

## Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant

*Two States Caring for One Great Lake*

### Brian Miller, Director

374 NSRC, 1101 W. Peabody  
Urbana, IL 61801  
217-333-6444

### Lisa Merrifield, Assistant Director

## The HELM

### Irene Miles

Editor

### Michael Peterson

Writer

### Susan White

Graphic Designer



Printed on Recycled Paper

### IISG online:

[iiseagrant.org](http://iiseagrant.org)

[lakesideviews.blogspot.com](http://lakesideviews.blogspot.com)

[twitter.com/ILINSeaGrant](https://twitter.com/ILINSeaGrant)

[facebook.com/ILINseagrant](https://facebook.com/ILINseagrant)

[youtube.com/iiseagrant](https://youtube.com/iiseagrant)



Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant is one of more than 32 programs of the National Sea Grant College Program created by Congress in 1966. Sea Grant is a partnership of universities, government, business, and industry that addresses marine and Great Lakes needs to enhance sustainable coastal economic development. Funding is provided by the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA Grant # NA10OAR4170068), Office of Sea Grant, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and Purdue University. The University of Illinois and Purdue University offer equal opportunities in programs and employment.



## Recreation reduces Karner blue butterfly reproduction

Purdue University ecologist Patrick Zollner studied how people walking on nature trails can affect the reproduction habits of the Karner blue butterfly, which is a federally endangered species.

Resource managers are under increasing pressure to implement strategies that address the negative effects of outdoor recreational



Courtesy of Patrick Zollner

activities on wildlife. The study shows that human recreation can disrupt the breeding patterns of Karner blue butterflies, as well as other species.

Using a simulation model, the project found that significantly fewer eggs are laid by Karner

blue butterfly females in sites at the Indiana Dunes National Park that are 10-15 meters from the trail. Plants that are farthest away have the most eggs. Zollner suggests that habitat patches be at least 25 meters from the trail.

“Depending on the circumstances, about 17 percent of the females are only laying half of their potential eggs because of human disturbance,” Zollner said.

Zollner has studied how traffic affects Indiana wildlife and has submitted a proposal to study how the Huron-Manistee National Forest equestrian population impacts Karner blue butterflies.