

Badger ButterFlyer

The e-Newsletter of the Southern Wisconsin Butterfly Association **October, 2014**

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

1 NEXT MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15

The next SWBA meeting will be held on

Wednesday, October 15, 2014 at 7:00 p.m., in the meeting room of the **Fitchburg Public Library, 5530 Lacy Road, Fitchburg, WI. (mark your calendar!)**

West



East

IN THIS ISSUE:

1. **NEXT MEETING:**
Wednesday, Oct 15.
2. **Monarch Migration 2014.**
3. **Wis. Wetlands Assn. Awards.**
4. **Texas Butterfly Festival.**
5. **Butterfly Gifts for the Holidays!**
6. **Butterflies Reported in Sept.**

Public Programs:

2014: The Year in Butterflies (Mike Reese)

Every butterfly year is different and has its own uniqueness and idiosyncrasies. As the 2014 butterfly season winds down, it will be good to sit back and take stock of how butterflies fared this year. In this 45 minute informative program, educator and butterfly expert, Mike Reese, will show some of the **dazzling photos** he has taken this year or that have been submitted to his award-winning website, wisconsinbutterflies.org, and tell about the most fascinating and significant butterfly encounters around the state for 2014. He will explain which butterflies were up and which were down.

In Praise of the Tiger Swallowtail (Professor Dave Hogg)

The centerpiece of this 30 minute presentation is an unsigned, hand painted, Civil War era illustration of this butterfly, and specifically the detective work Dave undertook to conclude that the artist was probably W.J. Holland (1848-1932), a recognized lepidopterist and author of several popular books: *The Butterfly Book* (1898) and *The Moth Book* (1903). Other aspects of Tiger Swallowtails will be discussed, including the presumed mimicry exhibited by the dark form of the female. Professor Hogg is Chair of the UW-Madison Entomology Department.



Eastern Tiger Swallowtail

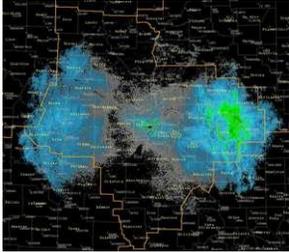
Everyone is welcome to attend this free program.

The meeting will last from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. We will have displays, books, handouts and plenty of time afterward to enjoy *delicious* snacks and refreshments, and talk with our speakers and other butterfly enthusiasts.

DIRECTIONS TO MEETING:

From the Beltline, take Fish Hatchery Road (= County D) south for about 2.4 miles and turn left (east) at Lacy Rd. After 1 block the library is on the left, at the intersection of Lacey Rd. and Research Park Rd. Continue on Lacy and take the entrance road around the far (east) end of the library to access parking near the entrance, (behind the library). **OR** if you prefer to park underground, turn left (north) onto Research Park Rd and then turn right into the ramp leading to the underground parking lot.

2 THE 2014 MONARCH MIGRATION: Better than last year!



Weather Radar Image.

National Weather Service Radar, St. Louis: "Keen observers of our radar data probably noticed some fairly high returns moving south over southern Illinois and central Missouri. . . **We think these targets are Monarch butterflies.** A Monarch in flight would look oblate to the radar, and flapping wings would account for the changing shape! NWS St. Louis wishes good luck and a safe journey to these amazing little creatures on their long journey south!"

"We want to emphasize that there were not massive swarms of butterflies flying through our area. Our radar is very sensitive and just a few hundred can give us the radar returns we were seeing last Friday. But it is an encouraging sight about the

Monarch butterfly."

Here are Monarch numbers (in parenthesis) and comments from the highest reports submitted to Wisconsinbutterflies.org:

August 27 Jackson Co. "The most monarchs I've ever seen." (35)

August 27 Rock Co. "The Blazing Star was a hit for the Monarchs." (36)

Sept 2 Dunn Co. "Most of the Monarchs were in a nearby clover field. In just a quick binocular scan of the field, I counted over 45. All fresh and beautiful!" (65)

Sept 2 Burnett Co. "Monarchs everywhere nectaring on Goldenrod. My count for them is very conservative." (64)

Sept 13 Rock Co. "All Monarchs seen were high flying migrants observed while watching birds. Counted carefully, but definitely an undercount." (47)

