



NEWS



Winter 2023

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Our Mission

The Missoula Butterfly House and Insectarium inspires an appreciation and understanding of insects and their relatives.

Visit us!

1075 South Ave. W, Suite 2,
Missoula, MT 59801
missoulabutterflyhouse.org/visit-us



Scan the QR code to
learn more!

Hours

Monday: CLOSED
Tuesday-Saturday: 10am-5pm
Sunday: Noon to 4pm

We'll be closed December 24th,
25th, and January 1st.

The Buzz Dreams Do Come True!

By Jen Marangelo, Executive Director



Jen in the new butterfly house!

After the idea of opening a tropical butterfly house and insect museum popped into my head 20 years ago ...after starting the Missoula Butterfly House and Insectarium nearly 15 years ago to begin reaching toward this dream ...and after welcoming volunteers, supporters, and staff on the journey that's lead to today ...I'm excited to announce that this dream has become a reality. The Missoula Butterfly House and Insectarium is now open!

We've had an incredibly busy past few months since starting to move into our new home in mid-September. Planting the tropical plants. Finalizing and installing our exhibits and interpretive information. Doubling our staff over the past 4 months. Working the bugs out as we begin using a variety of new systems for admissions, volunteers, and more. And working the bugs in as we've welcomed an amazing array of new animals as the stars of our exhibits – including over 35 species of tropical butterflies.

In many ways, it feels like we've crossed the finish line. But in actuality, this is just the beginning of a new, bigger, and buggier journey. The weeks, months and years ahead hold incredible opportunities to expand the reach and impact of our education efforts for our schools, our community, and visitors to Missoula.

There are so many people to thank for their help in making this dream possible. From our partners at the Missoula County Department of Ecology and Extension to the hundreds of community members whose donations made the construction of this unique facility possible, my deepest thanks for your support, for your encouragement, and for the enthusiasm you've continually expressed. Together, we've created something truly special.

The Missoula Butterfly House and Insectarium was built for our community, by our community, to inspire awe, discovery, beauty, and an appreciation for the little things that run our world. As we settle into our new mode of operations, I look to the year ahead with excitement and anticipation. We still have plenty things to figure out as we grow into what will eventually become our "new normal", but we're off to a great start.

I hope to see you in the Butterfly House soon. Best wishes for the holiday season and the buggy New Year ahead! 🐛



MarLee: A Dedication



Rich Hamma and Kate Supplee
in the new butterfly house.

In order to succeed, every capital campaign needs at least one ...a lead gift to help make the project a reality. The lead gift is the donation that anchors your campaign, lends credibility to the project in the eyes of other donors, and basically sets the stage for success. For our campaign, that gift came from Kate Supplee.

Lead gifts typically come with a prominent naming opportunity. We worked with Kate to create a naming opportunity that spoke to those she wished to honor and remember. Unselfishly, she chose to dedicate our facility as the MarLee Butterfly House and Insectarium. As you enter the facility, you'll see this dedication right next to our admissions desk. You'll note a slight hint of a rainbow that's a meaningful nod to Kate's parents, Ted and Corrine.

Thank you, Kate, for believing in our dream and for giving us wings! 🦋



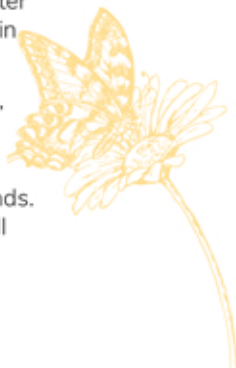
MarLee Butterfly House and Insectarium a dedication

This unique facility would not have been possible without the generous support and commitment of the greater Missoula community. Most notably, the Missoula Butterfly House and Insectarium is dedicated in honor and in memory of:

Jen and Glenn Marangelo – As founders of the Missoula Butterfly House and Insectarium, Jen and Glenn's vision, passion, and determination were the driving forces behind the realization of this dream and the creation of an amazing gift to our community.

Ted and Corrine Supplee – Their love and zest for life provided inspiration for me, my family, and their many friends. Their memory and legacy lives on through a shared love of adventure and wonder for our world, especially for all things that take flight.

- Kate Supplee



Coming Full Circle

Let's take a trip down memory lane ...back to early 2010, when Mike Weissmann and Rachel Williams came to visit the Missoula Butterfly House and Insectarium. At that time, we were a new organization with a big vision, no offices or facility to visit, essentially no funds, and our menagerie of Bug Ambassadors used for our outreach programs were all housed in our Executive Director's home.

We had just raised enough funding to hire Mike (Kallima Consultants) to conduct a feasibility study to determine if our vision for a tropical butterfly house and insect museum in Missoula was possible. As part of their work, Mike and Rachel spent a few days with us in Missoula to learn more about our community and visit Missoula's existing museums to help with our assessment. In July of 2010 their study came back as a big "thumbs up", giving us the confidence to begin what turned into a 13 year journey.

We were fortunate to get to know both Mike and Rachel very well over the next 13 years, with Mike's promise that when our opening day arrived, he and Rachel would both be there to celebrate with us. Well ...they kept their promise!



Mike, Jen, and Rachel in
the new butterfly house.

Butterflies in da' house!



On November 8th, we held a small gathering to release our very first butterflies into our tropical butterfly house ...just in time for our first school field trips, which started a few days later. Since then we've introduced nearly 800 butterflies into our conservatory, representing about 35 different species from all over the world, including Ecuador, Colombia, Kenya, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Thailand, and several other countries.

Seeing these first butterflies take flight was truly a magical moment, representing the realization of our long-term dream. But just as exciting, this magic is now repeated on a daily basis as we release some of the 250 (or so) butterflies we receive each week. If you have not had the chance to visit us yet, these photos will give you an idea of what to expect. 🦋



Our Swarm is Growing!

Realizing our dream of opening a tropical butterfly house has required us to stretch our wings, expand our office space, and welcome a number of new faces. We've been incredibly lucky to find amazing individuals to fill our new staff positions, taking our crew of 7 to a swarm of 13 in just 4 months!

MBHI Staff list

Miriam Bayer, Lead Animal Keeper

Stacy Carr-Poole, Operations Director

Shelby Fisher, Administrative Coordinator

Andie Hernandez, Living Collections Assistant

Madeline Kleeman, Museum Interpreter

Kate Likvan, Gift Shop Manager

Glenn Marangelo, Development Director

Jen Marangelo, Executive Director

Morgan McNeill, Marketing & Events Coordinator

Brenna Shea, Interpretive Writer and Educator

Ashley Sinclair, Admissions Associate

Carolyn Taber, Museum Educator

Rob Taylor, Lead Horticulturalist



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EXPLORING the little things that run the world.

Get Involved!

The Missoula Butterfly House and Insectarium is a destination for our community ...built by our community. We hope you are proud of what we've created together and invite you to get involved. Whether you're interested in donating your time, your funds, or both, your support will make an appreciated difference as we begin this new, bigger, and buggier journey! 🐛



Consider making a year-end donation at <http://weblink.donorperfect.com/MBHlgiving> or scan the QR code.



Consider becoming a volunteer at missoulabutterflyhouse.org/get-involved/volunteer/ or scan the QR code.

If you have questions or would like to make a gift (stock gifts too), please contact Glenn at 406-317-1211 or glenn@missoulabutterflyhouse.org.

A student from our first field trip learns about R2, one of our Chilean rose hair tarantulas.



Missoula Butterfly House & Insectarium Board of Directors

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