

Butterflies from Millers

Neil wrote about climate change in his last posting. This posting is also about climate change but in a considerable different vein. A couple of videos show what we might lose due to climate change/forest destruction and what we may lose as the oceans warm and change acidity. Additional comments accompany the videos, one from the Millers and one from me.

No doubt you have all seen monarch butterflies. You may know that these beautiful delicate creatures travel south to some tropical regions and congregate in large groups. (What does one call a large cluster of butterflies?) The Millers found a video that shows this clustering but uses drones shaped like hummingbirds to record it. I found it fascinating as I hope you also do.



Coral from the Streators

The other day, I read an article discussing the loss of coral in various regions of the world. It so happens that my wife and I have snorkeled in a dozen or so places around the gulf of Mexico and my son and I snorkeled in the Bahamas. If you have snorkeled you know the beauty of coral. I looked for a video that shows coral such as I have seen. There are plenty of videos showing coral growing in large tanks but I wanted to show something built by nature. I found a video taken off Mexico in the Gulf. In it, you can see a variety of coral, tropical fish and other animals. I have seen every type of coral and all the animals shown in this video. Off Belize, I was taken by surprise by a 30" mantra ray as it swam under me as I swam out to the coral. This was also the place I nearly got entangled with a jelly fish.



In the Dominican Republic, we saw what can happen to coral due to human intervention. We snorkeled in an area filled with white coral that had been bleached white due to pollution. In the video, imagine all the coral as bleached white and dead. This is what has happened all over the world. One positive view I got in the Bahamas was to see what happens when an object is put under water in regions where coral grows. Off one of the Bahamian islands, a small plane being used to smuggle drugs missed the runway and ended up in a bay. The smugglers simply bought another plane and left the first plane in the water. Coral has

encrusted the plane and tropical fish swim around.

I have seen old boats and constructed structures sunk in various places about Puerto Rico for the promotion of coral growth. This works and seems to attract hundreds of tropical fish. Our son does not like to snorkel around these places because he does not like to be nibbled on by fish. (It only tickles a bit.)

Hopefully, you will enjoy this video. There is nothing shown in this video that I have not seen while snorkeling. My favorite site was to find a large patch of flexible coral and watch it wave back and forth as the surface waves created waves below the surface. Entrancing!

I suggest you make the videos full screen (Icon at lower right on Youtube screen.)
(Click on the link or copy a link and paste it in the address box of your browser.)

[Link for the butterflies](#) (3 minutes long)

https://youtu.be/IWOySU_hAz0

[Link for the coral](#) (12 minutes long)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vJipLeYPUIc>