

Flutterby News July 2008

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Northern Pearly-Eye 6-June-2008
Lake of the Ozarks SP

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The official newsletter of NABA St. Louis Chapter Volume VIII, Number 6

CALENDAR

July 6 (Sunday). 9:45 a.m. Busch Conservation Area 4th of July Count. Meet at the NABA Butterfly Garden at the bottom of the Visitor's Center parking lot. \$3 charge per participant.

July 12 (Saturday). Shaw Nature Reserve, 4th of July Count. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Gatehouse. We will have a gate key so we can drive to the Trail House but those who do must all leave at the same time because the gate will be locked again after we go through. Anyone who needs to leave before 1:30 will have to walk back. At least one group will be assigned to an area where you do not need to go through the gate. The Shaw management has graciously waived the usual entrance fee, although there is still a \$3 charge by NABA for count participants. Bring lunch and water – we will eat at the Trail House after we finish our assigned territories. Expected departure from the Trail House would be no later than 1:30.

July 26 (Saturday) **NEW ADDITION TO CALENDAR.** 10:00 a.m. Butterfly Walk at Marais Temps Clair. Target butterfly: Meadow Fritillary. This is the same time of year when we found 50+ Meadow Fritillaries in 2007. Numerous other species are expected, such as Sleepy Orange, Checkered White, Bronze Copper, Variegated Fritillary, Viceroy, Common Sootywing, Common Checkered-Skipper, and many more.

July 26 (Saturday) Trail of Tears SP 4th of July Count meet 10am @ Visitor Center- contact kent(at)csr-inc.com for more details. Don't forget the \$3 count fee!

July 27 (Sunday) Big Oak Tree SP 4th of July Count - contact kent(at)csr-inc.com

Aug. 24 (Sunday). 10:00 a.m. Butterfly Walk at Victoria Glade. Target species: Swamp Metalmark. Meet at parking lot. We will continue on to Sandy Creek Covered Bridge. Bring lunch.

Sept. 13(Saturday). 10:00 a.m. Butterfly Walk at Route 66 State Park. Meet at Visitor's Center before crossing the bridge over the Meramec River.

Sept. 20 (Saturday). 10:00 a.m. Seasonal Butterfly Count at Busch Conservation Area. Meet at the NABA Butterfly Garden at the bottom of the Visitor's Center parking lot.

Oct. 11 (Saturday). 9:30 a.m. Butterfly Walk at Horseshoe Lake. Meet at Burger King on Ill. Hwy. 203 across from Gateway Racetrack. (Take highways across Poplar Street Bridge, exit at Hwy. 203 north).

If directions are not included in the Calendar, then they can be found on our web site at: www.nabastl.org. Click on "Activities & Events", then click on "Field Trip Sites & Directions." For all field outings, bring water, a snack, and sunscreen, and dress in long pants and closed shoes to minimize ticks. Close-focus binoculars and a field guide are recommended. All field outings are free except NABA 4th of July Counts (\$3 per participant). Members are encouraged to bring guests.

NABA/St. Louis Garden Party 2008

By Mary Eileen Rufkahr

Spectacular! That is one way to describe the annual NABA/St. Louis garden party at Anne McCormack's house. Many NABA friends gathered on the hot night of Friday, June 27th for some cool fun. Even the predicted storms and rain showers stayed away, rather than spoiling the enjoyment of the group!

Anne's garden was in all of it's blooming glory, which made for a pleasant time to stroll around and admire her hard work and dedication to providing habitat for butterflies, birds and other creatures. Chairs were quickly set up near her pond to enjoy the splashing water and soothing sounds. NABA members brought so many of their pot luck specialities, Anne's kitchen table had to be (laborously) carried out of her house and into the yard to hold the overflow of food! Members also rushed to put their bids in on the many items offered in the silent auction.

And this was an instance where saying the party "went to the dogs" was a compliment, not an insult. Rosie McCormack happily greeted Owen Gustafson-Rabenau and Ellie Paradise to join in on the fun!

Toward the end of the evening, Yvonne Homeyer, NABA/St. Louis Vice President presented Anne with a gift certificate from Sugar Creek Nursery as a token of thanks from the chapter. Soon darkness fell and it was time for all to say their farewells. Everyone agreed the evening was just "perfect!"