Sept 14 Waukesha Co. "100's of Monarchs on the grassland trail." (100s)

Sept 16 Ozaukee Co. "Over the years this private residence has been known to be a overnight roosting area for Fall migrating Monarchs. However no large layovers have occurred since 2009. One 15 minute observation window of the tree line revealed 65 Monarchs, Later a 45 minute watch 137 monarchs counted up in the sky along the tree line. We recorded a total of 84 Monarchs on the 16 acre property grounds within another half hour!" (>286)

Sept 17 Milwaukee Co. "Monarchs on the move today! Sunny and mild. Lots of prairie flowers in bloom." (62)

Sept. 17 Milwaukee Co. "When I exited onto Capitol Drive off of 43, I saw a monarch above as I was driving then another and another and multiple others as I kept driving East. It was difficult to concentrate on driving. . . . It was a wondrous day." (46)

Sept 23 Milwaukee Co. "Sunny and warm. Lots of Monarchs; I counted 14 on one large Aster." (30)



Journey North provides information on Monarch migration:

<http://www.learner.org/jnorth/monarch/News.html>

The Journey North migration map: http://www.learner.org/jnorth/maps/monarch_peak_fall2014.html

From Journey North: Sept 4: "This year's larger numbers are a hopeful sign." **Sept 11:** "Comparative counts . . . are pointing to a larger population this year." **Sept 25:** "The **spectacular Great Lakes migration** continued this week."

Dr. Chip Taylor of Monarch Watch forecasts that the wintering population will be at least twice as large as last year. But he also warns that "Unless we collectively address the annual loss of habitat with a significant recovery plan that restores at least 1-1.5 million acres of milkweed/monarch habitat per year – the eastern monarch migration will dwindle further to the point where it will be truly threatened."

3 Wisconsin Wetlands Association Award Winners Announced

2014 WETLANDS AWARDS CELEBRATION

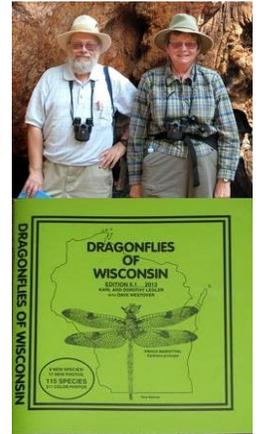
Thursday, November 6, 6:30-9:30pm

UW-Arboretum McKay Visitor Center, Madison, WI

Tickets \$40/person (RSVP Required)

The 4 award winners are **Bob DuBois, Karl Legler (your editor!), Dan Collins & Nancy Aten, and the Wisconsin County Code Administrators.**

The event will include a silent auction (with many items, including luggage from Patagonia), buffet, desserts, and cash bar. Join WWA staff, board members, WWA members, and wetland enthusiasts in honoring this year's wetland heroes. Celebrate those who advance wetland protection, restoration, and enjoyment. Click on <http://www.wisconsinwetlands.org/awards.htm> for more information.



4 The 19th Annual

Texas Butterfly Festival !

SATURDAY, NOV. 1 - TUESDAY, NOV. 4, 2014

Come to the Rio Grande Valley!

One of the most biologically diverse areas in North America sits along the border, between Texas and Mexico, where the Rio Grande winds its way toward the Laguna Madre. The Lower Rio Grande Valley (LRGV), in deep South Texas, is home to more than 1,200 different species of plants, 500 species of birds, 200 vertebrate species, roughly 300 species of butterflies, and over 90 species of dragonflies!

NABA's **National Butterfly Center** is honored to host the **19th Annual Texas Butterfly Festival**.

From November 1 - 4, 2014, attendees will spend 3 days exploring renowned public lands and private properties with world-class trip leaders and expert guides. The Festival is taking place during prime butterfly season, when you may reasonably expect to see more than 60 species in a day.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER, GO TO THE WEBSITE:

<http://www.texasbutterflyfestival.com/>



Red-bordered Pixie

5 BUTTERFLY GIFTS FOR THE HOLIDAYS -- OR ANYTIME!

Here is a list of recommended basic books and equipment that would make great gifts for anyone that enjoys butterflies. Prices are Amazon unless otherwise indicated.

