

Badger ButterFlyer

The e-Newsletter of the Southern Wisconsin Butterfly Association **March, 2015**

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

1 NEXT MEETING ON TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2015

The next SWBA meeting will be held on **Tuesday, April 28, 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 SWBA MEETING: Tuesday, April 28.**
2. Swengel will speak at TPE Prairie Conference at UW-Stevens Point.
3. Monarchs gain -- but have a long way to go.
4. 2015 Field Trips Schedule.
5. Butterfly Sightings? YES!
6. JOIN NABA / SWBA!
7. SWBA receives special donation!

Public Program:

"Think Globally, Flutter Locally: Prairie Butterfly Conservation from a Worldwide Perspective: Version 2.0" (Ann Swengel)

This presentation is partly a summary of the talk that Ann will give at the Prairie Enthusiast's Prairie Conference at UW-Stevens Point (see next article). Preventing decline and loss of localized butterfly populations is a more effective conservation strategy, including during habitat rehabilitation, than hoping for recolonization. Beneficial long-term practices include land uses such as haying & grazing that are compatible with maintaining native flora while establishing some areas that are never burned. Small sites can be sufficient to support viable populations of localized species. This summary will be combined with additional butterfly topics, especially the recent shocking developments concerning the **Poweshiek Skipperling**. Ann will also discuss exciting things ahead for the 2015 field season!



Poweshiek Skipperling

Ann Swengel is an internationally known butterfly expert from Baraboo, Wisconsin. She and her ornithologist husband, Scott, have extensively surveyed the populations of prairie butterflies in 5 states, and of Wisconsin barrens and bog butterfly species, for more than 25 years. They have published many dozens of scientific articles. Ann serves on the editorial board of the Journal of Insect Conservation, a global journal based in Europe.

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 JPG 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 invited 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 speaker and other butterfly enthusiasts.

DIRECTIONS TO MEETING:

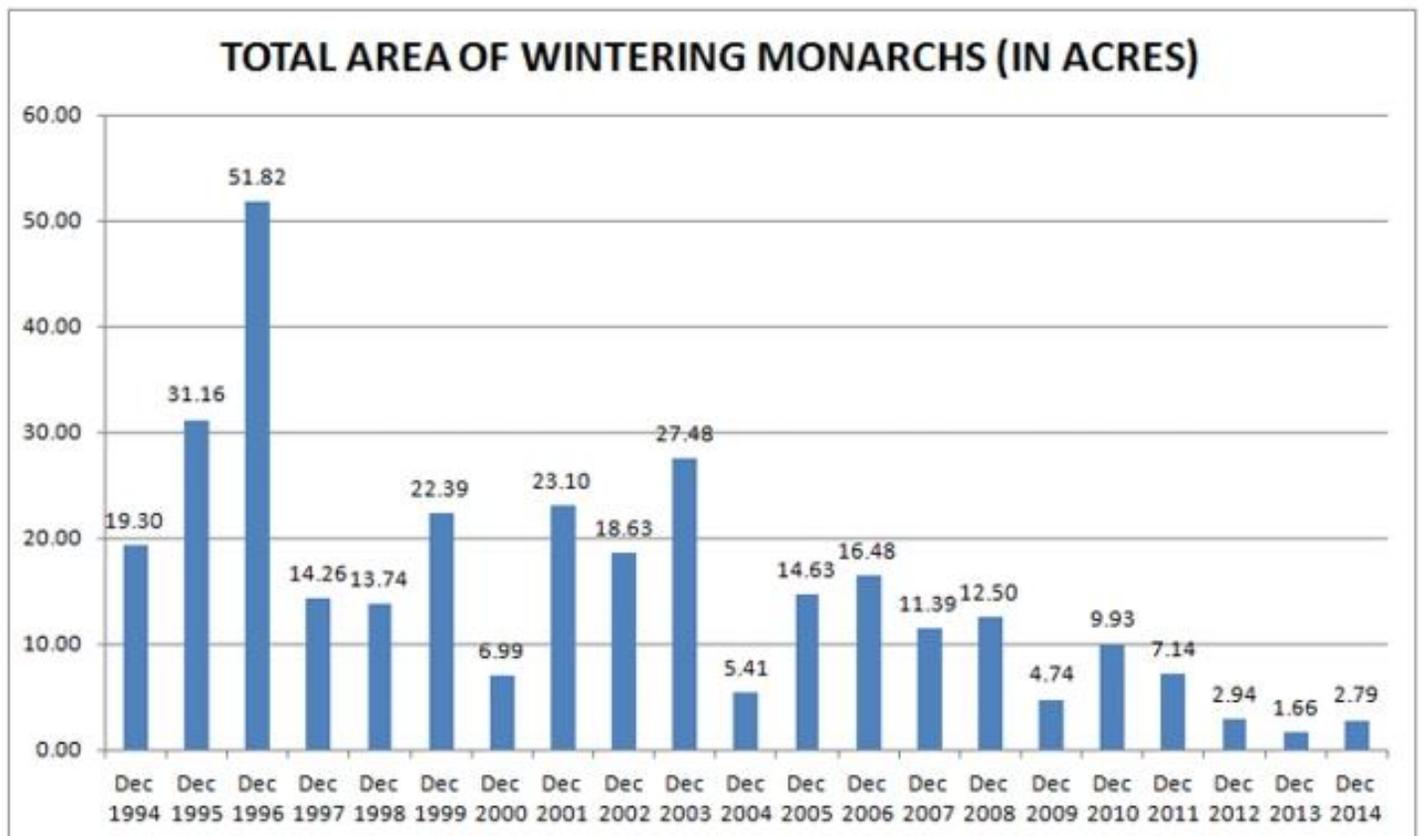
From the Beltline, take Fish Hatchery Road (= County D) south for about 2.4 miles and turn left (east) at Lacy Rd. After 1 block the library is on the left, at the intersection of Lacey Rd. and Research Park Rd. Continue on Lacy and take the entrance road around the far (east) end of the library to access 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 PRAIRIE ENTHUSIAST'S PRAIRIE CONFERENCE WILL INCLUDE A TALK BY BUTTERFLY EXPERT, ANN SWENGEL.