Special thanks go to. . .Anne McCormack for offering her home and yard to the NABA members for their annual party; to the many people who donated auction items: Kathleen O'Keefe, Scott and Annie Marshall, Tom and Geri Krauska, Kraig Paradise, Bette Handy, Jim Ziebol, Kent Fothergill and Angela Schuler; Ann Earley for taking care of all the financial matters related to the auction; to all those who bid so generously on the auction items; to Sue Gustafson and David Rabenau for loaning their table for use in the auction; and to all the NABA members who so generously shared their culinary treats with the rest of us!

Results from Horseshoe Lake Count 1 June 2008

Tiger Swallowtail	2
Black Swallowtail	8
Cabbage White	18
Orange Sulphur	25
Clouded Sulphur	1
Eastern Tailed-Blue	6
Pearl Crescent	1
Summer Azure	1
Painted Lady	14
American Lady	2
Eastern Comma	2
Buckeye	4
Bronze Copper	6
Little Wood Satyr	1
Monarch	3
Northern Cloudywing	15
Southern Cloudywing	1
Silver-spotted Skipper	3
Dun Skipper	2
Zabulon Skipper	1



Mating pair of Bronze Coppers, 1 June 2008,
Horseshoe Lake, IL Sherry McCowan Photo

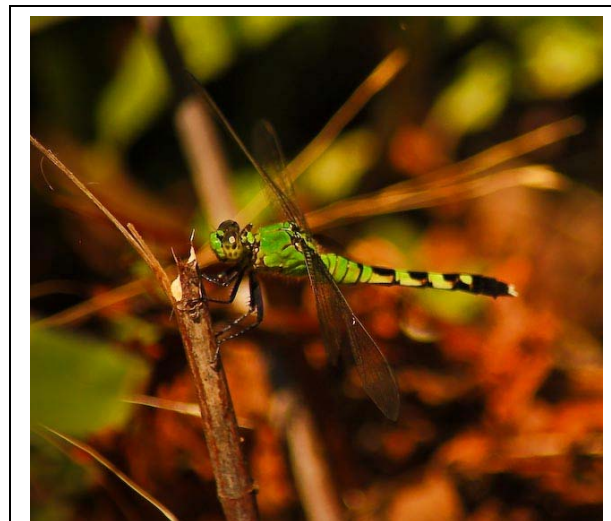
Marias Temp Clair Walk

By Mary Eileen Rufkahr

The morning of Saturday, June 14th dawned with a thick layer of fog. . .not the type of weather butterflies prefer. All local weather forecasters predicted the fog would lift and the sun would appear "around 10 o'clock." As if on cue, the sun broke through in brilliant fashion and the day turned into a warm, cloudless delight.

Scott Marshall lead the butterfly walk at Marias Temp Clair conservation area in St. Charles county for NABA/St. Louis. Members Karen Van Berkel and Mary Eileen Rufkahr attended, along with guest Anita Amerrigan.

Within a short time of the walk's beginning, the four were rewarded with a rare and wonderful sight. . .a Gray Copper! The copper had itself well protected on a patch of



Gray Copper 14-June-2008 MTC, Anita Merrigan Photo

poison ivy, but was more than cooperative as it "posed" for photos for at least 15 minutes. Cameras clicked and jockeyed for the best position to capture this beautiful butterfly in all of it's glory.

Rather reluctantly, the group moved along to spot other butterflies as well. .the trip was more than a success with sightings of black form Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, Cabbage White, Orange Sulphur, Cloudless Sulphur, Eastern Tailed-Blue, Great Spangled Fritillary, Pearl Crescent, Painted Lady, Red Admiral, Common Buckeye, Hackberry Emperor, Monarch, Silver-spotted Skipper and Delaware Skipper. After the walk the group gathered under a shady tree for a brief break and to continue to marvel over the find of the gray copper!



Gray Copper14-June-2008 MTC,
Anita Merrigan Photo

New in the Kids' Corner

By Mary Eileen Rufkahr

Geevtinhry si lal xdiem pu ni eth di'sk rrcnoe.* .no, that's not a typo. .that's our way of announcing the newest addition to **Kids' Corner**. .**Metamorphosis Scramble!** We took common butterfly-related terms, scrambled the letters up and are now challenging *you* to figure out what the words are. For example: when you see *llrraaetapi*, you need to unscramble those letters to make *caterpillar!*

Stretch those brain "muscles" and head on over to the **Word Puzzles** section of **Kids' Corner** for some mind teasing fun!

