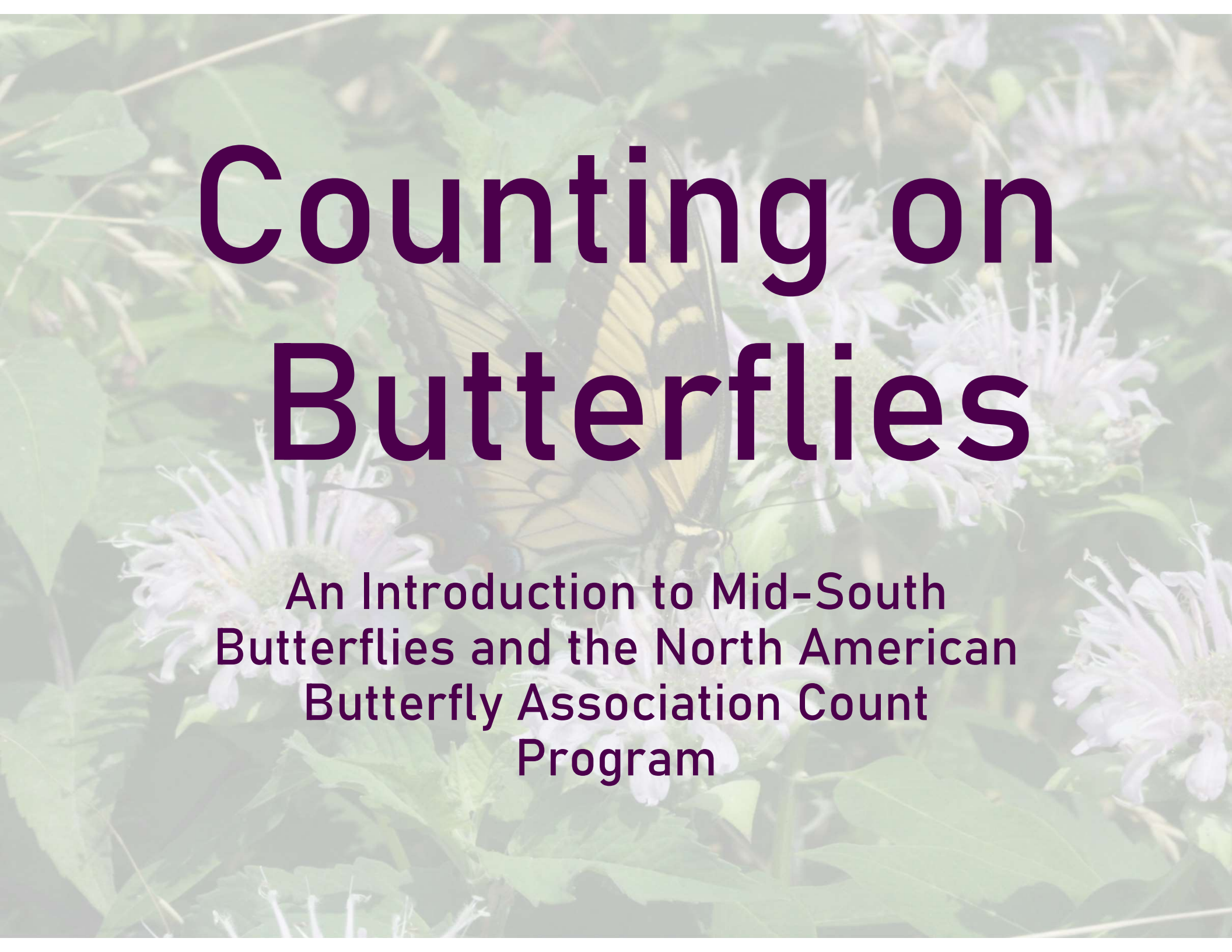


The background of the slide is a photograph of butterflies on flowers. A large, vibrant yellow and black butterfly is the central focus, perched on a light purple flower. Other butterflies, including a small orange and black one, are visible in the background. The scene is set against a backdrop of green foliage and more purple flowers.

