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BUTTERFLIES OF ALABAMA HELPS STUDENTS TO LEARN ABOUT THE BEAUTY OF LOCAL NATURE

Students all around the State will receive the Book Free of Charge

Montgomery, Ala. – Due to the generosity of a state organization and partners in education, Wild South and the University of Alabama Press, Alabama students now have access to resources that help them better understand and identify the 84 different species of butterflies found in Alabama. A copy of the 486-page Butterflies of Alabama book has been donated to each elementary school in Alabama. Classroom sets are also available for schools to check out through the Alabama State Department of Education’s 11 regional Alabama Math, Science, and Technology Initiative (AMSTI) sites.

(Starting at top left) Steve Ricks, Beth Motherwell, Curtis Clark, Pat Byington, Cathy Jones, Angie Pelton (bottom left) Becky Smith, Paulette Haywood Ogard, Audrey Ann Wilson, & Sara Bright.
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The book, written by Sara Bright and Paulette Haywood Ogard, both native Alabamians, provides colorful pictures and in-depth text about these treasures of nature. From the book, students can learn about food sources, range, flight times, host plants, and how each species is adapted to a specific niche. It also provides identification tips to help students quickly narrow down the name of a specific species.

“The life cycle of a butterfly is an easy way to help students understand the concept of metamorphosis,” explains Steve Ricks, AMSTI director at the ALSDE. “These wonderful examples of nature’s artwork are right there, often in their own backyards.” *Butterflies of Alabama* is another example of how partnerships with other groups in the state are a win-win for students.

One of the funding partners for the books was Wild South, an organization dedicated to protecting the natural legacy of the South. “When we saw the book, we knew this would be of benefit to every elementary school in the state,” reflects Pat Byington, Executive Director of Wild South. “We then began working on how to make that happen.” ALSDE sincerely thanks Wild South and the University of Alabama Press, both essential parts of the project.

A Teacher’s Guide, written by Audrey Ann Wilson, is included in the back of each book. This guide provides teachers with activities that they may use to help their students make the best use of the resource and helps teachers ensure instruction is aligned to Alabama’s College- and Career-Ready Standards.

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