

THE OHIO LEPIDOPTERISTS

Butterfly Release Policy

The Ohio Lepidopterists oppose the release of commercially raised butterflies for the following reasons:

1. Ecological damage to endemic butterfly species and communities may occur by:
 - a) Spread of diseases and parasites
 - b) Inappropriate genetic mixing of different populations when the species being released is also locally present
 - c) Introduction of non-native species
 - d) Butterfly migratory pathways may be disrupted
2. Researchers who track the movement of butterflies may obtain inaccurate and/or misleading data.
3. Distribution records may be misinterpreted.
4. There is a substantial lack of data concerning how butterfly releases impact ecological systems, thus caution should be exercised over carelessness.
5. Butterfly releases used solely to amuse people are both an unethical and exploitive manipulation of wildlife.