

Badger Butterfly

The e-Newsletter of the Southern Wisconsin Butterfly Association **APRIL, 2013**

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

1 NEXT SWBA MEETING: Tuesday, April 16 (mark your calendar!)

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

Public Programs:

1) Landscaping for Butterflies and other Wildlife (Larry and Emily Scheunemann)

In this 30 minute program we will learn about the landscaping of 18 acres of Conservation Reserve Program land (CRP), restored prairie and the creation of a Monarch Waystation. (Tagged Monarchs were recovered in Mexico!) Relax and enjoy pictures of flowers and butterflies as we look forward to another season of both!



2) Dragonflies of Wisconsin: (Karl Legler)

This is a 30 minute program. The 116 Dragonflies of Wisconsin are immensely appealing with their gigantic eyes, intricately veined wings, beautifully colorful bodies, the high-speed flight of an acrobatic aerialist, an insatiable appetite for other flying insects, and a truly fascinating sex life! We will highlight some of the most interesting species in the state.



Eastern Amberwing

3) Photo Show and Tell



Share some of your favorite butterfly, caterpillar, moth, or dragonfly photos and enjoy the photos of others. You are welcome to briefly comment about the subject of 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.

Also a brief Election of Officers

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

Everyone is welcome to attend this free program.

The meeting will last from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. We will have displays, books, handouts and plenty of time afterwards to enjoy *delicious* snacks and refreshments, and talk with our speakers and other butterfly enthusiasts.

DIRECTIONS: 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.

IN THIS ISSUE:

1. **NEXT SWBA MEETING ON TUESDAY, APRIL 16.**
2. **FIRST FIELD TRIP MAY 18.**
3. **CHANGES TO FIELD TRIPS!!**
4. **WINTER MONARCH COUNT.**
5. **SWBA News: Speaker's Bureau and Web Master.**
6. **Any Butterfly Sightings in March?**
7. **Other News Notes:**
 - Citizen Monitoring Conference.
 - Photo Exhibit "Butterflies".
 - Clarification on Mimicry.

2 NEXT FIELD TRIP Mark your calendar!

Saturday, May 18: 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 SWBA FIELD TRIPS SCHEDULE FOR 2013

NOTE THE CHANGES TO THE 2013 SCHEDULE INDICATED BY THE ENTRIES IN RED ON THE WEEKEND OF JULY 20/21. DUE TO A SCHEDULE CONFLICT, TWO TRIPS HAVE BEEN INTERCHANGED. (IF YOU MARKED YOUR CALENDAR PLEASE CORRECT IT!)

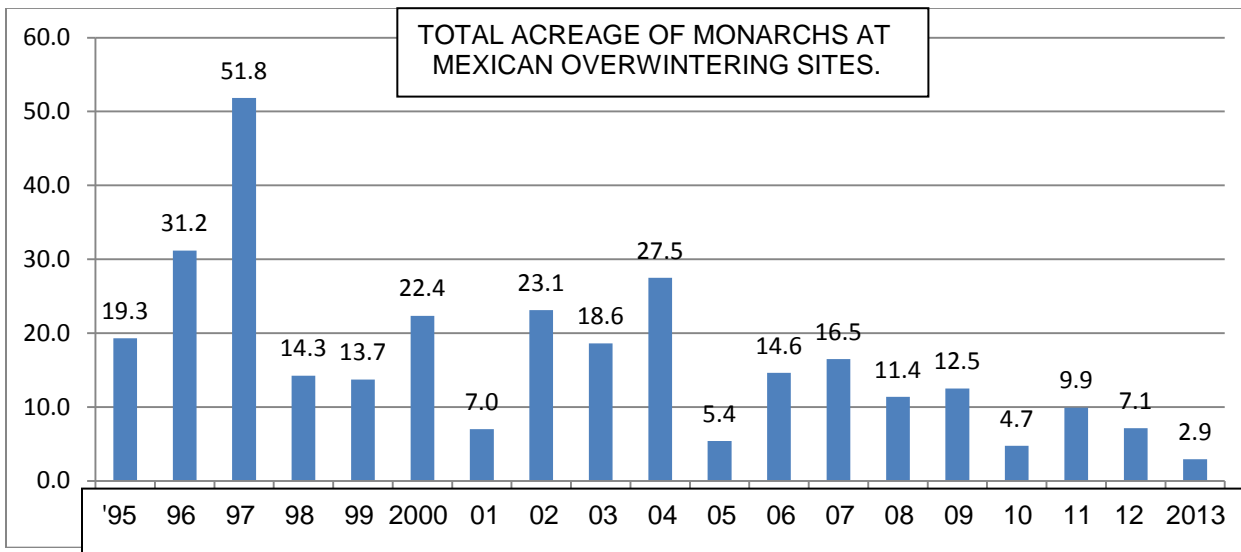


American Copper

Mark your calendars!

