

THE TAYLOR'S CHECKERSPOT BUTTERFLY REARING PROGRAM AT MISSION CREEK CORRECTIONS CENTER FOR WOMEN



PEER TO PEER TRAINING AND THE INMATE EXPERIENCE

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Photo by Benj Drummond & Sara Joy Steele (BD&SJS)

Building and starting the program

Taylor's checkerspot partners wanted a second rearing facility, to back up original program at Oregon Zoo

- Learning with a surrogate species
- Coordinated effort of many partners
- Adapting needs of Endangered species program to a prison environment



Becoming Butterfly Technicians

- Meaningful work
- A new sense of purpose
- Peaceful working environment



“For 25 years I hated my job...I love coming here.”
~ Butterfly technician in the Taylor’s checkerspot rearing and breeding program



Animal Husbandry with a delicate endangered species

- Training from the Oregon Zoo
- Weekly checks with SPP coordinator, communication between the two programs
- Collection of data procedure



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TAYLOR'S CHECKSPOT - 2015
LARVAE TO PUPAE TALLY

P = PUPAE
D = DEAD
M = MISSING

March 26, 2015

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MON-ID	264/15 # OF LARVAE	3/40	3/41	3/42	3/43	3/44	3/45	3/46	3/47	3/48	3/49	3/50	3/51	4/1	4/2	4/3	Sub Total	Total LARVAE
1 14FL21 A 14FL21 B	20 20	1						4	3	5	3	1						
2 14FL24 A 14FL24 B	20 20			1	3		2	2	4	3	2	1		1				
3 14FL26 A 14FL26 B	20 20				1						11	9	1	2	1	3		
4 14FL30 A 14FL30 B	20 20			1				1	5	5	4	1	12					
5 14FL31 A 14FL31 B	20 20				1	1			3	5	8	1		1				
6 14FL34 A 14FL34 B	20 20							5	2	4	5	12	1					
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TOTAL	240	1		2	4	3	14	21	56	48	24	11	4					
PUPAE		1		2	4	3	14	21	56	46	19	11	4					
DEAD				3							1	2						
MISSING											1							

Larvae - 52
Pupae - 181
Dead - 6
Missing - 1
240

Photo by BD&SJS

What we gain from the program

- Leadership
- Recognition
- Team work
- Life skills

“For me, butterflies are very resilient animals. Their primary habitat was an artillery range, the aftermath of fire and destruction.

Metaphorically, the butterfly symbolizes re-birth, new life and beginnings. So with that said, Mission Creek (prison) makes a lot of sense for a surrogate habitat.”

~ Liz Louie, Butterfly technician



Giving back to the community



Contributing to science

- Research project on ovi-position
- Paper co-authorship
- Innovations: working with partners to improve rearing protocols



Photo by Butterfly Technician



Photo by BD&SJS





Photo by BD&SJS



Photo by BD&SJS

Extra photos (in case you want; no pressure!)



Photo by BD&SJS



Photo by BD&SJS







Photo by Rod Gilbert