Counting on Butterflies

An Introduction to Mid-South
Butterflies and the North American
Butterfly Association Count
Program

History of the NABA Butterfly Count Program

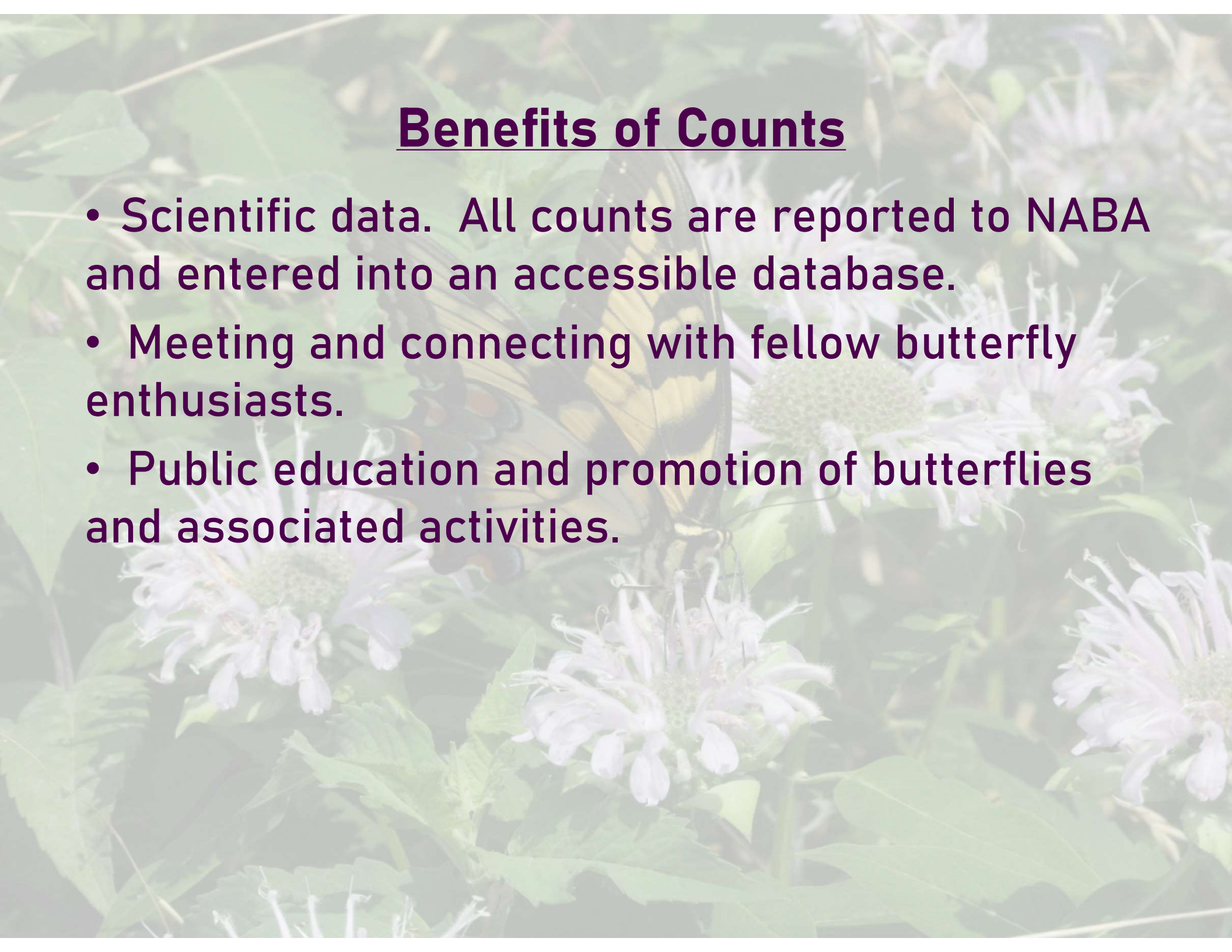
- 2023 marks the 49th year for the NABA count program.
- Starting in 2008, spring and fall seasonal counts were added to expand coverage to encompass single-brood spring and fall species.
- In 2021, 341 counts were conducted in Canada, US, and Mexico, attracting 3785 participants who observed 436 species and 459,493 individual butterflies.
- 24 counts in 13 count circles were held in Tennessee during 2021.

Why Count Butterflies?