BINOCULARS

➤ The unique **Pentax Papilio 8.5x21 and 6.5x21** are specifically designed for observing butterflies, dragonflies and other insects. They are the closest focusing binoculars available (yes they also focus to infinity so you can observe birds and the moon). They can focus as close as 19 inches which provides spectacular views of butterflies. At six feet you see the butterfly as well as if you were holding it in your hand 10" from your eye. And at the close focus you see the butterfly four to five times larger than if you were holding the butterfly up to your eye! They are sharp, very



light weight and compact, usable even while wearing glasses, and relatively inexpensive. (A must for the tiny damselflies!) These binoculars are very popular and have gotten rave reviews. We have used them for the past 10 years and love them!

The 8.5x are currently **\$136** at Eagle Optics in Middleton www.eagleoptics.com. The 6.5x version is **\$116**. (If you are an experienced user of 8x to 10x binoculars, get the 8.5x Papilio, otherwise we recommend the 6.5x.)

➤ If intensive birding is your primary interest then there are some larger binoculars that are also good for butterflies: Eagle Optics' **Ranger 8X32** focuses down to three feet and costs about **\$239**.

For bigger optics or more power there are the Eagle Optics' **Ranger 8X42** or **10X42**, both focus to 5.2 feet and cost around **\$250**.

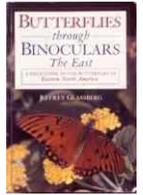
MEMBERSHIP

- **Membership in SWBA** is always an excellent gift. SWBA is a Wisconsin chapter of NABA (North American Butterfly Association) and when you join NABA you automatically become a member of SWBA. Membership includes the quarterly publications **American Butterflies** and **Butterfly Gardening**. **NABA-CHAT** is a discussion list forum provided to NABA members to allow them to communicate with their fellow members about butterflies and related topics. Only NABA members have access to this forum. Membership for individual is **\$35**, family \$45.
To Join NABA/SWBA print out the form on our website www.naba.org/chapters/nabawba/membershipform.html and mail it.

BOOKS: Butterfly Field Guides

The butterfly field guides that SWBA recommends are:

- First, Jeffrey Glassberg's **Butterflies Through Binoculars, the East**. (1999) \$24.95
Numerous excellent photographs, range maps, food plants, and contains flight period information specific for Wisconsin! Check with UW Arboretum Bookstore at 1207 Seminole Highway, Madison. (608) 263-7888.
(To get the free Quick-Index to Butterflies of Wisconsin for Glassberg see below.)
- If you want a second guide, we recommend Kenn Kaufman's **Kaufman Field Guide to Butterflies of North America**. (2006) \$19.95
(To get the free Quick-Index to Butterflies of Wisconsin for Kaufman see below.)
- If you would like a third guide, we recommend Larry Weber's **Butterflies of the North Woods**. (2006) \$14.21 (We previously said this was out of print but, whatever its status, it is again available on Amazon.) Many of southern Wisconsin's scarcer species are not included but the coverage that is provided is very good and specific to Wisconsin. (Ignore the incorrect Hackberry Emperor photo on page 158.)
- Another major guide, published last year, is Jeffrey Glassberg's **A Swift Guide to Butterflies of North America**. (2012) The cost is \$30 (which includes shipping) and currently it can be ordered from the Sunstreak Books website, either by mail or online: <http://www.sunstreakbooks.com/Order%20form.html>
(To get the free Quick-Index to Butterflies of Wisconsin for this *Swift* Guide see below.)
- **Wisconsin Butterflies iPhone Application**. A version of the online butterfly guide on Mike Reese's award-winning website. For more information see <http://wisconsinbutterflies.org/butterfly/iphone>



Quick-Index to the Butterflies of Wisconsin.

These are **free PDF files** that can be downloaded, printed out and pasted on the two inside back cover pages of 3 major butterfly guides. It provides the page location of 155 species that occur in Wisconsin. The combination of alphabetization and display of taxonomic groups provides very quick access to the species that occur in Wis.

