

Mrs. Wanda Edwards THE BUTTERFLY LADY

by John H. Vargo, *Publisher*



Mrs Wanda Edwards,
'The Butterfly Lady'
with Cone Flowers
in her backyard.

Right smack in the middle of Yonkers, NY, in a historically middle income community that's now diversified sits an unusual house! This particular house has a beautiful wrought iron fence along the road. On a very hot Saturday morning as I opened the gate, a spectacular vista of flowers is artfully planted on both sides of the front yard, as well as along the edges of the house itself. White & Purple Butterfly Bushes, Wisteria fragrances attract butterflies, Liatris, Black Eyed Susan, Rose of Sharron colors, and Crape Myrtle all designed to attract butterflies, pollinating bees, and beneficial insects adorn the front yard. A pavers sidewalk winds its way to the front entrance of the house and continues around the side leading to the rear.



Wanda's photographs are sold by her and the money raised goes to her church scholarship fund.

Call: 914-423-8345
 Please visit www.cogicpressley.org
 and our Facebook page: [Cogic Pressley Memorial](#)
 or send an email to: pmcogic38@gmail.com

As I opened the gate, a 6 foot 5 inch man, with a load of lumber on his back, and a bandana around his head, said, "Good morning, Wanda is expecting you, won't you come to the back yard where we have some shade!"

Sitting down in the shade of an umbrella, the giant of a man said, "there's Wanda over by her flowers, she will be right with us!" Cecilio, was

the man's name and he turned out to be Wanda's husband! An amazing man as he looked far younger than his 64 years of age, with a calm, almost reserved demeanor, as he asked "Can I get you all a glass of water or soda?" I answered positively just as Wanda appeared and sat down in the other shaded chair.

Wanda and I had met several times before in Yonkers (at TLC Thursday's Lunch Club) I knew that her husband was the ordained minister of the The Pressley Memorial Church of God in Christ, Inc. in Yonkers and that she worked hand in glove with him keeping the church going. Wanda Edwards had been influenced at

an early age by her parents who exposed her to butterflies on her summer outings in Dryden, NY. As her education began, first at Lady Cliff Academy HS, College of Mt. St. Vincent in Riverdale, NY and Fordham University with MEd. and Doctor of Education (EdPD) degrees.

The development of this beautiful home by Cecilio and Wanda really took off when a large new structure was added to the existing smaller house. Designing and building it as a team, and then adding the flowers and gardens in both the front and back yard. Butterflies have always been at the center of her life style and it shows in all the flowers and plants.

Wanda said, "Butterflies begin arriving in June, lay their eggs on the milkweed plants, die and the new butterflies that emerge from the cocoons as caterpillars and then metamorphise into butterflies only a few short weeks later. I have watched this development in this garden for the last 12 years now."

Monarchs mating in Wanda's Dogwood Tree last Summer.



Front yard of the Edwards home.