- Great public interest and appreciation of butterflies.
- Highly visible and easily identifiable.
- Serve as surrogates for other pollinators such as bees, flies, beetles, etc. that may be more difficult to track.
- By linking count numbers with weather data, help correlate weather conditions with population increases or decreases.
- Give long term population trends.
- Determine distribution of different species.

Starting a Count

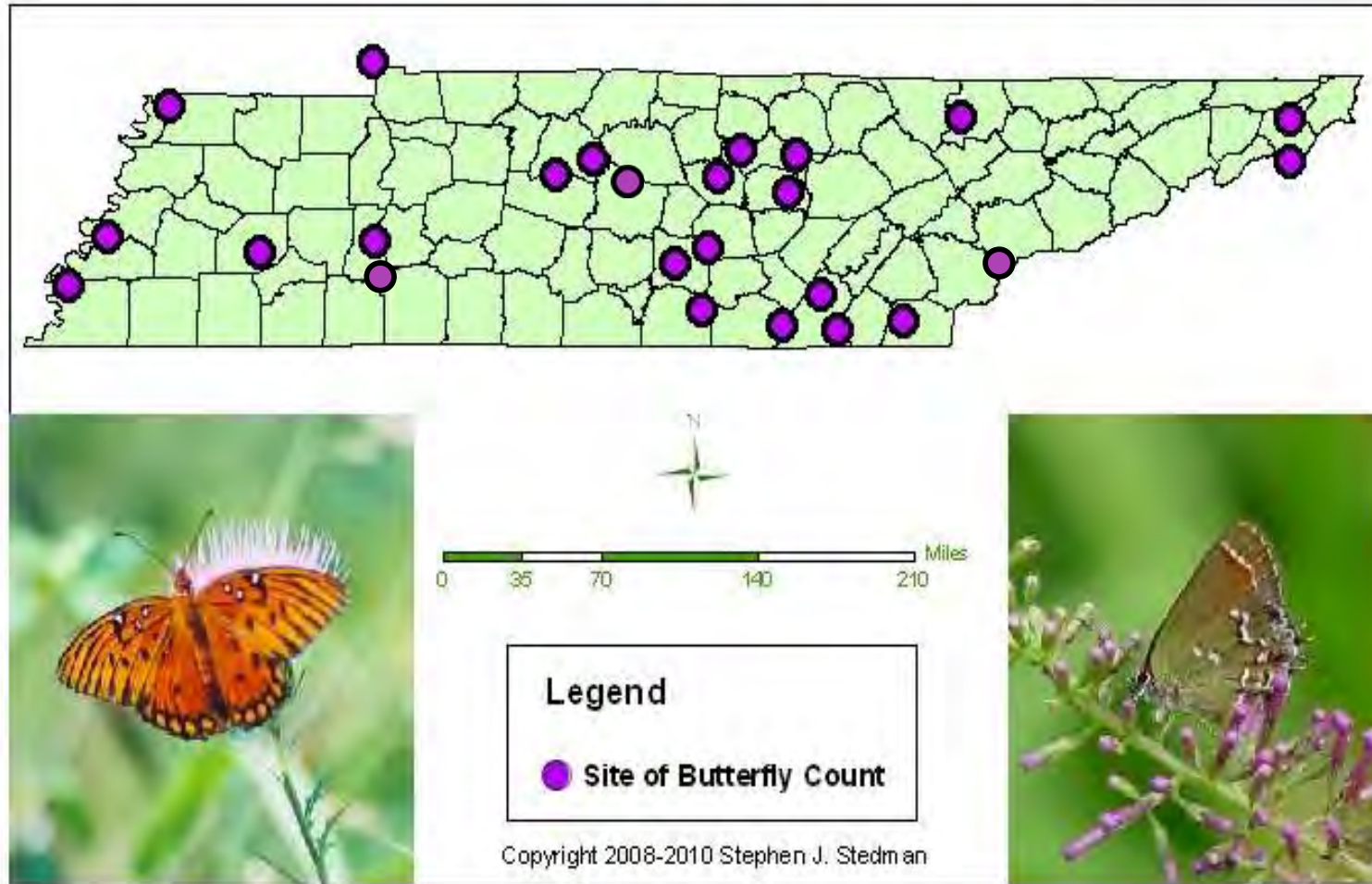
- Create a 15-mile diameter count circle centered on a defined point. Check with NABA to see if the circle overlaps with another circle. Should encompass diverse habitats.
- Pick a date to hold count. Try to hold future counts in the same time frame. Summer counts occur in June and July. Spring seasonal counts are held on dates before June, fall counts after July.
- New counts must have at least 4 observers and spend at least 6 party-hours in the field counting.