(Thanks to Webmaster Sherry McCowan for her time and talent in putting Metamorphosis Scramble on the site!)

*Everything is all mixed up in the Kids' Corner

June Butterfly Report

By Yvonne Homeyer

JUNE BUTTERFLY REPORT

Yvonne Homeyer

St. Louis Area: The number of “First of Year” (FOY) sightings picked up considerably in late May and June. However, the overall impression of several NABA members is that the number of individual butterflies is much lower than it should be at this time of year.

Additional Sightings for May: Mark Peters reported a **Hobomok Skipper**, Zabulon Skipper, and **Linda’s Roadside Skipper** at his Jefferson County prairie on 5/21, and a **Bell’s Roadside Skipper** on 5/28. Linda’s Roadside Skipper is one of the rarest local butterflies. A **Northern Cloudywing** was flying in Lincoln County on 5/30, and on 5/31, a female Zabulon Skipper was seen. (Pat Garner). At Columbia Bottom on 5/31, Jim Ziebol and Yvonne Homeyer saw several Orange Sulphurs and Cabbage Whites, and one each of **Viceroy**, **Least Skipper**, Silver-spotted Skipper, Summer Azure, Pearl Crescent, Tiger Swallowtail, and Red Admiral.

June Sightings: We started June off with our first 4th of July Count, at Horseshoe Lake near Granite City, Illinois. Despite a warm, sunny (and humid) day, the number of species and individuals was remarkably low. We ended up with just 20 species and 116 individuals. Highlights included 6 **Bronze Coppers**, 1 Little Wood Satyr, 15 Northern Cloudywings and 1 **Southern Cloudywing**. The entire count results are published elsewhere in this newsletter. *Not* seen on this year’s count were Duke’s Skipper, Broad-winged Skipper, Delaware Skipper, and Southern Dogface. Sherry McCowan, Karen Van Berkel, Jeannie Moe, Kraig Paradise, Yvonne Homeyer, and Jim Ziebol participated in the Count. Also on 6/1, Dale Hallett visited Fort Bellefontaine and saw 2 Eastern Tailed-Blues, 1 Red Admiral, 3 Painted Ladies, and 3 Least Skippers. At Mark Peters’ prairie in early June, the follow “first of year” sightings occurred: a **Little Glassywing** was seen by on 6/1, a **Swarthy Skipper** on 6/2, a **Delaware Skipper** on 6/5, and a **Dun Skipper** on 6/8.



Bronze Coppers 1-June-2008 Horseshoe Lake, IL NABA 4-J count Karen Van Berkel Photo

Jim found a **Southern Dogface** at Horseshoe Lake on 6/3, along with 2 Question Marks, 2 Painted Ladies, 1 Summer Azure, 1 Eastern Tailed-Blue, and 1 Orange Sulphur. On 6/3 at Garner Farm in Lincoln County, Pat saw Giant, Spicebush, Tiger and Black Swallowtails, 3 Goatweed Leafwings, Little Wood Satyrs “everywhere,” a **Hackberry Emperor**, and a Monarch laying eggs on Common Milkweed. On 6/5, Pat found a **Tawny-edged Skipper**, a Spicebush Swallowtail, a Giant Swallowtail, a Mourning

Cloak, and Monarch caterpillars. At Busch C.A. on 6/6, Giant Swallowtail, Summer Azure, a Gray Comma, and Least Skipper were flying, and at the Garner Farm, a Buckeye and a Summer Azure were found (PG). On a trip to Valley View Glade on 6/8, Scott Marshall saw **1 Hickory Hairstreak**, **2 Variegated Fritillaries**, 2 Pipevine Swallowtails, 1 Northern Cloudywing, 1 Summer Azure, 2 Eastern Tailed-Blues, 1 Buckeye, 2 Hackberry Emperors, 2 Pearl Crescents, 10+ Little Wood Satyrs, 1 Tawny-edged Skipper, and 1 American Lady. Sherry McCowan reported a Gray Comma at Busch C.A. on 6/8.



