

# Badger ButterFlyer

The e-Newsletter of the Southern Wisconsin Butterfly Association

JUNE, 2014

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

## 1 NEXT FIELD TRIPS

### Saturday, June 21: Butterflies & Wildflowers at Pleasant Valley Conservancy

Pleasant Valley Conservancy is a beautiful state natural area situated in the Driftless Area, with steep goat prairies, oak savanna, and a large high quality marsh. This time of year we hope to see **Baltimore Checkerspots** and perhaps some wetland skippers. Other possible butterfly species include swallowtails, **Silvery Checkerspot**, fritillaries, and blues. All of these butterflies will have many wonderful native plants to nectar on this time of year. We will be hiking about two miles. Long pants, a hat, water,



Baltimore Checkerspot

and sturdy hiking shoes are recommended. Leaders are **Ann Thering and Tom and Kathie Brock**. This is a joint trip of the Southern Wis. Butterfly Assoc., the Madison Audubon Society and The Prairie Enthusiasts. Optional: bring along a bag lunch for after the field trip; beverages and dessert will be provided. Bring

binoculars--the closer they focus, the better. We have a few extra binoculars.

Contact the trip leaders only if you have a question about the trip. Tom: (608) 238-5050, [tdbrock@charter.net](mailto:tdbrock@charter.net), or Ann: (608) 836-1097 [acthering@gmail.com](mailto:acthering@gmail.com).

**Meet at 11:00 a.m.** (Trip will last until 12:30 or so.) **Directions:** Heading south into downtown Black Earth follow County Hwy F as it turns right (west). After a mile or so, F turns left (south). Continue on F for another 3 3/4 miles turning left onto Pleasant Valley Road. Drive 3/4 mile (past the buildings on the right) to the state natural area sign. Park off the road. We'll meet near the sign/gate area and then proceed into the wetland.

### Saturday, June 28: Butterflies of Cherokee Marsh

On this morning walk we'll observe and learn about butterflies, those small but exquisitely beautiful creatures that dance about our ankles in summer. Karl and Dorothy Legler will lead this 2 hour walk at Cherokee Marsh on the northeast side of Madison. We will observe a variety of butterflies as they take nectar from wildflowers, and learn about their identification, behavior, and lifestyle. Bring binoculars if you have them — close-focusing ones work best. We have a few extra pairs of binoculars.

Wear long pants and a hat for protection from the sun. Wear sturdy walking shoes and bring water. This is a joint trip of SWBA with Madison Audubon Society, and Friends of Cherokee Marsh.

**Meet at 10:00 a.m.** The trip will last until noon.

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Pearl Crescent

**DIRECTIONS:** On the north side of Madison take Northport Drive (Highway 113) then turn north on Sherman Ave. Meet at the Cherokee Marsh parking lot at the north end of Sherman Ave. Call Karl at (608) 643-4926 or email karlndot@charter.net, only if you have a question about the trip.

## Friday, July 4: Butterflies and Dragonflies of Swamp Lovers Preserve



Meadow Fritillary

Celebrate July 4th at this beautiful private preserve that consists of remnant and restored wetlands, remnant bluff prairie, restored tall grass prairie, and dry hilly oak-hickory woodland. In past years, we have observed an impressive variety of dragonflies and butterflies as we explored the different habitats. Bring binoculars (close-focusing ones work best) along with your own lunch and beverages to enjoy when we finish the trip at the bluff-top picnic shelter. Leaders are Tod Highsmith, Karl and Dorothy Legler. This is a joint trip of SWBA with the Madison Audubon Society and is co-sponsored by The Prairie Enthusiasts.

**Meet at 9:30 a.m.** This trip will last until 1:00 p.m. **DIRECTIONS:** Travel west from Cross Plains on Hwy 14. Just outside town take County KP to the right (north), go about 1.3 mile and turn left at the Swamp Lovers sign. Call Karl Legler at (608) 643-4926 or cell (608) 228-0743 only if you have a question about the trip or if the weather is questionable.



