

# Badger ButterFlyer

The e-Newsletter of the Southern Wisconsin Butterfly Association

JUNE, 2017

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

## 1 NEXT FIELD TRIPS

Field Trips are free and open to the public.

Mark your calendar!

### BUTTERFLIES AND WILDFLOWERS OF PLEASANT VALLEY CONSERVANCY

Saturday, June 17, 2017

10 a.m.– Noon.

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 expect 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. Led by **Dr. Douglas Buege** and **Tom and Kathy Brock**. Long pants, a hat, water, and hiking shoes are recommended. Bring binoculars—the closer they focus, the better! (We have a few extra binoculars.) If you would like, bring along a bag lunch for after the field trip; dessert will be provided! (This is a joint trip of SWBA with Madison Audubon and The Prairie Enthusiasts. ) Contact leaders only if you have a question about the trip: Douglas at (608) 441-9833 or Tom at (608) 238-5050 or [tdbrock@charter.net](mailto:tdbrock@charter.net)

**DIRECTIONS:** (4554 Pleasant Valley Road, Black Earth) 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.

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Baltimore Checkerspot

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### BUTTERFLIES OF CHEROKEE MARSH

Saturday, June 24

10:00 a.m. to Noon

On this morning walk we'll observe and learn about butterflies, those small but exquisitely beautiful creatures that dance around us 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. It's best to wear long pants and a hat for protection from the sun.



Great Spangled Fritillary

This is a joint trip of the Southern Wisconsin Butterfly Association, 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. (6098 N Sherman Ave, Madison, WI.) Call Karl at (608) 643-4926 or email karlndot@charter.net, only if you have a question about the trip.

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## BUTTERFLIES OF ROCKY RUN OAK SAVANNA STATE NATURAL AREA

**NEW!**

**Saturday, July 1**

**9:00 a.m. - noon**

This is a new one-time field trip. Rocky Run Fishery Area and Oak Savanna State Natural Area is an extensive 737 acre area in Columbia County. It was designated in 1988, and the following year leaders **Karl and Dorothy Legler** began an annual NABA butterfly survey here which has been conducted for 28 years. The area has Oak forest and savanna, trout stream, shrub wetland, sedge meadow, grassland, remnant and restored prairie and a conifer plantation. We will stay mostly on trails and expect to find American Coppers, Banded Hairstreaks, Delaware Skippers, Mulberry Wing, and many others. Long pants, a hat, water, and hiking shoes are recommended. Bring binoculars—the closer they focus, the better! (We have a few extra binoculars.) Call Karl at (608) 643-4926 only if you have a question about the trip.

**DIRECTIONS:** Meet at 9:00 a.m. Taking Hwy 51 north from Madison, continue straight north on Hwy 22. Go 1.3 miles past the intersection of Hwy 22 with County B. The parking lot is on the left.



Northern Pearly-Eye

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## BUTTERFLIES AND DRAGONFLIES OF SWAMP-LOVERS PRESERVE

**Tuesday, July 4**

**9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

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). (We will have a few extra binoculars.) Bring your own lunch and beverages to enjoy when we finish the trip



Eastern Amberwing



Meadow Fritillary

by driving up to the bluff-top picnic shelter. Leaders are **Tod Highsmith, Karl and Dorothy Legler**. This is a joint trip of SWBA and The Prairie Enthusiasts.

**DIRECTIONS:** Meet at 9:30 a.m. Travel west from Cross Plains on Hwy 14. Just outside town take County KP to the right (north), go about 1.3 miles 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.

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# Madison Butterfly Count Saturday, July 8

9:00 - Noon

**LEADERS: Karl and Dorothy Legler**

This is our 27th annual Madison butterfly count! 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

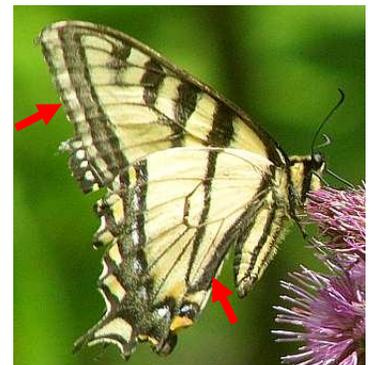
Meet at 9 a.m. at the parking lot for the Grady Tract in the UW Arboretum.

**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)

## 2 HIGHLIGHTS OF RECENT FIELD TRIPS

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM BAUER-BROCKWAY BARRENS (Jackson Co.)

Led by Mike Reese. Originally scheduled for Saturday, May 20, a weather forecast of chilly weather, overcast and rain forced the field trip to be postponed to Thursday, May 25. Six of us were able to make it, the weather was excellent, and the butterflies were good! This was our 11th annual Jackson County field trip. We found 29 species which is 2nd only to the outstanding butterfly year 2012. Four species were seen in the highest numbers of the 11 years (Clouded Sulphur 24, Wild Indigo Duskywing 3, Northern Cloudywing 6, and American Copper 33). Three species were seen for the first time in the 11 years (Giant Swallowtail, Pink-edged Sulphur and Funereal Duskywing -- which is a very rare stray from the South, seen by Dan Sonnenberg.)



#### Canadian Tiger Swallowtail

Unlike our Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, the Canadian has a continuous yellow stripe on underside edge of forewing. The underside of hindwing has thick black edge next to body. The Canadian flies in the northern half of Wis. It has only one brood per year, in the Spring.

