



## NORTH AMERICAN BUTTERFLY ASSOCIATION (NABA)

[www.naba.org](http://www.naba.org)

### ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER

President: Lee Shoemaker, [Lashoemaker@cs.com](mailto:Lashoemaker@cs.com)

Meetings: Held on the fourth Thursday during the Months of January, April, July, October at the Irvine Ranch Water District Main Office located on the east side of Sand Canyon Ave. at the intersection of Water Works and Sand Canyon, in the City of Irvine. This year we will meet on January 22, April 23, July 23, and October 22. The meetings are held in one of the conference rooms located on the lower level west wing.

Business: Paid \$90.00 to NABA to renew our annual liability insurance for our chapter

Next: Regular Meeting on October 22, 2009, 7:00 p.m., At IRWD Headquarters  
We will meet informally in December to plan and schedule next years' events and field trips

Speakers: Lee Shoemaker, Larry Shaw

News: We regret to announce the passing of Don Mitchell a good friend, past President, and Founder of the Orange County NABA Chapter. Don passed away on August 16 and will be truly missed.

Our last field trip took us to Southern San Diego Co. in early June were we dismayed by the loss of habitat (hopefully not permanent) that the Harris wildfire brought to a sizeable area which contained a population of Hermes Copper. Except for the absence of Hermes Copper, Hedgerow Hairstreaks, and Gray Hairstreaks which are normally common at this location, we saw many butterfly species which are taking advantage of the new plant growth which was formerly dominated by dense chaparral and served as host plants for many of the hairstreak species. Notable sightings were: Harford's Sulfur, Acmon Blue, Square-Spotted Blue, Marine Blue, Melitta Crecent, White-checked Skipper, Funeral Skipper, Purplish Copper (rare), Western Tiger Swallowtail, Checkered White, Orange Sulphur, Brown Elfin., Dainty Sulpher, Painted Lady, Virginia Lady, and a few uncommon Sara Orange Tips. Of the wildflowers which were out, most notable was the deep yellow variety of the Weed's Mariposa Lilly which were not uncommon. NABA Members Larry Shaw, Gary Merideth, Dick and Jan Sherman, and Lee Shoemaker participated on this trip.

Within Orange County, many butterflies were seen on May 16, 2009 during a SAMNHA Natural History Car Tour of the Northern Santa Ana Mountains. Species seen: Pale Swallowtail, Western Tiger Swallowtail, Variable Checkerspots (uncommon, above 3,500' only), Gabb's Checkerspots, Anise Swallowtail (Ridge-topping at 5,000'), Echo Blues, Acmon Blues, Square-spotted Blues, California Dogface, Checkered White, California Sister, Lorquin's Admiral, Funereal Duskywing, California Tortoise Shell(above 4,500'), and a few unidentified skippers.

Locally, the annual count at Thomas F. Riley Wilderness Park near Coto De Caza held in May was a success. The group saw several blues, skippers, and two very colorful beetles that use milkweed as their host. Highlight was a very uncommon but worn Queen butterfly which was flying around the butterfly garden.

Very dry conditions were seen on the September 19, 2009 trip to the 1,200 acre Donna O'Neil Land Conservancy in southern Orange County. Only one tarantula was observed in the early evening. Local spider expert Jim Ortiz entertained the 30 participants with his "Hands on Spider Handling".

Our last outing to Anza Borrego Desert in September encountered very dry conditions although a few Giant Skippers had begun to emerge in Box Canyon area of Anza Borrego Desert State Park.

Our October meeting at IRWD was well attended. Joe and Priscilla Cruz informed the group about their ongoing conservation work with the Monarch Butterfly. The monarch butterfly has been given special recognition by the State of California by designating Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> as California Western Monarch Day. If you want to help the Monarch and their cause visit [www.butterflypalace.org/monarchday.htm](http://www.butterflypalace.org/monarchday.htm) or email [jcp@jcpenterprises.com](mailto:jcp@jcpenterprises.com)

Member Helen Wood spoke of her dealings with the Great Park Organization/Board representatives which may be interested in establishing a Butterfly Garden and Pavilion as part of the Great Park improvements. She is asking for any interested volunteers and OC NABA to help in supporting this project. Contact Helen at [hkwood1@cox.net](mailto:hkwood1@cox.net) if you can help or attend upcoming planning meetings.

**Membership:** Free to attend meetings and field trips. To join **NABA**, visit our national web site at [www.naba.org](http://www.naba.org). for a subscription/membership form. By joining NABA, you will receive a subscription to American Butterflies and The Butterfly Gardener as well as contribute to the creation of the premier butterfly garden in the world, NABA Butterfly Park located in Mission, Texas. A copy of this newsletter is posted under our chapter section link.

\*\* The photographs in the heading are from left to right: Square-Spotted Blue, Common White Checkered Skipper, Acmon Blue. Photographed in Hot Springs Cyn. Orange Co. CA.; others near Lyons Valley, San Diego Co., respectfully by Lee Shoemaker