



I Spy with my Little Butterflies^{at} DEERING ESTATE

Be a Citizen Scientist! Nature lovers of all ages and expertise levels can help local chapters of the North American Butterfly Association (NABA) take their annual census counts at nature centers and wildlife preserves during June & July.

Explore the Deering Estate in search of the Ruddy Daggerwing, Dina Yellow, Atala and more! Document what you see by using the Butterfly Count list provided below and share your photos with us on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram: #DeeringButterflies



■ **GIANT SWALLOWTAIL (*Papilio cresphontes*)**

Commonly found at the Deering Estate, this butterfly is one of the largest species found in the United States. Host plants include orange trees and wild lime. Wild lime can be found near the Pump House & Carriage House and the self-guided trail through the hammocks.

■ **MONARCH (*Danaus plexippus*)**

Monarchs are most famous for the mass migration to warmer climates in winter – a behavior not commonly seen in butterflies. Major efforts to preserve habitat and save this species include the National Wildlife Federation’s Mayors’ Monarch Pledge.

■ **CASSIUS BLUE (*Leptotes cassius*)**

Also known as the tiger blue due to striping on the underside of the wing, the Cassius Blue is a small butterfly found throughout the southern United States.

■ **ZEBRA HELICONIAN (*Heliconious charitonious*)**

Officially known as the Florida state butterfly, this longwing has an interesting roosting behavior where several will gather and spend the night clustered together on a perch.

■ **JULIA HELICONIAN (*Dryas iulia*)**

Commonly located in hammocks, the Julia is only found in Florida, Texas and the tropics. It lays eggs on its host plant, Passiflora vines.

■ **RUDDY DAGGERWING (*Marpesia petreus*)**

The Ruddy Daggerwing is an expert at camouflage. It will land atop a leaf, close its wings, and appear to be a dead leaf.

■ **MANGROVE SKIPPER (*Phocides pigmalion*)**

A species on the decline. It is also a Florida specialty and one of the few species to use mangroves as a host plant. Look for its iridescent blue highlights.

■ **DINA YELLOW (*Pyrisitia dina*)**

A small Sulphur that is rare throughout the United States, but commonly found at the Deering Estate near the edges of hammocks.

■ **ATALA (*Eumaeus atala*)**

Thought to be extinct from 1937-1959, the Atala is only found in southeastern Florida. The over harvesting of its only host plant, Coontie, for its starch rich roots led to its decline.

■ **WHITE PEACOCK (*Anartia jatrophae*)**

Peacocks are large butterflies commonly found in Central America, the Caribbean, Texas and Florida. They prefer to be out in warm, open, weedy areas where water is abundant.

■ **OTHER**



DEERING ESTATE



To request materials in accessible format, sign language interpreters and/or access to any Miami-Dade Parks sponsored function, contact Parks Disability Services at 305-755-7848 or e-mail PDS@miamidadegov at least 7 days in advance to initiate your request. TTY users may call 711, (Florida Relay Service).