



Lowcountry Master Gardener Association

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The Amazing Life Cycle of a Butterfly Honey Horn Butterfly Garden

On this warm October day, Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists are working in the Karen Werthemer Butterfly Enclosure at the Coastal Discovery Museum at Honey Horn. Today, under the guidance of Carlos Chacon, the Manager of Natural History, they are working to tidy up the garden and are making preparations for nurturing each stage of the butterfly's life cycle. This life cycle is one of nature's amazing feats: an egg turns into a larva (caterpillar) that eats and grows a tremendous amount before it turns into the pupa (Chrysalis) stage, which becomes the adult butterfly. The enclosure at Honey Horn prepares the environment to serve as a home for these stages. They do this by providing host plants such as parsley, dill and milkweed for the larva stage and nectar plants such as lantana, butterfly bush and milkweed to feed the hungry butterflies.

Master Gardener and Project Leader Sue Roderus is working inside the enclosure, planting host plants and weeding, while the butterflies land and feast on nectar plants.





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Outside the enclosure, Master Gardener Carol Simmons is trimming back the butterfly bush and thinning out the salvia while Irene Randall is working nearby on moving to other locations plants that are neither host nor nectar plants.

Jan Miskin is planting milkweed.





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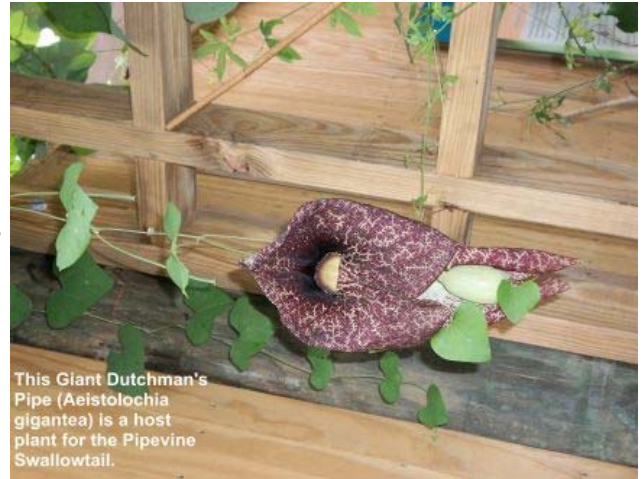




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All the volunteers working on this particular day found it easy to state why they volunteer here. Irene sums up the feelings of all the volunteers when she says that she's learned so much through this experience. Jan says it helps her understand the environment while Jack says it addresses the "mental" side of gardening. Carol has an appreciation for the classroom learning that surfaces as children tour the garden and enclosure. Project Leader Sue describes how she has become "enthralled" by the wonderful atmosphere and rich learning that takes place here.



You, too, can have this satisfying and educational experience by volunteering any amount of time you can give.