Saturday	May 18	Butterflies of Bauer Brockway Barrens (Jackson Co.)	Mike Reese
Saturday	June 22	Butterflies of Cherokee Marsh	Dr. Douglas Buege
Saturday	June 29	Madison Butterfly Count	Karl and Dorothy Legler
Thursday	July 4	Butterflies and Dragonflies of Swamp Lovers Preserve	Tod Highsmith Leglers
Saturday	July 6	Butterflies of Sandhill State Wildlife Area (Wood Co.)	Ron Arnold
Saturday	July 13	Butterflies and Dragonflies of Summerton Bog	Dan Sonnenberg Leglers
Sunday	July 14	Birds, Butterflies and Dragonflies of Lakeshore Nature Preserve	Edgar Spalding
Saturday	July 20	Flowers and Butterflies of Schurch-Thomson Prairie	Rich Henderson TBA
Sunday	July 21	Prairie Restoration for Karner Blue Butterflies	John Shillinglaw Mike Reese
Saturday	August 10	Butterflies of Avoca/Blue River (Lower Wis. Riverway)	Mike Reese
Saturday	August 24	Butterflies and Blossoms at Pheasant Branch Conservancy	Dreux Watermolen

4 WINTER MONARCH POPULATION AT LOWEST LEVEL EVER



It is impossible to actually count the millions of Monarchs at the Mexican overwintering site. Instead population is based on the *total area* of forest occupied by the Monarchs. The Monarch population, at its wintering site in Mexico, was at the lowest level recorded since the discovery of their Mexican wintering location back in 1975. We had hoped that the good numbers of migrants along the east coast could make up for the very poor population last year in the Midwest. Instead, this winter's population was 59% below the population of the previous year. (The downward trend visible in the graph is *statistically significant* so the prolonged decline can't be explained as due to a random fluctuation.) The Monarch Watch blog at the link below indicates 6 contributing factors to the current decline:

1) A large loss of the caterpillar food plant (milkweeds) because genetically modified corn and soybean crops that are herbicide-tolerant allow more extensive use of



herbicides in fields, killing milkweed.
 2) Expansion of corn and soybeans for biofuels.
 3) Development.
 4) Intensive farming and use of herbicides and excessive mowing along roadsides.

5) Deforestation of the oyamel fir forests in Mexico that the Monarchs depend on (but this has recently seemed to be under better control.)

6) Drought

I want to quote from the conclusion:

"The good news is that we can do something about the habitats in the United States and Canada -- we can plant milkweed. That said, in order to compensate for the continued loss of habitat we need to plant LOTS AND LOTS of milkweed. **To assure a future for monarchs, conservation and restoration of milkweeds needs to become a national priority.**" [Emphasis in original.]



Common Milkweed

Read the short article by clicking on this link:

<http://monarchwatch.org/blog/2013/03/monarch-population-status-18/>

Also NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/03/14/science/earth/monarch-migration-plunges-to-lowest-level-in-decades.html?ref=us>

WHAT ARE SOME MILKWEEDS TO PLANT? The most readily available milkweed plants are **Swamp Milkweed** (*Asclepias incarnata*) sometimes called Red or Rose Milkweed, and **Butterflyweed** (*Asclepias tuberosa*). **Common Milkweed** (*Asclepias syriaca*) is the best caterpillar food plant, but is aggressive in small gardens. It's OK for large properties. A substitute would be **Sullivant's Milkweed** (*Asclepias sullivanti*). Plants are available at Prairie Nursery in Westfield.

5 SWBA NEWS:

SWBA SPEAKERS BUREAU

For the past several years **Dorothy Legler** has given educational PowerPoint programs on Butterfly Gardening to Garden Groups, Master Gardeners, Conventions, Home Shows, Garden Expo, etc. The fee for these programs goes directly to SWBA. This has helped defray the expenses of SWBA Meetings and speakers. If you belong to a gardening or nature organization, or know someone that does, you/they can contact Dorothy at karlndot@chorus.net to arrange for a Butterfly Gardening program.

