

Badger Butterfly

The e-Newsletter of the Southern Wisconsin Butterfly Association **MAY, 2011**

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

1 NEXT SWBA MEETING: Thursday, May 5

Meet at 7:00 p.m. in Madison at the [Warner Park Community Recreation Center](#), 1625 Northport Drive.

Program: Monarchs, Migration and the Larva Monitoring Project

Speaker: Jessica Miller, Naturalist

The Monarch is one of the most recognized butterflies in the world. Until 35 years ago, scientists knew little about their phenomenal life cycle and migration routes. Now through citizen science monitoring, researchers are gaining deeper understanding of the Monarch. Join Naturalist Jessica Miller as she discusses the fascinating world of Monarch butterflies and how you can become involved in groundbreaking Monarch research.

Jessica Miller is a Naturalist and Education Coordinator at Mosquito Hill Nature Center in New London (Outagamie County). She has been avidly rearing and studying Monarchs for 12 years and most recently made a trip to Mexico to see, firsthand, Monarchs in their overwintering grounds. In addition, Jessica facilitates



several monarch research programs including the Monarch Larva Monitoring Project, Monarch Health, and the Monarch Watch Tagging Program.

Everyone is welcome to attend this free program. The meeting will last from 7:00 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. We will have door prizes, displays, books, handouts and plenty of time afterwards to enjoy snacks and refreshments, and talk

with our speaker and other butterfly enthusiasts.



Photo Show and Tell

Also at the May meeting, share some of your favorite butterfly, moth, caterpillar or dragonfly photos and enjoy the photos of others. You are welcome to briefly comment about your photos. Please email up to 8 digital photos (as file attachments) to Mike Reese at mikereese@wisconsinbutterflies.org Otherwise you can bring digital photos to the meeting on a CD or USB flash drive.

Election of Officers

Also at the May meeting, we will take a few minutes to elect officers of SWBA. If you are interested in serving as an officer of SWBA for the next year, or would like to nominate someone else, contact the Nominating Committee Chairperson Tod Highsmith at (608) 242-1168 or at todhighsmith@me.com

DIRECTIONS TO MEETING: 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.

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2 NEXT FIELD TRIP Mark your calendars! (Details are also on SWBA web site.)

Saturday, May 21: Butterflies of Bauer Brockway Barrens (Jackson Co.)



Gorgone Checkerspot

The best place in the state to look for early butterflies in May is Jackson County. Mike Reese will lead us in finding and observing many scarce and unusual species. We expect to find various Elfins, including the very rare (and State Threatened) Frosted Elfin. We should find Olympia Marble, Gorgone Checkerspot, Cobweb Skipper, Dreamy and Sleepy Duskywings, etc. Bring binoculars if you have them,



Cobweb Skipper

close-focusing ones work best. (A few extra pairs of binoculars are available.) Also, bring a bag lunch and water. A hat, long pants and long sleeves are recommended. This is a joint trip of SWBA with the Madison Audubon Society.

Meet in Jackson Co. at 10:30 a.m. at the corner of West Bauer Road and Brockway Road. We will butterfly until 3:00 p.m. DIRECTIONS: From the intersection of I-94 and Hwy 54 in Black River Falls, go east on Hwy 54 approximately five miles to Brockway Road. Turn right on Brockway and drive 2.5 miles south to West Bauer Road. (This area is about 2 1/4 hours northwest of Madison via I-94.)

Participants must PRE-REGISTER for this trip by either calling Mike at (920) 787-2341, or include your phone number in an email to mikereese@wisconsinbutterflies.org (so we can contact you in case of cancellation due to weather).

3 UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Details will be in the June Badger ButterFlyer. Details are also on the SWBA web site.

Saturday, June 18: Butterflies & Wildflowers at Pleasant Valley Conservancy

Saturday, June 25: Butterflies of Cherokee Marsh

CORRECTION TO A FIELD TRIP DATE

The Pretty Things with Wings field trip was originally listed in the newsletter and on our web site with an erroneous day/date. The web site is being corrected. The correct date is **Sunday, July 17**. If you marked this on your calendar, please correct it. Our apologies for the error.