Eastern Amberwing

## Saturday, July 5: Madison Butterfly Count

This is our **24th annual** butterfly count! Co-sponsors are SWBA, UW Arboretum and Madison Audubon Society. Each year butterfly enthusiasts all over North America participate in more than 450 censuses of butterfly species. Each count is similar to a Christmas Bird Count. These censuses help to monitor the health of our butterfly populations and the results are published in an annual report for North America. If you can identify butterflies, or can help spot butterflies, or just want to see and learn about butterflies, join us on this 3 hour count/field trip. Bring binoculars, the closer they focus the better. (We have a few extra binoculars.) Dress for protection from the heat



Edward's Hairstreak

and sun, a hat is recommended. The North American Butterfly Association (NABA) requires a **\$3.00 fee** from each participant to help cover publishing costs.

**Meet at 9 a.m. at the parking lot for the Grady Tract in the UW Arboretum.** We will count until about noon.

**DIRECTIONS:** Heading west on the Beltline (Hwy 12), take the Seminole Hwy exit and then turn left (south) on Seminole Hwy driving across the bridge over the Beltline, turning immediately into the parking lot for the Grady Tract. If you have a question about the butterfly count, contact leaders Karl and Dorothy Legler at (608) 643-4926 or karlndot@charter.net

## Sunday, July 6: Butterflies & Dragonflies of Riveredge, Watts Lake and Forest Beach Migratory Preserve

Join us for this exciting field trip adventure! Leaders are **butterfly expert Mike Reese and naturalist Kate Redmond**. First we will observe dragonflies and butterflies at **Watts Lake** (part of the Cedarburg Bog State Natural Area). Then we will go to nearby **Riveredge Nature Center** for lunch and a walk along their extensive nature trails to look for butterflies, and particularly the exquisitely beautiful and Endangered **Swamp Metalmark**. The third stop will be the **Forest Beach Migratory Preserve**, (home of the Western Great Lakes Bird and Bat Observatory) along Lake Michigan near Port Washington.



Swamp Metalmark

Bring binoculars (close-focusing ones work best--we will have a few extra binoculars). Long pants, a hat and sturdy walking shoes are recommended. Bring water and a bag lunch. Riveredge has a **\$5 per person fee** for hikes on their property, *which will be used for Swamp Metalmark conservation!* This is a joint trip of SWBA and the Madison Audubon Society.

**Participants must PRE-REGISTER** for this trip by including your phone number in an email to [mikereese@wisconsinbutterflies.org](mailto:mikereese@wisconsinbutterflies.org) (so we can contact you in case of cancellation due to weather).

**Limited to 15 participants.**

**Meet at 10:15 a.m. at the parking lot for Riveredge Nature Center. (We may car pool from here.)**

**DIRECTIONS:**

From Madison, take Hwy 151 north, then at Beaver Dam turn right (east) onto Hwy 33. Follow to West Bend. (Take a bathroom break here since we will not have access to restroom facilities until noon.) Continue east on Hwy 33 to Newburg and turn left (north) on County Y (also called Hawthorne Drive). Stay on Y as it turns northeast, continuing for about 1 mile. Riveredge is on the right. Park in front of the Nature Center.

**Saturday, July 12: Butterflies of Page Creek Marsh and John Muir Park**

We will visit two areas looking for interesting butterflies. Located in the central sands of Wisconsin, **Page Creek Marsh** is a large 643 acre wetland preserve that supports a rich diversity of plants. It has sedge meadows and sandy oak savanna, fens, wet-mesic prairie, bog and seepage lakes. The second area we will visit is the nearby **John Muir Memorial County Park**, which contains a variety of upland and wetland communities surrounding Ennis Lake. We will also eat lunch here. (Muir lived here in his youth, and became the founder of the Sierra Club and the father of the National Park system.) Leaders will be **Dan Sonnenberg and Dr.**

**Douglas Buege.** 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.) Long pants, a hat, and sturdy walking shoes are recommended. Bring a bag lunch and water.

