

# Badger Butterfly

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

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

## 1 NEXT FIELD TRIPS Mark your calendar!

### Saturday, July 13: Butterflies and Dragonflies of Summerton Bog

Summerton Bog is an amazing, 480 acre mix of tamarack bog, wet and dry meadows, hardwood forest, marsh and springs. On top of that, when a natural gas pipeline was put through the west end, it was replanted with prairie flowers and grasses. 60 species of butterflies have been sighted there in the last two years. The area we will cover is predominantly dry. Leaders will be **Dan Sonnenberg and Karl and Dorothy Legler**. This is a joint trip of SWBA with the Madison Audubon Society. Bring binoculars, the closer they focus the better. (We will have a few extra pairs of binoculars.) A hat, long sleeves and long pants are recommended. Bring a bag lunch and water. After lunch we may venture to another place nearby, if time allows.

Meet at the bog at 10:00 a.m.

**DIRECTIONS FROM MADISON:** Take I-90/94 to the I-39 North exit. 13 miles north of Portage take exit# 104 and turn left (west) on County Road D. Travel approx. 1.3 mile and turn left on Freedom Rd. Travel roughly 1.6 miles, passing the first parking lot with a "Summerton Bog" sign. Park at the second parking lot which is also on the left, is larger, and has a brown sign.

Call Karl Legler at (608) 643-4926 only if you have a question about the trip

### Sunday, July 14: 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.

### Saturday, July 20: Flowers and Butterflies 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 butterfly viewing (the closer they can focus the

#### IN THIS ISSUE:

##### 1. **NEXT FIELD TRIPS:**

- Butterflies & Dragonflies of Summerton Bog, July 13.
- Pretty Things with Wings, July 14
- Flowers and Butterflies of Schurch-Thomson Prairie, July 20
- Prairie Restoration for Karner Blues, July 21

##### 2. **OTHER UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS (with corrected dates).**

##### 3. **HIGHLIGHTS OF RECENT TRIPS**

- Cherokee Marsh.
- Madison Butterfly Count.
- Butterflies and Dragonflies of Swamp Lover's Preserve.
- Butterflies of Sandhill Wildlife Area

##### 4. **Revised NABA Count dates.**

##### 5. **Butterfly Reports of June, 2013**

better). Sponsors of this trip are The Prairie Enthusiasts, Madison Audubon Society and the Southern Wis. Butterfly Association. Leader is **Rich Henderson**. SWBA members will provide additional butterfly expertise.

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.



## Sunday, July 21: Prairie Restoration for Karner Blues

The **Karner Blue** butterfly is listed as Federally Endangered. Wisconsin has the largest population of Karners in the country. Leader **John Shillinglaw** is an amateur restoration biologist who has purchased 200 acres on the Mecan River, in Waushara Co., starting in 1985. He introduced wild lupine and now has a nice population of Karner Blues. (John presented at the November Audubon meeting.) We will learn about the history of this Karner Blue prairie restoration project. The property has a variety of habitats including extensive prairie, ephemeral wetlands, marshes, a bog, oak savannah and woodland. We will observe flowers, butterflies, grassland birds and dragonflies. Butterfly expert, **Mike Reese**, will be co-leader. This is a joint trip of SWBA and the Madison Audubon Society.



Bring a sack lunch and binoculars (close-focusing ones work best for butterflies and dragonflies). Long pants, hat, water and sturdy hiking shoes are recommended. After lunch, those that want to continue exploring the property can do so. Meet at the property at 9:00 a.m.

### DIRECTIONS:

Take I-39 north to Waushara County and exit at Coloma, taking Hwy 21 east for 5 miles then turn right (south) on Hwy B. Go about ½ mile through the town of Richford and turn left (east) on Cty Hwy JJ for about 5 miles. There is a cemetery on the right. Make a sharp right turn onto Czech Road and go west about ½ mile through a wooded area to the gate on the left at the edge of the prairie. Call John at (608) 298-7756 or cell# (920) 213-8037 only if you have a question about the trip, or about weather and cancellation.

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## 2 UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS (CORRECTED DATES!)

Details in next issue of the Badger ButterFlyer, or see the SWBA web site:

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

Saturday, **August 10:** Butterflies of the Avoca/Blue River Area (Mike Reese).

Saturday, **August 24:** Butterflies and Blossoms at Pheasant Branch (Dreux Watermolen)

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## 3 HIGHLIGHTS OF RECENT FIELD TRIPS

### CHEROKEE MARSH

Canceled because of rain.

### RESULTS OF MADISON BUTTERFLY COUNT

Because of overcast skies and rainy weather, the count was postponed from Saturday to Sunday (June 30). Eight people participated at the UW Arboretum where in 2 hours we found only 7 species. It wasn't for lack of good weather, we had sunny skies. A total of 11 observers participated within the 15 mile diameter circle, observing for 22.1 hours and finding a grand total of 276 individuals of 26 species. However 150 of these were Cabbage Whites, an introduced pest species! This was the lowest number of species in the 23 years of this count!