Banded Hairstreak, 6-June-08, Lake of the Ozarks SP, Camden Co. MO KF photo

Mark Peters continued to find new skippers at his prairie, with **Northern Broken Dash** and **Sachem** showing upon 6/11. Topping the Linda's Roadside Skipper found earlier in the month was a **Whirlabout** which made an unexpected appearance at his prairie on 6/14, bringing his total number of species to 83. Whirlabout is a rare stray; the Arkansas/Louisiana border is the northern end of its range. Also seen that day were 6 Spicebush Swallowtails, 2 Monarchs, 2 Red Admirals, 4 Hackberry Emperors, 6 Gray Commas, 10 Silver-spotted Skippers, 1 Zabulon Skipper, 3 Northern Broken Dashes, 3 **Crossline Skippers**, 2 Dun Skippers, 2 Delaware Skippers, and 1 Bell's Roadside Skipper. A total of 15 species of skippers, including the Whirlabout, were seen on 6/14! On 6/19, Mark and Jim Ziebol saw 1 **Byssus Skipper**, 20 Northern Cloudywings, 2 Red Admirals, 2 **Silvery Checkerspots**, 1 Pearl Crescent, 1 Delaware Skipper, 2 Zabulon Skippers, and 1 Dun Skipper. On 6/20, Mark observed a **Coral Hairstreak**. At 83 species, Mark's prairie has almost caught up with Busch C.A., which has 85 confirmed species and 4 hypotheticals. However, Mark's prairie is much smaller than the 7,000 acre Busch C.A., making Mark's habitat extremely diverse for its size.

The Garner Farm in Lincoln County continued to produce good numbers of individuals and species throughout June: **Hickory Hairstreak** on 6/8 (the same day Scott saw one at Valley View Glade), **Hoary Edge** on 6/8, **Great Spangled Fritillary** on 6/10, and Hayhurst's Scallopwing on 6/11. Pat also observed Buckeye on 6/8, Least Skipper on 6/5, Tawny-edged Skipper on 6/14, Delaware Skipper on 6/11, and Red-spotted Purple on 6/15.

Jim Ziebol went to Horseshoe Lake on 6/13, where he counted 3 Orange Sulphurs, 1 Eastern Tailed-Blue, 3 Painted Ladies, 12+ **Broad-winged Skippers**, 4 **Dukes's Skippers**, 3 Little Glassywings, 2 Dun Skippers, 1 Northern Broken Dash, and 6 Delaware Skippers. When Jim returned there on 6/17, he found only a single Broad-winged Skipper flying, and very little else.

On 6/14, Scott Marshall led a field trip to Marais Temps Clair in search of the Gray Copper, a wetlands species that is in serious decline due to habitat loss. The group, which included Mary Eileen Rufkahr, Karen Van Berkel, and Anita Merrigan, found one **Gray Copper**, which was photographed by Anita and Scott. Also seen were 2 Black Swallowtails, 7 Cabbage Whites, 40+ Orange Sulphurs, 2 Cloudless Sulphurs, 15 Eastern Tailed-Blues, 11 Great Spangled Fritillaries, 1 Pearl Crescent, 15 Painted Ladies, 17 Red Admirals, 10 Buckeyes, 2 Hackberry Emperors, 5 Monarchs, 4 Silver-spotted Skippers, and 1 Delaware Skipper. No Gray Coppers were found when Yvonne visited MTC on 6/21, and far fewer butterflies were flying, although it was a hot, sunny day. Yvonne saw 2 Black Swallowtails, 20+ Orange Sulphurs, 1 Clouded Sulphur, 1 Cloudless Sulphur, 2 **Little Yellows**, 3 Great Spangled Fritillaries, 1 Buckeye, 10 Eastern Tailed-Blues, 1 Pearl Crescent, and 1 Viceroy.



