

APRIL 2023

FARM
BUREAU
GEORGIA

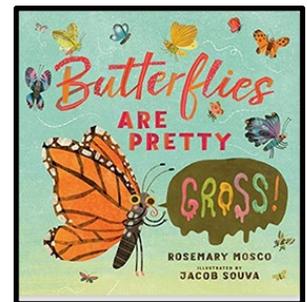
Ag in the Classroom Book of the Month

BUTTERFLIES ARE PRETTY... GROSS!

by Rosemary Mosco

Butterflies are beautiful and quiet and gentle and sparkly . . . but that's not the whole truth. Butterflies can be GROSS. And one butterfly in particular is here to let everyone know! Talking directly to the reader, a monarch butterfly reveals how its kind is so much more than what we think. Did you know some butterflies enjoy feasting on dead animals, rotten fruit, tears and even poop? Some butterflies are loud, like the Cracker butterfly. Some are stinky -- the smell scares predators away. Butterflies can be sneaky, like the ones who pretend to be ants to get free babysitting.

This hilarious and refreshing book with silly and sweet illustrations explores the science of butterflies and shows that these insects are not the stereotypically cutesy critters we often think they are -- they are fascinating, disgusting, complicated and amazing creatures.



Click on the book to watch on YouTube.

Fun Facts:

- In North America, north of Mexico, there are approximately 750 species of butterflies. Georgia alone boasts over 160 species.
- Georgia residents can expect to see monarch butterflies two times during the year: in the spring, they lay their eggs all over the state, and in the fall, when adult butterflies make a pitstop during their 3,000-mile journey back to their overwintering grounds in Mexico.
- Butterflies are very active during the day and visit a variety of wildflowers. Butterflies are less efficient than bees at moving pollen between plants. Highly perched on their long thin legs, they do not pick up much pollen on their bodies and lack specialized structures for collecting it. Butterflies probe for nectar, their flight fuel, and typically favor the flat, clustered flowers that provide a landing pad and abundant rewards. Butterflies have good vision but a weak sense of smell. Unlike bees, butterflies can see red.
- Georgia designated the tiger swallowtail (*Papilio glaucus*) as the official state butterfly in 1988.

Videos:

- [Adventures with Becky Griffin at the State Botanical Garden in Clarke County](#)
- Farm Monitor: [Don't Forget About the Role Butterflies Play in Pollination](#)
- Farm Monitor: [High-Profile Georgian Establishes Butterfly Trail](#)
- [Wild Kratts PBS - Voyage of the Butterflier](#)
- [Learn how to create a simple pollinator planter](#)

Activities:

- [Request free pollinator garden mix.](#)
- [Plan a monarch friendly garden so plants/seeds can be planted this spring.](#)
- [Determine what milkweed plants should be in your garden-VERY important for monarchs!](#)
- [Easy to paint monarch butterfly craft.](#)
- [Butterfly life cycle activity using pasta.](#)
- [Butterfly Sipping Experiment.](#)
- [Make a butterfly feeder.](#)
- [Make butterfly fruit cookies.](#)
- Put the Great Southeast Pollinator Census on your calendar! Join citizen scientist August 18-19, 2023! Lean more [here](#).
- Printables: [Color Page](#) [Bookmark](#)

Visit gfb.ag/aic for more activities