

Badger ButterFlyer

The e-Newsletter of the Southern Wisconsin Butterfly Association **JULY, 2012**

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

1 NEXT FIELD TRIP Mark your calendars!

Sunday, July 15: Pretty Things with Wings: Birds, Butterflies and Dragonflies of Lakeshore Nature Preserve

On this two hour walk in the Picnic Point area we expect to see interesting bird species and at least half a dozen species of dragonflies and twice as many different butterflies. The walking route will include the edge of Mendota's University Bay, the woods of Picnic Point, and the Biocore Prairie. Bring your binoculars--the closer they focus the better. (We will have a few extra binoculars.) This trip is co-sponsored by Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve, Southern Wis. Butterfly

Association and Madison Audubon Society. The trip leader is Edgar Spalding.

Meet at 10:00 a.m.

at the Picnic Point Parking Lot, along University Bay Drive, on the UW campus. Call Edgar at (608) 265-5294 or 831-0616 only if you have a question about the trip or if the weather is questionable.

IN THIS ISSUE:

1. **Next Field Trip: July 15**
2. **Upcoming Field Trips.**
3. **Highlights of Recent Field Trips.**
4. **Results of the Madison Butterfly Count.**
5. **NABA Biennial Meeting in Arizona.**
6. **Butterflies Reported in June.**
7. **A First State Record !!!**
8. **Dates for NABA Counts.**

2 UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS Mark your calendars!

Saturday, July 21: Flowers, Butterflies and Birds of Schurch-Thomson Prairie

We will visit The Prairie Enthusiasts' Schurch-Thomson Prairie, and the adjacent privately owned Underwood Prairie. The latter is closed to the public, so this is a great opportunity to see it up close. These and adjacent properties form a complex of remnant prairie and CRP grasslands that are rich with grassland birds and other

prairie animals. Summer flowers will be in bloom, and we hope to see the rare **Regal Fritillary** and other butterflies. Be prepared for a long hike and bring binoculars for



Regal Fritillary.
Photo by Mike Reese.

butterfly viewing (the closer they can focus the better). This is a joint trip of The Prairie Enthusiasts, Southern Wis. Butterfly Association, and Madison Audubon Society. Leaders are Rich Henderson and Dr. Douglas Buege.

The trip will last until noon.

Meet at 10:00 a.m. **Directions:** From Hwy 151 at Blue Mounds take F south (note: F makes a right turn). After 5 miles

turn right onto Reilly Road. Go to the end and park by the barn. Call Rich at (608) 845-7065 only if you have a question about the trip.

Saturday, August 11: Butterflies of the Avoca/Blue River Area

In some years this can be the best butterfly trip of the year! This trip will highlight several areas in the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway, including Avoca Prairie and Savanna State Natural Area in Iowa County, and Blue River unit in Grant County. Leader will be Mike Reese. We expect to see **late butterflies and several unusual 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 of the Southern

Wis. Butterfly Association and Madison Audubon Society.

Meet at 10:30 a.m. The trip may last until 4 p.m. Allow 50 minute travel time from Middleton.

DIRECTIONS: Take Hwy 14 west to Lone Rock, south on Hwy 130 then turn right on Hwy 133. Go west about 5.0 miles, turn right on Hay Lane, 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.

Saturday, August 25: Butterflies and Blossoms at Pheasant Branch

(Details in the August issue of the Badger ButterFlyer.)

3 HIGHLIGHTS OF RECENT FIELD TRIPS

Highlights of Pleasant Valley Field Trip



On June 16, in spite of a weather forecast of thunderstorms and a high temperature of 93°, nine of us enjoyed a rain-free walk at Pleasant Valley. We observed 130 fabulous butterflies of 29 species! This year we did not hike on the uplands but restricted our walk to the wetlands area. Even so, there were so many great

butterflies that we only got through half of the wetland in the allotted time! Below are listed the results of the hike. Interesting finds are printed in bold type.



