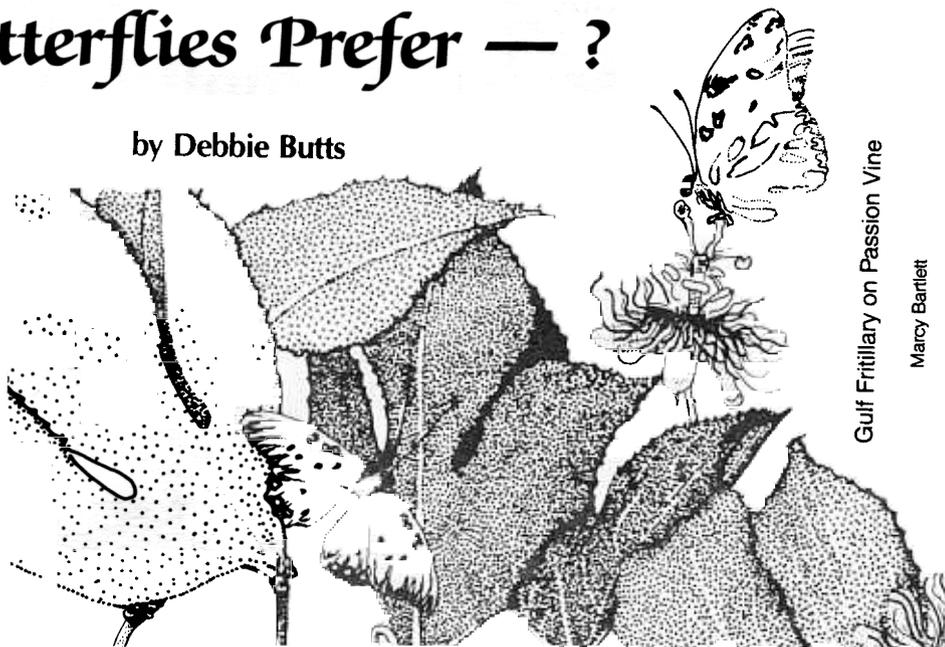


# Butterflies Prefer — ?

by Debbie Butts



Gulf Fritillary on Passion Vine

Marcy Bartlett

Several FNPS members recently had the pleasure of visiting the Pinellas County Cooperative Extension Office for a chapter meeting. The property was beautifully landscaped with xeriscape gardens, water gardens, perennials, edible plants, and native plants.

Dr. Craig Huegel, who is responsible for developing the extensive native plant garden, has conducted butterfly research in the garden for several years. At the recent FNPS conference in Orlando, Craig presented a scientific paper entitled "Butterfly use of native Florida wildflowers in an urban butterfly garden".

Here are some notes taken at his presentation:

Although many butterfly species regularly visit the garden, there is presently

good data on only twelve species. Most flowers are listed in order of preference.

• Spicebush Swallowtail—prefers red tubular flowers, such as scarlet sage

(*Salvia coccinea*) and butterfly milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)

• Palamedes Swallowtail—cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*) and scarlet sage

• Zebra Swallowtail—Stokes aster (*Stokesia laevis*), blazing star (*Liatris* spp.), Florida paintbrush (*Carphephorus corymbosus*)

• Gulf Fritillary—regularly visits 25 flowers including blue porterweed (*Stachytarpheta jamaicensis*), *Liatris*, and wild petunia (*Ruellia caroliniensis*)

• White Peacock—Florida paintbrush, butterfly milkweed

• Red Admiral - flatwoods plum (*Prunus umbellata*), blue porterweed

• Banded Lady—Stokes aster, pennyroyal (*Piloblephis rigida*)

• Gray Hairstreak—elephant's foot (*Elephantopus carolinianus*)

• Giant Sulfurs—wild petunia, scarlet sage

• Long-tailed Skipper—blue porterweed, Florida paintbrush, *Liatris spicata*

• Folding Skippers—Stokes aster, *Gaillardia*, wild petunia

• Dusky-Wings—Stokes aster, wild petunia

In addition, two natives in the Citrus family that are larval preferences for the Giant Swallowtail are wild lime (*Zanthoxylum fagara*) and Hercules club (*Zanthoxylum clava-herculis*).

As you can see, several plants keep showing up time and again as butterfly nectaring choices. By carefully choosing long-season bloomers, one can attract butterflies to a garden as small as a window box.

from *Grapevine*,  
newsletter of Suncoast Chapter

Now you can purchase the new FNPS booklet, *Butterfly Gardening with Florida's Native Plants!* Craig Huegel has written a readable and knowledgeable text about Florida's butterflies and their special attraction to native plant species. He tells you how to design your own garden for butterflies, what to plant to attract them, and what you can expect to see there. 40 pages, illustrated in three colors.

To receive your copy, send \$6.00 if you are not a member of FNPS, \$5.50 if you are, payable to Florida Native Plant Society, P.O. Box 680008, Orlando, FL 32868. Price includes mailing. Or you can save postage by buying a copy at your chapter meeting.

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