Butterfly Gardening
Interesting Factoids

• While pollinators provide an important service for many flowering plants, the number of pollinators in an area is also a significant indicator of overall health of that ecosystem
Attracting Butterflies

- Diversify garden plantings to offer a variety of flower colors, fragrances and shapes throughout the growing season.
- Include native plantings
- Limit (ideally eliminate) pesticide use
Flower Considerations

- Consider timing and a sequence of blooms
- Mix up flower architecture!
- Blue, yellow, red and violet are very attractive to a wide range of pollinators
- Urban gardens with the highest diversity of plantings are most attractive to pollinators
Flower Considerations

- You don’t need a lot of space
- Consider utilizing containers
- Native selections are four times more attractive to pollinators
- Include larval food sources as well
Flower Considerations

- The colors, shapes and fragrances that evolved with flowers were to attract pollinators.
- Everything about the flower (shape, size, fragrance, etc.) is important for maximizing the chances of pollination.
Pesticides & Pollinators

- Avoid the use of pesticides which are typically non-selective and can additionally taint nectar and pollen
- If you have to use them, use the most selective and least toxic options (don’t ever spray flowers!)
Planting Diversity
Annuals
Some Considerations

- Keep them happy!
- Maintenance inputs
- Extended interest and availability for pollinators
- Compositional potential and value in containers
Verbena bonariensis
Tithonia ‘Torch’
Ageratum ‘High Tide Blue’
Gaillardia ‘Arizona Sun’
Salvia ‘Summer Jewel Red’
Salvia ‘Summer Jewel Pink’
Salvia ‘Black & Blue’
Agastache ‘Bolero’
Agastache ‘Golden Jubilee’
Rudbeckia ‘Indian Summer’
Rudbeckia ‘Prairie Sun’
Cosmos ‘Happy Ring’
Zinnia ‘Zowie! Yellow Flame’
Consider Containers
Perennials
Echinacea ‘Cheyenne Spirit’
Echinacea Sombrerero®
‘Flamenco Orange’
Echinacea ‘PowWow® Wildberry’
Echinacea paradoxa
Rudbeckia ‘Little Goldstar’
Coreopsis ‘Zagreb’
Coreopsis ‘Lightning Flash’
Centranthus ruber
Leucanthemum ‘Brightside’
Agastache ‘Blue Fortune’
Achillea ‘Pretty Belinda’
Sedum ‘Matrona’
Phlox ‘Shockwave’
Monarda ‘Jacob Cline’
Monarda ‘Purple Rooster’
Veronica ‘Red Fox’
Veronica ‘Pure Silver’
Liatris spicata
Liatris ‘Kobold’
Liatris pycnostachya
Liatris ligulistylis
Liatris ‘Alba’
Lavandula angustifolia
Anemone ‘Honorine Jobert’
Solidago ‘Little Lemon’
Solidago 'Fireworks'
Aster ‘Vibrant Dome’
Aster ‘Raydon’s Favorite’
Larval Food Sources

- Research and include larval host plants as part of your Pollinator’s Paradise
- Place plants where leaf damage can be tolerated
Asclepias syriaca
Asclepias tuberosa
Petroselinum
Anethum graveolens
Foeniculum
Buddleia ‘Flutterby Petite™
Dark Pink’
Caryopteris ‘Dark Knight’
Don’t Forget Water!

• Water is vital to pollinators for drinking and reproduction.
• Consider bird baths, mud puddles or even some wet sand in a saucer.
• Place stones for access
• Change water often and sterilize as needed
Mud Puddles
Summary for Success

- Design for a continuous succession of flowering plants
- Include larval host plants
- Consider the value of native plantings
Summary for Success

• Avoid pesticides
• Supply water
• Do more research on this topic to maximize your Pollinator’s Paradise Potential!
• Visit www.pollinator.org
Thank You!