

Badger Butterfly

The e-Newsletter of the Southern Wisconsin Butterfly Association **JUNE, 2010**

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

1 HIGHLIGHTS OF JACKSON COUNTY FIELD TRIP



Where did it go?



Gorgone Checkerspot

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On May 17, **thirteen participants** joined together in exploring the butterflies of Bauer-Brockway Barrens in Jackson County. That was a great turnout for a Monday! The weather forecast had been persistently pessimistic but by the 17th we had perfect weather. A total of **25 butterfly species** were seen. The highlight of the trip: all 5 of the state's Elfins including the very rare Threatened species, **Frosted Elfin**. (We feared that with everything running ahead of schedule we might miss the Frosted.) Also we were treated to an abundance of the very beautiful **Gorgone Checkerspots!** A great way to start off the field trip season! Here are the totals for the field trip:

Karner Blue	6	Frosted Elfin	4	Persius Duskywing	30
Silvery Blue	2	Harvester	1	Sleepy Duskywing	3
Spring Azure	5	American Lady	6	Arctic Skipper	1
Gorgone Checkerspot	215	Common Ringlet	1	Clouded Sulphur	3
American Copper	1	Cobweb Skipper	8	Canadian Tiger Swallowtail	4
Henry's Elfin	2	Dusted Skipper	1	Eastern Tiger Swallowtail	2
Hoary Elfin	4	Hobomok Skipper	2	Olympia Marble	21
Brown Elfin	3	Dreamy Duskywing	5		
Eastern Pine Elfin	1	Juvenal's Duskywing	7		

2 NEXT FIELD TRIPS 2010 (Mark These On Your Calendar !!!)

Saturday, June 19: Butterflies of Cherokee Marsh

On this morning walk we'll observe and learn about butterflies, those small but exquisitely beautiful creatures that dance about our ankles in summer. Conservation Biologist **Kathy Kirk** will lead this 2 hour walk at Cherokee Marsh on the northeast side of Madison. We will observe a variety of butterflies as they take nectar from wildflowers, and learn about their identification, behavior, and lifestyle. Bring binoculars if you have them — close-focusing ones work best. We have a

few extra pairs of binoculars. It's best to wear long pants and a hat for protection from the sun. This is a joint trip with the Madison Audubon Society and the Wis. Wetlands Assn.

Meet at 10:00 a.m. On the north side of Madison take Northport Drive (Highway 113) then turn north on Sherman Ave. Meet at the Cherokee Marsh parking lot at the north end of Sherman Ave. Call Kathy at (608) 442-1642, only if you have a question about the trip.

Saturday, July 3: Madison Butterfly Count

This is our **TWENTIETH annual butterfly count!** Co-sponsors are UW Arboretum and Madison Audubon Society. Each summer butterfly enthusiasts all over North America participate in more than 483 censuses of butterfly species. Each count is similar to a Christmas Bird Count. These censuses help to monitor the health of our butterfly populations and the results are published in an annual report for North America. If you can identify butterflies, or can help spot butterflies, or just want to see and learn about butterflies, join us on this 3 hour count/field trip. Bring binoculars, the closer they focus the better. (We have a few extra binoculars.) Dress for protection from the

heat and sun, a hat is recommended. The North American Butterfly Association (NABA) requires a \$3.00 fee from each participant to help cover publishing costs.

Meet at 9 a.m. at the parking lot for the Grady Tract in the UW Arboretum. We will count until about noon. **Directions:** Heading west on the Beltline (Hwy 12), take the Seminole Hwy exit and then turn left (south) on Seminole Hwy driving across the bridge over the Beltline turning immediately into the parking lot for the Grady Tract. If you have a question about the butterfly count, contact leaders Karl and Dorothy Legler at (608) 643-4926 or karlndot@charter.net

Monday, July 5: Butterflies, Dragonflies & Picnic at Swamp-Lovers Preserve **NEW!**

This preserve is on private land. It consists of remnant wetlands, remnant bluff prairie, restored tall grass prairie, and dry hilly oak-hickory woodland. We will observe and learn about various butterflies and dragonflies as we explore the preserve. Bring binoculars (close-focusing ones work best) -- or just get close! At the top of the ridge we will picnic at a shelter. Hamburgers, hot dogs and buns will be cooked on the grill and provided for the participants. You just bring your own supplementary food and drink. Leaders are

Tod Highsmith, Karl and Dorothy Legler. This trip is co-sponsored by the Madison Audubon Society and Wisconsin Wetlands Association.

Meet at 9:30 a.m. This trip will last until 1:00 p.m. **DIRECTIONS:** Travel west from Cross Plains on Hwy 14. Just outside town take County KP to the right (north) and go 0.3 mile. Turn left onto Scheele Road. Then turn right and park before the hill. Call Karl Legler at (608) 643-4926 or cell (608) 228-0743 only if you have a question about the trip or the weather is questionable.

