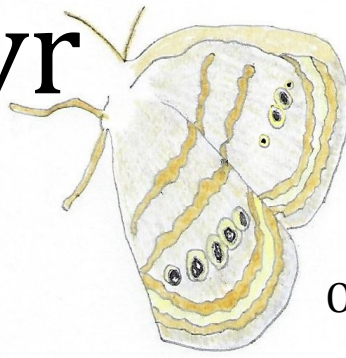


# The Lonely Satyr

## For Butterfly Enthusiasts of Northeast Indiana



October 1, 2022

### *Butterflies do respond to host plants!*

*By Fred Wooley*

There was a popular movie made in 1989, Field of Dreams. Its premise was pure fantasy, an Iowa farmer, Ray Kinsella (played by a young Kevin Costner) had a dream to build a baseball field on his farm. It was a cute movie and appealed to both baseball fans and enthusiasts for cute movies. I'm certainly the former and full disclosure, I can occasionally find delight in a cute movie.

Farmer Ray hears voices that propel him to do the unthinkable, turning a productive cornfield into a beautiful baseball diamond, complete with perfect grass, chalked foul lines, lights, backstop, and set of bleachers.

He hears a voice, "If you build it, he will come." The story behind the phrase?... Well now, no spoilers here from me, you will just have to rent or call up the movie.

Suffice it to say, from that point forward, the tagline for the movie, "If you build it, he will come..." was used in many situations in a variety of applications, and our fields of natural and cultural interpretation and natural areas restoration were no exception. It fits perfectly.

"If you build it, (wetland) native plants, dragonflies, frogs, and ducks will come." "If you build it, (interpretive center in a unique setting) history buffs, school groups, tourists, park visitors, will come." The phrase worked and was reworked, and word smithed for a variety of applications.

I came close.... close... to titling this article, "If you plant them, they will come..." but I resisted.

But the thought applies certainly when planting species of plants that attract butterflies. Pollinator gardens are popular. The federal government, Department of Agriculture, has incentive programs for landowners to put acres into native plants to attract butterflies and all pollinators.

Plants, we know, provide butterflies with sap and food needs for larvae and nectar needs for flying adults. On our 21 acres in Northern Steuben County, we have spent over 20 years restoring previous agricultural fields to native plant habitats for all animal species that benefit from such.



Great Spangled Fritillary on Butterfly Milkweed

Photo credit: Fred Wooley

"Wooley Nature Preserve" Steuben Co., IN

7/4/2022

## *Fred Wooley cont'd.*

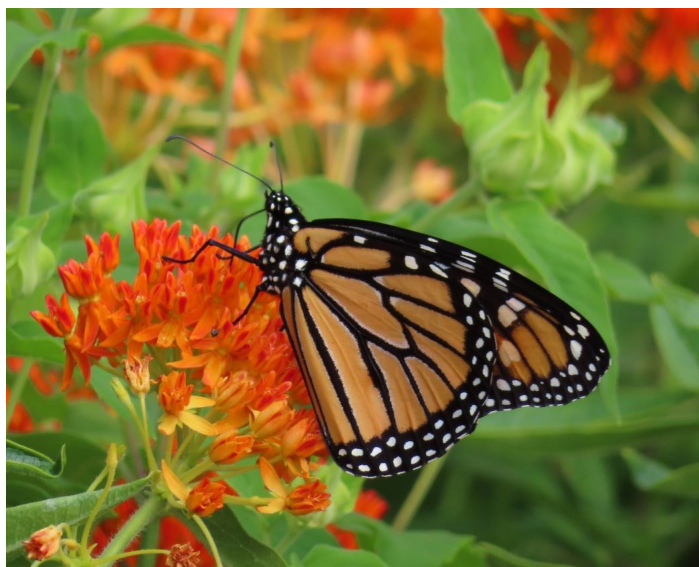
It works. Boy, have they come. True to its name is the butterfly plant. In distant meadows and in prairie gardens around the house we have a favorite of many (butterflies and humans), butterfly milkweed. The bright orange blossoms are brilliant and eye-popping. Nothing is better than seeing a visiting orange monarch or orange fritillary. Other native plants are equally visited and used by butterflies, but hey, the butterfly milkweed is named for such.

Another full disclosure, I do have one nonnative species on our property. It too is a butterfly magnet. It is also appropriately named, the butterfly bush. This perennial woody shrub is nearly annual in its behavior. It grows to igloo size but after fading in fall, can be cut down to nubbins at the ground and will regrow back to a big bush the next year. The flowers of white, blue, or purple occur in narrow cone-shaped clusters from early summer to early fall. Mine are just starting to fade.

I was told once this nonnative is invasive in some areas out east, but I have seen no evidence of the plant spreading to anywhere from its small location of one bush for now 20 years.

When in full bloom, it is a butterfly buffet. Cabbage, buckeyes, monarchs, and swallowtail butterflies all are regular visitors. A quick visit can yield several species at once moving and nectar pursuing about the bloom clusters.

This year at the butterfly bush I had my first ever giant swallowtail. I had to do a double take. Such a large and striking butterfly. It truly confirmed the adage "if you plant it..." well, you get the idea....



