



NABA St. Louis

June 2010

FLUTTERBY

NEWS AND EVENTS

2010 Calendar of Events

Here is a list of upcoming events. Mark your calendars to save the dates! Additional walks and social events may be added later.

Directions are available on our chapter web site, www.nabastl.org. Click on Activities and Events, then click on Field Trip Sites and Directions. Field trips last between two and three hours.

Garden Party!

Come and enjoy a summer evening of friendship, food, and butterfly tales.

Scott & Annie Marshall will host our annual garden party (potluck) on June 18, starting at 6:00 p.m. The Marshalls live at 609 West Lockwood in Webster Groves. NABA will provide non-alcoholic beverages.

Note: Please bring a lawn chair.



Baltimore Checkerspot *Kent Fothergill*
May 23, Trail of Tears State Park

| Date and Time | | Event | Location |
|---------------------|---|---|---|
| June 18 | 6:00 p.m. | Summer Garden Party | 609 West Lockwood, Webster Groves, MO 63119 |
| June 26 | 10.00 a.m. | State Butterfly Count | Busch Conservation Area - Butterfly Garden at Visitor Center |
| July 4 | 10:00 a.m. | 4 th of July Butterfly Count | Busch Conservation Area - Butterfly Garden at Visitor Center Note: There is a \$3 fee for each 4 th of July count participant. |
| July 10 | 9:00 a.m. <i>Note early start time</i> | 4 th of July Butterfly Count | Shaw Nature Reserve. Meet at Visitor Center Note: There is a \$3 fee for each 4 th of July count participant. |
| July 17 | 10:00 a.m. | Butterfly Walk | Weldon Spring Site - Howell Prairie Garden, led by Jeannie Moe |
| July 31 | 10.00 a.m. | 4 th of July Butterfly Count | Horseshoe Lake State Park Note: There is a \$3 fee for each 4 th of July count participant. |
| August 28 | 10.00 a.m. | Seasonal Butterfly Count | Horseshoe Lake State Park |
| September 18 | 10:00 a.m. | Butterfly Walk | Route 66 State Park |
| October 16 | 10:00 a.m. | Butterfly Walk | Busch Conservation Area |



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Torn Between Two Loves

By Pat Lynn

Okay, I admit it, my first love is plants, but I really like butterflies, too. Does that make me a cheater? Although I've been an avid gardener and plant lover all my adult life, butterfly identification has captured my heart in the last year or so, and I've found myself torn between looking for butterflies and learning about new plants. But, aha! I've found a way to reconcile my divided heart by identifying which plants are attractive to butterflies as hosts and nectar sources – and then growing as many of them as I can.

Identifying butterfly host plants can add challenge and interest to everyone's butterfly field trips. Shown are a few examples of some common and less well-known host plants, most of which can be grown in your own garden to help support an abundance of those plants in our urban environments.



Baltimore checkerspot caterpillar



Pipevine Swallowtail caterpillars-Scott Marshall

| Butterfly | Host Plants |
|---------------------------|---|
| Monarch | Milkweed (Asclepias) |
| Baltimore Checkerspot | Turtlehead (Chelone) |
| Black Swallowtail | Dill, Parsley, Fennel, Rue, Queen Anne's Lace |
| Tiger Swallowtail | Wild Cherry, Yellow Poplar, Cottonwood |
| Zebra Swallowtail | Pawpaw |
| Spicebush Swallowtail | Spicebush, Sassafras |
| Giant Swallowtail | Citrus trees, Prickly Ash |
| Great-Spangled Fritillary | Violets |
| Meadow Fritillary | Violets |
| Question Mark | Nettle, False Nettle, Elm, Hops, Hackberry |
| Comma | Nettle, False Nettle, Elm, Hops |
| Mourning Cloak | Willow, Birch, Elm, Hackberry |
| Painted Lady | Hollyhock, Pearly Everlasting, Yarrow |
| Common Buckeye | Snapdragon, Heliotrope, Verbena |
| Viceroy | Willow, Aspen, Poplar, Cherry |
| Red-spotted Purple | Wild Cherry, Poplar, Aspen |
| Dainty Sulphur | Sneezeweed (Helenium) |
| Gray Hairstreak | Hibiscus, Hollyhock, Rose of Sharon |
| Pipevine Swallowtail | Pipevine (Aristolochia) |
| Luna Moth | Walnut, Hickory, Persimmon, Sweet Gum |



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May Butterfly Report

By Yvonne Homeyer

Note: Butterfly names in **bold type** indicate the first report of the year.

