

# Flying Colors

BUTTERFLY FESTIVAL

June 29, 2011

For Immediate Release

Contact: Lynn McIntyre

Director of Community Relations

Chattahoochee Nature Center

9135 Willeo Road, Roswell, GA 30075

[www.chattnaturecenter.org](http://www.chattnaturecenter.org)

770-992-2055 x 224

The Flying Colors Butterfly Festival

CHATTAHOOCHEE NATURE CENTER

Saturday, July 16 and Sunday, July 17, 2011

***“Summer is not so tasty without our pollinating friends, the insects”,*** said Rebecca Gilbert, Director of Community Programs. ***“On hot Georgia nights, we love to sit outside and eat watermelon or strawberries after a fresh-from-the-garden vegetable meal.” “But do we remember how the butterflies and other insects make all these treats possible?”***

The Flying Colors Butterfly Festival delights all ages at the Chattahoochee Nature Center when the air fills with the beating wings of hundreds of beautiful butterflies! Join us for this dance with these glorious butterflies to celebrate their elegant beauty! Enjoy live music, create arts and crafts, have butterflies painted on your face and visit fascinating entomology exhibits as colorful butterfly banners flutter in the breeze. Witness nature’s marvelous pollinators and enjoy the most amazing show as they land on people, seeking salt on their skin and then land on flowers after each release.

**Henning von Schmeling, Director of Operations,** explains ***“Butterflies and bees are guided by sight and smell. Other insects are able to see red and therefore pollinate red or orange flowers.” “Butterflies also need salt and when we are outside in the sun, we smell good to them with our sweaty skin.” “Flowers pollinated by butterflies and moths have tube- like flowers where an insect can dip in its long proboscis to reach the nectar. “ “The pollen in these flowers is large and sticky.” So.....At your next meal, remember the insects that made your food possible!”***

- ✦ Fun Facts: The U.S. Department of Agriculture has estimated that about 3.5 million acres of U.S. fruit, vegetable, oilseed and legume seed crops depend on insect pollination. Another 63 million acres derive some benefit from insect pollination. A 1999 Cornell

University study concluded that the direct value of honeybee pollination annually to U.S. agriculture is \$14.6 billion.

Kids can wear their butterfly wings and antenna or any costume to march in our butterfly parades at the conclusion of festivities each day. Native plants that attract butterflies will be on sale for our avid gardeners. Improve your photography skills while trying to capture a picture of these beautiful illusive insects from our photography friends on hand. Come play at the nature center and let the butterflies enchant you!

Festival food will be on sale through Roswell's Barberitos Southwestern Grill and Cantina, and Bruster's Ice Cream as well as other vendors; so plan to have a picnic as part of the festivities.

Be sure to bring your camera to capture these fantastic, fluttering creatures up close at the Chattahoochee Nature Center from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, on Saturday, July 16th or noon to 5pm on Sunday, July 17th, during our 12th annual Flying Colors Butterfly Festival. The live Butterfly releases will take place on Saturday at 11:00 and 1:30 and Sunday at 1:30 and 3:30.

Admission \$10

Free for children 2 and under

Guests are asked to carpool, with a free shuttle bus service provided to and from two lots.

Additional parking is available at the St. Francis School on Willeo Road just south of 120 and the Roswell Mills just SE of the square on Alpharetta Highway (see signs). For more information on the festival contact 770-992-2055 ext. 236 or visit our website at

[www.chattnaturecenter.org](http://www.chattnaturecenter.org)

###