

MISSOULA
BUTTERFLY HOUSE
 AND INSECTARIUM



Thanks to everyone who helped make our first Members' Picnic a success! We had a great time!

Our Mission

The mission of the Missoula Butterfly House and Insectarium is to promote an appreciation and understanding of insects and their relatives in the Animal Kingdom through public education and the development of an invertebrate education facility.

The Buzz

A lot has happened since our last newsletter arrived in your mail. As you will see in this issue, we significantly ramped up our school education programs and are just starting to wind down another summer of education and outreach at a variety of community events. We held our first Members' Picnic and had a great time connecting with many of our enthusiastic community partners. And we moved our home office into a great space downtown and hired our first Administrative Assistant & Volunteer Coordinator.

What you're likely unaware of is that we've spent the last four months developing and fine-tuning a 3 to 5 year strategic plan. Our plan still needs to be finalized and adopted at an upcoming board meeting, but I'd like to share one of the major outcomes from our planning process.

While our efforts over the past two years have continued to move us closer to securing a location for our future butterfly house and insect zoo, to be realistic, we are years away from opening our doors.

That's why I'm thrilled to announce our plans to open the first phase of our vision, an invertebrate zoo with a classroom for programs. While this facility will not include the tropical butterfly house that will be the centerpiece of our long-term vision, it will be a place where you, your family, and friends can visit. Additionally, schools will be able to come for educational programs that go far beyond what we can currently provide. Even more exciting, this facility will enable us to house and incorporate a wider diversity of invertebrates ...which means more cool bugs to check out.

For the past three years, partners like you have primarily supported a vision. As the first publicly tangible product of this vision, this facility will be an exciting taste of what the future holds. As an outreach tool, it will help expand the community awareness and engagement in our mission that will help make the Missoula Butterfly House and Insectarium a reality. We certainly see it as an exciting step in the right direction.

Don't hesitate to contact us if you have questions about our interim facility or would like to help move this exciting effort forward.

DONATE TODAY!

www.missoulabutterflyhouse.org
 406.317.1211 • PO Box 8885 Missoula, MT 59807





Like butterflies and other species of moths, Western Snowberry Clearwings emerge from the cocoon with scales fully covering their wings. However, their rapid wing beats quickly cause the scales to fall off, revealing the moth's namesake clear wings.

Insect In-Sight: Western Snowberry Clearwing Moth

by Glenn Marangelo

It's a bumblebee. It's a small hummingbird. No, it's a western snowberry clearwing moth! Over the past few years I've encountered this beautiful moth numerous times. And it's often fooled me, at first, regarding its true identity. Unlike bumblebees, which land on flowers to feed, these day-flying sphinx moths hover like a hummingbird while feeding, quickly zipping from flower to flower.

While there are several species of clearwing moths throughout North America, the western snowberry clearwing (*Hemaris thetis*), or bumblebee moth, can mainly be found west of the

Continental Divide in Montana, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, California, Utah, Colorado, New Mexico, and Arizona and ranges as far north as central British Columbia and the Alaska Panhandle. It closely resembles the slightly larger snowberry clearwing (*Hemaris diffinis*), which can be found east of the Continental Divide throughout most of the United States.

The western snowberry clearwing moth can be found throughout low to subalpine habitats along riparian corridors of creeks and rivers and in meadows in open mixed hardwood and conifer forests. The larvae can be found feeding on

snowberry and honeysuckle.

If you'd like to see western snowberry clearwings yourself, mark your 2014 calendar for next spring. I've seen them between mid May to early June on warm, sunny days up in Missoula's Pattee Canyon. And while the adults feed from a variety of flowers, as you can tell from this photo, they seem to really like arrowleaf balsamroot. Happy observing!

Volunteer Spotlight



During the busy outreach season, we rely on a great crew of volunteers to help us introduce the Butterfly House Bug Ambassadors to our community.

Sue Martinson, Jesse Head, Rod Snyder, Maggie Heide, Tracy Campbell, Laura Brehm and board members Glenn Marangelo, Alison Perkins, Lisa Verlanic Fowler, Bryce Christiaens, and Larry Brehm have been a tremendous help. However, we'd like to turn the Volunteer Spotlight on our newest and youngest volunteer, Anna Lehr.

At only seven years old, Anna showed no hesitation in grabbing madagascar hissing cockroaches to introduce these popular critters to visitors at the Fairy Tale and Super Hero Festival. In Anna's own words, "I don't know why I like insects so much. I was born liking them." While she likes them all, her favorite Bug Ambassadors are the hissing cockroaches. She thoroughly enjoyed volunteering, exclaiming that, "Holding the insects was my favorite!" No surprise, Anna wants to become an entomologist.

We're happy to help fuel your passion for insects, Anna. Thanks for your help and enthusiasm!

Insect In-Sight: Northern Scorpion

by Glenn Marangelo



Photo provided by the Montana Natural Heritage Program

One of the more impressive Bug Ambassadors we bring into schools and to events is Goliath, our emperor scorpion. Aside from ooh's and ahhh's, the sight of Goliath is often followed by the question, "Are there any scorpions here in Montana?" Well, I hate to admit it, but until I had a conversation with Paul Hendricks, a field zoologist, I always thought the answer was no.

