

# Badger ButterFlyer

The e-Newsletter of the Southern Wisconsin Butterfly Association

MAY, 2015

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

## 1 MAY BUTTERFLY FIELD TRIP

Mark your calendar!

### Sunday, May 17: Butterflies of Bauer-Brockway Barrens (Jackson Co.)



Gorgone Checkerspot

The best place in the state to look for early butterflies in May is Jackson County. **Mike Reese** will lead us in finding and observing many scarce and unusual species. We expect to find all 5 of the state's Elfins, including the very rare (and State Threatened) Frosted Elfin. We should find Olympia Marble, Gorgone Checkerspot,

Cobweb Skipper, Dreamy and Sleepy Duskywings, etc. Over the past 7 years we have found between 15 and 42 species! Bring binoculars if you have them, close-focusing ones work best. (A few extra pairs of binoculars are available.) Also, bring a bag lunch and water. A hat, long pants and long sleeves are recommended. This is a joint trip of SWBA with the Madison Audubon Society.

**Meet in Jackson Co. at 10:30 a.m.** at the corner of West Bauer Road and Brockway Road. We will butterfly until 3:00 p.m. DIRECTIONS: From the intersection of I-94 and Hwy 54 in Black River Falls, go east on Hwy 54 approximately five miles to Brockway Road. Turn right on Brockway and drive 2.5 miles south to West Bauer Road. (This area is about 2 1/4 hours northwest of Madison via I-94.)

**Participants must PRE-REGISTER** for this trip by either calling Mike at (920) 647-0196, or include 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).

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Cobweb Skipper

## 2 HIGHLIGHTS OF APRIL SWBA MEETING

**PROGRAM:** Ann Swengel's program on land management for butterflies was well attended. We counted about 45 people, the largest crowd we have had at a SWBA meeting!

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:** The current slate of Officers decided to remain in their posts and were re-elected: President: Dr. Douglas Buege; Vice-President: Karl Legler; Secretary: Dorothy Legler; Treasurer: Ginny Nelson.



**PHOTO SHOW AND TELL:** Four people brought slides to show. Here are two of them:



**Harvester**

Photo by Dan Sonnenberg.



**Common Ringlet**

Photo by Karl and Dorothy Legler.

**HARVESTER:** Dan said, "This little Harvester buzzed Doreen and I while we were going down a trail. When I looked at the photo later I knew it was special. A few days after our meeting I was looking thru some old American Butterflies magazines Ann and Scott Swengel had given away. The 1st place photo for that year's contest was quite similar. I may submit this photo in next year's NABA contest!"

**COMMON RINGLET:** Karl and Dorothy wrote, "In James Ebner's Butterflies of Wisconsin (1970) this species was considered very rare, known only by an isolated record from a single northern county (Burnett). In 1989, we found this species in Douglas County and thought we had made an important observation. We contacted Lepidopterist Les Ferge who told us that several county records were now known (so our observation wasn't as significant as we had thought). But our interest in the Ringlet was piqued and we looked for it elsewhere and eventually found it in 6 counties further south that had no previous record. It was this lovely grassland butterfly that triggered a permanent intensification of our butterflying -- back in 1989."

Finally, **thanks to Dorothy Legler for delicious treats.** (The mini cream puffs were a hit!)

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### 3 JUNE BUTTERFLY FIELD TRIPS

#### **Saturday, June 20: 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 one mile. Long pants, a hat, water, and sturdy hiking shoes are recommended. Leaders are **Dr. Douglas Buege and Tom and Kathie Brock**. This is a joint trip of the Southern Wis. Butterfly Association, the Madison Audubon Society and The Prairie Enthusiasts. Optional: bring along a bag lunch for after the field trip; beverages and



**Baltimore Checkerspot**

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 Brock: (608) 238-5050, [tdbrock@charter.net](mailto:tdbrock@charter.net), Douglas Buege: [djbuege@gmail.com](mailto:djbuege@gmail.com)

**Meet at 10:00 a.m.** (Trip will last until 12:30.) **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 eventually proceed along the wetland trail.

