Kids Alive

Butterflies: Behind the Beauty

Do you ever wish you had eyes in the back of your head? How about on your arms? Some butterflies like buckeye butterflies have "eyes" or eyespots on their wings. Why? When buckeyes spread their wings, their eyespots look like the eyes of a larger animal. They may scare away predators like birds and lizards.* Other butterflies, such as monarchs, use bright colors for protection. These insects have special chemicals that taste bad to predators. Predators learn to link the taste of a monarch with its bold orange and black wings and stay away. The viceroy butterfly is a copycat. It uses mimicry to keep safe from predators. With bright orange and black wings, it looks a lot like the monarch. So predators stay away. Why should we care about butterflies? As they flutter from flower to flower, butterflies spread pollen so that more plants can grow. Many of these plants are food crops that feed us. These plants also give us more oxygen to breathe.

Visit the Milwaukee County Zoo's special exhibit Butterflies! In Living Color, sponsored by Sendik's Food Markets. It's open **May 28-Sept. 25** (see page 11). Meanwhile, enjoy the butterfly activities on these two pages and at zoosociety.org/funstuff.

What's in a Name?

Butterflies are not just colorful. They often have "colorful" names and fascinating behaviors. For example, did you know that the monarch butterfly was named after a king, King William of England? Or that each type of butterfly has its own way of flying when searching for food or for a mate? Find the following list of names and behaviors in the word search below. Words can go up-down, across, diagonally, and backward

BASKING
COURTING
FEEDING
FLYING
JULIA
MONARCH

POSTMAN
PUDDLING
RED ADMIRAL
ROOSTING
SWALLOWTAIL
VICEROY

R	D	P	B	V	A	P	G	N	I	Y	L	F	E
X	E	U	E	V	Q	X	N	I	D	M	G	E	D
A	Q	D	B	A	S	K	I	N	G	F	R	E	R
D	Y	D	A	P	O	S	T	M	A	N	O	D	P
R	O	L	D	D	I	I	S	X	Y	N	B	I	A
H	R	I	N	N	M	C	O	U	R	T	I	N	G
O	E	N	C	Z	Q	I	O	P	Z	P	B	G	Y
H	C	G	F	S	H	C	R	A	N	O	M	Q	A
L	I	A	T	W	O	L	L	A	W	S	S	V	E
H	V	C	L	X	E	L	A	I	L	U	J	T	G

Activities & Text by Erica Breunlin Craft photos by Zoological Society staff.

*For more information on eyespots and for word search answers, go to zoosociety.org/funstuff.