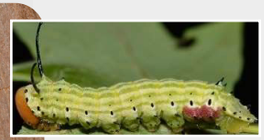
Moth or Butterfly? Most moth antennae look like slender feathers; butterfly antennae are thread-like with knob-shaped tips. At rest or while nectaring, most moths hold their wings horizontally or folded tent-like across their backs. Butterflies usually hold their wings above their backs. Butterflies usually fly in the day, moths at night, but look for the hummingbird clearwing moth during the day.

Dwight Sipler


Michael Nerrie

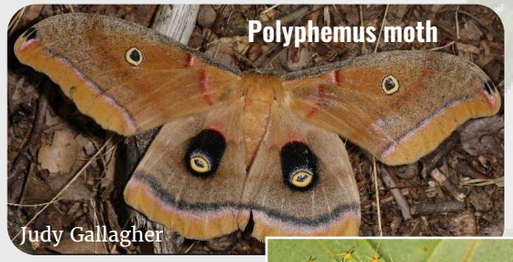
Host plants: plum, viburnum, cherry, coral honeysuckle


Andy Reago & Chrissy McClarren



Rosy maple moth

Host plant: maples



Judy Gallagher

Host plants: ash, birch, oak, grape, hickory, maple, pine

Host plant: milkweed

Both monarchs and viceroys are distasteful to the birds that eat them. They have evolved to resemble each other, thus increasing the protection from predators for both.

Host plants: willow, cottonwood

Host plants: passionvine, maypop

Host plants: violet, pansy, passionvine, mayapple

All photos, except where shown, were taken by Sandy Shaull. Text written by Linda Chafin.

Male butterflies will often gather at damp or muddy spots to drink and obtain minerals, salts and amino acids, a behavior called “puddling.” Most of these nutrients are passed to the female butterfly during mating.

Host plants: plantain, toadflax, false foxglove

Connect to Protect

The State Botanical Garden’s Connect to Protect program combines beautiful displays of native plants with educational materials to foster understanding of the role that native plants play in protecting and conserving wildlife such as butterflies and moths. Gardens across the state have been planted to provide butterflies and moths with nectar, high energy fuel for flying, and host plants, food for caterpillars. For more information on planting a garden, visit botgarden.uga.edu.

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
State Botanical Garden of Georgia

A guide to the common butterflies and moths on the Butterfly Trail at the State Botanical Garden of Georgia

In partnership with the Rosalynn Carter Butterfly Trail ®

Swallowtails are large, vividly colored butterflies with tail-like appendages on their hind wings. They nectar on wild and cultivated flowers in sunny clearings and flower gardens.

Host plants: pipevines, dutchman's pipe

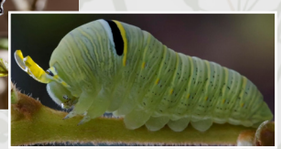
Host plants: parsley, dill, fennel, queen anne's lace

Host plants: spicebush, sassafras, red bay

Host plants: citrus, wafer ash, prickly ash

Several swallowtails as well as the red-spotted purple resemble pipevine swallowtails, butterflies that are distsateful to birds. This form of mimicry provides some protection from predators.

Host plants: deerberry, black cherry, willow, cottonwood, serviceberry



Host plant: pawpaw

Sulphur butterflies are large with pale yellow or orange wings. Most have black "eyespots" on the forewings and rounded hindwings.

Host plants: senna, sicklepod, partridge pea

Host plants: sicklepod, partridge pea

Finding butterflies and moths at the State Botanical Garden

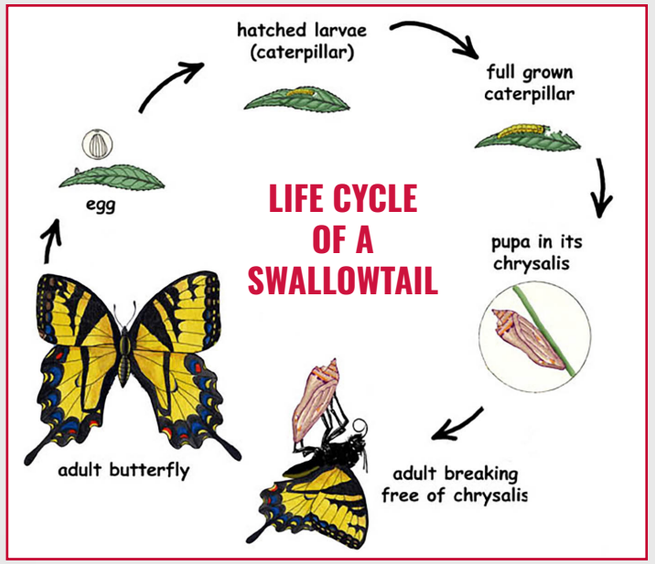
Look throughout the garden and find the blue signs with the silhouette of the eastern tiger swallowtail, Georgia's state butterfly. If the sign indicates that it is a host plant then this plant is where female butterflies and moths lay their eggs and where caterpillars will develop.

Rosalynn Carter Butterfly Trail ®

The Rosalynn Carter Butterfly Trail ® was inspired by Former First Lady Rosalynn Carter when she called on neighbors to help her provide habitat for monarch butterflies. The program, based in Plains, Ga., has expanded throughout the United States and internationally. Its goals are: to educate the general public about the importance of supporting butterfly populations; inspire everyone to plant a butterfly-friendly garden; and to increase habitat for pollinators, whether in a private garden, a neighborhood park or schoolyard. For more information, visit https://rosalynncarterbutterflytrail.org.

Butterflies and moths begin life

when a female deposits an egg on a plant called a host plant. When the egg hatches, a caterpillar, called a larva, emerges and begins to eat the host plant. Caterpillars come in many shapes, colors and sizes, but all have one goal: to eat and grow as big and fast as possible. Caterpillars can grow 100 times their size, shedding their skins several times and growing a new one as they expand. When a caterpillar reaches the right size, it attaches itself to a twig or other support and enters the third stage of its life – a pupa. During this stage, butterfly caterpillars wrap themselves in a tough sack called a chrysalis. Moth caterpillars will spin a silky cocoon. The butterfly or moth may stay in the pupal stage for only a few days or for as long as a year, eventually



transforming into an adult butterfly or moth. Adults emerge and spend their short lives visiting flowers to feed on nectar and searching for mates with which they will restart the cycle.