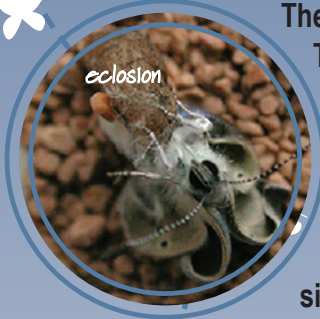
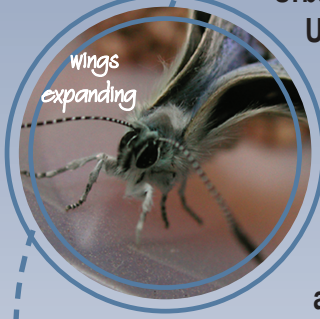


# THE Butterfly PROJECT



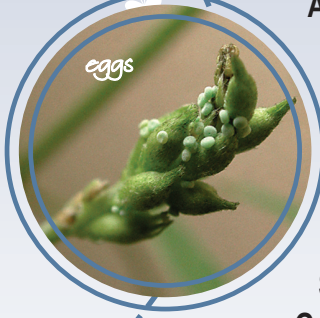
The Butterfly Project at America's Teaching Zoo provides a secondary captive rearing site for the endangered Palos Verdes blue butterfly. The primary site is in San Pedro on federal land. Both sites are funded through The Urban Wildlands Group by the US Defense Logistics Agency (USDLA), and the US Navy (USN).



A recent shift in the care and handling of the butterfly at the primary site resulted in a quadrupling of the captive population. This provided an opportunity to open a secondary site at America's Teaching Zoo.



Students and staff of Moorpark College, including the Exotic Animal Training and Management Program at America's Teaching Zoo, join a distinguished team of partners including the USDLA, USN, The Urban Wildlands Group, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy, and San Diego State Soil Ecology Restoration Group.

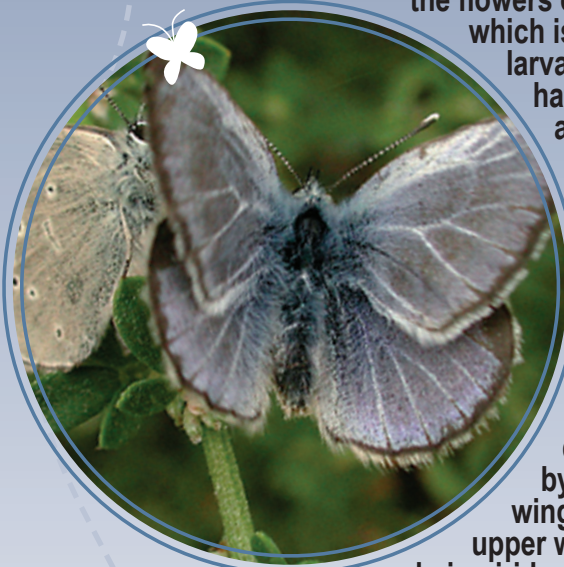


## The Butterfly Project at America's Teaching Zoo Moorpark College

7075 Campus Road, Moorpark CA 93021  
[www.moorparkcollege.edu/zoo](http://www.moorparkcollege.edu/zoo) • (805) 378-1441  
 The zoo is open for shows and tours Saturdays & Sundays 11a.m. - 5p.m.

The Palos Verdes blue butterfly was listed as an endangered species in 1980.

The Palos Verdes blue thrives on two host plants, locoweed and deerweed. This butterfly goes through one generation per year, with the adults emerging in early spring, synchronously with the flowering of its foodplants. In the wild, the adults will live around 10 days, during which time they will mate and lay eggs.



The eggs are oviposited mostly on the flowers of the foodplant which is the preferred larval diet. The larvae hatch within 10 days and eat for around a month, molting several times. The larvae will then seek out a sheltered space in which to pupate. The adult males and females may be distinguished by a difference in wing color, the males' upper wing surface being iridescent blue and the females' a darker charcoal gray.

The butterfly's coastal scrub habitat on the Palos Verdes Peninsula has been shrinking under pressure from urban development. Other factors in the decline of the habitat include weed control, off-road vehicle use, and non-native plant invasion.

To ensure the future of the Palos Verdes blue butterfly, successful re-establishment of the locoweed and deerweed along with protection of the habitat from development are necessary.

We encourage you to be part of the solution, too. Please send donations to The Butterfly Project. Checks should be made to Moorpark College.

photos by Daniel Soyka Beran