## HIGHLIGHTS OF BUTTERFLIES AND DRAGONFLIES OF SWAMP LOVERS

We had perfect weather, sunny and warm. 30 or more people participated. Highlight was seeing the Baltimore Checkerspot and the Aphrodite Fritillary. We enjoyed the high-speed chasing of the Widow Skimmers around the pond, protecting their territories. We finished on the top of the hill, at the picnic shelter, for lunch.



Photo by Sylvia Edlebeck

We found several interesting butterflies:

Eastern Tailed-Blue  
**Baltimore Checkerspot**  
**Aphrodite Fritillary**  
Great Spangled Fritillary  
**Meadow Fritillary**

Banded Hairstreak  
**Coral Hairstreak**  
Red Admiral  
Monarch  
Common Wood-Nymph

Least Skipper  
**Peck's Skipper**  
**Black Swallowtail**  
Mourning Cloak  
Cabbage White

and several dragonflies:

**Common Green Darner**  
Halloween Pennant  
Eastern Pondhawk  
Blue Dasher

**Common Whitetail**  
**Twelve-spotted Skimmer**  
**Widow Skimmer**  
Common Baskettail

Black Saddlebags  
**Eastern Amberwing**  
**Red Saddlebags**



**Aphrodite Fritillary**

Photo by Larry Scheunemann



**Widow Skimmer (male)**

Photo by Larry Scheunemann



**Baltimore Checkerspot**

Photo by Sylvia Edlebeck

## HIGHLIGHTS OF BUTTERFLIES OF SANDHILL WILDLIFE AREA

Again we had perfect butterfly weather, sunny and warm. 11 people, including 2 from Indiana, joined the trip. Sandhill Wildlife Area's extensive water, sedges and common and swamp milkweed provided an abundance of butterflies. **We exceeded our expectations by finding 30 species!** The beautiful and uncommon Acadian Hairstreak was plentiful! Although flight periods were running late this year, that worked out perfectly since it delayed the rare Two-spotted Skipper flight so that its peak fell during the trip. We had repeated sightings of many

Two-spotted Skippers! The photo of a mating pair was taken by leader Ron Arnold. Notice the diagnostic prominent white edge at bottom of hindwing. (The pair sat on the arm of your editor.)

We had delightful encounters with a favorite dragonfly, the Racket-tailed Emerald, that is the friendliest of dragonflies: it flew around us taking the tiny insects about us, and even landed on one of the participants!

Below are listed all the butterfly species we found:



**Acadian Hairstreak**  
Photo by Ron Arnold



**Mating Two-spotted Skippers**  
Photo by Ron Arnold



**American Copper**  
Photo by Larry Scheunemann

Clouded Sulphur 2  
 American Copper 2  
 Bronze Copper 2  
 Coral Hairstreak 5  
**Acadian Hairstreak 18**  
 Edwards' Hairstreak 2  
 Banded Hairstreak 3  
**Striped Hairstreak 1**  
 Eastern Tailed-Blue 6  
 Great Spangled Fritillary 10  
**Aphrodite Fritillary 8**

**Silver-bordered Fritillary 3**  
**Silvery Checkerspot 2**  
 Northern Crescent 16  
**Baltimore Checkerspot 3**  
 Mourning Cloak 7  
 Red Admiral 1  
**Common Buckeye 3**  
**White Admiral\* 6**  
 Red-spotted Purple\* 4  
 Viceroy 1  
 Northern Pearly-eye 2

**Eyed Brown 6**  
 Little Wood-Satyr 3  
 Common Wood-Nymph 2  
 Monarch 5  
 Least Skipper 3  
 European Skipper 4  
 Long Dash 5  
**Two-spotted Skipper 17**  
 Dun Skipper 1

After the trip was over, a few observers continued to look for, and found, **2 Bog Coppers**.

## 4 DATES FOR 2013 NABA 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 from 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.

- ❖ Trempealeau (Trempealeau County) **Postponed to Thursday, July 11 (because of weather)**
- ❖ Dubuque (Iowa) Sunday, July 14
- ❖ Northern Kettle Moraine (Fond du Lac Co.) Monday, July 15
- ❖ Sister Bay (Door Co.), Wednesday, July 17

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](mailto: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](http://www.naba.org/counts/us_mx_map.html) Contacts are Listed.)

## 5 BUTTERFLIES REPORTED IN JUNE AT [www.wisconsinbutterflies.org](http://www.wisconsinbutterflies.org)

Mike Reese has a page on his website entitled Late Sightings in 2013, which lists the 25 species of butterflies that have been first reported in 2013 at the latest date of the 9 years of data (2005-2013). To see the list click on:

[http://wisconsinbutterflies.org/butterfly/sightings/late\\_2013](http://wisconsinbutterflies.org/butterfly/sightings/late_2013)

Using a different measure, the most extreme cases of late date past the median first sighting date from 2005-2013:

**Clouded Sulphur 13 days after the median first sighting.**

**Henry's Elfin 17 days after**

**Indian Skipper 21 days after**

**Compton Tortoiseshell 27 days after**

**Eastern Comma 34 days after the median first sighting.**

This attests to the fact that flight periods have run slow in spring and early summer.

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

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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. 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](mailto:karlndot@charter.net)

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