Saturday, July 10: Flowers, Butterflies and Birds of Schurch-Thomson Prairie

We will visit The Prairie Enthusiasts' Schurch-Thomson Prairie, and the adjacent privately owned Underwood Prairie. The latter is closed to the public, so this is a great opportunity to see it up close. These and adjacent properties form a complex of remnant prairie and CRP grasslands that are rich with grassland birds and other prairie animals. Summer flowers will be in bloom, and we hope to see the rare Regal Fritillary and other butterflies. Be prepared for a long hike and bring

binoculars for butterfly viewing (the closer they can focus the better). This is a joint trip with The Prairie Enthusiasts and the Madison Audubon Society. Leaders are Rich Henderson and Ann Thering. The trip will last until noon.

Meet at 10:00 a.m. **Directions:** From Hwy 151 at Blue Mounds take F south (note: F makes a right turn). After 5 miles turn right onto Reilly Road. Go to the end and park by the barn. Call Rich at (608) 845-7065 only if you have a question about the trip.

Saturday, July 10: Moths: Denizens of Darkness **NEW!**

We'll be using an ultra-violet light on a sheet. If the weather's right, we may draw in some interesting things to see and photograph. I will be reminding people to avoid looking directly at the light as it can harm your eyes. (If you bring small children, make sure they understand this.) There is an amazing diversity of life at night that most people never see and you can share with me a little glimpse of this life that fills the darkness around us.

Leader is Mark Evans. Wear pants and a long sleeved shirt. Bring mosquito repellent and a small flashlight (not a big bright one). Your camera with a flash is fine if you are taking close-ups but we'll try to be as respectful of the dark as we can. Co-sponsored by the Madison Audubon Society.

Meet at 8:30 p.m. at the UW Observatory at Pine Bluff. This trip will last for 2 1/4 hours.

Directions: go West on Mineral Pt. Rd. about 3 miles West of Timber Lane to Co Hwy P; turn North on P and go about 0.5 mile; turn West on Observatory Rd and follow it for about 1.2 mile; the observatory will be at the top of the hill on your left; drive in & park in the lot. If there is fog or a

light rain, this will be all the better. We would only cancel if it's raining really hard or there is a thunderstorm. Call Mark at (608) 833-4201 only if you have a question about the trip or in case of questionable weather.

Sunday, July 11: Butterflies and Dragonflies of Sandhill Wildlife Area NEW!

The Sandhill State Wildlife Area, in Wood County, covers more than 14 square miles. It is managed by the Wisconsin DNR as a living laboratory for wildlife management techniques. Sandhill has large marshes and many flowages, interspersed with low sandy uplands, pine and oak barrens and restored prairies. Butterfly enthusiast Ron Arnold has been surveying the butterflies there for 19 years. On this trip Ron will lead us in finding such beauties as Acadian and Coral Hairstreaks, Aphrodite Fritillary, the rare Two-spotted Skipper, Bronze Copper, Eyed Brown, Northern Pearly-eye, White Admiral and many others. Skippers will include Black Dash, Broad-winged, Dion, Long Dash and many others. We may see beautiful Baltimore Checkerspot, Harris' Checkerspot and the Federally Endangered Karner Blue. We will also enjoy the many species of dragonflies at Sandhill. If time permits, we could also visit a nearby spruce/tamarack bog. (If you want to walk in the

bog bring boots. Bog Coppers have been seen there.)

Bring binoculars, the closer they focus the better. (We will have a few extra pairs of binoculars.) Also bring insect repellent to protect against mosquitoes, and ticks. A hat, long sleeves and long pants are recommended. Bring a bag lunch and water. Co-sponsor is the Madison Audubon Society.

Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Sandhill Headquarters parking lot. (The tour will last until 3:00 p.m.)

DIRECTIONS: Take I-90/94 up to the New Lisbon area in Juneau Co. and take Hwy 80 north. In Wood County, just 1/3 mile before Babcock, turn left onto County X. Go 1 1/4 mile on X to the Sandhill entrance. (Allow at least 1 hour and 45 minutes for travel.) Call Ron at (715) 424-2996 if you have a question about the trip. On the day of the trip Ron will have his cell phone on: (715) 741-0052. (If rain threatens, call Ron to see if the trip must be cancelled due to weather.)

3 KARNER BLUE PROGRAM AT NECEDAH NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Necedah National Wildlife Refuge offers a unique opportunity to learn about the federally endangered Karner blue butterfly on **Sunday, June 6, 2010** and repeated again on **Sunday, August 1, 2010**. Education and Outreach Specialist **Daniel Peterson** from Necedah National Wildlife Refuge will present a short program on the biology and conservation of the Karner Blue butterfly, beginning at **10:00 a.m. in the Ellen Allan Learning Center** located adjacent to the Refuge Office. He will also lead a short hike to see live butterflies at a nearby colony on the Refuge. Art teacher and naturalist **Heidi Endres** will lead the second part of the program by allowing participants to create a piece of artwork that is reflective of their Karner Blue butterfly experience. The program may end at noon.



Registration for the program is required. To register for the free program or for additional information please call (608) 565-2551 or email necedah@fws.gov Please bring comfortable walking shoes, camera, and your questions. All ages are welcome to attend the program.

Necedah National Wildlife Refuge has been restoring habitat for Karner Blues since 1993. Necedah National Wildlife Refuge has the largest population of the rare Karner Blue butterfly (*Lycaides melissa samuelis*) in the world.

