

# Badger Butterfly

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

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

## 1 NEXT FIELD TRIPS (Mark These On Your Calendar !!!)

### Saturday, August 14: 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 County, Blue River unit in Grant County and along the Wisconsin River north of Blue River. Leader will be **Mike Reese**. We expect to see late butterflies and several southern immigrants. A hat and long pants are recommended. Bring a lunch and 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. The trip may last until 4 p.m. Allow 1-1/2 hour travel time from Madison. Take Hwy 14 west 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.

#### IN THIS ISSUE:

1. **Next Field Trips.**
2. **Highlights of Schurch-Thomson Trip.**
3. **Highlights of Moth Trip.**
4. **Highlights of Sandhill Trip.**
5. **Highlights of Pretty Things with Wings.**
6. **Recent Butterfly Reports.**
7. **Two Very Rare Butterflies!**
8. **NABA Biennial Meeting October 28-31 in Texas!**
9. **Butterfly News Notes.**

### Saturday, August 28: Butterflies and Blossoms at Pheasant Branch Conservancy

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 binoculars.) We will hike two or three miles. Leader is **Dreux Watermolen**. Co-sponsors are

Friends of the Pheasant Branch Conservancy and the Madison Audubon Society.

Contact the trip leader only if you have questions:  
Dreux Watermolen: (608) 266-8931,  
[dreux.watermolen@dnr.state.wi.us](mailto:dreux.watermolen@dnr.state.wi.us)

Meet in Middleton at noon. The trip will last about 3 hours. Directions: At the west end of Lake Mendota take Allen Boulevard north, then turn left on Century Avenue (Co. 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 at the beginning of the gated road.

### Sunday, August 29: Magnificent Monarchs at Olbrich Botanical Gardens

Learn about the amazing Monarch butterfly and other butterfly species you may see in your own backyard or at Olbrich. **Karl Legler**, vice-president of the Southern Wisconsin Butterfly Association, will give an indoor presentation on Monarch butterflies, including their lives in Mexico and the U.S. and their migration. This will be followed by an outdoor walk as we find and observe these magnificent insects in the Gardens. Bring close-focusing binoculars if you have them.



Meet at Olbrich Botanical Gardens in Madison at 1 p.m. There is a fee for this class: \$11 Olbrich and SWBA members, \$13 non-members. **Register (required), before Aug. 23** by visiting Olbrich Botanical Gardens web site at <http://www.olbrich.org/education/classes.cfm> This class will last until 2:30 p.m.

## Saturday, Sept. 4: Grasshoppers!!

Our leader, **Kathy Kirk**, co-authored *A Guide to the Grasshoppers of Wisconsin* published by Wisconsin DNR. The book exhibited the state's grasshopper species with color photos, range maps, and species accounts. Our appreciation of grasshoppers will take a big leap forward as Kathy leads this trip into sand prairie areas in search of these fascinating and beautiful insects. We will spend 2-3 hours learning how to discern grasshoppers from katydids, and learn about behavior, ecology, life history, and the biology needed for identification. Kathy will net-and-release the various species for observation and discussion.

Attendees that have aerial nets and minnow nets are encouraged to bring them to have fun chasing grasshoppers. Also bring close-focusing binoculars if you have them. This is a joint trip of SWBA and the Madison Audubon Society.

Meet at 1:30 p.m. at the parking lot of the Mazomanie Sand Barrens. From Middleton take Highway 12 toward Sauk City. At the intersection with Y turn left (west) onto Y and go nearly 2 1/2 miles to the sign for the Sand Barrens. Take the short road to the parking lot.

Call Kathy at (608) 442-1642 only if you have a question about the trip.

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## 2 HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SCHURCH-THOMSON FIELD TRIP

On July 10 a couple dozen participants enjoyed the butterflies and flowers of Schurch-Thomson Prairie. Seventeen species of butterfly were observed, including the beautiful Regal Fritillary! Here are the results:

Black Swallowtail 3	Summer Azure 1	Painted Lady 1
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail 1	Great Spangled Fritillary 15+	Red Admiral 20+
Cabbage White 1	Aphrodite Fritillary 15+	Common Wood-Nymph 40+
Clouded Sulphur 10+	Regal Fritillary 20+	Monarch 20+
Orange Sulphur 2	Meadow Fritillary 7	Northern Broken-Dash 1
Coral Hairstreak 4	Pearl Crescent 12	

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## 3 HIGHLIGHTS OF MOTH FIELD TRIP

On the evening of July 10, about 17 people enjoyed the warm starry night at the Pine Bluff Observatory grounds learning about moths and viewing the ones that came to the ultra-violet light. Highlight was the beautiful **Scarlet-winged Lichen Moth** (*Hypoprepia miniata*). Leader Mark Evans provided Prometheus caterpillars to those that were willing to raise them!