Little Wood-Satyr, 7-June-2008, Lake of the Ozarks SP
KF Photo

Ray Harrison observed a Zebra Swallowtail at Hughes Natural Area on 6/14. Mary Eileen Rufkahr visited Oak Knoll Park in Clayton on 6/16 and observed 6 Eastern Tailed-Blues, 1 Gray Hairstreak, 1 Monarch, and 3 Silver-spotted Skippers. At Victoria Glade on 6/19, Jim reported 1 **Silvery Checkerspot** (the same day that one was found at Mark Peters' prairie), 1 Little Wood Satyr, 1 Hobomok Skipper, 1 Eastern Tailed-Blue, and 2 Zebra Swallowtails. That same day, 6/19, Jim visited Sandy Creek Covered Bridge and saw 1 **Silvery Checkerspot**, 2 Zebra Swallowtails, and 1 Red Admiral. **Coral Hairstreak** and **Northern Pearly-eye** were good finds for Pat Garner in Lincoln County on 6/20 (Mark Peters saw a Coral Hairstreak on 6/20 also). On 6/21 at Busch C.A, Yvonne counted 16 species, including 1 Gray Comma, a mated pair of **Checkered Whites** (a species rarely encountered at Busch), 3 very fresh Zebra Swallowtails, 2 Giant Swallowtails, 2 Tiger Swallowtails, 1 Gray Hairstreak, 1 Dun Skipper, and 1 Northern Broken Dash. On 6/23, Jeannie Moe photographed a Duke's Skipper at Creve Coeur Lake, a new location for that species. Sherry McCowan spotted Pearl Crescents, Eastern Tailed-Blues and a Buckeye in Forest Park the week of June 22nd.

Jim found a **Dion Skipper** at Horseshoe Lake on 6/25. Dion is a wetlands species and is quite rare in our area. Then, on 6/26, Jim found 1 **Confused Cloudywing**, 2 **Tawny Emperors**, and 2 **Snouts** at Busch C.A. Of the three Cloudywing species in the St. Louis area, Confused is the hardest to find.

On 6/28, Jim Ziebol, Karen Van Berkel and Yvonne Homeyer did a butterfly count for the Missouri Dept. of Conservation at Busch C.A. They found 21 species and counted 99 individuals, a low number. [Last year, at this same time, our count results yielded 34 species and 250 individuals, with the same territories being surveyed.] A

single Coral Hairstreak was the highlight of the count. Here are the results: 2 Zebra Swallowtails, 2 Tiger Swallowtails, 3 Cabbage Whites, 1 Clouded Sulphur, 5 Orange Sulphurs, 1 Coral Hairstreak, 1 Gray Hairstreak, 36 Eastern Tailed-Blues, 1 Summer Azure, 4 Great Spangled Fritillaries, 5 Pearl Crescents, 1 E. Comma, 1 Gray Comma, 2 American Ladies, 3 Red Admirals, 1 Viceroy, 22 Hackberry Emperors, 1 Tawny Emperor, 1 Silver-spotted Skipper, 2 Little Glassyings, and 4 Dun Skippers.

A total list of the 75 species seen in the St. Louis area as of the end of June is found elsewhere in this issue.

Southeast Missouri (Bootheel): The Bootheel has had a few warm days and with it have come the Sulphurs! Little Yellow, Dainty Sulphur, and Southern Dogface were seen in the Bootheel. Variegated Fritillary was noted nectaring in commercial landscaping in Hayti late in the month. Butterflies still seem to be at numbers below last year.

Garden Reports: In Mary Eileen Rufkahr's garden: on 6/1, 4 Cabbage Whites, 2 Monarchs, and 2 Tiger Swallowtails; on 6/7, 6 Cabbage Whites, 1 Red Admiral, and 1 Black Tiger Swallowtail; on 6/12, Spicebush Swallowtail, 3 Cabbage Whites, 2 Summer Azures, and 3 Red Admirals. Cabbage Whites were seen in Ray Harrison's garden in southwest St. Louis City.

Tom "Terrific" Krauska has released Monarchs and Black Swallowtails at his Crestwood Garden. For the second year in a row, he has seen a Zebra Swallowtail in his garden (6/23). Because the Zebra's caterpillar food plant is Paw-Paw, a tree most often associated with woods, this is an unusual sighting for the suburbs. Tom has not yet located the origin of his Zebras! Also seen were Painted Lady (6/3), a Red Admiral laying eggs on False Nettle (6/4), a Spring Azure (6/23), and Black Swallowtails, Cabbage Whites, sulphurs, and Silver-spotted Skippers throughout the month. On 6/24, Tom noticed Tiger Swallowtail caterpillars on his Sweet Bay Magnolia, Black Swallowtail eggs and caterpillars on Rue and Bronze Fennel, and Spicebush caterpillars on Spicebush.

