

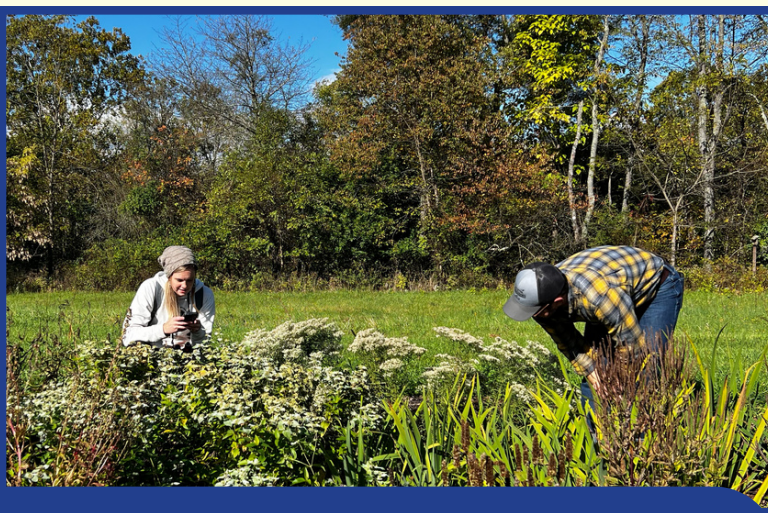
ENGAGEMENT & STEWARDSHIP

Partners and community members gathered at the Jacob Reiff Park in Lower Salford, PA on October 17th for a Work-N-Learn 'Butterfly Survey' event kindly hosted by Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy (PWC).

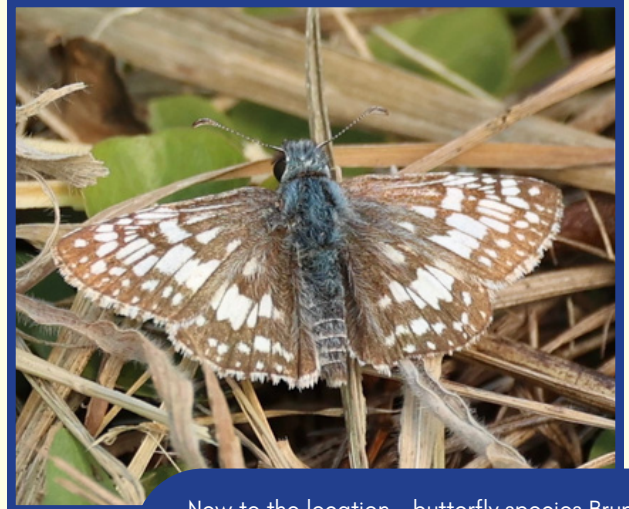
Are there butterflies in late-October?

You bet! The group tallied two Virginia Tiger Moth caterpillars, a handful of monarch chrysalises along with a couple Common Checkered Skipper butterflies. They even spotted a *Burnsius* which was a new species not previously seen at this site.

PWC runs these volunteer events throughout the summer at Jacob Reiff to grow the quantity and variety of plants in the butterfly food plot. Volunteers also help conduct surveys at this site and several other locations at parks in the watershed.



Kaitie Evers and Ryan Beltz compete to see who can spot more monarch chrysalises in a small pollinator patch.



New to the location – butterfly species *Burnsius* was spotted!
Photo Credit: Kristen Cooney

Beth Myers, Director of Ecology at Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy shares, "In 2023, PWC volunteers and staff observed 1,380 individual butterflies and moths from 48 different species. 26 surveys were conducted in total between May and October. Volunteers were overjoyed to observe 67 caterpillars, 11 chrysalis, and 34 adult Monarch Butterflies during this season's surveys! During the fall of 2023, PWC staff and volunteers planted an additional 200 native trees and 3,700 native perennials in the park. They are hoping that these projects will further benefit and increase local butterfly populations and diversity."