

Badger Butterfly

The e-Newsletter of the Southern Wisconsin Butterfly Association **SEPTEMBER 2009**

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

1 NEXT SWBA FIELD TRIP. MARK YOUR CALENDAR !!

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

Saturday, September 12: Monarchs & Fall Flowers at Pheasant Branch Conservancy Noon - 3 p.m.

Join us on a walk through the lovely Pheasant Branch Conservancy in Middleton. The many beautiful asters should be in bloom, and we hope lots of butterflies will be nectaring on these flowers. We can expect several species, including Monarchs, sulphurs, blues, and possibly some southern immigrants, such as Common Buckeye and Painted Lady. You never know what you may find! We will also learn more about restoration efforts at the conservancy. Long pants, a hat, water, and sturdy hiking shoes are recommended. Close-focusing binoculars are also useful. (We will have a few extra pairs.) We will hike two

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or three miles. Leaders are Ann Thering and Dreux Watermolen. Co-sponsors are Friends of the Pheasant Branch Conservancy and the Madison Audubon Society. Contact the trip leaders only if you have questions about the trip: Dreux Watermolen: (608) 266-8931, dreux.watermolen@dnr.state.wi.us, or Ann Thering, therannc@yahoo.com, (608) 836-1097.

Meet in Middleton at noon. The trip will last until 3 p.m. Directions: At the west end of Lake Mendota take Allen Boulevard north, then turn left on Century Avenue (County M). Track your mileage as you turn right onto Old Creek Road and then right on Pheasant Branch Road going north 1.2 miles to the small county parking lot on the right, at the beginning of the gated road.

2 SWBA MEETING: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2009

At this meeting the speaker will be butterfly expert **Ann Swengel**. Her talk will be on:

Adventures in Muskegs and Kettleholes: A Presentation on Bog Butterflies of Northern Wisconsin.

Where: Warner Park Community Recreation Center at 1625 Northport Drive in Madison.

When: 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Ann Swengel is an internationally-known butterfly researcher. She is the author of numerous scientific publications related to butterfly population biology and is a member of the editorial board of the Journal of Insect Conservation. She was vice president of NABA from 1992-2003 and international editor or co-editor of the NABA Butterfly Counts from 1991-early 2005.

Everyone is welcome to attend this free program. We will have door prizes, displays, books, handouts and plenty of time afterwards to enjoy refreshments and talk with our speaker Ann Swengel and other butterfly,



Frigga Fritillary

butterfly gardening and photography enthusiasts. (Anyone who would like to volunteer to bring refreshments should call Dorothy Legler at (608) 643-4926 or karlindot@charter.net)

DIRECTIONS: On Madison's north side, from the intersection of Sherman Avenue and Northport Drive (= Hwy 113) go west on Northport Drive for about 1/4 mile, then turn south into Warner Park. Turn immediately right into the Community Center parking lot. When you enter the Community Recreation Center, we will be in the meeting room on the left.

3 HIGHLIGHTS OF A RECENT AVOCA FIELD TRIP

On August 8 Mike Reese led the SWBA trip to the **Avoca and Blue River** area, along the Wisconsin River. We found a total of 28 species which is excellent for a cool year. Highlights were 2 Juniper Hairstreaks (scarce and our only green butterfly), two migrant butterflies (Painted Lady and Little Yellow), Aphrodite Fritillaries and Giant Swallowtails. Nine Little Wood-Satyrs testified to the cool summer. They are normally seen only up to mid-July, but the cool weather delayed their flight period. The full list from the trip follows:



Juniper Hairstreak

Giant Swallowtail 2	Great Spangled Fritillary 8	American Lady 1	Common Wood-Nymph 22
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail 2	Little Yellow 1	Painted Lady 1	Monarch 17
Cabbage White 1	American Copper 1	Red Admiral 1	Silver-spotted Skipper 1
Clouded Sulphur 1	Aphrodite Fritillary 5	Red-spotted Purple 1	Peck's Skipper 1
Coral Hairstreak 1	Pearl Crescent 40 +	Viceroy 1	Tawny-edged Skipper 1
Juniper Hairstreak 2	Eastern Comma 2	Tawny Emperor 1	Common Roadside-Skipper 1
Eastern Tailed-Blue 4	Mourning Cloak 1	Little Wood-Satyr 9	
Summer Azure 8			

