

# Badger ButterFlyer

The e-Newsletter of the Southern Wisconsin Butterfly Association

JUNE, 2015

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

## 1 JUNE FIELD TRIPS:

### Butterflies & Wildflowers of Pleasant Valley Conservancy

Saturday, June 20, 2015

10:00 a.m.-12:30.

Leaders: Dr. Douglas Buege & Kathie and Tom Brock

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 many butterflies, including the beautiful **Baltimore Checkerspot**. We expect to see 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 walking about 1/2 mile or so. Long pants, a hat, water, and hiking shoes are recommended. 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



Baltimore Checkerspot

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

**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 1/2 mile (you will pass some buildings on the right) stop at the state natural area sign/chain link fence on the left. Park off the road. We'll gather around the gate area before walking into the wetland area.

Contact the trip leaders only if you have a question about the trip. Douglas: (608) 441-9833 [djbuege@gmail.com](mailto:djbuege@gmail.com) Tom: (608) 238-5050, [tdbrock@charter.net](mailto:tdbrock@charter.net).

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### Butterflies of Cherokee Marsh, Saturday, June 27, 2015

10:00 a.m. - Noon

LEADERS: Karl & Dorothy Legler and Jan Axelson



Hackberry Emperor on arm.

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 & Jan Axelson 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. We hope to find the butterfly most likely to land on you: **Hackberry Emperor**. 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.

**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 [karlindot@charter.net](mailto:karlindot@charter.net), only if you have a question about the trip.

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## 2 HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BAUER-BROCKWAY BARRENS FIELD TRIP



The gang surrounds a *Persius Duskywing*!

This was the 9th annual SWBA field trip to central Wisconsin (Jackson County). It was scheduled for May 17 but a rainy forecast forced it to be moved up to Friday, May 15. 8 people participated. We searched for butterflies for binocular viewing and photography. The forecast of partly sunny in the morning was wrong and we had overcast conditions. Our hiking kicked up unusually few species. But when the sun finally came out at 1:30 p.m., the butterflies appeared from nowhere like turning on a light switch! We found 168 butterflies of 14 species. This was the lowest number of Elfin

species and 2nd lowest number of species overall. Probably the recent cold spell had delayed flight periods. It was great fun nonetheless! **Olympia Marbles** and **Gorgone Checkerspots** are especially beautiful butterflies! We watched a **Persius Duskywing** lay an egg on its host, lupine, for the second year on this trip! *Persius* can be separated from other similar species by the neatly straight alignment of the vertical row of white spots along the front edge of the forewings, at the "wrist". We also got to see a resting **Whip-poor-will** (which are heard but rarely seen). We found 14 species:



*Persius Duskywing* has Special Concern status.

**Canadian Tiger Swallowtail** 7  
**Olympia Marble** 57  
Clouded Sulphur 4  
**Harvester** 3  
**Eastern Pine Elfin** 4

Eastern Tailed-Blue 8  
Spring Azure 9  
**Gorgone Checkerspot** 12  
American Lady 33  
Red Admiral 7

**Sleepy Duskywing** 4  
Juvenal's Duskywing 4  
**Persius Duskywing** 8  
**Cobweb Skipper** 3

Our thanks to **Ann and Scott Swengel** who were also in the area conducting their usual butterfly surveys. Some of their data was combined with the field trip data to create a NABA Count total which was sent in to NABA and will be published (along with hundreds of other Counts).

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## 3 NEXT UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

### Butterflies and Dragonflies of Swamp Lovers Preserve

**Saturday, July 4**

9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

**LEADERS: Tod Highsmith and Karl & Dorothy Legler**

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**. This is a joint trip of SWBA with the

Madison Audubon Society and The Prairie Enthusiasts.

**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.

### Madison Butterfly Count

**Sunday, July 5**

9:00 - Noon

**LEADERS: Karl and Dorothy Legler**

This is our 25th annual Madison butterfly count! Co-sponsors are 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 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.



