

# Press Release

## **Butterflies, Moths and Golf Courses – A Winning Combination!**

Golf courses are increasingly being recognised as important landscapes that, with appropriate management, are capable of supporting considerable wildlife diversity. The U.K. alone supports over 3000 golf courses containing in excess of 150,000 hectares of land. Figures indicate that up to 40% of golf courses may need regular management, leaving 60% available for wildlife activity. This can only be good news for butterflies and moths. All of the different habitat types are represented on golf courses and individual golf clubs are recognising the importance of connecting the different habitats for the benefit of our native butterflies and moths.

In March 2005, Brian Cornelius and George Martin, members of the Cheshire and Peak District Branch of Butterfly Conservation, thought it would be a good idea to promote butterfly conservation on golf courses. With the help of Dr. Emma Gardner, a research fellow at the Research Institute for the Built and Human Environment University of Salford, and encouraged by Bob Taylor, Senior Ecologist at the Sports Turf Research Institute (STRI), a book *‘Golf Course Management for the benefit of Butterflies and Moths’*, has been produced.

The book has been devised as a practical guide to golf course management. The needs of butterflies and moths are described together with the different habitats likely to be found on the golf course. Management techniques are explained in order to encourage the growth of a variety of food plants to attract as many species of butterfly and moth as possible. By increasing the variety of food plants and establishing shelter and over-wintering sites, the number of butterflies and moths can dramatically increase. Potential habitats include grassland, woodland, wetland and hedgerows. Also included is an identification guide for 20 of our regularly seen butterflies and a few day flying moths. The life cycles of the species covered is included together with a habitat ‘threats and actions’ list.

Benefits have already been seen on some of the golf courses in this country. Visionary greenkeepers such as Steve Oultram with the help of Bob Taylor have been implementing positive management techniques for a few years. Steve Oultram, Course Manager at Wilmslow Golf Club in Cheshire, developed a magnificent wildflower meadow in front of the first tee. The grasses and wildflowers teemed with a variety of butterfly and moth species throughout 2005-2006 to the delight of members and visitors.

It is to be hoped that U.K. course managers, greenkeepers and club committee members will use this user friendly book alongside their daily management regimes to increase the number of butterflies and moths on the golf course.

Golf Course Management for the benefit of Butterflies and Moths has been sponsored by The Royal and Ancient and the Cheshire and Peak District Branch of Butterfly Conservation.

The book is available from the Cheshire and Peak District Branch of Butterfly Conservation at a cost of £5.95. plus 75p for post and packing.

For more information please contact:

**Brian Cornelius**  
Cheshire & Peak District Branch  
Butterfly Conservation  
The Croft  
8 Cobbs Lane  
Hough  
Cheshire CW2 5JN  
Tel: 01270 842363  
**brian.cornelius44@tiscali.co.uk**