Compton Tortoiseshell

Clouded Sulphur 8
Orange Sulphur 6
Bronze Copper 1
Banded Hairstreak 1
Gray Hairstreak 1
Eastern Tailed-Blue 3
Summer Azure 2
Great Spangled Fritillary 20
Aphrodite Fritillary 1

Meadow Fritillary 3
Silvery Checkerspot 1
Baltimore Checkerspot 50
Compton Tortoiseshell 1
American Lady 2
Red Admiral 1
Common Buckeye 2
Viceroy 1
Eyed Brown 2

Little Wood-Satyr 1
Common Wood-Nymph 2
Monarch 5
Silver-spotted Skipper 4
Least Skipper 5
European Skipper 6
Long Dash 1

Highlights of Butterflies of Cherokee Marsh Field Trip

Seventeen people attended and we found 17 species. The best finds were **3 American Snouts**, Common Buckeye, Baltimore Checkerspot and Painted lady. Several people had Hackberry Emperors landing on them! We also saw several dragonflies: Green Darner, Blue Dasher, the tiny 7/8" Eastern Amberwing, Twelve-spotted Skimmer, Widow Skimmer, etc. Here are the butterflies seen:

Black Swallowtail 1
Clouded Sulphur 13
Orange Sulphur 22
Eastern Tailed-Blue 4
Summer Azure 10
American Snout 3

Great Spangled Fritillary 12
Baltimore Checkerspot 1
Question Mark 1
Painted Lady 1
Red Admiral 2
Common Buckeye 1

Viceroy 1
Hackberry Emperor 3
Eyed Brown 1
Common Wood-Nymph 20
Monarch 4

4 RESULTS OF THE MADISON BUTTERFLY COUNT



American Lady
Photo by Glenda
Denniston.



Aphrodite Fritillary
Photo by Edgar Spalding.



Pipevine Swallowtail
Photo by Mike Reese.

The 22nd annual NABA Madison Butterfly Count was held on July 1. The temperature hit a sweltering 95°, 2° short of the record for that day. Humidity hit 90%. Our area was in a state of "moderate drought" according to the U. S. Drought Monitor of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Nevertheless, 10 counters in 5 parties put in a truly heroic effort and obtained a total of 23.6 party-hours of observation. We found 436 butterflies of 32 species. Although 436 individual butterflies are about average for the count, it is actually worse than it appears because it took so many hours to reach the 436. When we look at individuals per party-hour we find that this count found the 2nd poorest butterfly density in the history of the count! In other words, we were seeing nearly record low numbers of butterflies!! This fully accords with the drought conditions. Nevertheless, our survey turned up some very interesting butterflies. This has been a year of immigrants from the South. These are butterflies that can not survive our winter, but immigrate into Wisconsin from the South. This year we found 9 immigrant species, a record number. (They are marked in **bold type.**) Two of these immigrants are so rare that they are new to our count, Pipevine Swallowtail (4) and Sachem (2). (The cumulative species total for the 22 years is 74 species!) Here are the results for the count.

Pipevine Swallowtail 4
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail 2
Cabbage White 56
Clouded Sulphur 20
Orange Sulphur 62
Little Yellow 2
Coral Hairstreak 1
Edward's Hairstreak 11
Banded Hairstreak 5
Eastern Tailed-Blue 8
Summer Azure 15

Great Spangled Fritillary 37
Aphrodite Fritillary 1
Pearl Crescent 5
American Lady 3
Painted Lady 1
Red Admiral 8
Common Buckeye 15
Viceroy 1
Hackberry Emperor 1
Northern Pearly-Eye 1
Eyed Brown 6

Common Wood-Nymph 98
Monarch 13
Silver-spotted Skipper 27
Least Skipper 8
Fiery Skipper 4
Northern Broken-Dash 2
Sachem 2
Mulberry Wing 1
Black Dash 4
Dun Skipper 14

A BIG THANKS to the counters: Dave Fallow, Edgar Spalding, Glenda Denniston, Mike Reese, Dan Sonnenberg, Karl and Dorothy Legler, Dr. Douglas Buege, and Chuck and Pat Henrikson.

5 NABA 2012 BIENNIAL MEETING TO BE HELD IN ARIZONA ON SEPTEMBER 6 - 9, 2012!

As we reported in the April issue of the Badger ButterFlyer, The North American Butterfly Association (NABA), of which SWBA is a Chapter, holds Meetings somewhere in North America every other year. Join NABA in Arizona's fabulous "sky islands" in Sierra Vista. Beginners are welcome! The Meeting will be held at the Windemere Hotel and Conference Center in Sierra Vista, which is located about 90 miles southeast of Tucson. Southeast Arizona boasts



Theona Checkerspot

Registration cost goes up to \$275 after August 1, provided space is available.

nearly 300 species of butterfly. "Specialties" (species only found in this part of the country) likely to be encountered include Leda Ministreak, Ares Metalmark, Theona Checkerspot, Nabolov's Satyr, Dull Firetip and Acacia Skipper.

There will be all-day field trips on Friday, Saturday and Sunday to Garden Canyon, Ramsey Canyon, Box Canyon and the San Pedro River and other natural areas.

