

# Badger ButterFlyer

The e-Newsletter of the Southern Wisconsin Butterfly Association

JULY, 2016

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

## 1 NEXT FIELD TRIP

### Butterflies of Page Creek Marsh

Saturday, July 9

9:30 a.m. to noon.

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 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.)

Leader will be **Dan Sonnenberg**. 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.

**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.

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Northern Pearly-Eye

## 2 UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

### Butterflies and Flowers at Shea Prairie

Saturday, July 16

10:00 a.m. to noon.

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 dragonflies. Bring binoculars for butterfly viewing (the closer they can focus the better--we will have a few extra binoculars). This trip is co-sponsored by the Southern Wisconsin Butterfly Association and The Prairie Enthusiasts. The leaders are **Dr. Douglas Buege** (608) 441-9833 and **Eric Preston**. (Call Douglas only if you have a question about the trip.)

**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.



**Regal Fritillary**  
Photo by Mike Reese.

## Butterflies of Walking Iron County Park

**Saturday, July 23**

**9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**

Butterfly enthusiasts Karl and Dorothy Legler will lead this two hour morning walk at Walking Iron County Park. Walking Iron has 288 acres and is owned by Dane County; the prairies and oak savannas are managed for the County by The Prairie Enthusiasts. We will observe a variety of butterflies as they take nectar from



**American Copper**

wildflowers and learn about their identification, behavior, and lifestyle. We will walk about 1-2 miles.

Bring binoculars--the closer they focus, the better. (We have a few extra binoculars.) Wear long pants and a hat for protection from the sun. Wear sturdy walking shoes and bring water.

**Directions:** Meet at west entrance to Walking Iron at 9:30 a.m. (about 20 miles west of Middleton). From Madison drive west on Hwy 14. About 1 mile past Mazomanie turn right (north) on Mahocker Rd. Go 3/4 of a mile and turn left (west) on Hudson Road for 1/4 mile. Turn right (north) onto Beckman Road. Go 3/4 mile and look for the parking lot on the right. Call Karl, only if you have a question about the trip, at (608) 643-4926 (Sauk City).

## Butterflies of Avoca / Blue River Area

**Saturday, August 6**

**10:30 a.m.- 4 p.m.**

**In some years this can be the best butterfly trip of the year!** This trip will highlight several areas in the **Lower Wisconsin State Riverway**, including Avoca Prairie and Savanna State Natural Area in Iowa County, and Blue River unit in Grant County. Leader will be butterfly expert **Mike Reese**. We expect to see late butterflies and several unusual southern immigrants. A hat and long pants are recommended. Bring a lunch and binoculars (the closer they focus the better). A few extra binoculars are available.

Meet at 10:30 a.m. Allow 50 minute travel time from Middleton.

**DIRECTIONS:** Take Hwy 14 west to Lone Rock, south on Hwy 130 then turn right on Hwy 133. Go west about 5.0 miles, turn right on Hay Road, and drive north to the parking lot just before the creek. Call Mike at (920) 787-2341 only if you have a question about the trip.

### 3 HIGHLIGHTS OF RECENT FIELD TRIPS

#### HIGHLIGHTS OF Pleasant Valley Conservancy Field Trip

We had a great turnout of 25 butterflyers and absolutely perfect weather. Entomologist Dave Hogg explained about experimental protection of Monarchs from predators.

We found plenty of butterflies, **30 species in all**. Highlights included 70 **Baltimore Checkerspots** (as many as 5 on a single nectar source!), **Silvery Checkerspot**, **Bronze Copper**, and **Common Buckeye**. One of the female Eastern Tiger Swallowtails was washed with black and blue, which provided her some protection from predators by mimicking the poisonous Pipevine Swallowtail.



**Bronze Copper.**

Many thanks to Kathie and Tom Brock for restoring this beautiful state natural area, and to Ann Thering for ably leading this trip.



#### Butterflies seen on the Pleasant Valley field trip:

Black Swallowtail	2	Summer Azure	12	Hackberry Emperor	5
<b>Giant Swallowtail</b>	<b>1</b>	Great Spangled Fritillary	12	Eyed Brown	2
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail	3	<b>Aphrodite Fritillary</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Appalachian Brown</b>	<b>31</b>
Cabbage White	6	Meadow Fritillary	4	Little Wood Satyr	5
Clouded Sulphur	2	<b>Silvery Checkerspot</b>	<b>15</b>	Monarch	7
Orange Sulphur	2	<b>Baltimore Checkerspot</b>	<b>70</b>	Silver-spotted Skipper	<b>700</b>
American Copper	5	Eastern Comma	2	Least Skipper	20
<b>Bronze Copper</b>	<b>1</b>	Red Admiral	11	European Skipper	10
Banded Hairstreak	6	<b>Common Buckeye</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Long Dash</b>	<b>2</b>
Eastern Tailed-Blue	6	Red-spotted Purple	2	<b>Hobomok Skipper</b>	<b>4</b>

