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Butterfly Pavilion Announces New Season of Community Science Programs – New Communities, Expanded Education, Additional Communities, Increased Funding, and Firefly Monitoring.***Colorado Butterfly Monitoring Network Receives Grant from by the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC) to Help Increase Engagement Throughout Colorado***

Westminster, CO – April 13 2023 –Butterfly Pavilion kicks off the 2023 Community Science season by announcing a new volunteer opportunity – Colorado Firefly Monitoring. The program also includes the 11th season for the Colorado Butterfly Monitoring Network (CBMN) to track butterflies and collect data, and Urban Prairies Project (UPP), surveying and restoring urban land. The newly announced Colorado Firefly Monitoring (CFM) program will help identify fireflies during their high season in early June. These engaging and educational community science programs allow anyone in communities throughout Colorado to volunteer their time May – September and participate in a program that best suits their interests and skills.

“We are thrilled...to have increased engagement in our volunteer-base every year and from organizations like Pollinator Partnership (P2), who have awarded us with a grant to support our research and monitoring of Lepidoptera through CBMN,” said Shiran Hershovich, Lepidopterist Manager, Butterfly Pavilion. “The data we gather through community science volunteers arms us with essential information about the health of our local ecosystem, and now with new funding we can broaden our base and involve more people who are enthusiastic about science and conservation.”

Community science relies on the support of people within the community to help make a difference, providing an outlet to work together to overcome the challenges in today’s environment that is ever-changing. Butterfly Pavilion provides volunteer opportunities in community science through three programs found here [Community Science \(butterflies.org\)](https://www.butterflies.org).

Colorado Butterfly Monitoring Network (CBMN)

Beyond being spectacular, butterflies play a vital role in the ecosystem, serving as both pollinators and as food for other animals. Knowing which butterflies are active in our state gives us important information about the health of our local ecosystems. CBMN volunteers observe and record butterflies in open spaces and parks multiple times per season, gathering essential data that land managers can use when making conservation decisions. It’s a fantastic chance to get outdoors and learn about butterflies, while having a positive impact on conservation in Colorado.

This year, with the new research grant from the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC), Butterfly Pavilion is expanding CBMN butterfly monitoring locations to new areas, including Boulder, Steamboat Springs, and Lamar.

With new training and monitoring areas, volunteers will be able to record even more invaluable data! Participants are provided with the training and tools they need to observe and record butterflies in open spaces and parks multiple times per season, gathering essential data that land managers can use when making conservation decisions.

Last year, CBMN celebrated 10 years of monitoring with the highest volunteer engagement to date with 61 individuals walking six routes from May – September. Since 2013, CBMN has recorded 122,050 individual butterflies and logged 3,751 butterfly surveys, accounting for 4,346 hours (about 6 months) of monitoring across Colorado.

Colorado Firefly Monitoring

Launching this summer, Butterfly Pavilion is calling on community scientists to support firefly conservation in Colorado. In addition to researching best practices for rearing fireflies in captivity, Butterfly Pavilion partners with the Western Firefly Project to record sightings of fireflies around Colorado. For this summer's firefly season, Butterfly Pavilion's website will have a new webpage dedicated to increasing community knowledge about Colorado's fireflies where residents can record firefly sightings, helping to build our knowledge of where fireflies are found and how many there are.

Urban Prairies Project (UPP)

UPP helps improve the ecological health of urban and suburban open spaces along the front range and beyond, while providing opportunities to engage community volunteers in habitat conservation for pollinators and other wildlife.

By participating, volunteers are directly contributing to improving invertebrate conservation, environmental sustainability and informing local policy, as well as getting outdoors and having fun with great people. These projects not only gather important ecological information, but they also help educate and engage the public in invertebrate conservation and research.

About Butterfly Pavilion

Founded in July 1995 and accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums in 2014, Butterfly Pavilion is the first accredited, stand-alone, non-profit invertebrate zoo in the world, occupying a 34,000-square foot facility situated on an 11-acre campus provided by the City of Westminster, Colorado. Butterfly Pavilion's mission is to foster an appreciation of butterflies and other invertebrates while educating the public about the need for conservation of threatened habitats in the tropics and around the world. Learn more at www.butterflies.org

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