Monarch on Butterfly Milkweed

Photo credit: Fred Wooley

"Wooley Nature Preserve" Steuben Co., IN

7/4/2022



Giant Swallowtail on Butterfly Bush

Photo credit: Fred Wooley

"Wooley Nature Preserve" Steuben Co., IN

8/16/2022

*Fred Wooley is a naturalist, writer, and land preservation/restoration enthusiast. He lives on part of an old farm overlooking an extensive fen in northern Steuben County. Fred is a part time employee with Blue Heron Ministries and has worked on several LaGrange County Parks. He can be reached at [fwooley@frontier.com](mailto:fwooley@frontier.com).*



## Children's Book Review

By Leslie Arnold

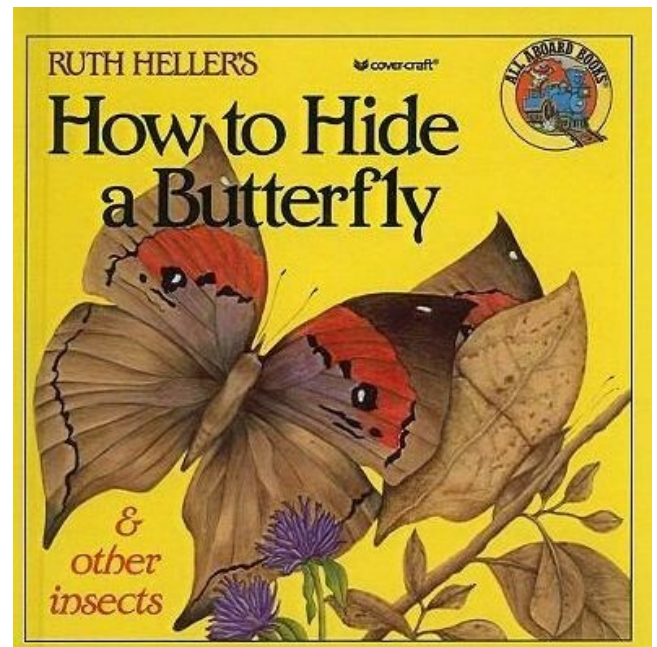
Working as a Park Naturalist, I am always on the hunt for great children's books to compliment a program topic. I was recently asked to speak to Prairie Heights Elementary 2nd grade classes about animal adaptations. When I did a search at the library, all of the usual camouflage books I've seen for decades popped up. But, nestled amongst them, was the little gem *How to Hide a Butterfly* by Ruth Heller.

The pages are fully soaked in bright colors. The few words on each page are rhythmical and curious.

I have since read the book to my own children and at two preschools. All of the children greatly enjoyed trying to find the hidden insects.

Heller is the author of many other nature and animal themed children's books. They are all equally delightful for the eyes and ears. Sometimes oldies really are goodies.

I know many of us are outdoor educators, parents, and grandparents, so I just had to share.



## Local Sightings



Above: Fiery Skipper and Right: American Snout

Photo credit: Maraiah Russell

Eagle Marsh, Fort Wayne, IN

9/14/22



To subscribe and submit, contact:

Naturalist Leslie A. Arnold

larnold@lagrangecounty.org

Dallas Lake Park

0505 W 700 S, Wolcottville, IN,  
46795



October is our last newsletter for 2022.

See you again in April 2023! Thanks for  
your support and contributions! Leslie

larnold@lagrangecounty.org or 260-854-2225



Above: Eastern Comma

Photo credit: Steve Etheridge

Jefferson Twnshp., Noble Co., IN

9/1/22

Steve also reported for September:

Painted Lady

Black Swallowtail

Black Swallowtail larva

Monarchs

Variegated Fritillary



## Community Calendar

Contact the event host prior to traveling to make sure it's not cancelled.

Saturday, October 1

1:00 p.m.

### Fall Plant Exchange

Elkhart County Parks, Cobus Creek Shelter

30680 CR 8, Elkhart, IN

Bring healthy plants, bulbs, seeds, and garden items to exchange. Everything must be potted and/or labeled.

Thursday, October 13

6:00 p.m.

### Indiana Monitors Gathering

Pine Knob Park Lodge, Howe, IN

Northeast Indiana butterfly monitoring year-end pitch-in and social gathering. RSVP to John Brittenham by October 11 at [johnbrittenham@gmail.com](mailto:johnbrittenham@gmail.com).

Tuesday, October 25

4:00-6:00 p.m.

### Seed Collection Workday

Wing Haven, 180 W 400 N, Angola, IN 46703

ACRES Land Trust is looking for volunteers to help collect seeds to be used in upcoming restoration projects at other preserves. All equipment provided. Long pants and boots recommended. Call 260-637-2273 for more information.



Saturday, October 29

6:00 p.m.

### Pollinator Crusaders Program

Whitewater Memorial State Park

1418 S SR 101, Liberty, IN 47353

Campground Playground in Loop B

Learn about the challenges facing pollinators. For more info, contact Kristie Ridgway, 765-647-2657.

November 4-6

Camp Mack, Milford, IN

### Environmental Education Association of Indiana

#### 2022 Conference

<https://eeai.org/2022-Conference>