

Massachusetts Butterfly Club Butterflying Code of Ethics - 2019

Today's lepidopterists are an important force for nature conservation. As the number of those interested in butterflies and Lepidoptera in general rises, it is vital that we take seriously our responsibilities as environmental stewards to avoid any harm to the butterflies or the environment on which they depend. We believe that all butterfliers have an obligation at all times to protect wildlife, the natural environment and the rights of others. We therefore pledge ourselves to provide leadership in meeting this obligation by adhering to the following general guidelines of good butterflying behavior.

Butterfliers should always act in ways that do not endanger the welfare of butterflies and other wildlife. This is particularly the case when observing butterflies in breeding locations and disturbance of these habitats should be minimized at all times.

In keeping with this principle we will:

- Strive to observe and photograph butterflies without knowingly disturbing them in any significant way.
- Refrain from taking butterflies, caterpillars, eggs or host plants of sensitive species unless engaged in recognized research. See ***Sensitive Species of Massachusetts Butterflies*** below.
- Protect the locations of breeding colonies of sensitive species and not disclose them on open Internet forums. Restrict reporting of the locations only to the city/town or county in which the butterfly is located as indicated below at the end of this Code. Where only the county is disclosed, email the Club's Records Compiler of the city/town as that is how the Club maintains its records. Currently the Records Compiler's email address is mark@massbutterflies.org.
In addition, please be aware that many cameras mark GPS locations on photos and care should be taken not to inadvertently post photos from which the GPS location can be identified.
- Recognize that the sensitivity of species is regional and report species observations appropriately.
- Treat observations of species where their identity is uncertain as sensitive until it has been confirmed otherwise.

Butterfliers should always act in ways that do not harm the natural environment. In keeping with this principle we will:

- Stay on existing roads, trails and pathways whenever possible.
- Avoid trampling vegetation or otherwise disturbing fragile habitat.
- Be especially careful near breeding habitat.

Butterfliers should always respect the rights of others. In keeping

with this principle we will:

- Respect the privacy and property of others by observing "No Trespassing" signs and by asking permission to enter private or posted lands.
- Observe all laws and the rules and regulations which govern the use of public lands and private lands open to the public.
- Practice common courtesy in our contacts with others and always behave in a manner that will enhance the image of the butterflying community in the eyes of the public.

Butterfliers in groups should assume special responsibilities. As group members, we will:

- Take care to alleviate the problems and disturbances that are multiplied when more people are present.
- Act in consideration of the group's interests as well as our own, and be especially accommodating to new butterfliers.
- Realize a camera offers no privileges to push in front of others before everyone in the group has finished watching the butterfly.
- Support, by our actions, the responsibility of the group leader or leaders for the conduct of the group.

Sensitive Species of Massachusetts Butterflies

Report as to County only:

***Acadian Hairstreak
Bog Elfin
Hessel's Hairstreak
Early Hairstreak
Harris' Checkerspot
Two-spotted Skipper***

Report as to City/Town:

***Checkered White
West Virginia White
Bronze Copper
Hickory Hairstreak
Juniper Hairstreak
Aphrodite Fritillary
Meadow Fritillary
Gray Comma
Arctic Skipper
Cobweb Skipper
Common Checkered-Skipper***

Dion Skipper
Indian Skipper
Leonard's Skipper