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## 4 HIGHLIGHTS OF SANDHILL WILDLIFE AREA FIELD TRIP

On July 11, nine people met at Sandhill Wildlife Area in Wood County, in central Wisconsin. Although skies were cloudy, the butterflies cooperated nicely! This trip was a revelation, showing us what a fabulous butterfly spot Sandhill can be. We found 27 species of butterfly, detailed below, many of them scarce or absent in the southern part of the state. The federally endangered Karner Blues were especially wonderful: they sat basking instead of flying around, allowing great views. The best dragonfly (the very scarce Green-striped Darner) was dead in the water. (Occasionally dragonflies, in their high-speed interactions, inadvertently hit the water causing their wings to become trapped by surface tension and they drown.) We found



Female Karner Blue



Violet Coral Fungi  
Photo by Ron Arnold.

several Monarch caterpillars, many different mushrooms and fungi, Spring Peeper frogs, Club-spur Orchid and American Bittern!

Eastern Tiger Swallowtail 1	Northern Crescent 6	Monarch 7
Harvester 1	Compton Tortoiseshell 1	Mulberry Wing 10
Acadian Hairstreak 6	Mourning Cloak 2	Broad-winged Skipper 6
Edward's Hairstreak 13	Milbert's Tortoiseshell 1	Dion Skipper 5
Striped Hairstreak 1	American Lady 1	Black Dash 42
Summer Azure 1	Red Admiral 3	Two-spotted Skipper 1
Karner Blue 25+	White Admiral 1	Dun Skipper 9
Great Spangled Fritillary 4	Viceroy 1	
Aphrodite Fritillary 1	Eyed Brown 12	
Silver-bordered Fritillary 6	Common Wood-Nymph 19	

## 5 HIGHLIGHTS OF PRETTY THINGS WITH WINGS

On July 17, some 16 people had an enjoyable time walking in the Lakeshore Preserve looking for “pretty things with wings”, i.e. birds, butterflies and dragonflies. One participant mentioned she particularly enjoyed seeing the Peck's Skipper, American Lady and a White-striped Black Moth.

## 6 RECENT BUTTERFLY SIGHTINGS AT [www.wisconsinbutterflies.org](http://www.wisconsinbutterflies.org)

Mike Reese's [www.wisconsinbutterflies.org](http://www.wisconsinbutterflies.org) website received 198 reports in July detailing thousands of individual butterflies. The commonest butterflies of July were Clouded Sulphur, Monarch, Red Admiral, Common Wood Nymph, Northern Crescent and Summer Azure. **Many scarce butterflies were reported.** They are detailed below, showing the number of reports submitted. (See details of the discovery of the two butterflies in bold type in the next article.)

Green Comma 8 REPORTS	Regal Fritillary 4	Two-spotted Skipper 4
Satyr Comma 3	Variegated Fritillary 4	<b>Horace's Duskywing 2</b>
Greenish Blue 1	Hickory Hairstreak 2	Mottled Duskywing 4
Karner Blue 3	Juniper Hairstreak 2	<b>Funereal Duskywing 2</b>
Common Buckeye 30	Painted Lady 11	Wild Indigo Duskywing 2
Bog Copper 8	Swamp Metalmark 2	American Snout 4
Dorcas Copper 5	Byssus Skipper 1	Dainty Sulphur 1
Gray Copper 2	Common Branded Skipper 3	Little Yellow MANY
Purplish Copper 2	Fiery Skipper 10	Giant Swallowtail 7
Purplish Fritillary 1	Little Glassywing 3	

## 7 VERY RARE BUTTERFLIES SEEN IN WISCONSIN!

Two very rare butterflies were spotted last month and reported to [wisconsinbutterflies.org](http://www.wisconsinbutterflies.org). The **Funereal Duskywing**, first found in Wisconsin in 2002, had been observed only 3 times in the state. A resident of the southwestern U.S., they sometimes stray to Wisconsin. On July 16 Judith Huf found the 4th record for Wisconsin at Wehr Nature Center in Hales Corners. Then on July 26 Stan Rehm found the 5th record. You can read his account on his blog at <http://tywkiwdbi.blogspot.com> (Search for “Funereal Duskywing”).

The other very rare butterfly is **Horace's Duskywing**. This butterfly was first discovered in Wisconsin in Waukesha County in 1987. There have also been 1 or more encounters by DNR surveyors along the western edge of Wisconsin. (I don't know whether those records were ever published.) Now Judith Huff has sighted two different Horace's Duskywings, a male on July 16 (the same day she found the Funereal

Duskywing!!!) and a female on July 24, both in Whitefish Bay, Milwaukee County. Congratulations to Stan and to Judith on their fabulous finds!!