Edward's Hairstreak

Meet at 9 a.m. at the parking lot for the Grady Tract in the UW Arboretum.

**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](mailto:karlndot@charter.net)

## Butterflies of Summerton Bog State Natural Area

**Saturday, July 11**

**10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

**LEADER: Dan Sonnenberg**

Summerton Bog SNA 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 few years. The area we will cover is predominantly dry. 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. We will eat at the **Sonnenberg farm**. (After lunch we may optionally venture to another place nearby for the Federally Endangered **Karner Blue** and other butterflies.)

Meet 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 that is also on the left and is larger. Contact Dan Sonnenberg at [dsonnenberg60@gmail.com](mailto:dsonnenberg60@gmail.com) only if you have a question about the trip.

## Pretty Things with Wings!

**(Birds, Butterflies and Dragonflies of Lakeshore Nature Preserve)**

**Sunday, July 12**

**10:00 a.m. - Noon**

**LEADER: Edgar Spalding**

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.

**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.

## Butterflies, Flowers and Birds of Schurch-Thomson Prairie

**Saturday, July 18**

**10:00 a.m. to Noon**

**LEADERS: Dr. Douglas Buege and TPE personnel**

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 many other butterflies. Be prepared for a long hike and bring binoculars for butterfly viewing (the closer they can focus the better). Sponsors of this trip are The Prairie Enthusiasts (TPE), Madison Audubon Society and the Southern Wis. Butterfly Association. Meet at 10:00 a.m.



**Regal Fritillary**  
Photo by Mike Reese.

**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 Douglas at (608) 441-9833 only if you have a question about the trip.

## 4 BUTTERFLIES REPORTED UP TO JUNE 12 AT [www.wisconsinbutterflies.org](http://www.wisconsinbutterflies.org)

The most common butterflies flying in May-mid June were the first brood of Eastern Tiger Swallowtail and in northern counties the Canadian Tiger Swallowtail. Cabbage White, Clouded Sulphur, Spring Azure, American Lady and Juvenal's Duskywing, Pearl Crescent, Northern Crescent, Red-spotted Purple and Little Wood Satyr. **A total of 87 species have been reported so far.** For scarcer butterflies the date for 2015 "first-of-year" sightings is shown below.

SPECIES	COUNTY	FIRST SEEN	SPECIES	COUNTY	FIRST SEEN
Green Comma	Florence	4/17	Common Ringlet	Chippewa	5/21
Satyr Comma	Florence	4/17	West Virginia White	Langlade	5/21
Henry's Elfin	Jackson	5/1	Bog Fritillary	Vilas	5/22
Silvery Blue	Dunn	5/2	Jutta Arctic	Washburn	5/22
Freija Fritillary	Price	5/2	Pepper & Salt Skipper	Price	5/23
Frosted Elfin	Jackson	5/3	Arctic Skipper	Wood	5/23
Juniper Hairstreak	Marquette	5/3	Dusted Skipper	Burnett	5/25
Persius Duskywing	Jackson	5/3	Karner Blue	Wood	5/27
Red-disked Alpine	Price	5/4	Harris' Checkerspot	Jackson	5/28
Harvester	Price	5/4	Indian Skipper	Jackson	5/28
Chryxus Arctic	Bayfield	5/5	Purplish Copper	Adams	6/2
Mottled Duskywing	Burnett	5/9	Gray Hairstreak	Oneida	6/6
Western Tailed-Blue	Burnett	5/13	Painted Lady	Waupaca	6/8
Gorgone Checkerspot	Burnett	5/13	Greenish Blue	Forest	6/9
Cobweb Skipper	Jackson	5/15			
Frigga Fritillary	Price	5/21			

