

Issue 6: Bringing back the Butterflies!



Thank you for opening our 6th issue of the City of North Miami's E-Green Newsletter. This month's newsletter is focused on "Bringing back the Butterflies." This issue will highlight the importance of butterfly protection and the benefits these pollinators have in our ecosystem.

We hope this month's content on "Bringing back the Butterflies" encourages you to take action within the community and as always, please provide **feedback**.

Why are butterflies important?

Butterflies are important because they are the third most populace pollinator behind bees/wasps and flies. The world's food supply depends on pollinators. 80 % of food crops are pollinated by insects such as bees, moths and

butterflies, according to scientists. Butterflies are considered indicator species, one that tells us about the health of our environment.

These creatures are sensitive to changes in climate, the presence of harmful chemicals, pollution in the air and water, and any other changes in the environment. We look to these indicator species to help us determine how healthy our surroundings are. Butterflies have been widely used by ecologists as model organisms to study the impact of habitat loss and fragmentation, and climate change.



Over the past couple decades, the butterfly species has been dwindling. The decline of the butterfly has heralded far and wide, but they are just the ambassadors for larger groups of insects in decline. Habitat loss has been threatened by a variety of factors but common ones are to new developments building over wildlife habitat and hazardous chemicals. Fortunately, the good news is that you can play a part in "Bringing back the butterflies" by planting native plants that reduce the need of pesticides and lots of milkweed and other butterfly attracting plants.

For more information, click links belows:

http://butterfly-conservation.org/45/why-butterflies-matter.html

http://miamiblue.org/

http://southernwilddesign.com/butterflies-important/

http://www.nwf.org/Garden-For-Wildlife/Certify.aspx

In the news!



Mayor Monarch Butterfly Garden

On March 15th 2016, North Miami Mayor, Dr. Smith Joseph took the National Wildlife Federation's Mayors' Monarch Pledge committing to specific action to help save the declining butterfly population. Mayor Joseph was the first and only Mayor in all of Miami-Dade County to take the pledge.

On Friday, April 29 th, Arbor Day, Mayor Joseph acted on his pledge by creating a butterfly garden in the Municipal complex that provides a habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators that promotes awareness for wildlife protection. Special thanks to Mayor Dr. Smith Joseph, Patrick Fitzgerald of the National Wildlife Foundation, and Dennis Olle of the Miami Blue Chapter North American Butterfly Association.

For additional information: North Miami Press Release NWF Mayors Monarch Pledge

Earth Day Clean Up / Green Awareness Fair

On Saturday, April 16th 2016, the City of North Miami held their Earth Day clean up event and Green Awareness Fair. The Earth Day clean up event consisted of local volunteers and staff who cleaned up areas in the City. Following the clean up event, was Councilwoman Carol Keys' Green Awareness fair that featured electronics waste recycling, vendors showcasing sustainable products and practices, and a native tree giveaway. Special thanks to the vendors at the event: NoMi Neighbors, WastePro, Chargepoint, Home Depot, Costco, Goldin Solar, Power King the Florida Department of Batteries. and Transportation (FDOT).





Tree Talk Workshop

On Saturday, March 12th, the City of North Miami's Community Planning and Development Department held its first Tree Talk Workshop. The workshop informed residents about the benefits of trees.

species selection, and proper planting techniques. The workshop also included a free native tree giveaway. Special thanks to presenters: University of Florida/IFAS Miami-Dade County Extension, Dade Chapter Florida Native Plant Society, Legacy Arborist Services, and Country Bill's Lawn Maintenance, Inc. for donating 40 trees.





Ways to "bring back the butterflies!"

- 1. Plant butterfly friendly plants
- 2. Discontinue use of harmful chemicals
- 3. Educate yourself about butterfly benefits and habitat, and spread the word
- 4. Think twice before smashing a "worm" or spraying a bee
- Have your garden certified to spread the word about habitat protection. (National Wildlife Foundation Certified Habitat)

For more information: http://miamiblue.org/plantlist/ http://blog.nwf.org/2015/02/saving-monarchs/



Milkweed, Milkweed, MILKWEED!

The monarch butterfly population in North America has plummeted by over 90% in just the last 20 years. Destruction of America's grasslands ecosystems, commercial agricultural practices and even conventional gardening have contributed to the precipitous decline of this iconic species. But you can do your part to bring them back in North Miami by planting milkweed on your property.

For more resources, check out the links below: NWF Milkweeds for Monarchs Milkweed Fact Sheet

Want to certify your garden as a wildlife habitat? http://www.nwf.org/Garden-For-Wildlife/Certify.aspx

Butterfly Garden 101

To learn how to plant your own butterfly garden in North Miami check out the North American Butterfly Association Miami Blue Butterfly Garden basics.



http://miamiblue.org/butterfly-gardening/

Did you know?

The following are a few facts you may not have known about butterflies.

- 1. They have been around for at least 50 million years and probably first evolved some 150 million years ago.
- Butterflies and moths are a highly diverse group comprising over 250,000 species and make up around one quarter of all named species
- Studies of butterflies are often used by classroom teachers to educate students about life-cycles

and insect migration.

4. The long history and popularity of butterfly study have provided a unique data resource on an insect group unmatched in geographical scale and timescale anywhere in the world. This has proved extremely important for scientific research on climate change.





5. Thousands of people travel abroad each year looking for butterflies and moths. Eco-tours bring valuable income to many communities around the world. (e.g. the valley of the butterflies in Rhodes, Butterfly World in Coral Springs, FL and the Monarch roost in Mexico).

For more information: https://butterflyworld.com/

http://butterfly-conservation.org/45/why-butterflies-matter.html

NoMi 90 Year Anniversary Festival

Celebrate 90 years of history and culture in North Miami! Party-goers will enjoy carnival games, giveaways every hour, arts and crafts, rock climbing wall, face painting, free tree giveaway and more in the MOCA Plaza. Rock With U

Entertainment and Papa Keith from 103.5 The

Beat will be on the scene with giveaways, music and



http://www.northmiamifl.gov/docs/NewsFiles/rescheduledbirthday_90.pdf

What do you think North Miami can do to be more sustainable?

Events and Updates

<u>Shower Head Giveaway:</u> NoMi (Ongoing)



Commercial Grant to Lower Energy Bills:

For businesses in North Miami seeking to reduce their energy bill

Mulch Giveaway: North Miami Mulch Giveaway (Ongoing)

more!





Stay tuned for next month's E-Green Newsletter!

http://www.northmiamifl.gov/departments/cpd/sustainability.aspx