



Henderson County Master Gardeners Weekly News Article November 06, 2016

Free Butterfly Program Given by HCMGA by Lydia Holley

Master Gardener Wayne Stafford will present “Butterfly 2016”, a beautiful butterfly slideshow presentation, on Tuesday, November 15, 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Clint W Murchison Memorial Library, 121 S Prairieville St, Athens, Texas. The presentation is free to the public.



A magical and beautiful side effect of gardening is seeing all the butterflies that come to drink the nectar produced by blooms. As pollinators, butterflies are not just pretty, they are also important.

Of all the butterflies in my garden, I love the Swallowtails the most. They are certainly the most showy. They are so beautiful, you would think they would also be graceful. Instead, they fly as though those large wings are impossible to control. They seem to be whipped about by the wind like a kite. Still, these butterflies are breathtaking to see.

Monarchs have a very complicated migration pattern, traveling up to 3,000 miles. So, a stop in the garden to fatten up for the trip is a treat to the gardener as well as to the butterfly.

Colorful circles on the wings of the Buckeye butterfly look like they could have been the inspiration for Wassily Kandinsky. When these butterflies flap their wings, those circles look like eyes, winking as though they are sharing a secret.

There are several types of gray colored Hairstreaks. One must look closely at Hairstreaks to determine the front from the back. The Great Purple Hairstreak is an exception, with its spotted top and orange bottom on its colorful body.

There is no mistaking the front of the American Snout, which reminds me of a miniature flying aardvark. Question Mark butterflies have a fun name, while the name of the Mourning Cloak butterfly conjures up sadness. These are just a few of the many types of butterflies you may encounter in your garden.

Want to learn more about the butterflies in East Texas? Want to be enchanted? Are you interested in attracting butterflies to your garden? If you said yes to any of these questions, please attend the butterfly slideshow presentation. Stafford will also be happy to answer any questions about butterflies after the presentation.

For more information, call 903-675-6130, email hendersonCMGA@gmail.com or visit www.henderson-co-tx-mg.org.

