

Listen for Peak Alerts

Tune In to local radio stations to listen for Peak Alert messages when summer turns up the heat and humidity. Do your part to help avert a new peak demand by delaying use of large appliances and turning the thermostat up a few degrees on the air conditioner. By averting a peak, you're helping to contain electric costs. Summertime Peak Alerts are most likely to be issued on weekdays in the afternoon and early evening.

Listen for Peak Alerts on WTNS 99.3 FM and WTUZ 99.9 FM.

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative K



Frontier Power celebrates 10 years of sponsorship

This year, The Frontier Power Company, your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative, is marking its 10th year as the major sponsor for the Coshocton Hot Air Balloon Festival. One of the longest-running hot air balloon festivals in Ohio, the event is in its 35th year. Commemorating



this special occasion, the Touchstone Energy balloon will be featured at this year's festival. We are pleased to announce that Pilot John Petrehn will be the pilot for the Touchstone Energy balloon. John is a two-time World Hot Air Balloon Champion and the current U.S. National Champion.

The Coshocton Hot Air Balloon Festival had its beginnings in the early 1980s, when Chris Werley contacted a hot air balloonist to provide an additional attraction at the Coshocton Lumber Home Show. Chris, along with many other Coshoctonians, went bonkers over the balloon! His tireless efforts, along with those of local balloonists Ken and Patty Cramer, are the foundation of today's festival. The Coshocton Hot Air Balloon Festival would not have been possible for 35 years without the support of many, many local businesses who sponsor each of the balloons, entertainment, and many events each year

FREE of charge.



"Frontier Power is pleased to have been the major sponsor for the last 10 years, and we look forward to many years of sponsorship of this wonderful event," said Kelly Kendall, Frontier Power's manager of administration and office services. "We feel it's a way of giving back to our community and the surrounding areas. We also like the fact that it's a free event, and we want to keep it that way — free admission, parking, entertainment, and, most important, free hot air balloon viewing!"

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BY SHELLY THOMPSON

Fran LeMasters' All a Flutter Butterflies business may have begun by accident, but it has evolved into a wonderful learning experience for children and adults alike throughout Tuscarawas County and the surrounding areas.

In 2000, Fran's sister happened to run across a four-sentence article about raising butterflies in a "home-based businesses" publication. She thought Fran would be perfect for that. The thought of raising butterflies intrigued Fran, so she began researching and decided to give it a try.

She began by ordering some caterpillars online. Fran chose a variety that was native to Ohio called Painted Ladies. She was diligent about following the care instructions and using the food supplied with her order. Before she knew it, she had adult butterflies that were laying eggs as well, and All a Flutter Butterflies began.

The life cycle of a butterfly

The caterpillar, or larva, will eat from a host plant. Each variety of larva will only eat from a specific type



of plant. Painted Ladies lay eggs on hollyhocks and thistles, which provide food for the larva until it's ready to form its chrysalis. The caterpillar will shed its skin as it grows. Each shedding cycle, or molt, is called an instar. Within two weeks, the caterpillar will have four instars and will begin forming its chrysalis, or pupating, during the fifth instar. The caterpillar usually searches for a safe spot on the host plant and creates the chrysalis. Once formed, the caterpillar transforms into

a butterfly in about seven to 10 days. An emerging butterfly will split the chrysalis shell and squeeze out of it with damp and crumpled wings. After resting, it will unfold and flex its wings to dry them. Butterflies will normally expel a substance called meconium at the time of emerging that may be mistaken for blood. It is actually a metabolic waste product from the pupal stage. After a few hours of rest, the newly emerged butterfly will be ready to enjoy its two weeks of life, focusing on mating and eating and laying eggs. The pale green eggs only incubate about four to five days before the caterpillar is hatched.

The process of raising butterflies

Fran uses a clear plastic cup to raise the butterflies. The tiny caterpillars are put in the cup with a stone fly diet designed for this specific purpose. The food is composed of the type of plant the caterpillar would usually eat with an agar base added. Fran adds water and a little white vinegar for health, and the food is ready for the caterpillars. Once the caterpillars have had four instars, they will form their chrysalis hanging from the lid of the cup. In a little over a week, Fran usually has butterflies she can transfer to a butterfly cage. The butterflies only have proboscis, or long, thin tubes, that they use to suck up liquids. They do not have mouths for eating. Fran will then use Gatorade as a food source. When doing her exhibits, watermelon juice soaked on a cotton swab works great to attract the butterflies.