NEW SWBA WEBMASTER

For the past 7 years, **Ann Thering** has ably handled the content on our website. She has provided a good foundation for us to build on in the future. SWBA expresses our sincere thanks and appreciation to Ann for taking on the work of web master for all those years. Well done!

Replacing Ann as SWBA Webmaster is **Dan Sonnenberg** (whose butterfly-spotting exploits have been detailed on wisconsinbutterflies.org in the past few years!) SWBA's website will continue to be in able and knowledgeable hands!

6 BUTTERFLY SIGHTINGS, MARCH 2013: NINE YEARS COMPARED

Here are the data on **March** butterfly sightings reported over the past 9 years on www.wisconsinbutterflies.org

YEAR	REPORTS	BUTTER-FLIES	SPECIES	Number of Species	DATES	Number of Days
2005	1	1	Eastern Comma	1	28	1
2006	4	4	Eastern Comma Milbert's Tortoiseshell Compton Tortoiseshell	3	11, 17, 28	3
2007	7	11	Eastern Comma Milbert's Tortoiseshell Compton Tortoiseshell Mourning Cloak	4	22, 25	2
2008	3	3	Mourning Cloak	1	26, 28, 29	3
2009	10	17	Eastern Comma Compton Tortoiseshell Mourning Cloak	3	16, 17, 21, 22	4
2010	28	50	Eastern Comma Milbert's Tortoiseshell Compton Tortoiseshell Mourning Cloak Cabbage White Gray Comma	6	6, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 21, 23, 28, 30, 31	11
2011	4	4	Eastern Comma Milbert's Tortoiseshell	2	19	1
2012	114	497	Eastern Comma Gray Comma Milbert's Tortoiseshell Compton Tortoiseshell Mourning Cloak Cabbage White Spring Azure Red Admiral Mustard White Question Mark Clouded Sulphur Eastern Pine Elfin Brown Elfin Olympia Marble American Lady Eastern Tiger Swallowtail	16	11,13,14,15, 16,17,18,20, 21,22,23,25, 27, 28,29	15
2013	0	0	-----	0	-----	0



Compton Tortoiseshell

The best March butterfly observations of the last 9 years occurred in 2007 (11), 2009 (17), 2010 (50) and 2012 (429). This March had 0 reports!! That's the poorest showing in the 9 years of the wisconsinbutterflies.org website. This was due to the fact that **March had an above normal temperature on only a single day! And the temperature only got to 1° over normal!** So it never really warmed up enough to persuade any hibernating butterflies to come out where we could see them. So March of 2012 and 2013 were in severe contrast! (Of course the high temperatures of March, 2012 were *far more extreme* than the below normal temperatures of March, 2013.)

We trust April will provide better weather for butterflies! Be sure and send in your sightings to Mike Reese's website www.wisconsinbutterflies.org

7 OTHER NEWS NOTES

Wisconsin Citizen-based Monitoring Network Conference April 5-6, 2013

Back by popular demand, the **6th Wisconsin Citizen-based Monitoring Conference** will be held **April 5-6, 2013** at Hotel Mead in Wisconsin Rapids. The conference theme is "Making Connections" and is a joint meeting of the Wisconsin Citizen-based Monitoring Network, Water Action Volunteers, and Master Naturalists. The 2-day conference costs \$70 which includes all sessions and meals. Check this website for more information: <http://wiatri.net/cbm/Conference/> **REGISTER BY MIDNIGHT ON Monday, April 1.**

PHOTO EXHIBIT: "Butterflies"

This is an exhibit by photographer **Ann Thering** at Oakwood Village West, 6205 Mineral Point Road, Madison, Wisconsin, **during April until April 28, 2013.** "See how the right color and angle of light can transform found insects into art."

CLARIFICATION ON MIMICRY

In the previous issue of Badger ButterFlyer under the article on Mimicry, the wording at the beginning of the article

"By closely resembling the pattern of the more common Monarch, the Viceroy also receives protection from birds. Mimicry of poisonous butterflies by palatable butterflies is called Batesian mimicry."

seemed to suggest that the Viceroy was not poisonous and so a Batesian mimic of the Monarch. That implication was unintentional and the editor is aware that the Viceroy is indeed poisonous and is a Mullerian mimic of the Monarch. I apologize for the lapse in clarity.

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

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: Dan Sonnenberg
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.