**Funereal Duskywing**  
Photo by Stan Rehm



**Horace's Duskywing**  
Photo by Judith Huf

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## 8 North American Butterfly Association (NABA) 9th Biennial Members' Meeting Mission, Texas October 28-31, 2010



**Crimson Patch**

SWBA is a Wisconsin chapter of NABA. The next NABA Biennial Members' Meeting will be held October 28-31, 2010 in **Mission, Texas**. The 2010 Meeting will (we hope) celebrate the official opening of the first major building at the **National Butterfly Center**, the Welcome Center. Mark your calendars now--we look forward to seeing you there!

There will be all-day field trips on Friday and Saturday, and a half-day trip on Sunday. 150 species of butterflies have been seen in the Lower Rio Grande Valley! We have a good chance of seeing spectacular Red-bordered Pixies, Mexican Bluewings, Bordered Patches, and Two-barred Flashers. Other tantalizing possibilities include Ruby-spotted Swallowtail, Cyna Blue, Malachite, Gray Cracker and Guava Skipper.

**Registration:** For **NABA members** the cost is \$250 per person which covers 4 days of events and field trips, box lunches on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, and banquet dinners on Friday and Saturday nights! (Price goes up to \$275 after August 15.) The cost for **non-members** is \$280 but, although it isn't mentioned in the brochure, the extra cost includes a full year of NABA membership. (I verified this with the NABA Office.)

Please click on the link below, download and print the **registration brochure**, fill out the second and third pages, and return to the address listed along with your payment. (Or go to [www.naba.org](http://www.naba.org) website.) You will receive a confirmation packet with maps, meeting details and other information to help you plan your trip. For more information, email Lisa Lewis at [lewis@naba.org](mailto:lewis@naba.org) or call the NABA office at 973-285-0907.

REGISTRATION BROCHURE: [http://www.naba.org/ftp/members\\_meeting\\_reg\\_brochure\\_2010.pdf](http://www.naba.org/ftp/members_meeting_reg_brochure_2010.pdf)

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## 9 BUTTERFLY NEWS NOTES

### **DNR Research on Fire and Leafhoppers.**

Many people are concerned that the use of fire for managing small, isolated prairie remnants may be adversely affecting prairie-specialist insects, including butterflies. Concern that small remnants may be inadequate for conserving prairie insect diversity also exists, particularly for rare butterfly species. Wisconsin DNR research scientist Rich Henderson investigated these concerns by analyzing leaf hopper communities. You can view or download the complete Research Report, "Influence of Patch Size, Isolation, and Fire History on Hopper (Homoptera: Auchenorrhyncha) Communities of Eight Wisconsin Prairie Remnants," online at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/es/science/publications/rr.htm>.

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### **Why Do Butterflies Have Marginal Eyespots?**

"Scientists and artists alike have long been intrigued by the eyespots of butterfly wings. In the past few decades, we have learned that birds, too, are attracted to such decorations, often to the detriment of their predation success. A recent study published in the Public Library of Science has deciphered the context-dependent message that the woodland brown butterfly, *Lopinga achine*, sends using its marginal eyespots." [A European butterfly.] Read this article at

<http://www.conservationmaven.com/frontpage/why-do-butterflies-have-marginal-eyespot.html>

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### **Pollinators and Roadsides: Managing Roadsides for Bees and Butterflies.**

The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation has released an 8 page resource: [Pollinators and Roadsides: Managing Roadsides for Bees and Butterflies](#). These guidelines provide a concise overview of the conservation potential of roadside habitat and offer practical information on how to maximize the value of these areas for pollinators while meeting basic traffic safety requirements. Download this publication via this link:

[http://www.xerces.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/05/roadside-guidelines\\_xerces-society1.pdf](http://www.xerces.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/05/roadside-guidelines_xerces-society1.pdf)

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**Wisconsin’s Wetland Gems.**

The Wisconsin Wetlands Association has announced the publication of *Wisconsin’s Wetland Gems* (150 pp., \$25), a full-color guide to Wisconsin’s 100 *Wetland Gems* - high quality habitats that represent the wetland riches (marshes, swamps, bogs, fens, and more) that historically made up a quarter of Wisconsin’s landscape. The full-color book features beautiful materials, including all of the maps and fact sheets that are available in PDF form on WWA webpages and more, compiled in a convenient, spiral-bound collection. To order, download the order form (PDF) at this link, print it out and send it in to the Wisconsin Wetlands Association.

<http://www.wisconsinwetlands.org/GemsBookFlyer.pdf>

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

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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](mailto:karlndot@charter.net)

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