When raising butterflies, Fran says, it's important not to overcrowd the container in each stage. Cleanliness is also very important. Fran uses a 5 percent bleach solution to clean all the equipment and washes her hands thoroughly before handling any stage of the butterfly. The white vinegar in the food during the larva stage also kills bacteria, keeping the caterpillars healthy. Keeping the air moving in a butterfly house is also important for health.

Butterfly education opportunities

A couple of times a year, Fran moves her personal butterfly house to a few venues for educational seminars and displays. The framed and netted structure is transformed into an oasis of butterflies and plants for people to enter into and enjoy the butterflies. In July, she hosts a butterfly educational summer workshop for children under the picnic shelter at the Norma Johnson Center. Fran also usually sets up at the Yankee Peddler Festival at the end of the summer, educating the thousands of people that attend each year about butterflies and their life cycle. Fran also does numerous educational demonstrations in classrooms, with 4-H and other youth groups, and other organizations interested in learning about butterflies. Recently, Fran sent her granddaughter to school with a cup of caterpillars to share with her classroom, which was enthusiastically received by the class as they got to watch the butterflies emerge.

Local butterfly varieties

Fran raises Painted Ladies, Monarchs, Black Swallowtails, Red Admirals, and Buckeyes because they are most likely what one would find in Ohio.

She offers caterpillar sales and butterfly releases

of these varieties. Many aspects, such as life cycles, plant recognition, gardening for butterflies, and habitat importance can be learned by watching the caterpillars go to the chrysalis stage and having a butterfly emerge. Butterfly releases are beautiful as part of a wedding or special occasion, Fran says.

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"I so enjoy doing what I do, and the most fun part is teaching about the butterflies," she says.

If you would like to learn r



If you would like to learn more about obtaining caterpillars, butterfly releases or anything else about butterflies, contact Fran at All a Flutter Butterflies at 330-962-5062.

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In addition to Frontier Power's being the main sponsor, Frontier Propane provides all the propane to fuel the hot air balloons. Employees can be found throughout the event preparing and setting up for the festival, working the information/T-shirt booth, helping crew for balloon pilots if needed, filling balloon propane tanks, and anything else needed.

Frontier Power looks forward to the Hot Air Balloon Festival every year and is happy to be in the position to help support this free event.

SCHEDULE SET FOR 2016 HOT AIR BALLOON FESTIVAL

Thursday, June 9

4 p.m. Midway opens 6 p.m. Queen's contest

6:30-9 p.m. Tethered balloon rides (weather

permitting) — fee applies

7 p.m. Balloon launch (weather permitting)

7:30-9 p.m. Live entertainment

Friday, June 10

11 a.m. Midway opens
6 p.m. Opening ceremony
6:15-7:15 p.m. Live entertainment

6:30-8 p.m Balloon launch (weather permitting)

7:30-9 p.m. Live entertainment

9 p.m. Balloon night glow (weather

permitting)

Saturday, June 11

6:30-9 a.m. Balloon launch (weather permitting)

11 a.m. Midway opens
12-2 p.m. Safety Saturday
2 p.m. Kiddie pedal tractor pull
6 p.m. National anthem

6-8 p.m. Balloon launch (weather permitting)

6:15-7:30 p.m. Live entertainment 8-9:15 p.m. Chris Higbee

9:30 p.m. Fireworks set to music



2016 Annual Meeting

July 29



This year's Annual Meeting will again be on the last Friday in July at River View High School near Warsaw.

Trustee elections will be conducted PRIOR TO the Annual Meeting, so be sure to watch for your ballot in the mail.

We will serve a light supper, have attendance gifts for all members, and draw names for prizes, in addition to holding our business meeting.

Please be sure to attend. Doors open at 5 p.m





Co-op Connections Card



Because you are a Frontier Power cooperative member, your Co-op Connections® Card provides you with special discounts online and at participating local retailers. Be sure to visit this month's highlighted business and check out offers on the Internet by clicking the Co-op Connections Card icon on our website, www.frontier-power.com.



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