#### HIGHLIGHTS of Butterflies of Cherokee Marsh

Sunny skies served to encourage **38 people** to attend this field trip! Thanks to Jan Axelson, Dan Sonnenberg, Peter Fissel and Douglas Buege for helping with this trip. We found 21 butterfly species. Highlights were Baltimore Checkerspot, Bronze Copper, Eyed Brown, Northern Pearly-eye and Mulberry Wing. We found:



**Banded Hairstreak.**

Cabbage White	4	Great Spangled Fritillary	8	<b>Northern Pearly-Eye</b>	<b>1</b>
Clouded Sulphur	8	Pearl Crescent	5	<b>Eyed Brown</b>	<b>3</b>
Orange Sulphur	2	<b>Baltimore Checkerspot</b>	<b>3</b>	Monarch	1
<b>Bronze Copper</b>	<b>1</b>	Mourning Cloak	3	Silver-spotted Skipper	6
Banded Hairstreak	1	American Lady	1	Least Skipper	15
Eastern Tailed-Blue	1	Red-spotted Purple	1	European Skipper	1
Summer Azure	4	Hackberry Emperor	1	<b>Mulberry Wing</b>	<b>1</b>



# HIGHLIGHTS of Mud Lake NABA Butterfly Count

Like all NABA counts this annual count in Columbia County was done in a single day (July 1) within a 15 mile diameter circle, just like Christmas Bird Counts. The main areas include Rowen Creek, Schoenberg Marsh, Rocky Run, McKenzie, and Mud Lake Wildlife Area and, since 2014, Goose Pond. (Thanks to Mark Martin and counters at Goose Pond for helping out! The figures below do not yet include the Goose Pond data.) The rest of the circle was covered by Dan Sonnenberg, Jim Otto, Karl and Dorothy Legler, and Pam Skaar. This was the 27th year of censusing within this circle!



Dion Skipper



Striped Hairstreak.  
Photo by Jim Otto.

We found a record **43 species and 356 individuals**, in a total of 11.6 party-hours of observation.

Three species had the highest numbers of the 27 years:

**Eyed Brown** (12), **Delaware Skipper** (53) and **Dion Skipper** (2).

Uncommon to rare sightings were:

**Little Glassywing** (3) only the 3rd year out of 27 that they have been found.

**Common Buckeye** (3) only the 4th year.

**Striped Hairstreak** (1) was the 2nd butterfly of the day but was only the 5th sighting in the 27 years!

**Hobomok Skipper** (1) only the 6th year they have been found.



Coral Hairstreak.  
Photo by Jim Otto.

Here are the results (**BOLD** indicates best sightings):

Red-spotted Purple	4	<b>Coral Hairstreak</b>	<b>2</b>	European Skipper	1
Viceroy	1	Edward's Hairstreak	1	<b>Hobomok Skipper</b>	<b>1</b>
Eastern Comma	<b>3</b>	<b>Striped Hairstreak</b>	<b>1</b>	Least Skipper	17
Eastern Tailed-Blue	3	American Lady	2	<b>Little Glassywing</b>	<b>3</b>
Summer Azure	8	Red Admiral	14	<b>Mulberry Wing</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Common Buckeye</b>	<b>3</b>	Monarch	4	Northern Broken-Dash	6
<b>Baltimore Checkerspot</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Eyed Brown</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>Tawny-edged Skipper</b>	<b>2</b>
American Copper	7	<b>Appalachian Brown</b>	<b>1</b>	Clouded Sulphur	18
<b>Bronze Copper</b>	<b>1</b>	Common Wood Nymph	51	Orange Sulphur	2
Pearl / Northern Crescent	6	Little Wood-Satyr	1	Black Swallowtail	1
Hackberry Emperor	2	Northern Pearly-Eye	11	Eastern Tiger Swallowtail	1
<b>Tawny Emperor</b>	<b>1</b>	Silver-spotted Skipper	14	Mourning Cloak	2
<b>Aphrodite Fritillary</b>	<b>1</b>	Delaware Skipper	53	Cabbage White	5
Great Spangled Fritillary	21	<b>Dion Skipper</b>	<b>2</b>		
Banded Hairstreak	21	Dun Skipper	4		

# HIGHLIGHTS of Sandhill State Wildlife Area Field Trip



Hickory Hairstreak.  
Photo by  
Dan Sonnenberg.

We had a good turnout with 16 people. (Sandhill is about 2 hours north of Madison.) Some folks even came from Illinois! A total of 41 species were seen by the various participants. The **Hickory Hairstreak** is a scarce species. We observed **Racket-tailed Emeralds** (dragonflies) flying up close and around people, taking the gnats and mosquitoes that we attract! This small Emerald seems amazingly fearless of people! Butterflies were so plentiful that there would often be several on Milkweed or Swamp



Racket-tailed  
Emerald

Milkweed. When the sun was under the clouds and the air became cool there were surprisingly many skippers sitting on the leaves with their wings open, basking to pick up some warmth.