Necedah National Wildlife Refuge Office is open Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., and located off of Highway 21 four miles west of the Village of Necedah. Turn north onto Headquarters Road at the big brown sign. Follow Headquarters road and follow signs to the Refuge Office parking lot.

4 SWBA'S PRESIDENT JOAN BRAUNE AND HUSBAND TOD HONORED BY "BACKYARD HERO" AWARD!

SWBA and the Wisconsin Wetlands Association congratulates **Tod Highsmith and Joan Braune**, dedicated wetland enthusiasts, on being recognized with a Backyard Hero Award from Community Shares of Wisconsin! Each month, Community Shares recognizes two outstanding member agency volunteers. These volunteers are seldom on the front page of the newspaper but are always there to help organizations that make our community a better place to live.

Tod and Joan have amazed the staff at WWA with their great dedication to volunteerism on many levels, donating time to wetland protection. In

addition to all they do for Wisconsin Wetlands Association, Joan and Tod both volunteer for the **Southern Wisconsin Butterfly Association**. Joan also volunteers with REAP Food Group and United Way 2-1-1, while Tod writes a nature column for the East Side News, a bimonthly community newspaper published by the Goodman Community Center.

Community Shares of Wisconsin, together with its donors and member agencies, addresses social, economic, and environmental problems through grassroots activities, advocacy, research, and public education.

5 RECENT BUTTERFLY SIGHTINGS AT www.wisconsinbutterflies.org

After the last two relatively mediocre to poor butterfly years, it is very exciting to have a good year for a change!

The Wisconsin Butterflies Website is in its 6th year of acquiring butterfly sightings. In May, a record 169 reports detailed some 808 species-reports totaling thousands of individuals. About 65 different species were seen. With hot weather around 90 degrees the butterfly season remains well ahead of schedule. It is amazing to start seeing the summer brood of the Question Mark in May! **Red Admirals** continue to come into

Wisconsin.

Interesting species recorded have been Bog Fritillary, Milbert's Tortoiseshell, Mottled Duskywing, Purplish Copper, Western Tailed Blue, and Frosted Elfin.

Encouragingly, migrants have come into the state already in May. These have been **Giant Swallowtail, Variegated Fritillary, Gray Hairstreak, Painted Lady, and Little Yellow**. Hopefully this presages more numbers of these and other migrants as the summer wears on.

Keep your sightings coming into www.wisconsinbutterflies.org



6 BUTTERFLY NEWS NOTE:

Here is an on-line article on building an artificial butterfly to study butterfly flight:

See <http://www.csmonitor.com/Science/2010/0521/Artificial-butterfly-reveals-mysteries-of-flight>

7 TWO NEW GUIDES TO MAJOR BUTTERFLY AREAS IN WIS.

In case you didn't get these new guides printed out yet, you can get the PDF file by clicking on the links.

The Delightful Diversity of Butterflies at Crex Meadows by Ann Swengel can be downloaded by clicking on this link: <http://www.naba.org/chapters/nabawba/CrexMeadowsButterflies.pdf>

The Bountiful Butterflies and Birds of Buena Vista Grasslands by Ann Swengel can be downloaded by clicking on this link: <http://www.naba.org/chapters/nabawba/BuenaVistaWiscButterfliesandBirds.pdf>

Or you can download these PDF files by going to the SWBA website and clicking on "Watching Butterflies".

8 WHAT'S IN YOUR BUTTERFLY GARDEN?

This photo was sent to us by Anne Abhold of Waupaca, WI.

I know he is not a butterfly but still beautiful. I knocked him down when I was watering my flowers. I live in Waupaca County in the township of Dayton. I was very excited to see this visitor to my garden.

Anne Abhold
Waupaca WI

Thanks for the photo!



9 DATES FOR SOME NABA "4TH OF JULY" BUTTERFLY COUNTS

These butterfly counts are conducted exactly like Christmas Bird Counts: We identify butterfly species and count individuals within a 15 mile diameter circle. The data of many hundreds of counts is collected and published. Some 17 NABA Butterfly Counts take place in Wisconsin each year. Below are ones that are connected with SWBA.

- ❖ Mud Lake (Columbia County) Wednesday, June 30, 2010
- ❖ Madison, Saturday, July 3, 2010
- ❖ Trempealeau (Trempealeau County) Thursday July 8, 2010
- ❖ Northern Kettle Moraine (Fond du Lac County) Tuesday, July 13, 2010
- ❖ Sister Bay (Door County) Thursday, July 15, 2010

To join in on these counts or for more information about SWBA-sponsored NABA counts, please contact: Karl and Dorothy Legler, count coordinators: karlndot@charter.net (608) 643-4926. (NABA charges a \$3 fee to participate, in order to defray the cost of publication.) (For a list of additional Butterfly Counts in Wisconsin, visit NABA's Web site at www.naba.org/counts/um_g.html . Contacts are listed.)

**The Badger ButterFlyer flits to you every month (every other month in winter).
The next issue will be in JULY.**

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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. 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 Web site at <http://www.naba.org/chapters/nabawba/>

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

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