At her New Melle home, Leslie Limberg reported Little Wood Satyr, Pipevine, Tiger and Giant Swallowtails, Cabbage White, Red Admiral, Great Spangled Fritillary, Summer Azure, Eastern Tailed-Blue, and Painted Lady. Anne Craver found a Red Admiral at her Clayton home on 6/25. Sherry McCowan reported seeing the following at her Soulard garden: Summer Azure and Monarch, 6/15; American Lady, 6/22; Red Admiral, 6/23; Orange Sulphur, around 6/24.

Contributors: Anne Craver, Kent Fothergill, Pat Garner, Dale Hallett, Ray Harrison, Yvonne Homeyer, Tom "Terrific" Krauska Leslie Limberg, Scott Marshall, Sherry McCowan, Anita Merrigan, Mark Peters, Mary Eileen Rufkahr, Karen Van Berkel, Jim Ziebol.

FIRST BUTTERFLY DATES

Compiled by Yvonne Homeyer

As of the end of June, 75 species have been reported from the St. Louis area:

Pipeline Swallowtail	4/26	Tawny Emperor	6/26
Zebra Swallowtail	4/16	Northern Pearly-eye	6/20
Black Swallowtail	4/23	Little Wood Satyr	5/28
Giant Swallowtail	5/26	Monarch	4/16
Tiger Swallowtail	4/20	Silver-spotted Skipper	5/6
Spicebush Swallowtail	4/26	Hoary Edge	6/8
Checkered White	6/21	Southern Cloudywing	6/1
Cabbage White	4/2	Northern Cloudywing	5/30
Falcate Orangetip	3/14	Confused Cloudywing	6/26
Clouded Sulphur	4/17	Hayhurst's Scallopwing	6/11
Orange Sulphur	4/20	Sleepy Duskywing	4/24
Southern Dogface	6/3	Juvenal's Duskywing	4/17
Cloudless Sulphur	4/30	Horace's Duskywing	5/1
Little Yellow	6/21	Wild Indigo Duskywing	4/20
Gray Copper	6/14	Common Sootywing	5/19
Bronze Copper	6/1	Swarthy Skipper	6/2
Coral Hairstreak	6/20	Least Skipper	5/31
Hickory Hairstreak	6/8	Tawny-edged Skipper	6/5
Henry's Elfin	4/16	Crossline Skipper	6/14
Juniper Hairstreak	4/20	Northern Broken-Dash	6/11
Gray Hairstreak	4/16	Little Glassywing	6/1
Red-banded Hairstreak	5/14	Sachem	6/11
Eastern Tailed-Blue	4/23	Delaware Skipper	6/5
Spring Azure	4/5	Byssus Skipper	6/19
Summer Azure	5/18	Hobomok Skipper	5/21
Snout	6/26	Zabulon Skipper	5/17
Variegated Fritillary	6/8	Dion Skipper	6/25
Great Spangled Fritillary	6/10	Duke's Skipper	6/13
Silvery Checkerspot	6/19	Dun Skipper	6/8
Pearl Crescent	4/20	Linda's Roadside Skipper	5/21
Question Mark	4/15	Common Roadside Skipper	5/16
Eastern Comma	3/20	Bell's Roadside Skipper	5/28
Gray Comma	4/20	Broad-winged Skipper	6/13
Mourning Cloak	3/2	Whirlabout	6/14
American Lady	4/16		
Painted Lady	4/7		
Red Admiral	4/2		
Buckeye	6/1		
Red-spotted Purple	5/18		
Goatweed Leafwing	4/17		
Hackberry Emperor	6/3		

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

If you would like to join NABA, please fill out this application. You will become a member of both NABA and the local St. Louis Chapter, if you live within the St. Louis metropolitan area or nearby Illinois area:

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone () _____ E-mail _____

Dues are \$30 (regular) and \$40 (family) per year. Please make check payable to NORTH AMERICAN BUTTERFLY ASSOCIATION. Mail this form with your check to: Scott Marshall, Membership, 609 West Lockwood, St. Louis, MO 63119.