FROM LEADER **RON ARNOLD**: "This was an ideal day for the field trip. Skippers and Hairstreaks were the predominate species. Reported numbers are minimums. Several

participants were able to add a number of species to their life lists. After the Sandhill trip, we went to a nearby bog where Bog Coppers were observed. Some of the Mourning Cloaks seemed to take a special interest in our tires!" Here are the species seen:

Eastern Tiger Swallowtail 1	Silver-bordered Fritillary 1	Common Wood-Nymph 25
Clouded Sulphur 9	Meadow Fritillary 1	Monarch 1
Orange Sulphur 6	Silvery Checkerspot 1	Silver-spotted Skipper 2
American Copper 3	Northern Crescent 9	Least Skipper 4
<b>Bog Copper 2</b>	<b>Compton Tortoiseshell 3</b>	Tawny-edged Skipper 1
Coral Hairstreak 2	Mourning Cloak 11	<b>Long Dash 16</b>
<b>Acadian Hairstreak 27</b>	American Lady 1	Northern Broken-Dash 1
Edwards Hairstreak 5	Red Admiral 3	<b>Mulberry Wing 15</b>
Banded Hairstreak 7	<b>Common Buckeye 1</b>	Hobomok Skipper 2
<b>Hickory Hairstreak 1</b>	<b>White Admiral 2</b>	<b>Dion Skipper 22</b>
Eastern Tailed-Blue 4	Red-spotted Purple 2	<b>Black Dash 1</b>
Summer Azure 3	Viceroy 1	<b>Two-spotted Skipper 10</b>
Variegated Fritillary 1	<b>Northern Pearly-eye 2</b>	Dun Skipper 18
Great Spangled Fritillary 6	Eyed Brown 3	
Aphrodite Fritillary 1	<b>Appalachian Brown 1</b>	

## 4 RECENT BUTTERFLY REPORTS TO [wisconsinbutterflies.org](http://wisconsinbutterflies.org)

TOTAL REPORTS RECEIVED SO FAR IN 2016: 890

TOTAL SPECIES REPORTED SO FAR IN 2016: 114

SOME COMMONLY SEEN RESIDENTS:

Cabbage White	Summer Azure	Northern Broken-Dash
Clouded Sulphur	Great Spangled Fritillary	Delaware Skipper
Banded Hairstreak	Northern Crescent	
Eastern Tailed-Blue	Common Wood-Nymph	

SOME SCARCE / RARE RESIDENTS:

Greenish Blue	Bog Fritillary	Two-spotted Skipper
Bog Copper	Regal Fritillary	Little Glassywing
Dorcas Copper	Striped Hairstreak	
Gray Copper	Hickory Hairstreak	

(NON-RESIDENT) IMMIGRANTS:

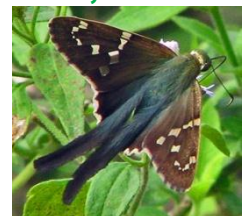
Variegated Fritillary	Painted Lady	Common Buckeye
Fiery Skipper	Common Checkered-Skipper	

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

## 5 NABA 12th BIENNIAL MEMBERS' MEETING, Oct. 29 - Nov. 1, 2016

Registration is now open! <http://www.naba.org/>

Every other year NABA members get together for outstanding butterflying somewhere in North America. Every 6 years the Biennial Meeting is in Mission, TX at NABA's fabulous 140 acre National Butterfly Center. The Biennial Meeting will coincide with the Texas Butterfly Festival. We will visit spectacular butterfly sites around the Lower Rio Grande River Valley. The 4-day event will be held on October 29 - November 1, 2016. (Non-members can still go to the meeting. There is an additional \$25 charge which pays for one year of NABA membership.)



Long-tailed Skipper

## 6 2016 NABA BUTTERFLY COUNT SCHEDULE

This is a good way to gain more experience with a range of butterflies. Whether experienced or novice, you are always welcome to participate. To join in, or if you have a question, contact the coordinators Karl and Dorothy Legler, 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.)

COUNT NAME	DAY	DATE	COUNTY	NUMBER OF YEARS
Dubuque (Wis. portion)	Sunday	July 10	Grant Co.	13
Trempealeau	Wednesday	July 13	Trempealeau Co.	26
Northern Kettle Moraine	Monday	July 18	Fond du Lac Co.	19

**The Badger ButterFlyer flits to you every month from spring into fall.  
The next issue will be in August.**

### Officers of SWBA:

President: Dr. Douglas Buege  
[djbuege@gmail.com](mailto:djbuege@gmail.com)

Vice-President: Karl Legler  
[karlndot@charter.net](mailto:karlndot@charter.net)

Secretary: Dorothy Legler

Treasurer: Ginny Nelson  
\*\*\*\*\*

### Other SWBA contributors:

e-Newsletter Editor: Karl Legler  
[karlndot@charter.net](mailto:karlndot@charter.net)

Webmaster: Dan Sonnenberg

Butterfly Reporting: Mike Reese at  
[www.wisconsinbutterflies.org](http://www.wisconsinbutterflies.org)

Speaker's Bureau: Dorothy Legler

Dr. Douglas Buege

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. Send any news notes to the editor, Karl Legler, at [karlndot@charter.net](mailto:karlndot@charter.net)

**To stop receiving this e-Newsletter simply send an email to the above editor's address.**