

THE TAYLOR'S CHECKERSPOT BUTTERFLY REARING PROGRAM AT MISSION CREEK CORRECTIONS CENTER FOR WOMEN: BREEDING BUTTERFLIES IN PRISON

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Photo by Benj Drummond and Sara Joy Steele

Butterfly Rearing is Complicated Stuff!

- 3,000 bugs a year (we track each individual one!)
- 6 life stages
- Wild contributors and captive breeders
- Varying timing with weather patterns
- Curve ball moves

Taylor's checkerspot life cycle



Diapause



Post-diapause larva



Pupa



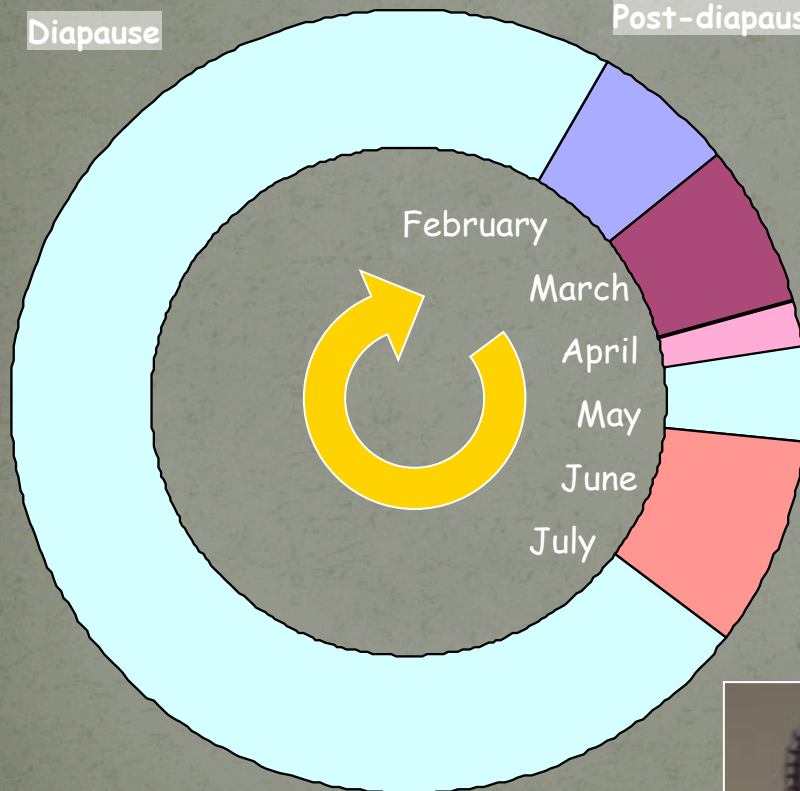
Adult



Egg



Larva (instar 1- 4+)



Reprinted from Stinson (2005)

Taylor's Checkerspot Program Partners

1. The Evergreen State College
2. Graduate Students
3. Washington/U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife
4. Oregon Zoo
5. Joint Base Lewis McCord Military Base
6. Washington Department of Corrections
7. Inmate Technicians



The Oregon Zoo
inspires the community
to respect animals and
take action on behalf of
the natural world.



To preserve, protect and
perpetuate fish, wildlife and
ecosystems while providing
sustainable fish and wildlife
recreational and commercial
opportunities.



Working with others to
conserve, protect, and
enhance fish, wildlife,
plants, and their habitats for
the continuing benefit of the
American people.



The Department of Defense is
responsible for providing the military
forces needed to deter war and protect
the security of our country.



To improve public safety.
Working together for safe
communities.

Bringing Partners Together



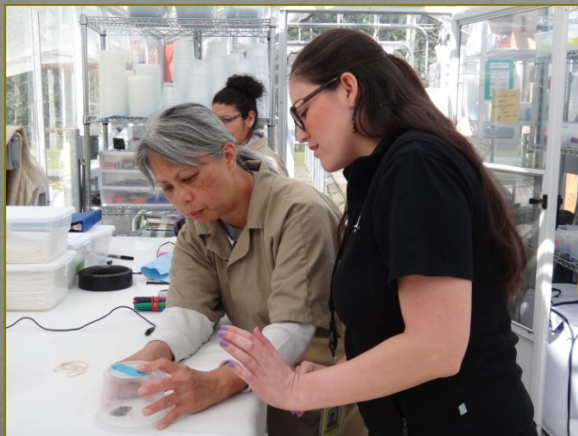
Our mission is to bring science and nature into prisons. We conduct ecological research and conserve biodiversity by forging collaborations with scientists, inmates, prison staff, students, and community partners. Equally important, we help reduce the environmental, economic, and human costs of prisons by inspiring and informing sustainable practices.