- **Quick-Index to Wis Butterflies for Glassberg's Butterflies Through Binoculars, The East**
Click on this link: <http://www.naba.org/chapters/nabawba/Glassberg%20Index.pdf>
- **Quick-Index to Wis Butterflies for Kaufman's Field Guide to Butterflies of North America**
Click on this link: <http://www.naba.org/chapters/nabawba/Kaufman%20Index.pdf>
- **Quick-Index to Wis Butterflies for Glassberg's Swift Guide to the Butterflies of North America**
Click on this link: <http://www.naba.org/chapters/nabawba/Swift%20Index.pdf>

Zoom Cameras

Although these compact zoom digital cameras are not as good as the more expensive Single Lens Reflex (SLR) cameras, they are more lightweight, convenient, cheaper, and can take very good pictures for nature photography. Their weaknesses are: a tendency to sometimes burn out highlights and, for small subjects, the automatic focus may focus on



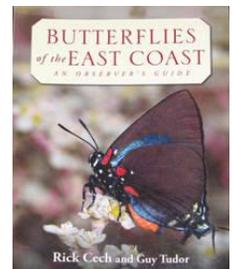
background or foreground rather than the subject, and sharp photos at the maximum zoom may need a tripod.

- **Canon PowerShot SX50 HS** 12 mega pixels, 50X zoom (24-1200 mm) \$399 For a review click on: <http://www.dpreview.com/reviews/canon-powershot-sx50-hs> 11.5% of 880 Amazon reviews rated this 3 stars or less (out of 5 stars).
- **Panasonic Lumix DMC-FZ70** 16.1 mega-pixels, 60X zoom. \$298. 15.4% of 298 Amazon reviews rated this 3 stars or less (out of 5 stars). For Amazon information about this camera click on: http://www.amazon.com/Panasonic-DMC-FZ70-Digital-Optical-Stabilized/dp/B00DY2Y28M/ref=sr_1_1?s=electronics&ie=UTF8&qid=1412628688&sr=1-1&keywords=panasonic+lumix+dmc-fz70+digital+camera
- **Sony DSC-HX300** 20 mega-pixels. 50X zoom \$398. 24.3% of 103 Amazon reviews rated this 3 stars or less (out of 5 stars). For Amazon information see: http://www.amazon.com/Sony-DSC-HX300-Digital-Optical-Stabilized/dp/B00BEHRQB4/ref=sr_1_1?s=electronics&ie=UTF8&qid=1412628560&sr=1-1&keywords=sony+dsc-hx300+b
- **Nikon Coolpix P600** 16 mega-pixels, 60X zoom (24-1440 mm). \$397. 40% of 60 Amazon reviews rated this 3 stars or less (out of 5 stars). For Amazon information click on: http://www.amazon.com/Nikon-COOLPIX-Digital-Camera-NIKKOR/dp/B00IA9LOZS/ref=sr_1_1?s=electronics&ie=UTF8&qid=1412628175&sr=1-1&keywords=nikon+coolpix+p600+digital+camera

There are other cameras listed on **Digital Photography Review** at: <http://www.dpreview.com/reviews/>

Butterfly Field Guides for Other States.

- Rick Cech and Guy Tudor, **Butterflies of the East Coast: An Observer's Guide.** (2007) \$21.75 at Amazon.com This is a large and outstanding reference work on butterflies. Packed with detailed information about behavior, biology and ecology of butterflies along with species accounts and numerous superb photographs covering 243 species.
- **The Butterflies of Iowa** (2007). Dennis W. Schlicht, John C. Downey, and Jeffrey C. Nekola. \$26.96
- **The Butterflies of Indiana: A Field Guide** (2012) Jeffrey E. Belth. \$14.44
- **Butterflies of the Lower Rio Grande** (2004). Roland H. Wauer. \$29.95
- **Butterflies of Rocky Mountain National Park** (2005). Leslie Angel. \$18.00



Also of interest:

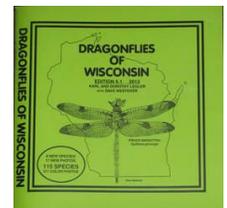
- **Finding Butterflies in Arizona** (2007) Richard Bailowitz & Hank Brodtkin. \$19.66
- **Finding Butterflies in Texas** (2006). Roland H. Wauer. \$18.37

BOOKS: Caterpillars

- Jeffrey Glassberg, **Caterpillars in the Field and Garden.** (2005) \$19.77 900 photographs. How to identify the butterfly caterpillars of North America.
- David L. Wagner, **Caterpillars of Eastern North America.** (2005) \$19.77 1,200 photographs. 700 butterfly and moth caterpillars.

