



## **Celebrate Nature's Fireworks**

April is Florida Butterfly & Butterfly Gardening Month. Come celebrate Tree Hill style Saturday, April 28, at the nature center's 6th Annual Butterfly Festival.

"You are invited to a close encounter with 1000 of the gossamer-winged creatures at Tree Hill Nature Center's signature event," exclaimed Lucy Cortese, executive director.

The festival features a butterfly exhibit, games and activities for children, live entertainment, special lecturers, food and much more. Guests are encouraged to roam the trails, learn more about butterfly gardening and the environment from local experts, and shop at the Monarch Mall where vendors showcase everything from native plants to yard art to jewelry.

The event runs from noon to 5 p.m. and culminates with nature's fireworks – a live native butterfly release. This is a sight guaranteed to delight young and old.

This year's event commemorates Tree Hill's 35th anniversary as Jacksonville's Nature Center and is the premier butterfly festival of Northeast Florida. Annually thousands of visitors flock to this unique family-oriented outdoor celebration of the butterfly.

Dave McClintock, executive director of Energy Explorers and noted lecturer will discuss the realities of the global climate crisis with the Just Cool It presentation.

Musical guests include Celinda Pink and the Blues Band, Front Porch Music and SABA. John Oberheu, local author of *The Manatee That Flew*, Times-Union Children's Book Editor Brandy Allport and Tree Hill's own Bella Butterfly will entertain young visitors with storytelling.

Over 4,000 nature enthusiasts enjoyed last year's butterfly festival. So don't miss this perfect welcome to spring. Proceeds help Tree Hill Nature Center promote its three-fold mission of Education, Conservation and Awareness.

The preserve, conveniently located in the heart of Jacksonville on Lone Star Road in Arlington, is home to 53 acres of trails, a Florida Natural History Museum, butterfly and hummingbird gardens and animals. For over three decades, the nature center has provided the best in environmental and energy education to our community. Tree Hill is a frequent stop for school field trips, Scout troops and families just looking to take a walk in the woods.

Tree Hill's 6th Annual Butterfly Festival  
Noon to 5 p.m. Saturday, April 28  
7152 Lone Star Road  
Admission: \$5 per family  
Free for Tree Hill members  
Information: 904.724.4646  
[www.treehill.org](http://www.treehill.org)