

Badger Butterfly

The e-Newsletter of the Southern Wisconsin Butterfly Association FEBRUARY 2009

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

1 WINTER SWBA PROGRAM: LIVE BUTTERFLIES AT MILWAUKEE PUBLIC MUSEUM

Saturday, February 28: Live Butterflies at Milwaukee Public Museum

Mark this on your calendar! This is a fun way to butterfly-kiss winter goodbye and anticipate the colorful delights of warmer seasons! We will carpool and travel to the vast Milwaukee Public Museum to receive a special, behind-the-scenes guided tour of Bugs Alive! and the Puelicher Butterfly Garden, a two-story, glass-enclosed wing of the museum, which has live butterflies. The numerous colorful native and tropical butterflies (such as the giant electric-blue Morpho) often land on visitors! We are fortunate to have this special tour led by Susan Borkin, the Director of the Puelicher Garden and Director of Research Support for the Museum. Surrounding the Garden are displays of more than 1,000 species of butterflies and moths from the museum collection. We will also get a RARE, behind-the-scenes look at the Museum's extensive



collections. The tour will last 2-3 hours. (We will eat lunch at the Museum's Cafe and afterwards you can attend any of the numerous other exhibits (Rain Forest, Titanic, Living Oceans, etc.) or enjoy the domed IMAX theatre or planetarium. The Museum Admission fee is \$11, Senior \$10.

We will meet in Madison to carpool at 7:45 a.m. or you can meet at 9:30 a.m. at a designated location in the Museum. This is a joint trip with the Madison Audubon Society. **You MUST REGISTER for this trip by emailing Joan Braune at jbraune@sbcglobal.net or phone (608) 242-1168. We will provide you with more details, such as meeting place and directions, and we will be able to notify you of any changes.**

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2 SWBA WILL STAFF DISPLAY TABLE AT GARDEN EXPO

SWBA will again participate in the 2009 Garden Expo in Madison. 20,000 people come from all over the state to this event and last year we talked to hundreds of people and provided information on butterflies and butterfly gardening, butterfly watching, photography, and close-focusing binoculars, etc. We will have numerous handouts, photos, poster, books on display and our DVD player will be showing butterfly photos. The Garden Expo is held at the Alliant Energy Center.

The EXPO will be held on:

- Friday, February 13; 4 - 9 p.m.**
Saturday, February 14; 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sunday, February 15; 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

A PowerPoint presentation on Butterfly Gardening will be given by Dorothy Legler at the Expo on Saturday, February 14 at 1:00 p.m. **Volunteers at our display table are needed. You can**



volunteer to help out for a few hours by contacting Joan Braune at jbraune@sbcglobal.net
or phone (608) 242-1168.

Volunteers will get a **FREE PASS** to the Expo (you still must pay parking fee).

3 PROGRAM ON BUTTERFLY PHOTOGRAPHY

Friends of the Arboretum Nature Photography Meeting, Feb. 18, 7 p.m.

"The New Butterfly Collection"

What better way to spend a winter evening than with images of beautiful Wisconsin butterflies? Ann Thering photographs wild butterflies in their natural setting; she does not net or manipulate them. Photographs of butterflies from various Wisconsin habitats will be shown as slides. Ann will also share some of her techniques for getting close to

butterflies and stories from the field. You can view some of Ann's images at www.amthering.com
The meeting will be on Wednesday, February 18, from 7-9 p.m. at the Arboretum Visitor Center. Anyone interested in nature photography or butterflies is welcome.

4 2009 FIELD TRIPS (These trips are open to the general public.)

Saturday, February 28: Live Butterflies at Milwaukee Public Museum Sue Borkin

Saturday, June 20: Butterflies and Wildflowers at Pleasant Valley Conservancy Ann Thering, Kathie & Tom Brock

Saturday, June 27: Butterflies of Cherokee Marsh Kathy Kirk

Sunday, July 5: Madison Butterfly Count Karl and Dorothy Legler

Saturday, July 11: Birds, Butterflies and Dragonflies at Lakeshore Preserve Edgar Spalding

Saturday, July 18: Flowers and Butterflies of Schurch-Thomson Prairie Rich Henderson

Saturday, July 25: Scuppernong Valley Prairie and Butterflies Rich Henderson, Karl and Dorothy Legler

Saturday, August 8: Butterflies of Avoca / Blue River Area Mike Reese

Saturday, September 12: Monarchs and Fall Flowers at Pheasant Branch Conservancy Ann Thering
& Dreux Watermolen

5 LECTURE AT UW ARBORETUM

Thursday, Feb. 12: "Wisconsin Milkweeds and Their Specialized Fauna"

Andrew Williams, Honorary Fellow in Entomology, UW-Madison.

Plants and bugs – it doesn't get a whole lot better than that. Andrew Williams has spent his professional life studying the milkweeds of Wisconsin (all 15 species) and the small creatures that interact with them. He says that every native plant species or genus has its own suite of specialist insects – he just happens to have zeroed in on this particular group. Long-horned beetles, leaf beetles, weevils, aphids, Lepidopterans – a vast array of insects visit the milkweeds, and have evolved fascinating ways of dealing with the plants' toxic juices. Be prepared for stunning photographs!