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

## 5 Poweshiek Skipperling: thoughts on prospecting for populations.

**By Ann B. Swengel**

Poweshiek Skipperling has long been state-endangered in Wisconsin. But it became federally endangered last October, which was long overdue. Poweshiek was reported found in Wisconsin last year (2014), which is better than can be said for its core range (Iowa, Minnesota). Poweshiek is unobtrusive in small populations, so there's the possibility that populations are yet to be discovered. Scott Swengel and I have found and studied Poweshiek in four states during the last 25 years, and have seen the habitat (outside the Poweshiek flight period) in Manitoba. Based on that experience, I've posted a document called "Poweshiek Skipperling: thoughts on prospecting for populations", freely readable and downloadable from this website link: [https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Ann\\_Swengel/publications/](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Ann_Swengel/publications/)

This provides our thoughts on how to prospect for new Poweshiek sites and tips on detecting this species. Good luck and happy butterflying!

## 6 Calling all Lycaeides Blues!

**By Ann B. Swengel**

Wisconsin's Karner Blue conservation staff are asking for our help. Please share your observations of both subspecies (or species) of Melissa Blue (**Karner** and **Melissa**) and **Northern Blue**. All three have been found in Wisconsin. Can you find any new sites? Can you re-find them at historical sites? Are abundances

changing at familiar sites? I'm also concerned about **Greenish Blue**, so let's be on the lookout for this fourth blue too.

In surveys with my husband Scott, we've seen Karners have poorer trends in sites with less conservation effort, and happily, we've documented better trends in some sites with more conservation effort. But we've also seen other butterflies have better trends in these sites with better Karner outcomes, including elfins and grass skippers. Private landowners have also implemented site management sympathetic to Karners and have reported similarly beneficial results for a variety of butterfly species.



**Northern Blue**

But landscape-scale economic pressures and dramatic climate changes loom. Global research indicates that butterflies respond dramatically to these pressures, but the outcomes are not always predictable nor need they be inevitable. Please help conservationists understand what's happening out there and how to prepare for the future. One way you may share your findings is to report your observations of blues and upload photos of your documentation to: [www.wisconsinbutterflies.org](http://www.wisconsinbutterflies.org) Thanks!

## 7 SWBA/NABA BUTTERFLY EVENTS CALENDAR 2015

JUNE	DAY	FIELD TRIP	TIME
20	Saturday	Butterflies and Flowers of Pleasant Valley SNA	10:00 - 12:30
27	Saturday	Butterflies and Flowers of Cherokee Marsh	10:00 - Noon
<b>JULY</b>			
1	Wednesday	Mud Lake NABA Butterfly Count (Columbia Co.)	*
4	Saturday	Butterflies and Dragonflies of Swamp Lovers Preserve	9:30 - 1:00
5	Sunday	Madison Butterfly Count (field trip portion)	9:00 - Noon
6	Monday	Southeast Nicolet Forest NABA Butterfly Count (Oconto Co.)	*
8	Wednesday	Trempealeau NABA Butterfly Count (Trempealeau Co.)	*
11	Saturday	Butterflies of Summerton Bog	10:00 - 1:00
12	Sunday	Pretty Things with Wings (Birds, Butterflies and Dragonflies of Lakeshore Nature Preserve.)	10:00 - Noon
14	Tuesday	Northern Kettle Moraine NABA Butterfly Count (Fond du Lac Co.)	*
16	Thursday	Sister Bay NABA Butterfly Count (Door Co.)	*
18	Saturday	Butterflies, Flowers and Birds of Schurch-Thomson Prairie	10:00 - Noon
25	Saturday	Butterflies of Walking Iron County Park	10:00 - Noon
<b>AUGUST</b>			
8	Saturday	Butterflies of Avoca/Blue River Area	10:30 - 4:00
15	Saturday	Butterflies of Pheasant Branch Conservancy	10:00 - Noon
<b>NOVEMBER</b>			
Oct 31 - Nov 3		TEXAS BUTTERFLY FESTIVAL (4-day event with 3 days of field trips, held by NABA's National Butterfly Center in Mission, TX.)	

\* For Count details contact the count coordinators Karl and Dorothy Legler (608) 643-4926 [karlndot@charter.net](mailto:karlndot@charter.net)

**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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