

Badger ButterFlyer

The e-Newsletter of the Southern Wisconsin Butterfly Association **DECEMBER, 2008**

WEB SITE: <http://www.naba.org/chapters/nabawba/>

1 WINTER SWBA PROGRAM: LIVE BUTTERFLIES AT MILWAUKEE PUBLIC MUSEUM

Mark **Saturday, February 28** on your calendar!



We will carpool and travel to the Milwaukee Public Museum to receive a special guided tour of the Puelicher Butterfly Wing, a breathtaking two-story wing of the museum, which has live butterflies.

The glass-enclosed garden was designed to provide fragile butterflies with a tropical environment throughout every Wisconsin season. The native and tropical butterflies (such as the giant electric-blue Morpho) may even land on visitors! We are fortunate to have this tour led by Susan Borkin, the Director of the Puelicher Wing and Director of

Research Support. Surrounding the Garden are displays of more than 1,000 species of butterflies and moths from the museum collection. We will also get a rare, behind-the-scenes look at the museum. Sue gave the presentation on Swamp Metalmarks at our October meeting.

Any admission fees and other details will appear on our web site under "Field Trips" and in the February newsletter.

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2 2009 FIELD TRIPS (These trips are open to the general public.)

- Saturday, February 28: Live Butterflies at Milwaukee Museum Sue Borkin
 Saturday, June 20: Butterflies and Wildflowers at Pleasant Valley Conservancy Ann Thering, Kathie & Tom Brock
 Saturday, June 27: Butterflies of Cherokee Marsh Kathy Kirk
 Sunday, July 5: Madison Butterfly Count Karl and Dorothy Legler
 Saturday, July 11: Birds, Butterflies and Dragonflies at Lakeshore Preserve Edgar Spalding
 Saturday, July 18: Flowers and Butterflies of Schurch-Thomson Prairie Rich Henderson
 Saturday, July 25: Scuppernong Valley Prairie and Butterflies Rich Henderson, Karl and Dorothy Legler
 Saturday, August 8: Butterflies of Avoca / Blue River Area Mike Reese
 Saturday, September 12: Monarchs and Fall Flowers at Pheasant Branch Conservancy Ann Thering & Dreux Watermolen

3 MIKE REESE (NOMINATED BY SWBA) WINS CITIZEN SCIENCE AWARD!

At the DNR's Citizen-based Monitoring Conference on October 25, Mike Reese received an award for "Outstanding Achievements in Citizen-based Monitoring"

"Mike Reese received an award for Outstanding Achievements in Citizen-based Monitoring for his remarkable efforts to generate citizen science data on butterflies statewide. Primarily, Mike is receiving this award for his website wisconsinbutterflies.org. The website provides a guide to butterfly species and online butterfly reporting. Anyone can see what has been reported and the photos that have been submitted. This provides unprecedented real-time



quantitative information on species distribution, abundance, flight periods and broods. The information on this website provides a day-by-day record of butterfly populations across Wisconsin. The website has been running for 5 years with the online reporting now at the end of its 4th year. In 2007, the site recorded 550 reports from 195 contributors involving 3,300 observations of 130 species. Unlike other more limited sources of butterfly data, this website collects data on all our species, whether very rare or abundant. Mike also makes the online information available in a booklet containing the year's data for each species (88 pages in 2007).

In addition to all of Mike's work on the Wisconsin Butterfly website, he also is involved in the following volunteer-based activities:

- Provided the photos for the field guide, "Damselflies of the North Woods" by Bob DuBois;
- Co-authored the "[Butterflies of Pheasant Branch Conservancy](#)" checklist along with Dreux Watermolen;
- Currently creating an online butterfly identification course;
- Editor of the "Fourth of July" Butterfly Counts for the North American Butterfly Association (NABA) for Wisconsin and Minnesota.
- Writes a column on North American butterflies for American Butterflies the Quarterly journal of NABA; and
- Provides overall butterfly information for the web site of the U.S. Geological Survey.“

4 SWBA'S OCTOBER MEETING

Our fall meeting was held on October 14. We had a good turnout with 26 people in attendance. Dreux Watermolen introduced Sue Borkin, a butterfly researcher at Milwaukee Public Museum, who gave a PowerPoint presentation on "The Conservation of the Swamp Metalmark." This beautiful but endangered butterfly is currently known in Wisconsin at only two sites! Sue discussed habitat requirements, rearing of the butterflies, reintroduction efforts at Riveredge Nature Center and management of the sites.



Joan Braune announced that SWBA had nominated Mike Reese for an award for Citizen Science Monitoring and we just learned that Mike had won the award. We were able to use the meeting facilities longer so folks could hang around, enjoy refreshments and visit. Thanks to Dreux Watermolen, the Leglers, Ginny and Bill Nelson for the door prizes and to Dorothy Legler for refreshments.

