



## 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)

Past President: Don Mitchell

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. The meetings are held in one of the conference rooms located on the lower level west wing.

Next: July 24, 2008; 7:00 p.m.

Speakers: Larry Shaw; Local Butterflies

News: Best wishes for a speedy recovery to our dear friend and NABA member Mr. Dick Sherman whom suffered a sudden illness recently.

Our two annual field trips to the Donna O'Neil Land Conservancy Reserve took place on April 27, 2008 and on June 21, 2008. On the April 27 outing, very hot trail conditions resulted in many participants heading back early, but four NABA members finished the Middle Ridge transect despite the hot 90+ degree weather. Wildflowers were on the wane but the Golden Stars were abundant and in full bloom. Buckwheat was not in bloom yet. Surprisingly, the Bush Sunflower bloom had passed. 14 or 15 butterfly species were observed/counter on this outing. The following species were observed: (1) Lorquin's Admiral, (15+) Acmon Blue, (1) Silvery Blue(?), (2) Common Buckeye, (6-7) Variable Checkerspots, (1-2) Funereal Duskywing, (8-10) Brown Elfin, (1) Common Hairstreak, (15-20) Painted Ladies, (2) West Coast Ladies, (9-10) Mormon Metalmarks, 10+ Sara Orangetips, (15) Common Ringlets, (1) California Sister, (7) Orange Sulfers, (10+) Common Checkered Whites. Other Wildlife seen close up : (1) gopher snake, turkey vulture, miscellaneous moth larva.

Our trip to the same reserve on June 21, 2008 was also done under hot conditions but our walk took place along the Gato Trail which occurs within a mostly mixed riparian and oak woodland habitat. Participants included Larry Shaw, Lee Shoemaker, and G. Shaw, and a few other members of the RMVLC. Species observed: Loquin's Admiral (3), Acmon Blue (100 +), Square-Spotted Blue(2), Common Buckeye(1), California Sister(3), Behr's Metal Mark, Common California Ringlet(40+), Rural Skipper(1), White Checkered Skipper(1), Cloudless Sulfur(1 male), Orange Sulphur(3), Cabbage White (10), Checkered White(26), and the uncommon Orange Sipperling (Hewitson's Skipper)(2)

Other Sightings, Tailed Cooper(6) necturing on Buckwheat off Indian Truck Trail, Santa Ana Mountains during a SAMNHA field trip held on June 7, 2008; (5) third to fifth instar Larval of Anise Swallowtail on Anise in vacant lot along coastal bluff at Capistano Beach, CA

## Other Events:

### 2008 Field Trip Schedule:

February 23, 2008 Anza Borrego State Park, Eastern San Diego Co., CA. Meet at Wendy's Restaurant located at the west corner of Alicia Parkway and the I-5 Freeway in Laguna Hills, CA., at 7:00 a.m. sharp. We will car caravan down to Anza Borrego Desert State Park and arrive around 9:00 a.m. We will probably return to Orange County late depending on if the group wants to have dinner in Julian or other location.

We will explore the canyons and washes for many early spring butterflies such as the stunning Sonora Blue and the Brambles Hairstreak. Early spring wildflowers should also be on display. Moth lovers will delight in the dayflying but seldom seen Phaeton sphinx.

April 19, 2008 Laguna Coast Wilderness Park, Meet at Nix Nature Center, Laguna Coast Wilderness Park, Irvine/Laguna Beach, CA. We will walk one of the trails leading out into the park from the nature center to see what butterflies and insects are on the wing. We will conduct a butterfly count to see what species are found within this portion of the park. This park burned several years ago, and it will be interesting to see what insects have returned. A Fatal Metalmark was observed in the park just south of here near the Toll Road crossing last August. Meet At Nix Nature Center, which is located off the west side of Laguna Canyon Road (Hwy 133) about 1 mile north of the 73 Toll Road. Meet at 8:30 a.m. Rain Cancels

April 27, 2008 Donna O'Neil Land Conservancy. Meet at Campo Amantes Road just off Ortega Highway (Hwy 74). OC Map Page OC 924, (953, D-6). Time: 8:30 a.m. Rain Cancels. 2-4 miles of moderate ridge hiking .

May 17, 2008 Barton Flats and Upper Santa Ana Watershed, San Bernardino Mountains. This will be a full day at 2-3 locations. We will meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Vons Shopping Center parking lot located in the southwest corner of Tustin St. and E. Lincoln Ave., Orange, CA. Exit west off the 55 Freeway at Lincoln Ave. Rain Cancels.

June 21, 2008 Donna O'Neil Land Conservancy. Butterfly Count Meet at Campo Amantes Road just off Ortega Highway (Hwy 74). OC Map Page OC 924, (953, D-6). Time 9:00 a.m. Rain Cancels. 2-4 miles of moderate hiking within a stunning coastal-sage and oak woodland habitat. Keep your eyes opened for the uncommon Variable Checkerspot and Leanera Checkerspot. Most of the species of butterflies occurring in Orange County have been seen in this pristine reserve of native habitat.

June 27-29, 2008 Biennial NABA National Meeting and Butterfly Field Outing. This biennial event will be held this year at Kernville, Kern Co., California. This fun event will present speakers, lectures. Workshops, and awesome field trips during this multiday event. Interested participants can get information by going to our national Web Site at [www.Naba.org](http://www.Naba.org) This year's spectacular location and surrounding mountains will introduce people new to butterflying an abundance of new Californian species. Meet new friends from other NABA groups from around the county.

July 5, 2008 O'Neil Regional Park and Trabuco Canyon, CA Butterfly Count. OC Map Page 863, B-7. Leader: Don Mitchell. Meet at O'Neil Regional Park Entrance. Time: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 a.m. Sturdy vehicle needed for those desiring to go up the rough dirt road into Upper Trabuco Canyon.

August, 2008 Upper Newport Back Bay, Newport Beach, CA. Meet at Big Canyon Parking Lot off of Backbay Drive (remember this is a one way road) at 8:30 a.m. Skipper butterflies will be our focus on this

trip. If time permits, we may visit the Environmental Nature Center (ENC) or Upper Newport Bay Interpretive Center to view their butterfly gardens. **Date to be determined**

September, 2008 **Black Lighting** at the Donna O'Neil Land Conservancy, early September, come see what we can attract to our blacklight at night within this stunning reserve. Night walk to find Tarantulas. **Date to be announced**

**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.