Garden Reports:

Sherry McCowan found an American Lady and a **Wild Indigo Duskywing** in her garden in Soulard on 4/29. An Orange Sulphur and an E. Comma were in Pat Lynn's garden in Ballwin on 5/2. Linda Virga saw a Red-spotted Purple on 5/2 and a female Monarch laying eggs on Butterflyweed on 5/3 at Shady Nook, her Affton home. On 5/5, Mary Eileen Rufkahr reported a **Hackberry Emperor**, Cloudless Sulphur, and Cabbage White at her Bridgeton home. Karen Van Berkel saw 3 Red Admirals chasing one another in her yard on 5/6. A Red Admiral was seen at Linda Virga's home on 5/9.

A Pipevine Swallowtail has discovered the Pipevine growing in Scott and Annie Marshall's garden in Webster Groves (where we will be having our Garden Party on June 18). Annie Marshall saw a female Pipevine Swallowtail laying eggs on the host plant on 5/12 and the burnt-orange colored eggs were visible on the leaf. By 5/23, the tiny caterpillars were emerging from the egg cases [see photo]. Anne McCormack also saw a Pipevine Swallowtail laying eggs in her Kirkwood garden on 5/13. On 5/17, Belle Warden saw 2 female Pipevine Swallowtails laying eggs on the Pipevine at her Madison, IL home. She counted 24 eggs on stems underneath the leaves.



Pipevine Swallowtail



Banded Hairstreak

Garner Farm

Claudia & Bob Noe have seen Painted Ladies and Red Admirals in their Chesterfield garden, and they saw a Monarch elsewhere in St. Louis County. Mary Eileen Rufkahr reported 2 Summer Azures and a Hackberry Emperor on 5/22 at her Bridgeton home. On 5/23, Mary Eileen saw 4 species there: 3 Hackberry Emperors, 1 Tiger Swallowtail, 3 Summer Azures, and 3 Cabbage Whites.

Linda Virga continued to see good butterflies in the last half of May also. During the week of 5/15, she found Red Admiral, Red-spotted Purple, Summer Azure, and a Monarch in her garden. During the week of 5/23, a Gray Hairstreak, a male Black Swallowtail, a Pipevine Swallowtail, Summer Azure, E. Comma, and Red Admiral were flying there.

Torrey Berger has seen the only **Snouts** reported so far this year, and the first one he found was at his home in Town and Country on 5/23 (a single individual). He also saw Eastern Tailed-Blue, Spicebush Swallowtail, and Cabbage White.



May Butterfly Report, Continued

St. Louis Area:

On 4/29, Sherry McCowan found 3 **Red-spotted Purples** in Tower Grove Park.

Early May sightings at the Garner Farm included four new species for the season. On 5/1, Pat Garner saw 1 Red-spotted Purple, 1 **Zabulon Skipper**, 4 American Ladies (their host plant, Pussytoes, grows there), 3 Red Admirals, 8 Eastern Tailed-Blues, 6 Juvenal's Duskywings, 4 Pipevine Swallowtails, 6 Pearl Crescents, and 1 male Falcate Orangetip. On 5/2, Pat saw 2 Red Admirals, 10 Eastern Tailed-Blues, 1 Zabulon Skipper, 4 American Ladies, 6 Pearl Crescents, 6 Pipevine Swallowtails, 1 Common Roadside Skipper, and 1 Common Sootywing. **Giant Swallowtail**, **Horace's Duskywing**, and **Little Yellow** appeared on 5/3, along with 8 Pipevine Swallowtails, 3 Red Admirals, 6 Pearl Crescents, 2 Common Roadside-Skippers, 1 Zebra Swallowtail, 1 Tiger Swallowtail, 1 worn Falcate Orangetip, and 6 American Ladies (PG). On 5/4, Pat reported 9 Pipevine Swallowtails, 6 Pearl Crescents, 10 Eastern Tailed-Blues, 2 Red Admirals, 1 Spicebush Swallowtail, 6 Juvenal's Duskywings, and 1 Common Roadside-Skipper.