**Meet at the Page Creek Marsh Parking Lot at 9:30 a.m.** The trip will last until lunchtime.

**DIRECTIONS FROM MADISON:** take Interstate Highway I-39 north, past Portage, into Marquette County. Take Exit# 104 and follow County D east for 3.45 miles (going through Packwaukee, where D turns right and goes across the lake). Turn left (north) onto County K and go 0.86 mile to a gated entrance on the right (east) side of K. Park here. Call Dan at (608) 225-0451 only if you have a question about the trip.



American Lady

**Sunday, July 13: 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. This trip is sponsored by SWBA, Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve, and the Madison Audubon Society.

(Check the July Badger ButterFlyer for more information.)

**Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Picnic Point Parking Lot**, along University Bay Drive, on the UW campus.

## Saturday, July 19: Flowers, Butterflies, and Birds at Shea Prairie

We will visit Shea Prairie, located in Iowa County. It is a unit of The Prairie Enthusiasts' 570-acre Mounds View Grassland Preserve.

The Shea unit covers 102 acres consisting of dry and dry-mesic remnant prairie, new prairie plantings, a cold-water trout stream, ground-water feed wetland restorations, fen seeps, and ephemeral ponds. 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, beautiful, and endangered **Regal Fritillary** and other butterflies, as well as a diversity of dragonflies. Bring binoculars for butterfly viewing (the



Regal Fritillary.  
Photo by Mike Reese.

closer they can focus the better--we will have a few extra binoculars). This trip is co-sponsored by SWBA, The Prairie Enthusiasts, and the

Madison Audubon Society. The leaders are **Rich Henderson** (608) 845-7065 and **Dr. Douglas Buege**.

**Meet at 10:00 AM at the parking area.** The trip will last until Noon.

**Directions:** From US Highway 18/151, a mile and a half west of Blue Mounds, turn south on Mounds View Road. Proceed on Mounds View for 2.5 miles to where it joins briefly with Prairie Grove Rd. Stay with Mounds View and go another

0.8 miles. Look for the preserve kiosk and parking on the left (east) side of the road. There are both gravel and grass parking areas off road.

## 2 HIGHLIGHTS OF BAUER BROCKWAY BARRENS

We had a good turn-out for this first trip of the year, with twelve people attending. This was the 8th annual Bauer Brockway Barrens field trip. Because of a bitterly cold winter and a cold spring which delayed vegetation, butterfly phenology was running behind. Fewer species were flying and species that were flying were in lower numbers. We found 76 butterflies of 9 species. The results are listed below:

Spring Azure 6  
**Brown Elfin** 2  
**Eastern Pine Elfin** 11

**Hoary Elfin** 6  
American Lady 5  
Juvenal's Duskywing 3

**Sleepy Duskywing** 5  
Mourning Cloak 1  
**Olympia Marble** 37

Species of special interest are in bold type. This was the lowest number of species and individuals in the 8 years we have held this trip! Nevertheless, we had many great views of the beautiful **Olympia Marbles** which made up 1/2 of the butterflies found! And Eastern Pine Elfins are always neat. This is only the 2nd time in 8 years that we did not find the rare and threatened Frosted Elfin. Instead, we settled for observing a **porcupine** in a tree! Tim Fenske and Fern Springs provided photos of the Porcupine. Thanks!



Olympia Marble



Porcupine up a tree!  
Photo by Tim Fenske.

## 3 BUTTERFLY SIGHTINGS OF MAY REPORTED TO [wisconsinbutterflies.org](http://wisconsinbutterflies.org)

Butterfly flight periods lagged behind in May due to severely bitter winter and the cold spring. The Elfins fly primarily in May. The Frosted Elfin was the last to fly, first reported on May 21. Things started to pick up in mid-month when a Monarch was first reported on May 17. Dates of first report were:

Brown Elfin	May 3
Eastern Pine Elfin	May 6
Hoary Elfin	May 10
Henry's Elfin	May 10
Harvester	May 11
Monarch	May 17
Green Comma	May 17
Freija Fritillary	May 17
Sleepy Duskywing	May 17
Mustard White	May 18
Silvery Blue	May 18
Pearl Crescent	May 20
American Copper	May 20