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## Saturday, June 27: Butterflies of Cherokee Marsh

10:00 a.m. -- noon

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, and 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. Bring binoculars if you have them — close-focusing ones work best. (We have a few extra pairs of binoculars.) Wear long pants



Pearl Crescent

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.**

**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.

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## 4 MORE BUTTERFLY FIELD TRIPS COMING UP!

DAY	DATE	TRIP TITLE	LEADER(S)
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	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

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## 5 BUTTERFLIES REPORTED UP TO MAY 9 AT [www.wisconsinbutterflies.org](http://www.wisconsinbutterflies.org)

Mike Reese's wisconsinbutterflies.org website has received 230 reports so far this year!

With recent warm weather several species have emerged early and strongly. Some flight periods are running ahead. The common butterflies have been:

Cabbage White  
Spring Azure  
American Lady  
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail  
Red Admiral

In its dry sandy habitat the Olympia Marble has often been common. The 12 top reports added up to an incredible 1,978 individuals!

Red Admirals came into the state on warm southerly winds. The highest report was 64. (A dark medium-sized butterfly flying rapidly northward, over your head, is probably a Red Admiral!) On May 7 Dan Sonnenberg counted 20 Red Admirals and wrote: "Ladies and Tigers and Admirals! Oh my!"

So far this year, the website has received 17 sightings or photos of species that were in counties that did not previously have such a record.

A number of scarce butterflies have been encountered. The most astonishing butterfly report was a **Funereal Duskywing** found by Scott Swengel. This species is a very rare stray from the South. It is unusual for a very rare stray to get to Wisconsin so early in the season!

Here are the uncommon species reported in the first part of May.

Date First Seen this Year	SPECIES		
May 1	Henry's Elfin	Freija Fritillary	Funereal Duskywing
May 2	Silvery Blue	Mustard White	
May 3	Frosted Elfin	Juniper Hairstreak	Persius Duskywing
May 4	Harvester	Wild Indigo Duskywing	
May 5	Chryxus Arctic		
May 6	Common Roadside-Skipper		
May 9	Red-disked Alpine	Mottled Duskywing	

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

## 6 BUTTERFLY NEWS

### A) Glassberg Casts Doubt on Fear of Tropical Milkweed.

In the Winter issue of American Butterflies Jeffrey Glassberg (President of NABA) questions the recent claim that Tropical Milkweed is disrupting Monarch migration along the Gulf, and that high density of the OE parasite is associated with Tropical Milkweed and non-migrating Monarchs.

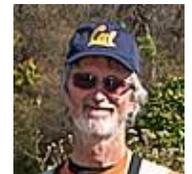
Glassberg, J. 2015. Tropical milkweed and the injurious effects of well-meaning people. American Butterflies, 22(4): 4-10. Here is a link to the PDF version of Glassberg's article:

<http://nababutterfly.com/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Tropical-Milkweed.pdf>

**B) The 2015 Texas Butterfly Festival** (an event of 3 days of field trips, run by the National Butterfly Center which is owned by NABA) is now open for Registration. Register early because each of the 18 all-day trips has a limit of about 20 people. The many leaders include Jeffrey Glassberg, Chris Tenney (see next article), Mike Rickard (20 U.S. records!), etc. To register or peruse the trips click on this link:

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

**C) Butterflying Big Year: Chris Tenney.** A "Big Year" is most often associated with birding and represents an attempt by someone to see as many bird species as possible in a single year, usually within a particular state. When the playing field is North America (always north of Mexico) a lot more travel and expense is involved. In 2011 the movie Big Year, starring Steve Martin, portrayed just such an event. But butterflyers have also embraced this incredible challenge! Robert Pyle, in the book Mariposa Road recounted his North American Big Year, the first ever done for butterflies. Now in 2015 Chris Tenney -- who already has a North American bird list of close to 700 -- is doing a butterfly Big Year. He started on January 1 in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas, finding more than 100 species over winter and next I heard he was in California! He will be back to the LRGV in November for the Festival and for end-of-the-year species! Follow him at <http://www.butterflybigyear.net/>



**The Badger ButterFlyer flits to you every month in summer. The next issue will be in JUNE.**

#### Officers of SWBA:

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Speaker's Bureau: Dorothy Legler  
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NABA Liaison: Joan Braune

## 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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