



MIAMI BLUE CHAPTER, NABA FEBRUARY 2019 E-NEWS

Above: Miami Blue on Blackbead. Courtesy of Jaeson Clayborn.

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CHAPTER MEETING

Sunday, February 3
1-3 pm

Castellow Hammock
Preserve and Nature Center
22301 SW 162 Avenue

Speakers and Program

Presenters: Alban Delamarre and Jaeson Clayborn

*The New Frontier in Effective Butterfly and Ecosystem
Communication and Conservation:*

*Virtual reality gaming, "Frontier Earth - Butterfly World
1.0"*

Through interactive gaming, virtual reality applied to

butterfly and forest conservation activities can reach a broad audience and initiate a paradigm shift towards coexistence between humans and butterflies under urban settings.

Frontier Earth: Butterfly World 1.0 is a game designed to teach players about butterflies and plants in dry forest ecosystems in the Florida Keys. Tasks include butterfly and plant identification and the removal of an invasive ant species. The immersive virtual environment allows players to explore the forest without swarms of mosquitoes and oppressive heat present in the real environment.

Rethinking a different way of communicating butterfly conservation and environmental stewardship through gaming, we can reach many who might otherwise remain untouched by traditional education routes. Virtual gaming, designed to educate the player through meaningful tasks and measurable outcomes, presents another avenue for direct knowledge acquisition and passive empathy through direct experiences.

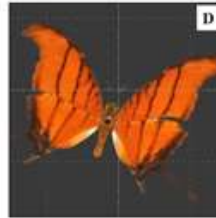
We will invite audience members to play our game during the meeting and experience virtual butterflies in real-time. This is a program you definitely will not want to miss!

Butterfly World 1.0 ==> Real Butterfly Gardening

1) Exploration and discoveries abound in natural ecosystems (e.g. dry forests in the Florida Keys).



2) Participants perform various tasks including butterfly/plant identification and invasive species removal.



3) Latent curiosity and learning can lead to species awareness and habitat rehabilitation (butterfly gardening).



About the Speakers

Alban Delamarre is a PhD student in the School of Computing and Information Sciences at Florida International University. He has a M.S. in Computer Science from the Université de Bretagne Occidentale, France. He speaks many languages and prefers basketball over soccer.

Jaeson Clayborn is an adjunct instructor at Florida International University and Miami-Dade College Hialeah Campus. He graduated with a PhD (Biological Sciences) under the supervision and guidance of Dr. Suzanne Koptur. His dissertation focused on the federally endangered Schaus' swallowtail butterfly (*Heraclides aristodemus ponceanus*) in Biscayne National Park. He speaks one and a half languages and prefers soccer over basketball

Refreshments, etc.

You are invited to add to the refreshment table! Finger foods preferred. Drinks, ice, cups, toothpicks and napkins are provided. Refreshments start about 12:45.

Come early and stay late to butterfly and bird.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE BOARD

Want to get more involved in Miami Blue? Know someone who would make an excellent board member or committee chair? Please send your nominations to chapter president [Jae Clayborn](#).

WINGS OVER FLORIDA BUTTERFLY WORKSHOP

Friday, March 8, 9 AM - 3 PM
Zoo Miami
12400 SW 152 Street

On behalf of the [Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission](#) (FWC) and the [Florida Museum of Natural History](#) (FLMNH), we would like to invite you to our Wings Over Florida-Butterfly workshop. **No costs are associated.**

[Wings Over Florida](#) (WOF) is a program of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission rewarding participants for their bird and butterfly listing achievements. Wings Over Florida is designed to encourage Floridians and visitors of all ages to engage in wildlife viewing and identify as conservationists, expanding their connection to nature.

This workshop is intended to provide educational materials and resources for partners to share with their own classes, programs and/or audience. The goals of this workshop are to:

- Introduce the Wings Over Florida program
- Provide an overview of butterflies and their ecological importance
- Provide lessons for butterfly basics, identification and field practices adaptable to your specific audience

- Include a field component using best practices for environmental conservation and stewardship
- Provide additional resources for connecting your audience to nature in new and innovative ways
- Obtain constructive evaluations and feedback for future Wings Over Florida workshops

Agenda

9:00 am	Sign-in, Pre-survey
9:15 am	Introductions, Overview, Expectations, Resources
10:00 am	Butterfly Basics
12:00 pm	LUNCH – Please bring your own lunch
1:00 pm	In the Field
2:30 pm	Wrap-up, Questions, Post-survey

Bring lunch, snacks, water bottle, and dress appropriately to be inside and outside.

Please register through Eventbrite or please contact Savanna Christy at 850-488-9453 or savanna.christy@myfwc.com.

NATIVE PLANT DAY

Saturday, March 23
9 am - 4 pm

Bill Sadowski Park
17555 SW 79 Avenue, Palmetto Bay

The Dade Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society will hold its 24th Native Plant Day at Sadowski Park. There is no entrance charge and parking is free.

As always, the day will have programs, walks, children's activities, raffles and book and native plant sales, in addition to displays by groups such as Miami Blue.

Volunteer for a shift at our table; it is easy and fun. Sign up at the chapter meeting or email [Jaeson Clayborn](mailto:Jaeson.Clayborn).

This event is a low-key "hands-on" event designed to promote the native plants and creatures of South

Florida to the public. Drinks and food will be available for purchase—cash only (no credit cards).

ABOUT NABA AND THE MIAMI BLUE CHAPTER

Are YOU a NABA member? We are happy to send you this e-news and hope you will attend upcoming Miami Blue activities. If you aren't a NABA member, we'd be delighted to have you join -- or rejoin, if your membership has lapsed.

As a member, you will enjoy NABA's quarterly publications ([American Butterflies](#) and [The Butterfly Gardener](#)), regional and national meetings, and the news and activities of the Miami Blue Chapter (or your local chapter).

Better yet, you will help ensure that this national organization and its chapters will continue to work to increase public enjoyment and conservation of butterflies. You helped us petition the State of Florida and the USFWS to declare Miami Blues an endangered species.

To learn more about Miami Blue, go to our web site at miamiblue.org.

To join (or renew), go to <http://miamiblue.org/> or <http://www.naba.org/>.

Not sure if you are a member (or current member) or need help? Contact NABA at naba@naba.org or the Miami Blue membership chair, Patty Phares, at pharespl@gmail.com.

Memberships start at \$35 (see NABA.org). Such a small amount to support big things, such as endangered species.