4 CLASS OFFERED AT OLBRICH GARDENS: "WINGS AND PETALS: BUTTERFLY GARDENING IN SOUTHERN WISCONSIN"

Learn how to attract magnificent butterflies to your yard with butterfly enthusiast and Photographer **Ann Thering**. Good nectar sources for butterflies and food plants for their caterpillars will be covered, emphasizing native plants. Some horticultural varieties will also be discussed. You will learn key butterfly gardening design features, and how to identify common backyard butterflies and their caterpillars. The class fee includes a milkweed plant (plug size) for your garden provided by Agrecol Corporation of Madison, grower of Midwest native plants and seeds.

Wednesday, May 11, 7-8:30 p.m.



Registration Deadline: May 4

Cost: \$15/\$12 Olbrich member | **Course Number:** 10-30

See registration details at Olbrich's web site: www.olbrich.org/education/classes.cfm

5 CREATING A BUTTERFLY GARDEN IN YOUR YARD

FREE PROGRAM AT DEFOREST LIBRARY

Tuesday, May 24: 6:30 p.m. Library Community Room

“Dragonflies, Butterflies and Snapdragons!”

Creating a Butterfly Garden in Your Yard”



Eastern Tiger Swallowtail

A butterfly garden is an easy way to see more butterflies and to help them, since many natural butterfly habitats have been lost to human activities like building homes, roads and farms. It is easy to increase the number and variety of butterflies in your yard by planting the right flowers to attract them. Join **Dorothy Legler** of the **Southern Wisconsin Butterfly Association** for ideas to beautify your gardens. Handouts will be provided. Refreshments will be served. **DeForest Area Public Library, 203 Library Street, DeForest, WI 53532**

6 BUTTERFLIES REPORTED IN APRIL TO www.wisconsinbutterflies.org

In spite of cooler than normal weather, Mike Reese’s Wisconsin butterfly website received some 41 reports from 20 counties around the state (from Green to Ashland County)! 200 butterflies of 13 species were seen. Here is the list, in order of appearance, with the total number seen in April.

| DATE FIRST SEEN | SPECIES | NUMBER |
|-----------------|-------------------------|--------|
| (March) | Eastern Comma | 21 |
| (March) | Milbert’s Tortoiseshell | 11 |
| April 6 | Compton Tortoiseshell | 13 |
| April 6 | Mourning Cloak | 53 |
| April 10 | Cabbage White | 9 |
| April 10 | Red Admiral | 7 |
| April 12 | American Lady | 1 |
| April 12 | Green Comma | 37 |
| April 12 | Satyr Comma | 23 |
| April 13 | Spring Azure | 6 |
| April 21 | Olympia Marble | 11 |
| April 25 | Gray Comma | 5 |
| April 25 | Mustard White | 3 |

The most common butterfly seen in April was the Mourning Cloak -- as usual. But it is astonishing that the second and third most abundant butterflies reported were **Green Comma** and **Satyr Comma** which are northern species normally regarded as rather rare! But an area where they are somewhat more common was discovered last year in northern Wis. and also they thrived because last year the weather was very favorable for butterflies. Since they overwinter as adult butterflies, the same individuals are being seen again this spring so their numbers continue to be strong.

WHAT WILL BE FLYING IN MAY?

Olympia Marbles peak in May. The first brood of American Ladies peak in May. Some Swallowtails will be flying (the first brood of Black Swallowtail and first brood of Eastern Tiger Swallowtail). All 5 of our Elfins (mostly central to northern part of the state). Juvenal’s Duskywing and Dreamy and Sleepy Duskywings fly in May. Some Monarchs should begin to reach Wisconsin by 2nd half of May.

Keep sending your sightings to Mike Reese’s outstanding web site www.wisconsinbutterflies.org

The database this builds up is crucial to our understanding of Wisconsin butterflies! You can also submit a photo to the site and see what butterflies are being seen around the state, and enjoy the photos that others are taking, as the butterfly season unfolds. **TRY IT!**

7 RESULTS OF 2010 NABA BUTTERFLY COUNTS IN WISCONSIN

| COUNT | Species | Individuals | COUNT | Species | Individuals |
|-------------------------|---------|-------------|-------------------------|---------|-------------|
| Baraboo | 56 | 653 | Pederson's Gardens | 12 | 45 |
| Bayfield County (South) | 40 | 1233 | Riveredge Nature Center | 33 | 407 |
| Beaver Creek Reserve | 35 | 2009 | Sandhill/Seneca | 38 | 545 |
| Cornucopia | 52 | 261 | Sister Bay | 26 | 398 |
| Crex Meadows | 40 | 780 | Trempealeau | 39 | 743 |
| Gilmanton | 37 | 598 | Wazee (spring) | 26 | 348 |
| Madison | 30 | 283 | Wazee (summer) | 47 | 604 |
| Mud Lake | 32 | 250 | Wehr Nature Center | 15 | 122 |
| North. Kettle Moraine | 33 | 592 | | | |