Persius Duskywing	May 21
Silver-spotted Skipper	May 21
Frosted Elfin	May 21
Cobweb Skipper	May 22
Frigga Fritillary	May 23
West Virginia White	May 23
Pink-edged Sulphur	May 24
Gorgone Checkerspot	May 24
Chryxus Arctic	May 24
Western Tailed-Blue	May 24
Giant Swallowtail	May 25
Dusted Skipper	May 25

Immigrants during May were Red Admiral, Painted Lady and Giant Swallowtail. [Keep sending reports to wisconsinbutterflies.org](http://www.wisconsinbutterflies.org)

## 4 WILL RARE BUTTERFLIES COME INTO WISCONSIN THIS YEAR? YES, IF BIRDS AND DRAGONFLIES ARE ANY INDICATION!

2014 started out inauspiciously for butterflies. We had a severely cold winter, and a cool beginning to spring. Serious drought loomed in western Wisconsin and states just to our west. It didn't look good for butterflies in 2014!

However, spring rains have eliminated any drought conditions in Wisconsin (<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>).

Birders realize 2014 has been an extraordinary year so far. An amazing assortment of very rare species have turned up around the state. Garganey, Northern Caracara, Black Vulture, Say's Phoebe, Lazuli Bunting, and many others have been found. Most have reached Wisconsin on southwesterly winds.

The **Comet Darner** is an iconic and very rare dragonfly in Wisconsin. It is slightly larger than its relative, the Common Green Darner. The Comet Darner has a green face and thorax and a *long slender bright red abdomen*. It is a very rare stray from the South, that was first seen in Wisconsin 35-40 years ago, and not again until another one was found in 2012.



Flying Comet Darner. Blurry photo is adequate for ID because there is only one dragonfly in North America with long, slender bright red abdomen and green face!

Then on May 31 of this year, Edgar Spalding, found an amazing 3rd state record Comet Darner in Middleton! A few days later Dorothy and I got very crude photos of it, adequate to document it.

Then I noted the unusually large number of Red Saddlebags there and wondered if any of the similarly colored but rare **Carolina**

**Saddlebags** had wafted here on the same winds that brought rare birds and a Comet Darner to the state. We stopped over to the same site again on June 8 and photographed one perched red-looking Saddlebags. The photo showed it was indeed a Carolina Saddlebags! (Only 8 records have been recognized for Wisconsin.) When Edgar learned of

this he checked over his photos of "Red Saddlebags" from the same pond, and realized they were actually 2-3 Carolina Saddlebags!

On June 9th I went to Graber Pond, in Middleton, and photographed two perching reddish Saddlebags. The photos showed they were both Carolina Saddlebags! *I believe we have had an amazing major influx of*



Carolina Saddlebags dragonfly. Usually quite rare in Wisconsin, several were easily found this year!

*Carolina Saddlebags into southern Wisconsin!*  
So what about butterflies? We have seen some migrants from the South (besides Monarch): Red Admiral, Painted Lady, and Giant Swallowtail. But even if no rare butterflies have made it to Wisconsin yet, those southerly winds may have at least brought

them further north so that a later brood will have a better chance of reaching Wisconsin. So I'm optimistic that some rare immigrant butterflies will show up in Wisconsin in 2014, in spite of a slow start to the year. So keep searching, observing, photographing, reporting and enjoying Wisconsin butterflies!

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## 5 DATES FOR SOME 2014 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 from hundreds of counts is collected and published each year. Some 17 NABA Butterfly Counts take place in Wisconsin. Below are ones that are connected with SWBA.

- ❖ **Mud Lake (Columbia County) Tuesday, July 1, 2014**
- ❖ **Madison (Dane County) Saturday, July 5, 2014**
- ❖ **Trempealeau (Trempealeau County) Wednesday, July 9, 2014**
- ❖ **Dubuque, IA (Wisconsin portion) Sunday, July 13, 2014**
- ❖ **Northern Kettle Moraine (Fond du Lac County) Tuesday, July 15, 2014**
- ❖ **Sister Bay (Door County) Thursday, July 17, 2014**

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.)

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

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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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