Pat Lynn visited Hawn State Park on 5/1 and saw 3 Pipevine Swallowtails, 1 Zebra Swallowtail, and 3 Spring Azures. On 5/2, Yvonne Homeyer and friends found a female **Checkered White** at Blue Grosbeak Trail and a **Variiegated Fritillary** at Lost Valley Trail, both in St. Charles County. Other butterflies at Lost Valley Trail were 2 Zebra Swallowtails, 12 Red-spotted Purples, a Red Admiral, two worn Juvenal's Duskywings, a few Orange Sulphurs, a Pipevine Swallowtail, a few Pearl Crescents, and a fresh male Monarch.

At Horseshoe Lake on 5/3, Jim Ziebol reported 4 **Viceroy**s. On 5/5 in Tower Grove Park, Yvonne found 9 Red Admirals, a Red-spotted Purple, an American Lady, and an Eastern Tailed-Blue. In Tower Grove Park, Jim Ziebol saw a Tiger Swallowtail on 5/3, and on 5/7, Sherry McCowan saw a Red Admiral, a Painted Lady, and a Silver-spotted Skipper there.

On 5/5, Pat Garner reported two new species for the year at the Garner Farm: **Least Skipper** and **Red-Banded Hairstreak**; she also saw a Monarch, a Silver-spotted Skipper, 8 Pipevine Swallowtails, 6 Juvenal's Duskywings, 5 Eastern Tailed-Blues, 3 Pearl Crescents, 2 Orange Sulphurs, 1 Painted Lady, 1 Zebra Swallowtail, and 1 Common Roadside Skipper – a total of 12 species for the day. The following day, 5/6, Pat observed 14 species: a female Monarch laying eggs on Common Milkweed, 4 Red-banded Hairstreaks, 1 Question Mark, 1 Zebra Swallowtail, 1 Tiger Swallowtail, 2 Red Admirals, 8 Pipevine Swallowtails, 8 Eastern Tailed-Blues, 2 American Ladies, 1 Common Roadside Skipper, 1 Orange Sulphur, 5 Pearl Crescents, 7 Juvenal's Duskywings, and a Red-spotted Purple. On 5/7, Pat found a Zabulon Skipper, a recently emerged Giant Swallowtail, 6 Eastern Tailed-Blues, 4 Pearl Crescents, 7 Pipevine Swallowtails, 8 American Ladies, a Red-banded Hairstreak, and 3 Red Admirals. On 5/8, a very windy day, Pat Garner observed an American Lady, a Variiegated Fritillary, a Red-spotted Purple, a Common Roadside-Skipper, 3 Pipevine Swallowtails, 2 Orange Sulphurs, 3 Red Admirals, and -- (saving the best for last!) -- a **Pepper and Salt Skipper**. This butterfly, never common, has become even more scarce in the last few years, demonstrating yet again the exceptionally high quality of the habitat on the Garner Farm.



Gray Copper

Yvonne Homeyer



NABA St. Louis

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May Butterfly Report, Continued

At Horseshoe Lake on 5/8, Jim Ziebol saw 3 Variegated Fritillaries. On 5/9, Yvonne Homeyer saw a Variegated Fritillary at Lost Valley Trail in the same spot as the one she found the previous weekend. Four Checkered Whites at Lost Valley Trail (2 males and 2 females) were a please surprise, as was a Pepper & Salt Skipper! Also seen there on 5/9 were 5 Red-banded Hairstreaks, 1 Painted Lady, 4 Pipevine Swallowtails, 3 Spicebush Swallowtails, 1 Zebra Swallowtail, 1 Red Admiral, 8 fresh Red-spotted Purples, 3 Question Marks, 2 Silver-spotted Skippers, 2 Orange Sulphurs, 1 Juvenal's Duskywing, and 15 Pearl Crescents, for a total of 15 species. Also on 5/9, Pat Garner observed 1 Question Mark, 1 Red-banded Hairstreak, 1 Painted Lady, 2 American Ladies, 1 Common Roadside-Skipper, 3 Pipevine Swallowtails, 2 Eastern Tailed-Blues, 2 Red Admirals, and 4 Juvenal's Duskywings.