**the evergreen
state college**

Evergreen emphasizes
collaborative,
interdisciplinary learning
across significant
differences.

Graduate Student Role

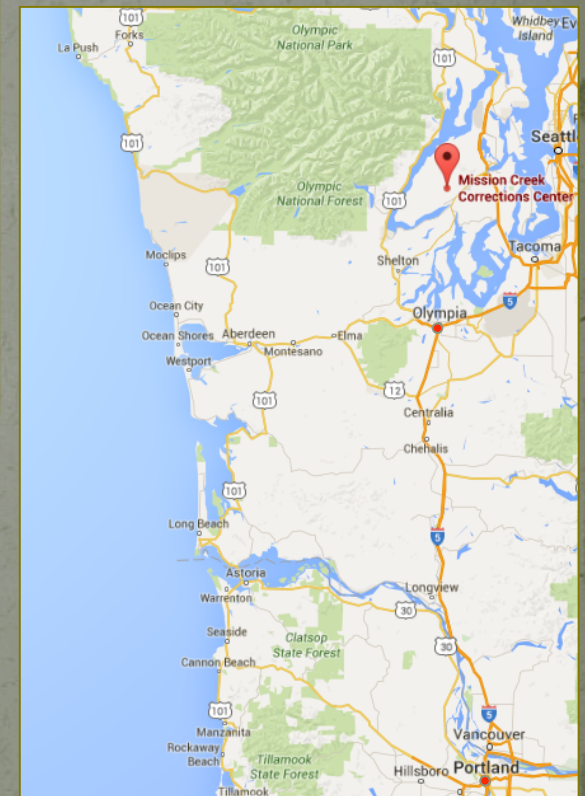


Challenges

- Communication
- Location
- Timing
- Logistics



Photo by Benj Drummond and Sara Joy Steele



Challenges cont.

- Technician recruitment
- Staff support

Sustainability in Prisons Project, Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly Rearing Program



We are seeking 1 candidate with the following characteristics:
Hard working, detail oriented and meticulous, self-motivated, sincere, teachable good learner, able to follow detailed directions, trustworthy, interested in conservation and/or science, long-term resident (not leaving state), and committed to the success of the project even if long hours or tedious work are required during the active rearing season. The ideal candidate would be able to commit two years to the program. Permits to leave fenced perimeter required. Previous experience or related work history are not required.

Job description: This will be a part time position until February when the butterfly larvae emerge from their winter diapause. During the months of February and July this position will require full time work. This job entails running the day to day operation of the captive breeding rearing facility for endangered Taylor's checkerspot butterflies (*Callophrys erythraea taylori*) at MCCV. This will involve caring for larvae, caterpillars, and adult butterflies during several growth stages, each requiring different but very specific care. Meticulous attention to detail and cleanliness will be required, as this facility will be a laboratory setting. Note taking and data collection will also be a large component of the work, it will be essential to monitor progress and animal health in real, measurable ways. Also, data entry into an Access database will require basic computer skills and devotion to accuracy. Training and educational materials will be provided.

If you are interested in applying for this position, please submit a one page document detailing why you are interested and why you are the perfect candidate for the job. Optionally you may include any previous life or work experiences that have prepared you for working with butterflies. Submissions will be screened and personal interviews will follow for selected candidates.



Photo by Benj Drummond and Sara Joy Steele



DOC Staff Support

- Approve all materials and equipment
- Ensure safety of all staff inmates and visitors
- Schedule events, deliveries, meetings etc.
- Hire inmates and ensure they get paid
- Resolve conflicts
- Relay critical information
- Maintain infrastructure



Photo by Benj Drummond and Sara Joy Steele

Benefits to Inmate Partners

- Sense of ownership and purpose
- Safe working environment
- Education and skills
- Certificates



Getting Everyone on Board

- Recognizing contributions and value of every player
- Involving partners in different aspects of the program to see the big picture
- Highlight current and potential benefits to each participant



Trust

- Consistently demonstrating a commitment to safety
- Transparency
- Accommodating needs
- Constant communication
- Building relationships



Accomplishments



- Over 8,000 caterpillars released
- 95% post diapause survivorship
- Programing for 20 inmates
- 7 certificates awarded

What I Have Learned

- Conservation is all about people
- Its not that it can't be done, it just has to be done in a novel way
- Communication and education is key
- People can change