5 LECTURES AT UW ARBORETUM

Two lectures of interest are part of the UW Arboretum's Winter Enrichment Lecture Series:

Thursday, Jan. 29: "Moths and Butterflies of Minnesota and Wisconsin: Current Research."

Kyle Johnson, master's candidate in Entomology at UW Madison.

Thursday, Feb. 12: "Wisconsin Milkweeds and Their Specialized Fauna"

Andrew Williams, Honorary Fellow in Entomology, UW-Madison.

Coffee and cookies are available starting at 8:30 a.m. and the program begins at 9 a.m. The meetings are on Thursday mornings from 9 - 11:30 a.m. in the auditorium of the UW Arboretum Visitor Center. There is a mid-morning break for

refreshments, socializing and phenology reports. If folks aren't signed up for the series, they can attend any individual lecture for \$5. For more information, see www.uwarboretum.org/events or contact Kathy Miner, series coordinator, at 608-265-5872.

6 SWBA WILL STAFF DISPLAY TABLE AT GARDEN EXPO

SWBA will again participate in the 2009 Garden Expo in Madison. People come from all over the state to this event and last year we talked to hundreds of people and provided information on butterflies and butterfly gardening. It will be held on Friday afternoon, February 13 through Sunday, Feb. 15. A PowerPoint

presentation on Butterfly Gardening will be given by Dorothy Legler at the Expo on Saturday, February 14 at 1:00 p.m. Volunteers at our display table are needed. You can volunteer to help out by contacting Joan Braune at jbraune@sbcglobal.net

7 MISCELLANEOUS NOTES:

SWBA members should look for an article by Wisconsin butterfly researcher Ann Swengel on the **endangered Powesheik Skipper** in the latest issue of American Butterflies. Wisconsin has only a few populations remaining of this butterfly.

The 2009 WI state park stickers have BUTTERFLIES!! Wisconsin state park and forest vehicle admission stickers are designed by high school students chosen in a statewide contest. The 2009 admission sticker, with native butterflies of Wisconsin, was designed by Andrea Duarte, a junior at Waupun High School. It was selected from more than 300 entries. See <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/LAND/parks/stickers/>

Naturalist **Anita Carpenter** writes articles for Wisconsin Natural Resources magazine. But in the December issue there is a fascinating article *about* Anita, "Piecing Together Nature", written by David Sperling. It tells the remarkable story of Anita's **nature-inspired quilts** such as her recently completed one on Wisconsin native butterflies. You can read the article and view eight of her wonderful quilts at <http://www.wnrmag.com/stories/2008/dec08/quilts.htm>

Family Fun: Hudson Vagabond Puppets: Butterfly, The Story of a Life Cycle.
Capital Theatre in the Overture Center: \$10 - \$18. Sunday, March 22, 1 p.m.

"Science takes center stage in this microscopic look at the insect world. Hudson Vagabond Puppets, known for larger-than-life puppetry and masks, examines the life cycle of the monarch butterfly, following the amazing metamorphosis from egg to caterpillar to adult butterfly, culminating in an incredible 1,500-mile round trip journey to Mexico." <http://www.overturecenter.com/mar.htm>

In December and January photographer Ann Thering will have her **photographs on display** in the Park Bank Lobby on the Capital Square (33 East Main St.) The lobby is open Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Ann also has **butterfly notecards** available for sale. See her website at <http://www.annthering.com>

The Department of Natural Resources is now accepting pre-proposals for projects that will help implement the Wisconsin Wildlife Action Plan through the federal **State Wildlife Grants Program**. A total of approximately \$900,000 will be available for the 2009-2011 funding cycle. All of the materials needed to apply for funding, including the Request for Pre-Proposals, Project Requirements and Ranking Criteria, and State Wildlife Grants Award Process, are available on the Department's website: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er/swg/>. Administrative rules can be found under NR 58 <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/rsb/code/nr/nr058.pdf>
The pre-proposal deadline is Monday, December 22, 2008 at NOON.

In Winter the Badger ButterFlyer flits to you every other month. The next issue will be in FEBRUARY.

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SWBA

The Southern Wisconsin Butterfly Association (SWBA) is a non-profit Wisconsin chapter of the North American Butterfly Association (NABA) which is the largest organization of people interested in butterflies. SWBA promotes public awareness, conservation and the enjoyment of butterflies through observation with close-focusing binoculars, chapter field trips, educational meetings, photography, butterfly gardening, monitoring and travel. Most of SWBA's events are open to the public.

To become a member of SWBA simply join NABA. Membership benefits include 2 color quarterly magazines "American Butterflies" and "Butterfly Gardening". Please use the membership form on the SWBA website at <http://www.naba.org/chapters/nabawba/>

Our e-Newsletter, the Badger ButterFlyer, will be published monthly in summer and every other month in winter. Send any news notes to the editor, Karl Legler, at karlndot@chorus.net

To stop receiving this e-Newsletter simply send an email to the above editor's address.