



Meet the Butterflies!

These beauties are just a sampling of the tropical butterflies you may see during Butterflies LIVE! The exhibit is exciting, entertaining and educational!



Giant owl (*Caligo eurilochus*)

- Easy target for birds since very large, slow flyer
- Prefers flying at dusk when fewer birds present
- Markings resemble owl's eyes to divert attacks from birds and small predators

PHOTO CREDIT: "BUTTERFLY BARBARA" WIEDERKHER



Blue morpho (*Morpho peleides*)

- Enjoys unsavory food source—juices from rotting fruits
- Short lifecycle: 115 days from egg to adult
- Larvae are cannibals
- Color results from light diffraction off wings' millions of tiny scales
- Frightens predators by rapid flashing of wings and group clustering in "mob" behavior



Malachite (*Siproeta stelenes*)

- Feeds on flower nectar, rotting fruit, dead animals and bat dung
- Named for the bright green mineral malachite



Glasswing (*Greta oto*)

- Feeds on nectar of common flowers, such as lantana
- Lay eggs on toxic plants
- Ingests alkaloids making it distasteful to predators
- Male converts alkaloids into pheromones to attract females
- Male "leks" (Swedish word for "play") in competitive mating display



Red cracker (*Hamadryas amphinome*)

- Feeds on rotting fruit
- Name reflects males' crackling noise made during flight
- Caterpillars live communally
- Perches on tree trunks with head down and wings spread



Grecian shoemaker (*Catonephele*)

- Eats rotting fruit and tree sap
- Lives in wet forest habitats
- Caterpillar's hosts are woody plants with medicinal properties
- "Sexually dimorphic," meaning males and females look different



Doris longwing (*Heliconius doris*)

- Feeds on nectar from variety of plants
- Pollen may be protein source
- Long-lived lifespan: couple months or more



Julia (*Dryas Julia*)

- Feeds on nectar of flowers, such as lantana and shepherd's needle
- Caterpillar feeds on passion vine leaves
- Male is brighter orange than female
- Fast flier that frequents clearings, paths and woodland margins