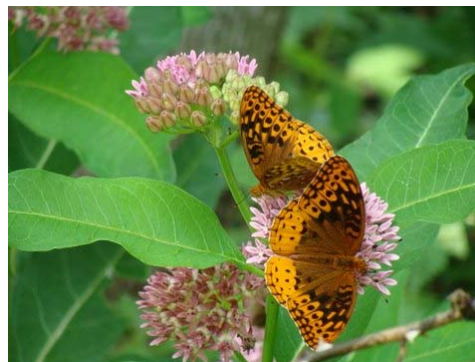
Northern Pearly Eye

Kent Fothergill

At the Garner Farm, five more species made their first appearance of the season in mid-May. On 5/11, Pat Garner saw a **Little Wood Satyr**, 3 **Southern Cloudywings**, 1 Red-spotted Purple, 1 Giant Swallowtail, 1 Goatweed Leafwing, 10 Red Admirals, 2 Zabulon Skippers (male and female), 2 American Ladies (m and f), 5 Eastern Tailed-Blues, 2 Orange Sulphurs, 1 Least Skipper. On 5/12, she reported 8 Red Admirals, 2 American Ladies, 1 Monarch, 2 Common Roadside-Skippers, 1 Least Skipper, 1 male Zabulon Skipper, 2 Eastern Tailed-Blues, 1 Question Mark, 2 Giant Swallowtails, and 3 Red-spotted Purples. On 5/13, Pat found a **Buckeye**, a **Tawny-edged Skipper**, 1 Monarch, 1 Giant Swallowtail, 1 Pepper & Salt Skipper, 1 Common Roadside-Skipper, 1 Gray Hairstreak, and 5 Red Admirals.

On 5/14, Pat observed 1 **Northern Cloudywing**, 1 Little Yellow, 1 Giant Swallowtail, 2 Eastern Tailed-Blues, 1 Red-banded Hairstreak, 2 Little Wood Satyrs, 1 Orange Sulphur, and 3 American Ladies. On 5/15, Pat saw 2 Little Wood Satyrs and 1 American Lady. On 5/18, Pat saw 3 Pipevine Swallowtails, 2 Summer Azures, 1 Common Checkered-Skipper, 8 Question Marks, 1 Zabulon Skipper (female), 5 Little Wood Satyrs, 1 Pearl Crescent, 1 Gray Hairstreak, 1 Red-banded Hairstreak, 1 Tawny-edged Skipper, 8 Red Admirals, 2 Eastern Tailed-Blues, 2 Little Yellows, 3 Least Skippers, and 1 Southern Cloudywing. [Ed. Note: This is the last date for Pearl Crescent in May.] Torrey Berger visited Robertsville State Park on 5/12, where he observed Zebra, Spicebush, and Giant Swallowtails, Cabbage White, Orange Sulphur, Clouded Sulphur, **Bronze Copper**, Summer Azure, Pearl Crescent, Painted Lady, Viceroy, Silver-spotted Skipper, and Horace's Duskywing – 13 species in all. [Ed. Note: May 12 may be an early record for Bronze Copper.] On 5/14 in Tower Grove Park, Yvonne saw a superbly fresh Pipevine Swallowtail and several Red Admirals, and Jim Ziebol spotted a **Summer Azure** in the park. On 5/17, Sherry McCowan spotted a Mourning Cloak at Tower Grove Park. [All the reports coming in from Tower Grove Park are because the butterfly-birders are there for spring migration.]

