hindwing where the Painted Lady has four smaller ones. The caterpillar also builds a web like nest in which to take shelter in and feed. They host plants in the aster family such as pussytoes (*Antennaria*) and everlastings (*Anaphalis*.)



Question Mark

(*Polygonia interrogationis*)

The Question Mark butterfly gets its name from the distinctive silver mark on the hindwing that (with a lot of imagination) looks like a question mark. This butterfly tends to be found more among the trees and wooded areas as they prefer to feed on tree sap, rotting fruit and animal dung. If you have elm or hackberry trees planted around your house, you're more than likely to see these butterflies as these are their host plants.



Silver-spotted Skipper

(*Epargyreus clarus*)

The Silver-spotted skipper is one of the largest and most recognized skippers in North America due to its silvery-white spots on the hindwing. The caterpillar is very resourceful in that it builds a shelter out of the leaves of its host plant. The caterpillars feed on Black Locust as well as other legumes.