The background of the slide is a photograph of butterflies on flowers. A large butterfly with yellow and black wings is prominent in the center. Other butterflies with various patterns are visible on the flowers. The flowers are light purple or white with green centers. The leaves are green and serrated.

Benefits of Counts

- Scientific data. All counts are reported to NABA and entered into an accessible database.
- Meeting and connecting with fellow butterfly enthusiasts.
- Public education and promotion of butterflies and associated activities.

Locations of Tennessee's Butterfly Counts



The background of the slide is a photograph of a butterfly with yellow and black wings perched on a cluster of small, light purple flowers. The image is slightly faded to allow the text to be legible.

2023 Mid-South Butterfly Counts

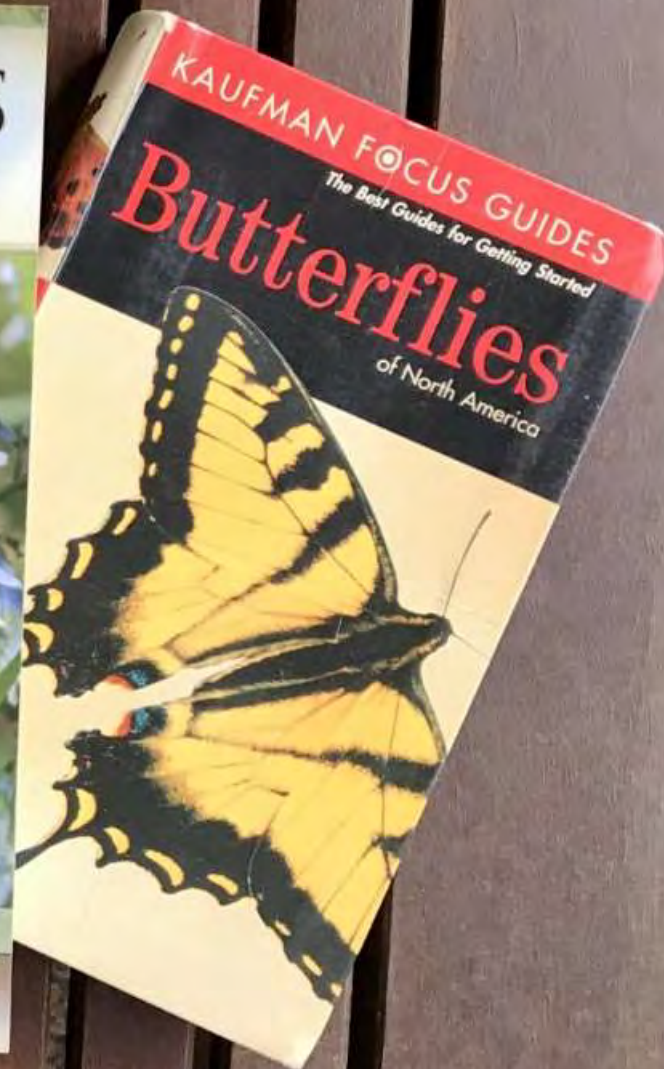
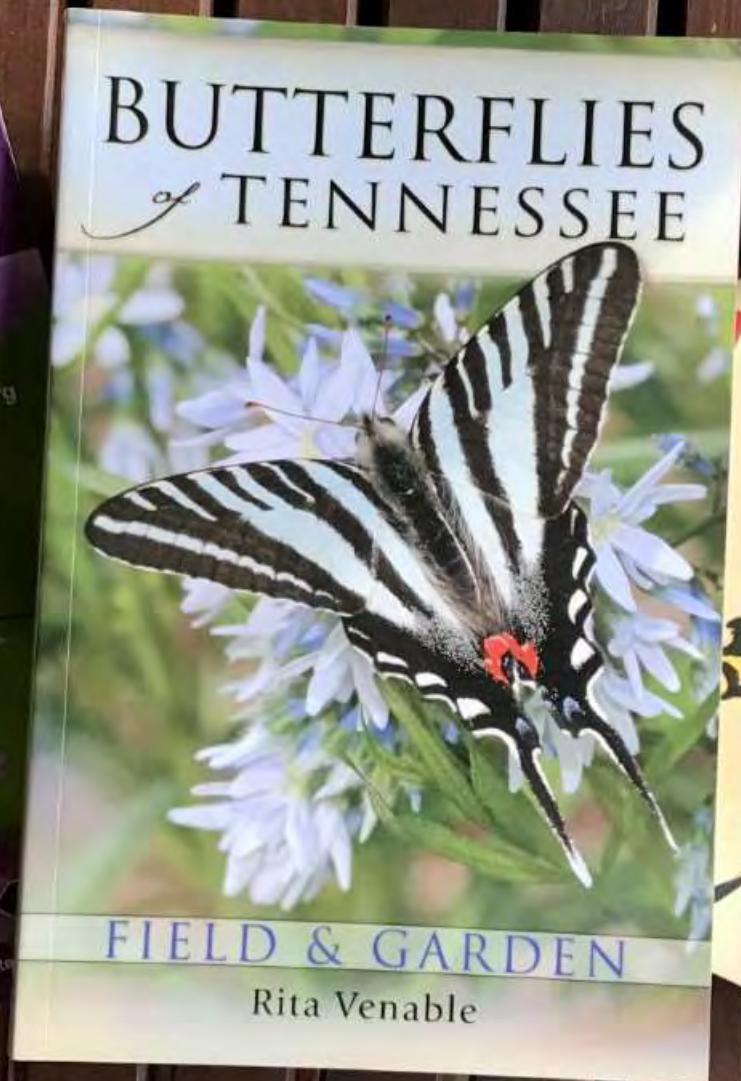
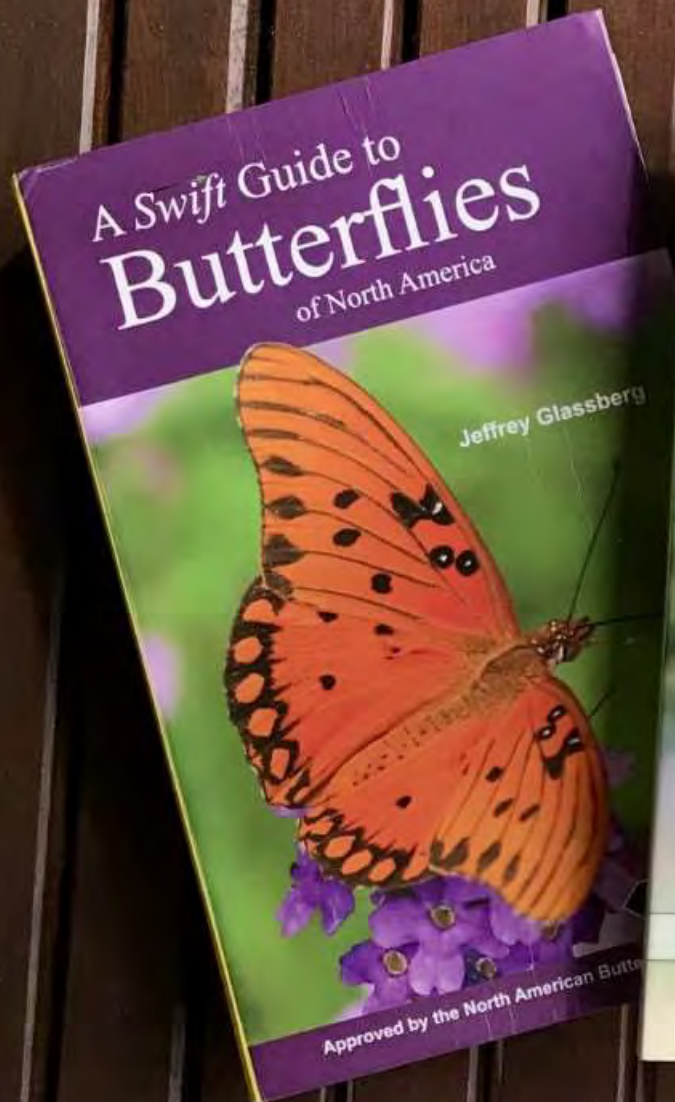
- Clifton Bend spring – April 15
- Meeman-Shelby Forest spring – April 22
- Decatur County – June 10
- Reelfoot Lake – June 17
- Meeman-Shelby Forest – June 24
- Jackson – July 15
- Lower Hatchie – July 29
- Clifton Bend fall – August 26
- Meeman-Shelby Forest fall – September 9

