

BIODIVERSITY INC.
A Cleveland Alliance for Global Conservation

Joe Keiper
Curator of Invertebrate Zoology
Cleveland Museum of Natural History

The Cleveland Botanical Garden, Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, and Cleveland Museum of Natural History have partnered to form an alliance aimed at leveraging our resources towards regional and global conservation efforts. Working together, an inaugural project has been selected to take advantage of the facilities, expertise, and land holdings of the three institutions. The Karner Blue butterfly is a federally endangered species once extirpated from Ohio. A reintroduction program was begun by Toledo Metroparks Zoo in the 1990's and continues today. The Alliance will mirror this project in eastern Ohio. The Botanical Garden and Zoo have butterfly rearing facilities and expertise, while the Museum owns and stewards a 120 acre preserve that supports eastern Ohio's largest stand of the butterfly's host plant, wild lupine. Future projects include collaborating with Case Western Reserve University and The Holden Arboretum to form a graduate and undergraduate program that will help train students interested in careers in conservation and ecology. The challenges and rewards of inter-institutional collaboration will be featured.