



NORTH AMERICAN BUTTERFLY ASSOCIATION (NABA)

www.naba.org

ORANGE COUNTY, CA. CHAPTER

President: Lee Shoemaker, Lashoemaker@cs.com, Vice President: Gary Merideth

Meetings: Normally held on the fourth Thursday of the month, this year's meetings will be held on **January 26, April 26, July 27, and October 25, 2012** at the Irvine Ranch Water District Main Office located at 15600 Sand Canyon Ave., Irvine, CA. The IRWD is located 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.

Business: An informal meeting will be held on January 12, 2012 at Knowlwood's Hamburgers in Irvine at 5:30 p.m. to discuss and plan this year's field trips and outings. Our lease agreement was signed in November 2011 with IRWD for continued use of the main IRWD office facility for meetings.

Butterfly Sightings and News: Senna (Cloudless) Sulphurs and Cabbage Whites continued to fly into December and even January as observed in Lakewood CA. on warm sunny days, along with an occasional Monarch. Several Gulf Fritillaries were also observed in this area especially around Passion Vine, it's larva host and a butterfly which seems to fly nearly year-around. Most of our swallowtail species had finished their final flights by early November. Three Echo (Spring Azures) Blues and a Common Gray Hairstreak were observed hilltopping on Sugarloaf Peak at an Elevation of 3227' off the San Juan Trail in the Santa Ana Mountains on Jan 2, 2012 on a very warm day which is early for these species.

Next Meeting: **January 26, 2012, 7:00 p.m.,** At IRWD Headquarters, 15600 Sand Canyon Ave., Irvine, CA 92619

Speakers: Bob Allen will give a presentation on Monarch Butterflies at our January 26, 2012 meeting.

Field Trip Schedule:

- March 3, 2012- Anza Borrego Desert, Eastern San Diego Co. We will carpool down to the desert to explore and photograph the local wildlife and other scenic features. Meet at Wendy's Restaurant at the western corner of Alicia Parkway and the I-5 Freeway in Laguna Hills, CA at 7:30 a.m.
- March 25, 2012- Day-hike from Blue Jay Campground down into Chiquito Basin via the Old San Juan Trail. This 2.5 mile roundtrip hike is easy to moderate. We will explore the local butterfly and insect fauna within this unique area. We will meet at Bravo Burger's Parking lot located at the SE corner of Highway 74 (Ortega Highway) and (31722) Rancho Viejo Rd., San Juan Capistrano at 7:30 a.m. Bring Lunch and water.

- April 22, 2012- **Richard and Donna O'Neil Land Conservancy**, Rancho Mission Viejo, Orange County, CA. This location is surveyed annually and is a great location to see many O.C. butterflies and other native insects. We will walk a moderately strenuous ridgeline within a private 1,200 acre nature preserve in southern Orange County where many uncommon Orange County butterflies can be seen. The reserve is located off (private) Cristianitos Rd. several miles east of San Juan Capistrano, CA. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Campo Amantes entrance gate off Hwy 74 (Ortega Hwy). \$5 dollar fee person to cover docent and other expenses. Coastal Sage Scrub and Southern Oak Woodland plant communities are featured here.
- May 12, 2012 NABA will join the SAMNHA and the CNPS Group on an all day Car/Truck Tour lead by Lee Shoemaker, Larry Shaw, Bob Allen. This all day excursion will take us to explore the Santa Ana Mountains on rugged dirt forest roads to observe the local wildlife fauna.. This is an all day affair. Bring water and lunch. No restrooms. Those wishing to drive should bring a reliable sturdy vehicle and be willing to carpool to reduce the total number of vehicles which makes for a better trip. Reservations required and taken after April 1, 2012. Limited to 12 vehicles. Route to be determined by weather and road conditions.
- June 9, 2012- San Bernardino Mountains. We will venture up Hwy 38 to visit several good butterflying spots located between 5,000 and 8,500 Feet. Meet in the Albertson's parking lot located in the SW corner of Lincoln Avenue & Tustin St., Orange, CA All day excursion. Return 6:00 p.m. or 7:00 p.m.
- Early July, 2012 Annual NABA butterfly counts within Riley and O'Neil Regional Wilderness Parks located in Coto De Caza and Trabuco Canyon, Orange County, respectfully. We will conduct two three hour counts on easy trails at these two Orange County Parks. Meeting date and time to be announced.

Membership: Free to attend meetings and field trips. To join **NABA**, visit our national web site at **www.naba.org** for a subscription/membership form. By joining NABA, you will receive a subscription to American Butterflies and The Butterfly Gardener publications as well as contribute to the creation of the premier butterfly garden in the USA, the NABA International 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: Lorquin's Admiral, Woodland Skipper, Fatal Metalmark, Orange Sulphur

Photos by Lee S. ; local species observed September 3, 2011 in Aliso-Woods Wilderness Park, Laguna Niguel, Orange County, CA.