

Badger Butterfly

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

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

1 NEXT FIELD TRIPS

(For a complete list of SWBA field trips and butterfly counts, visit our web site.)

Saturday, July 19: 10:00 a.m. Birds, Butterflies and Dragonflies of Picnic Point Area

Join us in a search for pretty things with wings! If the weather cooperates, we may expect to see at least half a dozen species of dragonflies and perhaps twice as many different butterflies. The walking route will include the edge of Mendota's University Bay, the woods of Picnic Point, and the Biocore Prairie. Bring your binoculars--the closer they focus the better. This 2 hour trip is co-sponsored by SWBA, Madison Audubon and Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. Leader is Edgar Spalding.

Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Picnic Point Parking Lot on the UW campus. If you have a question about the trip call Edgar Spalding at 265-5294 or 831-0616.

Saturday, July 26: 8:30 a.m. carpool or 10:00 a.m. on site. Scuppernong Valley Prairie and Butterflies.

Come and explore over 1,000 acres of lowland prairie habitat in various stages of recovery. Located in Southern Kettle Moraine in Waukesha Co. this WI DNR owned land has the potential of becoming one of the largest and richest prairie areas in the state. The vegetation across this level landscape is a mosaic of high-quality remnant prairie, long-abandoned old-fields reverting back to prairie, and everything in between. Three state natural areas are currently designated within the area. The DNR's efforts in recent years of extensive clearing of trees and brush and reintroducing fire are resulting in the reclamation of

large areas of prairie. Many prairie flowers and a variety of butterflies abound. Some late season grassland birds may also still be active in the area as well. This is a joint trip of SWBA, Madison Audubon and The Prairie Enthusiasts. The trip will last until 3 p.m. Be prepared for much walking and some wet ground. Bring food and water, sun screen, hat, insect repellent, and binoculars (the closer they focus the better -- we will have a couple extra pair).

Leaders will be Rich Henderson (608-845-7065) and Karl & Dorothy Legler.

Directions: Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Scuppernong Prairie State Natural Area parking lot on County N. From Eagle (in SW Waukesha Co.) take US 59 west for 1 mile to County N. Turn right (north) on to N and go for about 1.5 miles. Look for a Scuppernong Prairie sign on the right. The gravel parking lot is on the left.

Those wishing to car pool from Madison, should meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Dutch Mill Park and Ride on Broadway, east of Stoughton Rd, on Madison's SE side.

Saturday, August 9: 10:30 a.m. Butterflies of the Avoca/Blue River Area

This trip will highlight several areas in the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway, including Avoca Prairie and Savanna State Natural Area in Iowa Co. and the Muscoda and Blue River units in Grant Co. Leader will be Mike Reese. We expect to see late butterflies and several southern immigrants. The trip may last until 5 p.m. A hat and long pants are recommended. Bring binoculars (the closer they focus the better). A few extra binoculars are available. This is a joint trip with the Madison Audubon Society.

Meet at 10:30 a.m. Allow 1 1/4 hour travel time from Madison. Take Hwy 14 east to Lone Rock, south on Hwy 130 then turn right on Hwy

133. Go west about 5.5 miles, turn right on Hay Rd, and drive north to the parking lot just before the creek. Call Mike at (920) 787-2341 if you have a question about the trip.

2 UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS (Details will be in the August e-Newsletter. Or see our Web site.)

**Saturday, September 6:
Butterflies at Olbrich Gardens.**

3 HIGHLIGHTS OF RECENT TRIPS

Butterflies of Cherokee Marsh (June 28).

Seven people braved this season's mosquito population to see and learn about butterflies. A



breeze mercifully held down the mosquitoes while the sun brought out the butterflies. Interesting species were the beautiful **Baltimore Checkerspot**, Viceroy (which is a Monarch look-alike) and the Hackberry Emperor (the butterfly most likely to land on you)! Our thanks to Kathy Kirk for leading the trip.

Madison NABA Butterfly Count (July 5)

Three groups of people searched within a 15 mile diameter circle and found 29 species of butterfly and 437 individuals. This was below average and reflects the late winter, cool spring, heavy rain and perhaps spraying for Gypsy Moth. Some good finds were Striped Hairstreak, Tawny Emperor, Little Glassywing and Black Dash. A special thanks to Edgar Spalding for leading and coordinating the count.

Trempealeau NABA Butterfly Count (July 10)

Reflecting the poorer weather this year for butterflies our group found only 34 species (some years we see as many as 50 species). But it was a dragonfly that stole the show! During the count Dave Hanson of Fall River found a road-killed



dragonfly on the front of his car that turned out to be an incredibly rare dragonfly in Wisconsin, the beautiful **Blue-eyed Darter**. This dragonfly was first found in Wisconsin in 2007. (Equally remarkable was Dave's find of a State Record butterfly on this count in 2006: Funereal Duskywing.) The combination of Dave's keen eye and the Trempealeau Count has been exceedingly productive!

Flowers, Butterflies and Birds of Schurch-Thomson Prairie (July

12)

Fifteen people from 3 organizations saw several of the magnificent (and Endangered) **Regal Fritillaries**. In spite of completely overcast skies we saw a number of species (which were flushed as the group walked through the prairie and usually they didn't fly far without sun). Other highlights were Aphrodite Fritillaries and Coral Hairstreaks. Interesting birds included Dickcissel, Henslow's Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, and Bell's Vireo! (Photo by Mike Reese.)



4 NEXT SWBA MEETING

OCTOBER 14, 2008. (Location to be announced in a later Newsletter.)

Sue Borkin of the Milwaukee Public Museum will talk about the Re-introduction of the Swamp Metalmark.

5 BUTTERFLY PHOTOGRAPHS ON DISPLAY AT UW ARBORETUM

SWBA member **Ann Thering** is presenting an exhibit of her butterfly photographs, entitled "Butterfly Encounters" at the UW Arboretum Steinhauer Trust Gallery in the Visitor Center at 1207 Seminole Hwy., Madison. The showing will run from July 1 to August 29. The hours are 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. For more information contact Ann at atching@gmail.com

6 SWBA TABLE AT FARMER'S MARKET

Stop over and visit at our table display at the Madison Farmer's Market on the square, at the King St. corner, on Saturdays, August 2 and 16. Better yet, you can volunteer to help at the table. Time is from 8:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Have fun talking to other people interested in butterflies! For details contact Karl Legler at karlndot@chorus.net

7 SUMMARY of NABA's Biennial Member's Meeting In Kernville, California, June 26-29.

The meeting had 182 participants. They came from all over the U.S. and even from Canada and Mexico. On the many field trips 107 butterfly species were found. Also the trips reported 159 bird species seen. Most of these species were new to the participants. Programs discussed the Natural History of Kern County (larger than some countries!) and reported on NABA business. NABA members should be reminded that there is a Store on the NABA website where you can order various butterfly related products and members receive a 10% discount. Also everyone is encouraged to send donations for the continued development of NABA's International Butterfly Park in Mission, Texas.

8 BUTTERFLY TRAVEL:

The 13th annual Texas Butterfly Festival will be held on **October 16th to 19th 2008**, in Mission, Texas, located in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of South Texas, "the most biologically diverse region in the United States". This is a great event! For more information go to www.texasbutterfly.com/

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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. NABA promotes public awareness, conservation and the enjoyment of butterflies through observation with close-focusing binoculars, chapter field trips, educational meetings, photography, butterfly gardening, monitoring, conservation 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.