Each year about **472 butterfly counts** are conducted in North America by the North American Butterfly Association (NABA). SWBA is a Wis. chapter of NABA. The report on these counts, NABA Butterfly Counts 2010 Report, has now been published. (To purchase a copy, see details below.) It contains details on all the counts including numbers for each species for each count, hours of counting, number and names of observers, weather conditions, etc. **Seventeen** NABA counts were conducted in Wisconsin in 2010. **Ninety-seven** observers found, identified and counted a total of **9,871 butterflies**.

SWBA will have a field trip to this interesting area: **Bauer Brockway Barrens** (within the Wazee-spring count circle) on Saturday, May 21. See Article #2.

WISCONSIN BUTTERFLY COUNTS WITH NORTH AMERICAN HIGHS

Several of our Wisconsin counts found one or more species in the highest numbers for any North American 2010 Count! Listed in the table below are the numbers of individuals.

Wazee (spring)

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| Olympia Marble | 21 |
| Hoary Elfin | 4 |
| Frosted Elfin | 4 |
| Henry's Elfin | 2 |
| E. Pine Elfin | 1 |
| Gorgone Checkerspot | 215 |
| Sleepy Duskywing | 3 |
| Juvenal's Duskywing | 7 |
| Cobweb Skipper | 8 |

Beaver Creek

| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Milbert's Tortoiseshell | 106 |
| Riveredge | |
| Swamp Metalmark | 30 |
| South Bayfield Co. | |
| Mourning Cloak | 106 |
| Baraboo | |
| Compton Tortoiseshell | 93 |

Crex Meadows

| | |
|------------------------|----|
| Mottled Duskywing | 4 |
| Sandhill/Seneca | |
| Two-spotted Skipper | 12 |
| Cornucopia | |
| Leonard's Skipper | 2 |

If you would like a copy of the 136 page, spiral bound NABA Butterfly Counts 2010 Report, which contains details on all 472 NABA counts, it may be ordered from the address below. The cost is \$11 for NABA/SWBA members and \$16 for non-NABA members. Copies of the previous NABA Butterfly Count Reports (years 1982-1984, 1986, 1987, 1989-1992, 1994, 1998-2000, 2002-2007, 2009) are also available. Shipping and handling is \$2 for the first item and \$1 for each additional item. Please make check payable to NABA and send to:

NABA Butterfly Count
4 Delaware Rd.

8 DATES FOR SOME NABA "4TH OF JULY" BUTTERFLY COUNTS

These butterfly counts are conducted exactly like Christmas Bird Counts: Identify butterfly species and count individuals, staying within a 15 mile diameter circle. The data of many hundreds of counts is collected and published. Some 17 NABA Butterfly Counts take place in Wisconsin each year. Below are ones that are connected with SWBA.

- ❖ Mud Lake (Columbia County) Wednesday, June 29, 2011
- ❖ Madison (Dane County) Saturday, July 2, 2011
- ❖ Trempealeau (Trempealeau County) Tuesday, July 12, 2011
- ❖ Northern Kettle Moraine (Fond du Lac County) Friday, July 15, 2011
- ❖ Sister Bay (Door County) Monday, July 18, 2011

To join in on these fun counts as a counter or learner -- or for more information about SWBA-sponsored NABA counts, please contact the SWBA count coordinators: Karl and Dorothy Legler, karlndot@charter.net (608) 643-4926. (NABA charges a \$3 fee to participate in a count, to help defray the cost of publication.) (For a list of additional Butterfly Counts in Wisconsin, visit NABA's Web site at www.naba.org/counts/um_g.html . Contacts are listed.)

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

Officers of SWBA:

President: Joan Braune

jbraune@sbcglobal.net

Vice-President: Karl Legler

karlndot@charter.net

Secretary: Dorothy Legler

Treasurer: Ginny Nelson

Other SWBA contributors:

e-Newsletter Editor: Karl Legler

karlndot@charter.net

Webmaster: Ann Thering

Butterfly Reporting:

Mike Reese at

www.wisconsinbutterflies.org

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

To stop receiving this e-Newsletter simply send an email to the above editor's address.