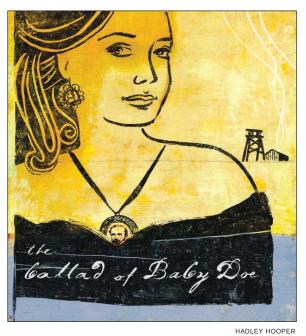
Gipin County Vol 2, 32 Vol



The Butterfly Pavilion offers its own gallery of nature's creative masterpieces. **p8-9**

DAVE GIBSON



Central City Opera gearing up for the summer season. **p10**

POLITICAL

Black Hawk Council candidates begin to square off and attempt to sway voters for the three open seats. **p3, 10**



Ice sailing on Georgetown Lake is a blast!

EDUCATION

Reflections art recognition sponsored by the Gilpin County PTA. Award winners listed inside. **p2** Spelling winners win big cash prizes. **p3**



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ENTERTAINMENT

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The Butterfly Pavilion

Natures art gallery by Dave Gibson

If strolling through lush tropical greenery accompanied by twelve hundred butterflies fluttering across your path sounds appealing, a trip to the Butterfly Pavilion may be just the escape for you. The Butterfly Pavilion, the nation's first stand-alone nonprofit insect zoo, is located in Westminster, Colorado, and provides an exciting and educational experience for all ages.

The conservatory is kept between 75 and 80 degrees Fahrenheit with a steamy humidity of 70 percent. Plants such as firebush, dwarf poinciana, porterweed, coral vine, and peregrina supply the nectar the butterflies so diligently consume. Bananas and overripe fruit are also displayed on feeding dishes for, among others, the brilliantly painted common and blue banded morpho, malachite, and tawny owl butterfly.

Butterflies are defined as any of the various insects belonging to the order of lepidoptera. Families include: morphidae, nymphalidae, ithomiidae, heliconiidae, papilionidae, pieridae, danaidae, and brassolidae. The species represented here originate from Africa, Asia, Australia, New Guinea, the Philippines, North, Central, and South America.

The most diminutive of the subjects at the pavilion is the black and white colored sailor and the largest is the eye-spotted mournful owl. Many of the lepidoptera possess eyespots that act to confuse predators. The monarch,



spotted blue crow, and queen are milkweed butterflies that sport bold designs, which warn of their unpalatable taste. The common morman is dimorphic - meaning males and females differ in color. Great mormans are polymorphic - the color of the sexes is different and they occur in many forms.

A longwing common postman can interbreed with all of its subspecies, making it useful in genetic studies. The vibrant crimson of the red peacock serves notice to larger butterflies that may enter this highly territorial firebrand's area. The male red cracker emits a cracking sound bright lim when in flight. Some of the birdwing, specimens, like the neo-tropical female Cupid's quilt, exhibit sexual dimorphism, where their appearance mimics that of an unsavory relative, in this case the

red-spotted cattleheart. From the

iridescent metal blue wave to the

bright lime-green common green birdwing, the unfolding kaleidoscope of colors and patterns is endless.

As if butterflies weren't enough, the employees and volunteers take care of other wild denizens as well. While inside, you're likely to encounter tortoises, turtles, toads, goldfish, zebra finches, or iguanas. In the "Crawl-A-See-Em" exhibit, you are in close contact with leaf insects, scorpions, beetles, giant millipedes, and Rosie - a friendly Chilean rose hair tarantula! At "The Water's Edge," sea stars, sea cucumbers and other aquatic invertebrates from the Atlantic and Pacific oceans are observed. You can even make a giant animatronic insect walk, or a dragonfly take flight, in their newest interactive exhibit named "Shrunk!"

Chrysalid are obtained from commercial butterfly farms and the newly emerged are released at 12:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. each day.

The Butterfly Pavilion is an educational facility existing for the study and appreciation of butterflies and invertebrates. The need for conservation of threatened habitats in the tropics and worldwide is emphasized with a myriad of programs and workshops being offered. For further information contact:

Butterfly Pavilion, 6252 W. 104th Ave., Westminster, CO, 80020. Ph. (303) 469-5441; www.butterflies.org



TOP: Mating common mormon / Malaysia, Philippines

> BOTTOM: False postman / Central South America



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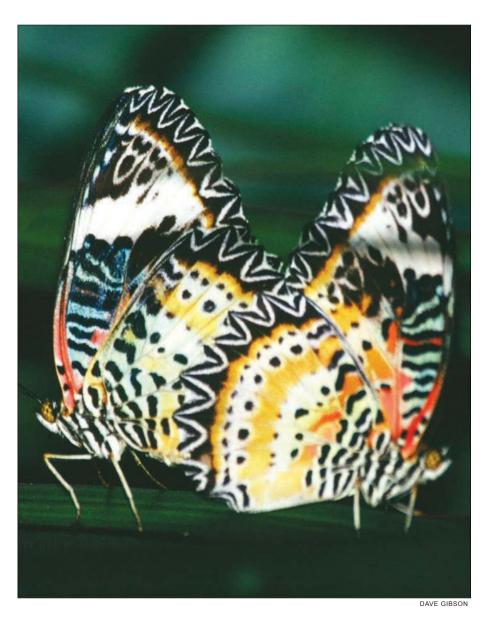


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ABOVE: Mating malay lacewing / Asia

RIGHT: Blue glassy tiger / Asia





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