4 AUGUST BUTTERFLIES REPORTED TO www.wisconsinbutterflies.org

Seventy-eight reports, detailing the occurrence of hundreds of butterflies, were sent to [wisconsinbutterflies.org](http://www.wisconsinbutterflies.org) in August. There have been a respectable number of the ever-popular Giant Swallowtails being seen this month. Regal Fritillaries were still flying at Buena Vista in Portage County at the beginning of August. A number of rarities have been reported: Gray Coppers were seen at Crex Meadows. Rare butterflies getting only 2 observations were the Purplish Copper and the migrants Common Buckeye, Variegated Fritillary and Dainty Sulphur.

Butterflies having only a single report this month were the migrants Fiery Skipper and Little Yellow, and in the north, the rare resident, Green Comma.

5 BUTTERFLY GARDENING by Dorothy Legler, Master Gardener

Goldenrods Are Nothing to Sneeze At!

A-a-a-choo! Is that goldenrod causing you to sneeze? Some people think goldenrod is the source of their hay fever. Instead, it's ragweed! Ragweed blooms at the same time as goldenrod. Goldenrod has heavy, sticky pollen and is pollinated by insects, unlike ragweed which is pollinated by wind. Ragweed pollen is the culprit, not goldenrod.

Goldenrods are beginning to bloom and will continue blooming Aug.-Oct. They are good nectar sources for late flying butterflies, especially **Monarchs** whose numbers peak in early September. They are migrating to central Mexico to overwinter in the mountains.

Twenty-two species of goldenrod are described in the newest wildflower ID book, Wildflowers of Wisconsin and the Great Lakes Region, by Merel R. Black and Emmet J. Judziewicz.

One local native nursery recommends the following as good for landscaping:
Solidago ohioensis, S.
rigida, S.



Goldenrod

speciosa, *ulmifolia*, and *nemoralis*. Some others are native but are more aggressive and spread by rhizomes, so they are not suited for small landscapes. One species I wish I had never started is *Solidago canadensis*, which although native, is our most common weedy species! It spreads by rhizomes and forms patches that are difficult to control and prohibits other plants from growing there. Most *Solidago* are prairie/savannah species,

but *Solidago flexicaulis* will grow in woodlands and adds color and interest in late fall.

So add some goldenrods to your landscape. They'll look great with asters, liatris and Joe-pye weed and grasses. The butterflies, bees and other insects will have some needed fall nectar sources. Goldenrods also look great in fresh and dried arrangements.

6 VERY, VERY LAST CHANCE: LAKE WALES, FLORIDA !! Regional NABA Meeting, September 25-27, 2009 Deadline for registration is Sept 10.

This is a wonderful opportunity to visit some great butterfly areas with expert leaders! Field trips will go to Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park, Bull Creek Wildlife Management Area and Triple N Ranch Wildlife Management Area. They have a great list of top-notch leaders, including Jeff Glassberg (Butterflies Through Binoculars), Rick Cech (Butterflies of the East Coast) and many others. Trips run 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Registration is \$120 per person for NABA members. For **non-members** the fee is \$150 but it includes NABA membership. This pays for the Friday evening Welcome Program, Saturday evening Banquet and Program; all tours; field trips and programs, box lunches on Saturday and Sunday; drinks and snacks.

Download the Brochure: <http://www.naba.org/chapters/florida/NABAStateBrochure2009.pdf>

Download the Registration Form:

<http://www.naba.org/chapters/florida/MeetingRegForm2009.pdf>

More details at: <http://www.naba.org/chapters/florida/meeting.html>



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

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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 website 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.