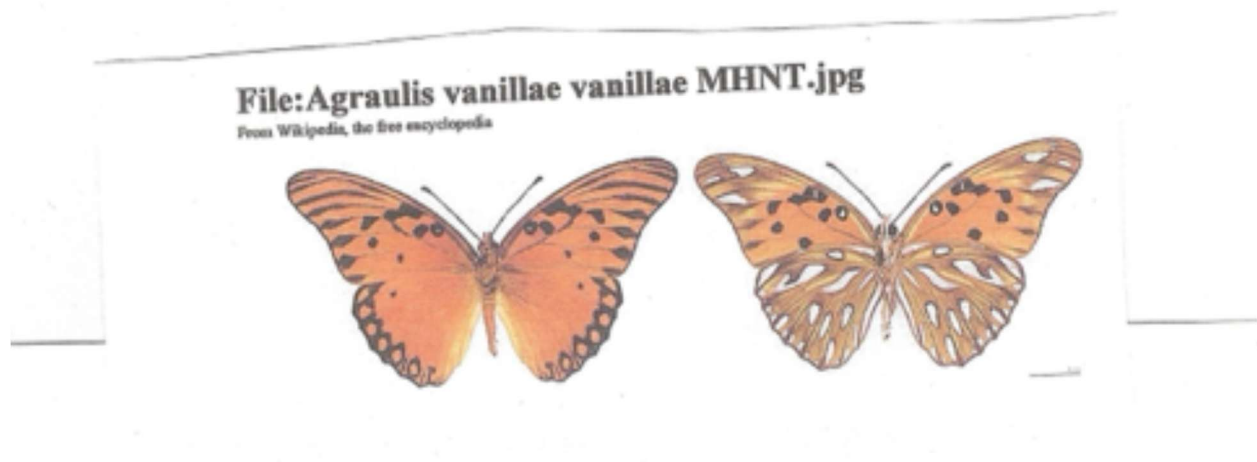


Hosting the



Gulf Fritillary Butterfly

In several places in the flower beds around the yard, we planted the Passion Flower Vine in order to attract and support the butterfly pictured above. They look like small Monarchs, and they will return every year.

The vines sometimes die back in winter, but they come up from the roots and will bloom throughout the summer. In late summer the Gulf Fritillary will deposit eggs on the vines, which you will not notice until the leaves begin to disappear, and you take a closer look at the vine.

You will see the small orange caterpillars with black spines gobbling the leaves preparing to form a chrysalis in order to transform themselves into these beautiful butterflies.

When the butterflies are ready, they emerge and flit to a nearby spot to spread their wings to dry. This usually happens in August, and soon the air throughout the whole yard is full of Gulf Fritillary Butterflies, and they stay around for a few weeks before leaving for wintering grounds.

But they return the following summer to lay a new generation of eggs to continue their cycle of life.