Mid-South Butterfly Families

- Swallowtails (Papilionidae) – Large, with sailing or fluttery flights. All local swallowtails have tails on hindwings.
- Whites and Sulphurs (Pieridae) – Whites are mainly white and often sit with wings laxly open, sulphurs are yellow or orange and sit with wings closed. Most are small to medium size.
- Gossamer Wings (Lycaenidae) – Diverse family of several sub-families. Most are small and fast in flight.

Mid-South Butterfly Families cont.

- **Brushfoots (Nymphalidae)** – The largest and most diverse family of butterflies. Several subfamilies include species from very small to large. Distinguished by appearing to have only 4 legs (all insects have 6 legs), with the front pair being greatly reduced and covered with long bristle-like hairs.
- **Skippers (Hesperiidae)** – Small to medium sized butterflies that can be quite moth-like in appearance. Most are shades of brown and/or orange with stout bodies. Antennae are hooked on the ends. Flights are often erratic and fast.



A photograph of a yellow and black butterfly, likely a swallowtail, perched on a cluster of small, light purple flowers. The background is filled with green foliage and more flowers. The word "Swallowtails" is written in a large, bold, dark purple font across the center of the image, underlined.

Swallowtails



Pipevine Swallowtail



Black Swallowtail



Eastern Tiger Swallowtail



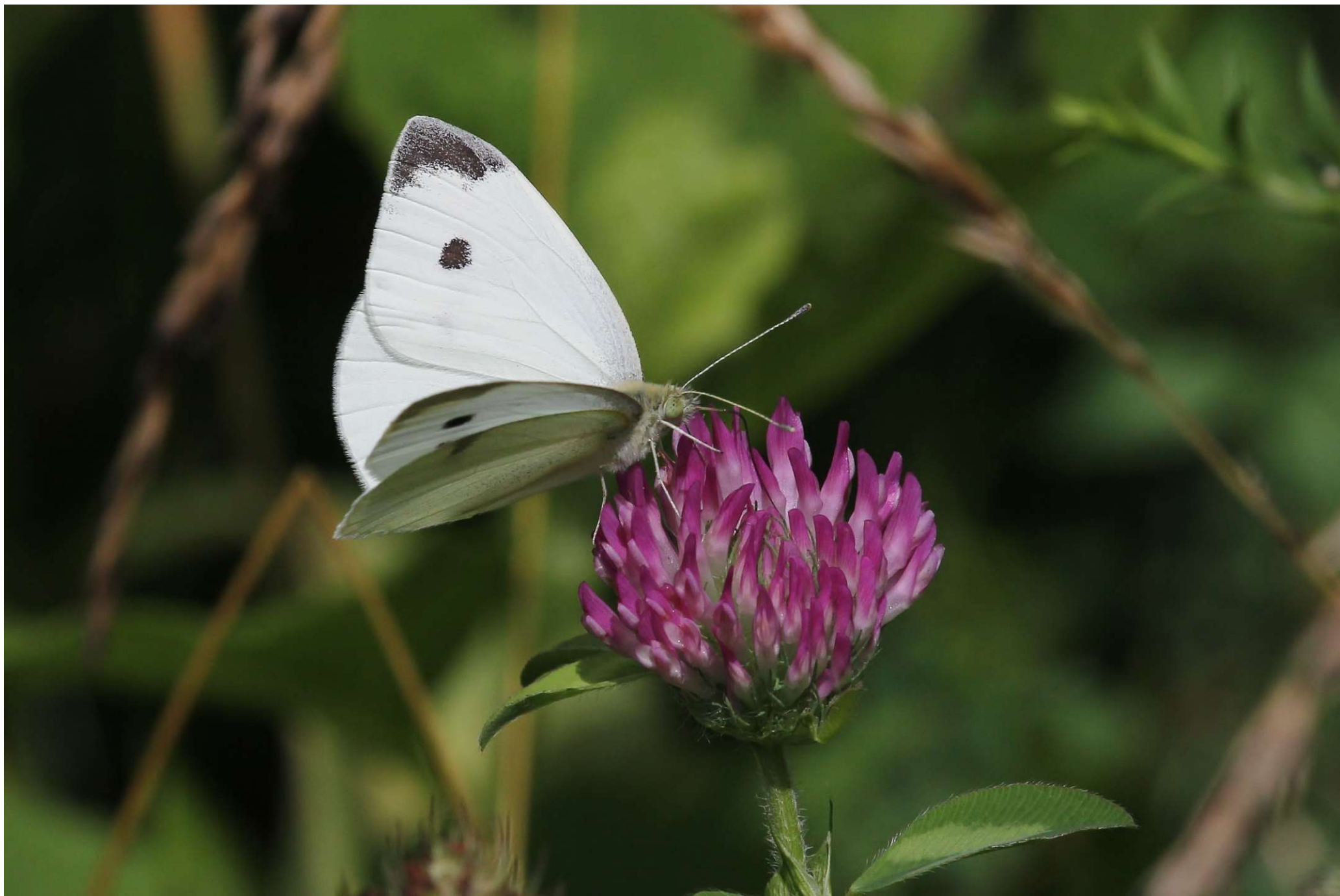
Zebra Swallowtail

A background image showing a butterfly with yellow and black wings perched on a cluster of small white flowers. The scene is set against a backdrop of green foliage. The text 'Whites and Sulphurs' is overlaid in a large, bold, purple font, with each word underlined.

Whites and Sulphurs



Checkered White



Cabbage White



Falcate Orangetip



Cloudless Sulphur



Dainty Sulphur



Sleepy Orange

A background image showing a butterfly with yellow and black wings perched on a light purple flower. The scene is surrounded by green foliage. The text 'Gossamer Wings' is overlaid in a dark purple, serif font, with each word underlined.

Gossamer Wings



Harvester



Bronze Copper



Gray Hairstreak



Striped Hairstreak



Coral Hairstreak



Juniper Hairstreak



Henry's Elfin



Red-banded Hairstreak



Eastern Tailed-Blue



Summer Azure

A photograph of a yellow and black butterfly perched on a cluster of small, light purple flowers. The background is filled with green foliage and more flowers, creating a natural, garden-like setting. The text 'Brushfoots' is overlaid in a bold, purple font, underlined.