Ranging from northern Arizona and New Mexico into southern Canada, the northern scorpion (*Paruroctonus boreus*) is Montana's only scorpion species. Despite having the largest range of any scorpion in North America, they are one of the least studied species. Little is known about their diet in the wild, how they can survive Montana winters, or how long they live. Curiously, throughout much of its range it is the only scorpion species found.

At up to 2 inches in length, these pale, light brown members of the

arachnid family can be locally common but are rarely seen due to their nocturnal habits and desire to burrow or hide under rocks and other cover during the day. They can be found in eastern / southeastern Montana along sandstone cliff areas, such as the Rims around Billings or cliffs in the Bighorn Canyon.



Did you know . . .

Scorpions have a unique characteristic where they glow a turquoise blue or green color when exposed to ultraviolet (UV) light. This is caused by an accumulation of beta-carboline in their exoskeleton. As to why scorpions glow, many hypotheses have been tested. Recent studies suggest that the fluorescence enables these primarily nocturnal animals to sense light with their entire body. This could be beneficial in letting a scorpion know whether they are fully covered from the sun's rays during the day as well as warning them to lay low on a bright moonlit night where they would be more visible to potential predators.

Website

We're online at
www.missoulabutterflyhouse.org!

Our website has all kinds of useful information, including current activities, gardening tips, and copies of our newsletters. You can even join the Butterfly House and keep the buzz going with PayPal.



Follow us on Facebook!

Learn about a host of insects (local and exotic) as well as keep on top of the latest Butterfly House news. Share our page with your friends to help us get our message out!

New Staff Member Lisa Hendricks



Lisa grew up in the Santa Cruz Mountains of coastal California. She graduated with a BA from

Portland State University and received her Masters in Education from the University of Montana. Lisa was the Education Specialist at the Sutton Avian Research Center in Oklahoma for two years. During that time she gave presentations on raptors, and traveled the state with Sequoia, a bald eagle. During her many years as an elementary school teacher she was passionate not only about teaching reading, but also about exposing her students to the wonders of nature. Lisa still works in schools part time, teaching students about reading, art, and nature study. Whenever possible Lisa enjoys walking with her dogs in the woods and hills, gardening, taking care of her two chickens, and reading. She is currently learning the art of book binding and printmaking. She moved to Missoula in 1993 with her husband Paul, an ornithologist, and they live in their small house in a Rattlesnake neighborhood.

Board Members

Larry Brehm
Lawrence K. Brehm, A.I.A., Architect
Bryce Christiaens, President
County Weed District, Native Ideals Seed Farm
Erin M. Erickson
Lawyer, Bohyer, Erickson, Beaudette & Tranel, P.C.
Lisa Verlanic Fowler
Teacher, Florence Carlton School
Jen Marangelo
Executive Director, Missoula Butterfly House
Glenn Marangelo
Development Director, Five Valleys Land Trust
Eleanor Morris, Vice-President
Senior Policy Representative, The Nature Conservancy
Kris Paffhausen, Treasurer
Vice President/Controller, Envirocon
Alison Perkins
Science Educator, UM
John Wells, Secretary
Architect, MacArthur, Means, and Wells





Missoula Butterfly House and Insectarium

PO Box 8885

Missoula, MT 59807

NON-PROFIT ORG.

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

MISSOULA, MT 59801

Permit No. 569

Education Update

The ooh's. The ahh's. The various facial expressions ranging from wonder to joy to the heebie-jeebies. Our Bug Ambassadors always evoke some kind of response.

We repeatedly witnessed this throughout the 2012-2013 school year. In addition to gearing up for the summer outreach season, in April, May and June we visited 19 classrooms. The enthusiastic response our programs received is further affirmation that the interim facility we plan to open, as well as our ultimate goal of a larger tropical butterfly house and insect zoo, will undoubtedly succeed. Rather than transporting our program into classrooms, this facility will allow the classes come to us. This exciting step forward will significantly increase the reach and impact of our educational programs.

A big thanks goes out to MacArthur, Means & Wells Architects and Native Ideals Seed Farm for sponsoring our Outreach and Education Program. We'd also like to thank Ben Cory from Crowley Fleck Attorneys and Paul Ryan from Paul Ryan & Associates for supporting our programs at Lewis & Clark Elementary and Paxson Elementary schools.

Help Us Take Flight!

Become a Member!

For a donation of \$35 or more, you can become a member of the Missoula Butterfly House and Insectarium. As a supporter of this exciting effort, we'll keep you up to date on our accomplishments. You can make your tax-deductible donation online using PayPal. Simply go to our website (www.missoulabutterflyhouse.org) and click on "Please Donate Now!"

Tell a Friend

Strong community support will be essential in making this vision a reality. Please help by sharing our mission with your friends, colleagues, and family. Consider *recycling* this newsletter by passing it along to someone else.