Coffee and cookies are available starting at 8:30 a.m. and the program runs from **9 - 11:30 a.m. in the auditorium of the**

UW Arboretum Visitor Center. There is a mid-morning break for refreshments, socializing and phenology reports. If folks aren't signed up for the series, they can attend any individual lecture for \$5.



6 SCIENCE NEWS: New research documents the benefit of using native plants in your yard.

Conservation Biology, Volume 23 Issue 1 (February 2009)

Impact of Native Plants on Bird and Butterfly Biodiversity in Suburban Landscapes

KARIN T. BURGHARDT, DOUGLAS W. TALLAMY, AND W. GREGORY SHRIVER

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ABSTRACT: Managed landscapes in which non-native ornamental plants are favored over native vegetation now dominate the United States, particularly east of the Mississippi River. We measured how landscaping with native plants affects the avian and lepidopteran communities on 6 pairs of suburban properties in southeastern Pennsylvania. One property in each pair was landscaped entirely with native plants and the other exhibited a more conventional suburban mixture of plants. Vegetation sampling confirmed that total plant cover and plant diversity did not differ between treatments, but non-native plant cover was greater on the conventional sites and native plant cover was greater on the native sites. Several avian

and larval lepidopteran community parameters were measured from June 2006 to August 2006. **CONCLUSION:** Native properties supported significantly more caterpillars and caterpillar species and significantly greater bird abundance, diversity, species richness, biomass, and breeding pairs of native species. Of particular importance is that bird species of regional conservation concern were 8 times more abundant and significantly more diverse on native properties. In our study area, native landscaping positively influenced the avian and lepidopteran carrying capacity of suburbia and provided a mechanism for reducing biodiversity losses in human-dominated landscapes.

7 SUNSTREAK TOURS

Sunstreak Tours has been helping butterflies to find, enjoy, and to learn about butterflies in the United States, Mexico and the Caribbean since 1993. Their expert leaders are both passionate about butterflies and comfortable with people, so that people see lots of butterflies, in a

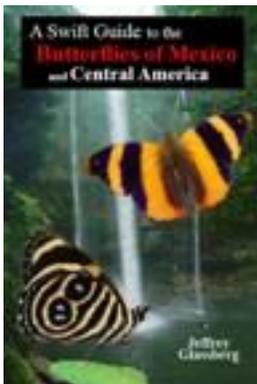
2009 Tours

Southeastern Arizona in April; **Texas Big Bend Country** in May; **Southern Florida and the Keys** in May; **southern California Sierras** in June; **White Mountains of Arizona** in July; **Veracruz, Mexico** in July; **Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas** in October; and **Oaxaca, Mexico** in November (this is an exciting new time for this trip).

2010 Tours

Four tours are currently offered for 2010: **Colorado Rockies and the Front Range** in July; **Wyoming, the Grand Tetons, Yellowstone and the Beartooth** in July; the **Highlands of Chiapas** in August with an exciting extension to the Pacific Coast; and **Puerto Rico** in November. Almost certainly, more will be added.

non-pressured, upbeat atmosphere. Visit the website, www.sunstreaktours.com, for more information. (Jeffrey Glassberg, President of NABA is President of Sunstreak Tours and is also one of the Tour Guides.)



8 GUIDE TO MEXICAN BUTTERFLIES

The Swift Guide to the Butterflies of Mexico and Central America by Jeffrey Glassberg was published in 2007. The culmination of decades of work, this true field guide treats all of Mexico's approximately 1,700 butterfly species.

Illustrated with more than 3,250 photographs, the text points out important field marks along with range maps for all species. More than two-thirds of all Costa Rican species are illustrated. The book is only available through Sunstreak Books. Please visit <http://www.sunstreakbooks.com/> to see some sample pages from the book and to find an order form. The book costs \$34.95 plus shipping.

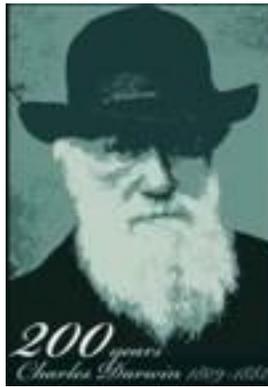
9 DARWIN 200th BIRTHDAY PROGRAM AT UW

2009 marks the 200th birthday of Charles Darwin, the founding father of evolution, and scientists, historians and other Wisconsin scholars are planning a daylong celebration in honor of the

British biologist and his legacy. The event, the fourth annual Darwin Day celebration, will be held at **9 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 7, at the new University of Wisconsin-Madison Microbial**

Sciences building, 1550 Linden Drive.

Featured speakers include Sean Carroll, a UW-Madison professor of genetics and one of the world's leading evolutionary biologists; Patricia McConnell, an authority on dogs and dog behavior; and Jeremy Jackson, an eminent scientist from the Scripps Institute of Oceanography who will speak on evolution and extinction in the oceans.



The Darwin Day celebration, which is **free and open to the public**, will also include afternoon sessions showcasing the research of UW-Madison faculty, a panel discussion on science and the media, a teachers' workshop and a book-signing event. A complete schedule for UW-Madison's Darwin Day celebration can be found at:

<http://www.geology.wisc.edu/~museum/DarwinDay/index.html>

In winter the Badger ButterFlyer flits to you every other month. The next issue will be in APRIL.

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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. 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.