Brushfoots



Gulf Fritillary



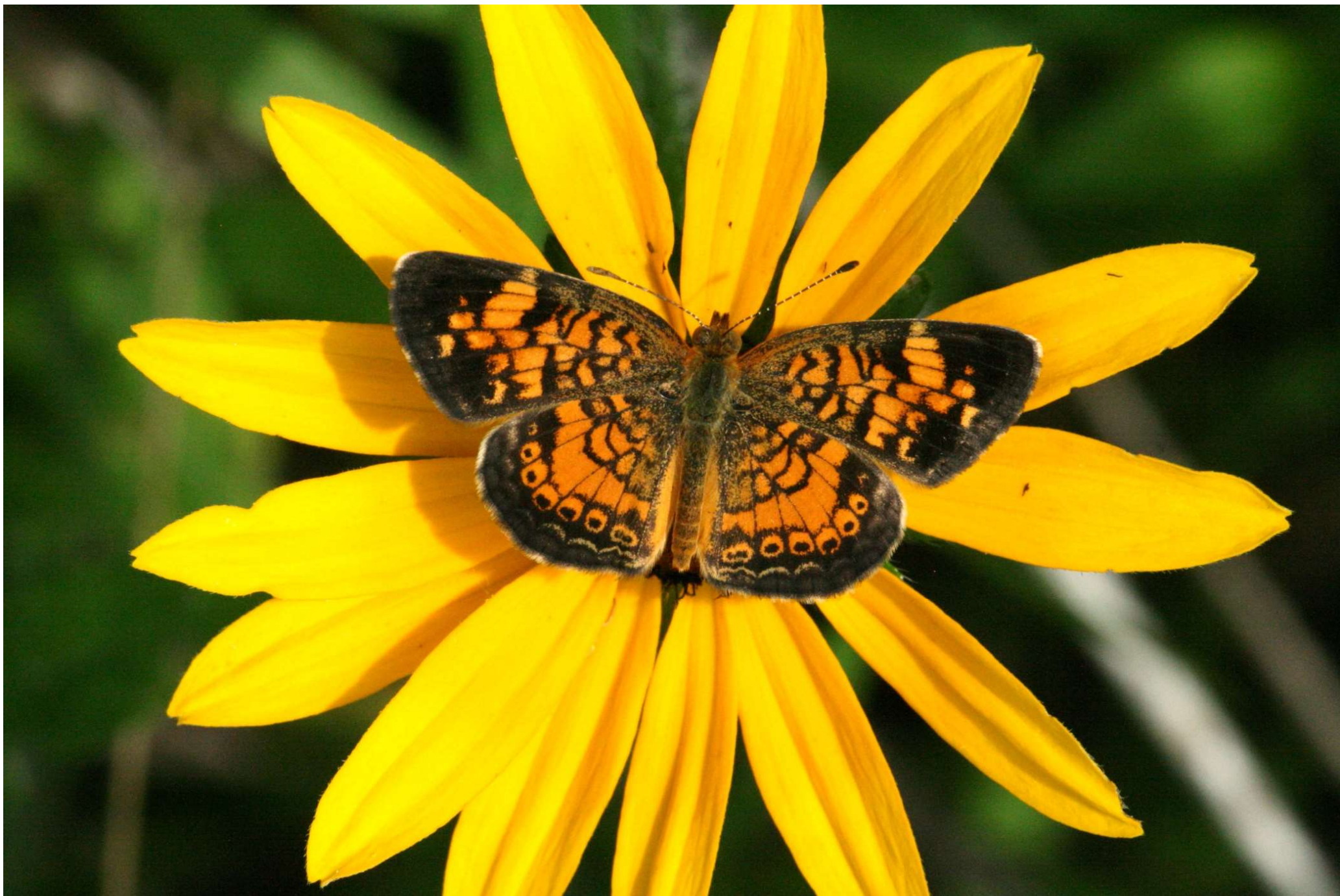
Great Spangled Fritillary



Diana Fritillary



Diana Fritillary (female)



Pearl Crescent



Question Mark



Eastern Comma



Mourning Cloak



Red Admiral



Painted Lady



Common Buckeye



Red-spotted Purple



Viceroy



Goatweed Leafwing



Hackberry Emperor



American Snout



Monarch



Little Wood-Satyr



Gemmed Satyr



Northern Pearly-Eye

A photograph of a butterfly with yellow and black wings perched on a light purple flower. The butterfly is positioned in the center of the frame, facing right. The flower is a cluster of small, tubular blossoms. The background is filled with green foliage and other similar flowers, creating a natural, garden-like setting. The overall image has a soft, slightly faded appearance.

Skippers



Silver-spotted Skipper



Long-tailed Skipper



Southern Cloudywing



Juvenal's Duskywing



Common Checkered-Skipper



Cobweb Skipper



Southern Broken-Dash



Zabulon Skipper



Lace-winged Roadside-Skipper



Yucca Giant-Skipper

The background of the slide is a photograph of a butterfly with yellow and black wings perched on a cluster of small, light purple flowers. The image is slightly faded to allow the text to stand out. The text is in a bold, dark purple font and is underlined.

Recent State Records



Broad-winged Skipper - 2003



Phaon Crescent - 2005



Funereal Duskywing - 2005



Appalachian Tiger Swallowtail - 2006



Julius Basham 2010

Northern Oak Hairstreak - 2009



Doug Bruce 2016

Hickory Hairstreak - 2010



Ceraunus Blue - 2016



Jon and Nancy Crosby 2021

Columbine Duskywing - 2017



Dukes' Skipper - 2018



Zebra Heliconian - 2020



Byssus Skipper - 2021

A close-up photograph of a yellow and black butterfly perched on a light purple flower. The background is filled with green foliage and more flowers. The text 'Thank You!' is overlaid in a large, bold, purple font, underlined.

Thank You!