



NABA St. Louis

February
2010

FLUTTERBY

NEWS AND EVENTS

Greetings!

Hello NABA St. Louis! I'm Pat Lynn, the new editor for the NABA St. Louis newsletter. I'm also a relatively new member. Taking a couple of Jim and Yvonne's butterfly classes inspired me to learn more about butterfly identification and it's been non-stop ever since. After a lifetime of growing and identifying plants, it is a joy learning about the butterflies in our area and making new friends with the wonderful NABA members. I'll try to keep up Kent's good work with the newsletter, and look forward to meeting many of you on this year's butterfly walks, counts, and social events.

A Message From the President

Here's hoping that all St. Louis NABA members have a very happy New Year and field season in 2010.

In October, I failed to mention two NABA volunteers: Mary Eileen Rufkahr and Sherry McCowan. Mary Eileen has been at the heart of many NABA activities, including party planning (NABA gives wonderful garden parties), counts, walks, and has helped in NABA gardens. In recent years, Mary Eileen has acted as National NABA editor for the Central U.S., which entails typing the 4th of July count data for about 30 sites in the Midwest and summarizing the results. She does this job magnificently. Sherry McCowan is our Webmaster. When Dave Larson left St. Louis, Sherry agreed to take over the website. The new imagery of Swamp Metalmarks and members' photos that she added has made the website more interesting.

I also want to thank Yvonne Homeyer, Diane Albright, and Kathy Andria for saving thousands of acres in and around St. Louis. These acres shelter hundreds of species of plants, animals, and maybe colonies of butterflies like the Roadside Skippers and Swamp Metalmarks. Global warming will be sending more southern butterfly species our way very soon. It's good to have Kent Fothergill monitoring the insects in the Boot-heel area. Thank you, Kent!

The fates have really frowned on me again. Since mid-November, I've been in the hospital and rehab



Juniper Hairstreak

Pat Garner Photo

for over a month—mostly chemo and cancer related. In early December, my kidneys shut down and I was on a renal (liquid) diet for three weeks. I'm recovering very well now. At one point, I had a team of 16 doctors. Dr. Larry Evans, my savior and father, told me 10 years ago that I should be prepared for anything medically.

A few other thoughts... We have a very unique and diversified membership, making for a mature organization capable of all sorts of activities. Let's continue to welcome and value all our members, old and new. We can only solve the massive problems we face with smart people and hard work. This includes things like reintroduction of extirpated species. I would love to see Gray Coppers at Horseshoe Lake again. Reintroduction would benefit many, many species in the St. Louis area.

Thank you all for your participation in 2009 NABA events. I will have a list of walks and counts for 2010 shortly.—Jim Z.

Upcoming Events

If wishing could make things happen, it would already be spring, wouldn't it? We're all looking forward to that first warm day, the first glimpse of green, the first butterfly. Many of us will be out there scanning gardens and wildlife areas hoping to see something way before the expected first signs of spring! In the meantime, we can study and plan our nature activities for the upcoming year. Look for this year's events list in the March issue.



November Butterfly Report

By Yvonne Homeyer

St. Louis Area Sightings for November:

The number of butterflies flying in November declined from October, but a few species could still be found. On 11/1 at the Garner Farm in Lincoln County, Pat saw 4 Orange Sulphurs and 2 Pearl Crescents (the Orange Sulphurs were flying at 43 degrees), and on 11/2, she observed 1 Pearl Crescent, 2 Orange Sulphurs, 3 E. Commas, and 1 Question Mark.

On 11/5, 2 Orange Sulphurs were flying at the Garner Farm. On 11/1, Yvonne Homeyer and Evelyn Luecke visited Clarence Cannon NWR in Pike County on a sunny but chilly morning (43 to 47 degrees). They saw 1 Cabbage White, 1 Orange Sulphur, 5 Eastern Commas, and 1 Buckeye. At Prairie Slough, they observed 3 Monarchs, 7 Orange Sulphurs, and one anglewing, probably an E. Comma. At Klondike Park in St. Charles County on 11/7, a warm, sunny day with temperatures reaching into the high 70s, 4 Cloudless Sulphurs, 2 Orange Sulphurs, 1 Cabbage White, 1 worn Buckeye, and 1 anglewing were flying (YH, Pat Lynn, Evelyn Luecke). That same day, Pat Garner saw 2 Orange Sulphurs at the Garner Farm in Lincoln County, and on 11/8, she saw 1 E. Comma and 1 Orange Sulphur. One Orange Sulphur was flying on 11/11 and another on 11/13.

One Orange Sulphur was seen at Rockwood on 11/14 (YH). A Buckeye was photographed at Portage des Sioux during the Audubon Society's bird walk on 11/21 (Al Smith).

The last sighting reported for November was on 11/21 – a single Orange Sulphur at the Garner Farm (PG). Pat noted that she failed to see any Questions Marks or Mourning Cloaks, two species she has observed in late fall in prior years. We will have to wait until next spring to find out if this year's dismal showing for the swallowtails (except for Giant) is a single year aberration or something more serious. In general, 2009 was a poor year for many species. It is encouraging that so many people, including NABA members, have planted native flowers and shrubs to provide food for caterpillars and nectar for the adult butterflies. Butterflies need all the help we can give them!

Garden Reports: Linda Virga saw an Orange Sulphur in her garden on 11/2. A Question Mark was seen in Mary Eileen Rufkahr's garden on 11/7. A Cloudless Sulphur was reported by Mary Eileen Rufkahr at her garden on 11/14.

Holiday Party

By Mary Eileen Rufkahr

The decorations in our homes may have been packed up and stored away, but the NABA/St. Louis members were in a festive mood and ready to celebrate at the the annual post-holiday party on Sunday, January 17th.

As it has been for the past several years, the party was held at the Webster Groves Community Center.

The room buzzed with conversation as friends came together to meet and catch up. One of the most popular guests was a "friend" of Bob and Claudia Noe, a spunky and adorable black lab puppy by the name of Wagner, who is training to be a service dog. Wagner held court on Claudia's lap as several NABA members lined up to meet him.

The buffet table was piled high with platters and bowls of delicious food, including appetizers, main dishes, salads and desserts.

After feasting on such fine food offerings, members settled in to watch an audio/visual presentation coordinated by Tom Krauska. Several members brought photos to share of the butterflies they had spotted over the past year. Each photo was met with appreciative comments and praise by the audience members.

Too soon it was time for everyone to head home. The parting remarks from everyone either stated what a great party it was and/or how they could hardly wait for the warm weather and "butterfly season" to begin!



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The Current Board of NABA St. Louis

Position	Person	Contact
President	Jim Ziebol	(314) 781 7372
Vice President	Yvonne Homeyer	swamp metalmark(at)sbcglobal.net
Secretary	Kathleen O'Keefe	
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Webmaster	Sherry McCowan	nabaweb(at)waxwingwebs.com
Walks and Counts	Jim Ziebol	(314) 781 7372

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.