Following a week of cool, overcast and occasionally rainy weather, the sun came out on the weekend of 5/22-23 and spring turned the corner into summer, with temperatures in the low 90s. Five new species were seen over the weekend. Sue Gustafson observed a Bronze Copper at Columbia Bottom CA on 5/22, always a good find. Jim Ziebol saw a **Great Spangled Fritillary** on 5/22 at Route 66 State Park.



Great Spangled Fritillaries

Yvonne Homeyer



May Butterfly Report, Continued

Pat Lynn, Evelyn Luecke and Yvonne Homeyer spent several hours hiking through the prairie, glades and woods of Shaw Nature Reserve on 5/22. Thirteen species were seen, including three that were new for the season: **Great Spangled Fritillary** (5) [also seen by Jim Ziebol on the same date], **Silvery Checkerspot** (1), and **Peck's Skipper** (1). Other sightings were 2 Variegated Fritillaries, 1 Zabulon Skipper, 50 Summer Azures, 20 Pipevine Swallowtails, 1 Zebra Swallowtail, 3 Giant Swallowtails, 1 Little Wood Satyr, 1 Monarch, 15 Red Admirals, and 1 Orange Sulphur. Then, on 5/23, Jim Ziebol found a **Dun Skipper** and 2 **Hayhurst's Scallopwings** at Young C.A. That same weekend, on 5/23, Yvonne logged 9 species at Castlewood State Park, most of which were seen in a large field after the RR tracks: 3 Red Admirals, 7 Hackberry Emperors, 2 Eastern Commas, 1 Gray Hairstreak, 1 Orange Sulphur, 1 Cabbage White, 1 American Lady, 1 Buckeye, and 12 Summer Azures. In the afternoon of 5/23 at Busch CA, Pat Garner and Yvonne Homeyer saw 4 Little Yellows, 1 Question Mark, 1 E. Comma, 5 Hackberry Emperors, 1 Buckeye, 12 Summer Azures, and 1 Cabbage White. Pat also found a first instar Monarch Caterpillar.

At the Garner Farm in Lincoln County on 5/22, there were 8 Summer Azures, 8 Little Wood Satyrs, 1 Gray Hairstreak, 3 Common Roadside-Skippers, 1 Northern Cloudywing, 1 Little Yellow, and 1 Red-spotted Purple.



Banded Hairstreak Yvonne Homeyer

The good butterflying continued on 5/24. Jim Ziebol went to Busch CA and found 1 **Banded Hairstreak**, which is rare at Busch. He also found 4 Northern Cloudywing, 50 Summer Azures, 10 Eastern Tailed-Blues, 2 Question Marks, 20 E. Commas, 30 Hackberry Emperors, 100 Red Admirals, 8 Red-spotted Purples, 1 Little Wood Satyr, and 12 Least Skippers. Also on 5/24, Torrey Berger reported an amazing 22 species seen at B. K. Leach CA in Lincoln County: 3 Pipevine Swallowtails, 18 Cabbage Whites, 3 Clouded Sulphurs, 10 Orange Sulphurs, 50+ *Bronze Coppers* [the most ever reported at a single location], 5 Gray Hairstreaks, 8 Summer Azures, 1 Eastern Tailed-Blue, 1 Variegated Fritillary, 3 Great Spangled Fritillaries, 1 Question Mark, 1 Eastern Comma, 6 Painted Ladies, 100+ Red Admirals, 1 Snout, 1 Buckeye, 1 Viceroy, 1 **Tawny Emperor**, 6 Monarchs (2 mating); 1 Silver-spotted Skipper, 1 Least Skipper, and 1 Common Checkered-Skipper. Between Jim Ziebol and Torrey Berger, the combined number of species reported that day was 27 species!

