

5. Restore Habitat.

Virtually NO butterflies (or bees) are nurtured by lawn grass. Plant flower seeds wherever you can. Butterflies will nectar from almost any flowers except roses. Plant perennials for ongoing beauty and nurturing.

6. Adopt a Caterpillar.

Find any caterpillar on its food and adopt, feed and observe it through metamorphosis. This should be sufficiently amazing to you to reinforce your learning of points 1-5.

7. Consider a career in science!

If you find butterflies fascinating, you could become an Entomologist who figures out how to control the insects we need to control, without killing the ones that pollinate our food and without poisoning us in the process.



For further information contact your local library or extension service. You can also call the "Butterfly Lady" at 719-282-1273 for more opportunities to learn about butterflies.

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PAGE 4

Butterflies

PAGE 1

Simple things you can do to help....



1. Don't Molest Them!

If you want to catch butterflies to observe them more closely, use the proper tools. Fingers are not proper tools for handling butterflies or caterpillars. Make a butterfly cage from recycled styrofoam, dowels or bamboo skewers and netting to house butterflies caught with a net. Don't forget to feed them—pesticide free flowers or 10% sugar water, Gatorade or Juicy Juice on a cotton ball. Release within 3 days. Only handle caterpillars by their food, or with a soft, clean paint brush.



2. Don't Use Pesticides.

Most are neurotoxins to pets and humans as well as insects. Only resort to chemical pesticides when absolutely necessary.

- A. Use a fly swatter or tissue to dispatch a few spiders or other insects.
- B. Use cinnamon to relocate ants taking over your outdoor world.
- C. Make environmentally friendly bug spray with 1 pint water, 1 tablespoon liquid dish soap and 1 tablespoon cooking oil.

Recognize that insects, including butterflies, moths and bees pollinate the food we eat, and that indiscriminate pesticide usage could endanger our food supply, as well as overexpose us to carcinogenic chemicals.

3. Recycle.

Everything you recycle reduces the waste of natural resources and habitats.

4. Read and Research.

Insects preceded humanity by at least 100 million years. Discover and respect that we can all learn something about survival from them.

