

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2025-2026

I am pleased to offer this brief summary of some of the significant activities in which the Miami Blue Chapter (hereinafter "MBC" or the "Chapter") was involved or otherwise conducted in 2025-26.

1. **Members' Meetings:** We had four members' meetings during 2025, and two in the first half of 2026. Our guest speakers included:
  - 2026 Q2 May 3<sup>rd</sup> – Susan Kolterman gave her presentation "Common, Rare and Endangered Butterflies and other Fauna in Our Subtropical Hardwood Hammock."
  - 2026 Q1 February 1<sup>st</sup> – Jill Utrup gave her presentation "*Range-wide Recovery and Conservation of the endangered Karner blue butterfly*".
  - 2025 Q4 November 2<sup>nd</sup> – [Cuauhtémoc Saenz-Romero](#) gave his presentation "*Ecological Restoration of Monarch Butterfly Overwintering Sites in the Context of Climate Change.*"
  - 2025 Q2 May 4<sup>th</sup> – [Elianis Rodriguez Arzola](#) and Hilary Ramirez Payamps gave their presentation "*The Last of Us: The Quest for Uninfected Monarch Butterflies in South Florida.*"
  - 2025 Q1 February 2<sup>nd</sup> – Dr. Jaret Daniels gave his presentation "Updates on the conservation of key at-risk butterflies in Florida."
2. **Events:** Led by MBC officer Adam Skowronski, we participated in and/or had "tables" at numerous events in 2025, and most recently at the following:
  - 3-21-2026 - Native Plant Day, Amelia Earhart Park – Hialeah
  - 4-18-2026 - Miami Shores Green Day
3. **"Fourth of July" Butterfly surveys:** MBC sponsored five surveys in 2025: Shark Valley (x2): Pinecrest/Tri-County; Coral Gables; Homestead - the results of each are posted on the Chapter's website. And more recently, we have conducted Counts at Shark Valley (3-7-26) and Homestead (5-23-26). For a list of upcoming Counts, see the calendar of "upcoming events" on MBC's website.
4. **Schaus' Swallowtail surveys:** Led by Chapter officers Susan Kolterman and Linda Evans, we participated in the ongoing Schaus' Swallowtail surveys, which are conducted annually in Biscayne National Park (Elliott Key) and the Upper Keys (April - July); in 2025, this involved over 200 hours of fieldwork by approximately 10 Chapter members. The 2026 surveys are underway.

5. **Conservation:**

a) **Restoration efforts:**

During 2025, MBC supported, with “sweat equity” (volunteer hours), the restoration of the 15-acre Sean W. McCrackine Pineland Preserve (f/k/a Calderon Pineland), which is a Miami-Dade County environmentally endangered land (EEL) property. During 2025 and continuing in 2026, the Chapter also provided material financial as well as “sweat equity” support for the Girl Scouts’ Camp Mahachee.

More recently, MBC is in the process of accepting the donation of approximately five acres of land contiguous with Miami-Dade County’s “Quail Roost” EEL property, with the intention of subsequently conveying that property to the County. This generous gift comes from the Redlands Acreage, LLC.

b) **Field Research:**

Throughout 2025 and continuing in 2026, MBC has taken an active interest in monitoring (searching for) the Miami Blue, which apparently has disappeared from its very limited known range in the FL Keys and FL Bay. In 2026, we donated @\$20,000 of our funds to support the field efforts of Dr. Jaret Daniels and the McGuire Center for Lepidoptera and Biodiversity to locate our namesake field efforts.

c) **New project support:**

Most recently, the Chapter has offered support for the creation of the Oleta River Corridor. This project anticipates, among other things, the creation of a trail, the removal of hazardous trees and solid waste, the replanting of the mangrove forest along with additional canopy trees in the uplands, as well as water quality improvements to a nearby pond.

6. **Social Media:** Social media presence. MBC officer Ana Rojas, with the assistance of Rebecca Smith and Adam Skowronski, have been instrumental in this regard. We will continue these efforts.