At the Garner Farm in Lincoln County on 5/25, Pat saw 1 Gray Hairstreak, 1 Hackberry Emperor, 2 Red Admirals, 1 Eastern Comma, and 1 Summer Azure. Beginning on 5/26, Pat saw 5 Banded Hairstreaks, followed by 9 sightings on 5/27, 12 on 5/28, and 11 on 5/29. Banded Hairstreaks have not been seen in good numbers like this for about ten years. She also observed 2 Cabbage Whites, 1 Great Spangled Fritillary, 1 Hackberry Emperor, and 8 Summer Azures on 5/26. On 5/27, Pat saw 1 Hayhurst's Scallopwing, 1 Hackberry, 10 Summer Azures, 9 Banded Hairstreaks, 1 Silver-spotted Skipper, and 2 Tawny-edged Skippers. On 5/28, she found 2 Silvery Checkerspots, 12 Banded Hairstreaks, 1 Hackberry, 5 Little Yellows, 1 Giant Swallowtail, 15 Summer Azures, 1 Least Skipper, 2 Red-spotted Purples, and 10 Little Wood Satyrs. On 5/29, Pat reported 11 Banded Hairstreaks, 1 Great Spangled Fritillary, 1 Northern Cloudywing, 1 Southern Cloudywing, 2 Cabbage Whites, 2 Little Yellows, 5 Summer Azures, 1 Least Skipper, 8 Little Wood Satyrs, 1 American Lady, and 1 dark swallowtail. Little Wood Satyrs and Summer Azures were common at the Garner Farm in late May.



May Butterfly Report, Continued



Giant Swallowtail
Papilio cresphontes
Hawk Point, MO
Pat Garner 2010/5/7

Jeannie Moe led the butterfly count/walk on 5/29 at Busch CA. Amazingly, a **Funereal Duskywing** landed briefly and then flew off, not to be seen again. [This rare stray shows up once or twice every season, but last year we had no reports.] A total of 11 species were seen on 5/29. In addition to the Funereal Duskywing, the group saw 1 Pipevine Swallowtail, 12 Cabbage Whites, 4 Clouded Sulphurs, 1 Little Yellow, 27 Summer Azures, 9 Great Spangled Fritillaries, 1 Eastern Comma, 5 Red Admirals, 1 Little Wood Satyr, and 2 Least Skippers. Jim Ziebol, Tom Bormann, and Sherri Schmidt participated in the count.

Not many butterflies were flying at Busch CA on 5/30, but Yvonne did find a field full of about 25 Cabbage Whites – a phenomenon that would not have drawn notice ten years ago, because Cabbage White is a common species, but large numbers of any species in a concentrated area is a rarity today. Yvonne also saw 2 Red-spotted Purples, 2 Least Skippers, and several Great Spangled Fritillaries and Summer Azures. At Busch CA on 5/31, Yvonne and Pat Garner observed 10 species – several Great Spangled Fritillaries flying around (except for some Nodding Thistle in bloom, there was nothing to nectar on), Summer Azures, 1 Question Mark, 1 worn Red Admiral, 1 dark swallowtail, a few Orange Sulphurs and Cabbage Whites, 3 Least Skippers, 5 Hackberry Emperors, and a few Little Wood Satyrs.

Editor's Comments: In previous years, Variegated Fritillary has been found only once or twice in a season, but in early May, this butterfly was located at three locations (Lost Valley Trail, the Garner Farm, and Horseshoe Lake) and in late May, it was seen at Shaw Nature Reserve and B.K. Leach. Another butterfly of interest, the uncommon Pepper and Salt Skipper, was first seen by Pat Garner at the Garner Farm on 5/8. Another was seen on 5/9 at Lost Valley Trail by Yvonne Homeyer and a third sighting occurred again at the Garner Farm on 5/13. These are the first reports of Pepper & Salt Skipper in several years. Already this year, there have been three sightings of Common Checkered-Skipper, a migrant: 4/5 at Kraig Paradise's home, 5/18 at the Garner Farm, and 5/24 at B.K. Leach by Torrey Berger.



Eastern Tailed blue

Yvonne Homeyer

Contributors: Torrey Berger, Pat Garner, Sue Gustafson, Yvonne Homeyer, Pat Lynn, Scott & Annie Marshall, Anne McCormack, Sherry McCowan, Jeannie Moe, Bob & Claudia Noe, Mary Eileen Rufkahr, Linda Virga, Belle Warden, Jim Ziebol



NABA St. Louis

June 2010

The Current Board of NABA St. Louis

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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.