The Prairie Conference will be held on **April 21 at UW-Steven's Point**. Click this link for details: <http://connections2015.tumblr.com/>

Ann's topic will be **"Think Globally, Flutter Locally: Prairie Butterfly Conservation from a Worldwide Perspective"**

3 MONARCH POPULATION MAKES A GAIN -- BUT HAS LONG WAY TO GO



In January, World Wildlife Mexico and the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve revealed the total area of forest that wintering Monarchs covered in Mexico. The December, 2014 area was 2.79 acres. The total area last year was only 1.66 acres. The 2014 figure represents a 69% increase in Monarch numbers over 2013. This corresponds to an increase in Monarch population from 33.5 million in 2013 to 56.5 million in 2014. Although this is a welcome improvement, the Monarch population remains very low. This is the 2nd lowest population on record. The Monarch population remains far below historical levels.



It is thought that such a small population makes the Monarch very vulnerable to winter storms and problems on their breeding grounds.

However, according to Monarch Watch, "long range forecasts suggest that the population has a good chance of increasing again next year." Let's hope so! KEEP PLANTING MILKWEED!

OTHER MONARCH NEWS:

1) Plan to save Monarch butterflies backfires.

This article indicates that an effort to plant the milkweed species Tropical Milkweed (aka Bloodflower), *Asclepias curassavica*, along the southern U.S. Gulf Coast has had an unexpected seriously negative result. The plantings have stopped some Monarchs from migrating and infected some returning Monarchs with a debilitating parasite. (NOTE: This problem does not occur here in the Midwest.) However, this problem is thought to be "solvable". For the complete story, click this link:



<http://news.sciencemag.org/biology/2015/01/plan-save-monarch-butterflies-backfires>

2) Monarch Conservation: Our Choices.

This lengthy MonarchWatch "blog" article argues that classifying the Monarch as Threatened could be counter-productive. Click on <http://monarchwatch.org/blog/>

4 2015 FIELD TRIPS SCHEDULE

DAY	DATE	TRIP TITLE	LEADER(S)
Sunday	May 17	Butterflies of Bauer-Brockway Barrens (Jackson Co.)	Mike Reese
Saturday	June 20	Butterflies and Wildflowers at Pleasant Valley Conservancy	Dr. Douglas Buege Kathie and Tom Brock
Saturday	June 27	Butterflies of Cherokee Marsh	Karl and Dorothy Legler Jan Axelson
Saturday	July 4	Butterflies and Dragonflies of Swamp-Lovers Preserve	Tod Highsmith Karl and Dorothy Legler
Sunday	July 5	25th annual Madison Butterfly Count!	Karl and Dorothy Legler
Saturday	July 11	Butterflies of Summerton Bog	Dan Sonnenberg
Sunday	July 12	Pretty Things with Wings: Birds, Butterflies and Dragonflies of Lakeshore Nature Preserve	Edgar Spalding
Saturday	July 18	Butterflies, Flowers and Birds of Schurch-Thomson Prairie	Rich Henderson, & TBA
Saturday	July 25	Butterflies of Walking Iron County Park	Karl and Dorothy Legler
Saturday	August 8	Butterflies of Avoca/Blue River Area	Mike Reese
Saturday	August 15	Butterflies and Blossoms at Pheasant Branch Conservancy	Dreux Watermolen

5 BUTTERFLIES REPORTED IN MARCH AT www.wisconsinbutterflies.org

The first reports of butterfly sightings for 2015 have already appeared on the Wisconsin website. Recall that 2014 and 2013 had a cool spring and the first butterflies of the year were reported *only on the last 2 days of March!* But this year the first butterfly (an Eastern Comma sitting on snow in Milwaukee County) was reported on March 9. This is the earliest date for at least a decade! Moreover, there have already been 8 reports so far -- which is above average. This is encouraging evidence that maybe we will have a more normal beginning to the butterfly season.

Species being seen so far are:



Eastern Comma



Mourning Cloak



Compton Tortoiseshell

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

6 SUPPORT SWBA BY BECOMING A MEMBER OF NABA/SWBA!!

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. NABA has a meeting every other year, somewhere in North America for a weekend of butterfly field trips. NABA also has created the National Butterfly Center on property along the Rio Grande in Texas that is outstanding habitat for butterflies. NABA also hosts the Texas Butterfly Festival each year, in November. NABA also has established standardized English names for all North American Butterflies. More than 400 "4th of July" annual butterfly counts are conducted around North America under NABA coordination and the data published.

➤ **Your membership helps to fund SWBA and future butterfly conservation.**

To Join NABA/SWBA print out the form on our website

www.naba.org/chapters/nabawba/membershipform.html and mail it TODAY!!

7 SWBA RECEIVES A NOTABLE DONATION

SWBA received a check for \$100 from the Friends of Cherokee Marsh! The speaker at their annual meeting, **Dr. Hannah Gaines Day**, *requested that her honorarium be sent to SWBA!* SWBA has thanked Hannah for her generosity and has emailed the Friends to thank them for their part in this. It was a nice surprise. Hats off, to Dr. Day and the Friends of Cherokee Marsh!

The Badger ButterFlyer flits to you every month, except in winter. The next issue will be in APRIL.