



## NORTH AMERICAN BUTTERFLY ASSOCIATION (NABA)

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

### ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER

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

Next: Regular Meeting on April 23, 2009; 7:00 p.m., At IRWD Headquarters

Speakers: Open

News: Our last field trip took us to the Donna O'Neil Land Conservancy in southern Orange County where we saw at least 14-15 butterfly species on a fine warm spring day. Spring Azures and Funereal Duskywings were out in full flight with 15 Spring Azures (Southern Blue) individuals counted in just under 3.5 hours along the Middle Ridge Trail. Also common but slightly worn were the Bramble Hairstreaks and a few Brown Elfins. Two Pale Swallowtails and a few Mormon Metalmarks were beginning their first flight. 1-2 Sara Orange Tips and Common Ringlets were seen as both of these early spring species were winding down. Other less common species seen were: Acmon Blue (uncommon), Western Tiger Swallowtail, and California Sister, Common Buckeye (a painting pair seen), Painted Ladies, and a few Gabb's Checkerspots (uncommon). Blooming in profusion were the California Encelia and Deerweed. The deerweed in particular, was used for necturing by several species along the ridgeline. NABA Members Larry Shaw, Gary Merideth, Dick and Jan Sherman, and Lee Shoemaker participated on this annual count joined by Georgie Shaw of the RMVLC.

Lee Shoemaker reported seeing a Monarch butterfly flying through Lakewood on April 12, 2009. Seven Monarch chrysalis reared from larva found on milkweed bush in Mid March 2009 at Lee's home in Lakewood, CA. Several hundred larval of the stunning Nevada Tiger moth were seen wandering across the access roads near the east end of Aliso-Woods Cyn. Regional Park in Laguna Niguel in mid to Late March. Several larva are being reared by Lee. This very colorful small moth generally hatches in the fall months of September and October. Leon Baginski reported that many of his reared *Saturnia walterorum* cocoons eclosed during late February in San Clemente.

**Other Events:** “Pavilion of Wings” at the Los Angeles County Natural History Museum in Exposition Park and “Butterfly Jungle” at the San Diego Wild Animal Park will hold their annual events on April 12-Sept. 7, 2009 and April 4-26, 2009 respectfully. These popular events featuring live butterflies and insects are great for kids and photography. Locally, the annual Bugs and Butterfly Event at Thomas F. Riley Wilderness Park near Coto De Caza will occur on May 3, 2009 from 10:00 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M.

### 2009 Field Trip Schedule:

*February 21, 2009*      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.*

*March 22, 2009*      Donna O’Neil Land Conservancy. Meet at Campo Amantes Road Gate 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 3, 2009*      Donna O’Neil Land Conservancy. Meet at Campo Amantes Road Gate 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 .

*Late May, 2009*      Near Lyons Peak, San Diego Co. or Laguna Mountains, San Diego County. This will be a full day at 2-3 locations. Our focus will be finding the Hermes Copper. We will meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Wendy’s Parking Lot located at the corner of Alicia Parkway and the I-5 Freeway, in Laguna Hills, CA. Rain Cancels.

*July 5, 2009*      O’Neil Regional Park and Trabuco Canyon, CA Butterfly Count. OC Map Page 863, B-7. Leader: Lee Shoemaker. 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.

*LATE August 2009*      Aliso-Woods Cyn, Laguna Niguel, CA. Meet at Aliso-Woods Cyn Wilderness Park located off of Alicia Parkway 8:30 a.m. Skipper butterflies, Fatal Metalmarks, and Ctenucha moths will be our focus on this trip.

*Sept., 2009*      **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. Meet at intersection of Campo Amantes Rd. at Hwy 74 at 7:30 P.M. Organized by the RMVLC

*Late September*      Anza Borrego Desert State Park, Box Cyn. and Sentenac Cyn., Fall Flying Butterflies and Skippers. We will meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Wendy’s Parking Lot located at the corner of Alicia Parkway and the I-5 Freeway, in Laguna Hills, CA. Rain Cancels.

**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: Giant Swallowtail, California Sister, Mournful Duskywing. Photographed in Lakewood, near Jenk's Lake, San Bernardino Mtns., and Wood's Canyon in Aliso-Woods Canyon Regional Park in Laguna Niguel, CA respectfully by Lee Shoemaker