BOOKS: Dragonflies and Damselflies

- Karl and Dorothy Legler, **Dragonflies of Wisconsin.** (2013) \$16.00 Updated: 211 color photos covering all 115 species. Available exclusively at the UW Arboretum Bookstore at 1207 Seminole Highway, Madison, WI 53711-3726. To order by phone with a credit card, call (608) 263-7888. The bookstore is open on weekdays from 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. and weekends 12:30 - 4 p.m.
- Dennis Paulson, **Dragonflies and Damselflies of the East.** (2011) 538 pages. \$29.95 A massive and definitive work on 336 species of Odonata of Eastern North America.
- Bob DuBois, **Damselflies of the North Woods.** (2005) \$12.89 Photos by Mike Reese.



BOOKS: Butterfly Gardening

- David Mizejewski, **Attracting Birds, Butterflies and Other Backyard Wildlife.** (2004) 128 pages. \$11.66 at Amazon.com but they say "temporarily out of print".
- Donald and Lilian Stokes, **Stokes Butterfly Book, The Complete Guide to Butterfly Gardening, Identification, and Behavior.** (1991) 96 pages. \$14.00 at Amazon.com

MISCELLANEOUS

- "**Butterflies of South Texas**" is a set of 750 outstanding photos, taken by Dave Hanson, of 228 species of butterfly from the Rio Grande Valley of Texas. Dave is a NABA member from Wisconsin, but spends half his time in Texas. (Many of these photos were shown at a SWBA program on South Texas.) The photos come on a flash drive. \$20. See <http://k9zvz.com/index.html>
- Judy Burns and Wayne Richards. **The Life Cycles of Butterflies: From egg to Maturity, a Visual Guide to 23 Common Garden Butterflies.** (2006) 160 pages. \$11.30 at Amazon.com
- **Wildflowers of Wisconsin and the Great Lakes Region.** (2nd edition 2009) Merel R. Black and Emmet J. Judziewicz. A comprehensive guide. More than 1,100 species, 2,100 color photographs, Wisconsin distribution maps, Wisconsin status (native, invasive, endangered, etc.) and derivation of Latin names. \$19.86.
- **NABA ONLINE STORE.** A source of many interesting butterfly related items at www.butterflybuzz.com (Anyone can shop here, *but NABA members receive a 10% discount!*)

6 BUTTERFLIES REPORTED IN SEPTEMBER AT www.wisconsinbutterflies.org

Butterflies seen throughout September (high count in parenthesis):

Black Swallowtail	Meadow Fritillary (<u>45 in Grant on 6th</u>)
Cabbage White	Mourning Cloak (<u>13 in Douglas on 17th</u>)
Clouded Sulphur	Compton Tortoiseshell
Orange Sulphur	<u>Painted Lady (14 in Rock on 22nd)</u>
American Copper	Red Admiral
Bronze Copper	Red-spotted Purple
<u>Purplish Copper (213 in Adams on 26th)</u>	Viceroy
Eastern Tailed-Blue	Monarch
Summer Azure	Silver-spotted Skipper
Great Spangled Fritillary	Least Skipper
Aphrodite Fritillary (<u>40 in Jackson on 6th</u>)	Gray Comma (<u>17 in Douglas on the 15th</u>)

Butterflies seen only in early September:

Eastern Tiger Swallowtail (until the 16th)	Leonard's Skipper (Last seen on the 9th)
Common Wood-Nymph (Last seen on 14th)	Giant Swallowtail (3 until 9th)

Scarce butterflies seen in September:

Fiery Skipper (15 on 22nd)	Regal Fritillary (1 late female on 25th)
Little Yellow (8)	Hackberry Emperor (1)
Common Buckeye (7)	Gray Hairstreak (1)
Dainty Sulphur (3 in last week of Sept.)	Sachem (1 on 29th)
Mustard White (1st and 9th)	Pipevine Swallowtail (1 at Olbrich on 9th)

[Keep sending reports to wisconsinbutterflies.org](http://www.wisconsinbutterflies.org)

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