There will be workshops and programs on identification, gardening, photography, butterfly counts, etc. There is a Registration fee of \$250 per person for NABA Members (\$280 for non-members -- which includes membership in NABA.) This

pays for 3 days of field trips, 3 days of box lunches, and a banquet dinner Friday and Saturday evenings. (Registration cost goes up to \$275 after August 1, provided space is available.)

Bring your close-focusing binoculars and cameras, (no nets are permitted). You can visit www.naba.org for more information. Below are links to the brochure and to registration:

Brochure: http://www.naba.org/ftp/registration_brochure_2012_Mar_9.pdf

Registration: http://www.naba.org/meeting_reg.html

6 BUTTERFLIES REPORTED IN JUNE TO www.wisconsinbutterflies.org

BUTTERFLIES SEEN IN JUNE THAT ARE SCARCE OR USUALLY SCARCE:

Satyr Comma, Greenish Blue, Northern Blue, Gorgone Checkerspot, Harris' Checkerspot, Bog Copper, Gray Copper, Purplish Copper, Regal Fritillary, Variegated Fritillary, Acadian Hairstreak, Gray Hairstreak, Hickory Hairstreak, Striped hairstreak, Juniper Hairstreak, Harvester, Painted Lady, Byssus Skipper, Fiery Skipper, Indian Skipper, Little Glassywing, Pepper and Salt Skipper, Sachem, Two-spotted Skipper, Southern Cloudywing, Common Checkered-Skipper, American Snout, Dainty Sulphur, Little Yellow, Pipevine Swallowtail, Checkered White, Sleepy orange, and Zebra Swallowtail.

VERY RARE BUTTERFLIES SEEN IN JUNE:

Zebra Swallowtail:

As reported in the June issue of this newsletter, sightings occurred in June on the 1st and the 16th.

Sleepy orange

One was reported from Iowa County on June 29.

Checkered White

This species was seen on June 1 (Bayfield Co.), June 2 (Burnett Co.), June 22 (Chippewa Co.) and June 26 (Green Co.).

MIGRANTS FROM THE SOUTH

SPECIES	FIRST SIGHTING	
	2012	2010
Red Admiral	March 21	April 15
Painted Lady	April 4	May 1
Common Buckeye	April 12	June 19
Orange Sulphur	April 14	May 2
Giant Swallowtail	April 24	May 1
Monarch	May 2	May 4
Variegated Fritillary	May 3	May 23
Gray Hairstreak	May 9	May 2
Little Yellow	May 12	May 29
American Snout	May 13	June 22
Common Checkered-Skipper	May 16	June 24
Pipevine Swallowtail	May 21	August 30
Fiery Skipper	May 22	June 20
White M Hairstreak	May 27	-----
Dainty Sulphur	May 28	July 20
Zebra Swallowtail	May 28	-----
Checkered White	June 1	August 12
Sachem	June 17	October 9
Sleepy Orange	June 29	August 14

The table is updated with additional recent arrivals in June. Early migrants are due to 2012 having the warmest Spring on record, and a very warm summer. In this table we compare 2012 with 2010 which was also a warm spring, the 4th warmest on record. In June, immigrants continued to run more than a month ahead of 2010 !

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 FIRST STATE RECORD: BRAZILIAN SKIPPER !!!

On July 6, 2012, at Schlitz Audubon Nature Center in Milwaukee County, Judith Huf photographed a Skipper that she couldn't identify so she sent the photo to the wisconsinbutterflies.org website. It turns out to be the first **Brazilian Skipper** ever recorded for Wisconsin! This skipper is a resident of southern Florida and southern Texas. It regularly wanders as far north as central Illinois but has only infrequently strayed farther north. The caterpillar food plant is Cannas. This is the first new butterfly added to the state list in 12 years!



Photo by Judith Huf

8 DATES OF SOME NABA BUTTERFLY COUNTS

These 2 butterfly counts are conducted exactly like Christmas Bird Counts: Identify butterfly species and count individuals, staying within a 15 mile diameter circle. The data from hundreds of counts is collected and published. Some 17 NABA Butterfly Counts take place in Wisconsin each year. Below are upcoming ones that are connected with SWBA.

❖ Sister Bay (Door County) Thursday, July 12, 2012

❖ Northern Kettle Moraine (Fond du Lac County) Monday, July 16, 2012

To join in on these fun counts -- 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 and elsewhere, visit NABA's Web site at www.naba.org/counts/us_mx_map.html Contacts are Listed.)

The Badger ButterFlyer flits to you every month except winter. The next issue will be in AUGUST.

Officers of SWBA:

President: Karl Legler

karlndot@charter.net

Vice-President: Dr. Douglas Buege

djbuege@gmail.com

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.