Here are the results of the day's butterflying (bold type indicates the best sightings):

Giant Swallowtail 1  
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail 4  
**Canadian Tiger Swallowtail 4**  
**Olympia Marble 30**  
Clouded Sulphur 24  
**Pink-edged Sulphur 1**  
American Copper 33  
Hoary Elfin 1  
**Frosted Elfin 1**  
**Henry's Elfin 1**

**Eastern Pine Elfin 20**  
Eastern Tailed-Blue 9  
Spring Azure 6  
**Silvery Blue 4**  
**Karner Blue 1**  
**Gorgone Checkerspot 98**  
Mourning Cloak 1  
American Lady 20  
**Common Ringlet 4**  
Monarch 3

**Northern Cloudywing 6**  
**Dreamy Duskywing 8**  
**Sleepy Duskywing 4**  
Juvenal's Duskywing 39  
**Funereal Duskywing 1**  
**Wild Indigo Duskywing 3**  
**Persius Duskywing 21**  
Hobomok Skipper 1  
**Dusted Skipper 39**

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## HIGHLIGHTS OF TOUR OF PAGE CREEK MARSH (AND OBSERVATORY HILL)

Led by Dan Sonnenberg on June 4. There was a good turn-out which divided into two groups, one for prairie plants and one for butterflies. The butterfly group had 12 people. In the afternoon we hiked to the top of Observatory Hill and additional butterflies were seen. We found 20 species. The best sighting was a few **Indian Skippers** which have an L-shaped array of faint yellow spots on the underside of the hindwing. We also enjoyed the many Red-spotted Purples and numerous Little Wood-Satyr.



Indian Skipper

Here are the 20 species seen:

- |                              |                              |                               |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Black Swallowtail 5          | Pearl Crescent 12            | Monarch 4                     |
| <b>Giant Swallowtail 17</b>  | Question Mark 1              | Silver-spotted Skipper 16     |
| Eastern Tiger Swallowtail 19 | American Lady 1              | <b>Northern Cloudywing 22</b> |
| Clouded Sulphur 1            | Red Admiral 2                | Juvenal's Duskywing 3         |
| <b>American Copper 17</b>    | <b>Common Buckeye 1</b>      | <b>Indian Skipper 4</b>       |
| Eastern Tailed-Blue 2        | <b>Red-spotted Purple 19</b> | Hobomok Skipper 25            |
| Spring Azure 3               | Little Wood-Satyr 46         |                               |

### 3 SWBA VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Our long-time Treasurer, **Ginny Nelson**, will be retiring from this position later in this year so we are calling on our members for someone to volunteer to be Treasurer for SWBA. Ginny will help explain the duties of the Treasurer -- they are light. If you can help out, or need more information, contact the Nominating Committee Chairperson Tod Highsmith at (608) 242-1168 or at [todhighsmith@me.com](mailto:todhighsmith@me.com)

### 4 SPOTLIGHT ON BUTTERFLIES: Red-spotted Purple



**Red-spotted Purple (upperside).**  
Mimic of the toxic Pipevine Swallowtail.



**Red-spotted Purple (underside).**



**White Admiral**

The Red-spotted Purple is a beautiful butterfly. It's found along open trails in woods and along wood edges. The caterpillar feeds principally on Wild Black Cherry trees, but can use various other trees, including Poplars, Aspen, Birch and others. It often sips nutrients from the ground. It has two broods per year, the first in June and the second in late July and August.

The Red-spotted Purple is a mimic of the toxic Pipevine Swallowtail which is black with iridescent blue along the trailing edge of the hindwings. Birds that have sampled the distasteful Pipevine

Swallowtail learn to avoid black and blue butterflies! This mimicry protects the palatable Red-spotted Purple from avian predators. The red spots on the underside of the hindwing also mimic the Pipevine Swallowtail. (Two other butterflies that mimic the Pipevine Swallowtail are female Black Swallowtail and black form female Eastern Tiger Swallowtail.) Farther north in Wisconsin the Red-spotted Purple is far from the range of Pipevine Swallowtail so mimicry is no longer genetically favored by strong advantage and its appearance is dramatically different! It takes on the distinctive appearance of

the White Admiral with prominent white bands on the forewings! The White Admiral is very common in northern Wisconsin. The White Admiral and the Red-spotted Purple are one and the same species but look and behave sufficiently differently to

constitute two subspecies. There is a broad zone in central Wisconsin which has hybrids of intermediate appearance.

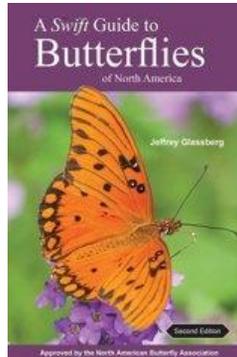
The young caterpillar overwinters in a rolled up dead leaf.

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## 5 Jeffrey Glassberg's A SWIFT GUIDE TO BUTTERFLIES OF NORTH AMERICA has new, improved 2nd Edition!

Jeffrey Glassberg is NABA's founder and President, and authority on field identification of butterflies. This 5 1/4" X 8 1/4" X 1" book is the ultimate Guide to Butterflies of North America! It has **more than 3,600 color photographs!** It covers all known species for North America (north of Mexico). (If you need a guide to Mexican butterflies, that's a separate book Glassberg has written!)

Revised from the 1st Edition with 650 new photos, updated text, maps and species' names. The photos are mostly large in size and include views of topsides and undersides, males and females, and variants, for most species. Detailed range maps. Color text boxes highlight information about habitat, food plants, abundance and flight period, and other interesting facts. The term "Swift" refers to the description of field marks, which are embedded in the photographs for "swift access" and the book is billed as "the most user-friendly butterfly field guide ever created." It has an index of 150 thumbnail photos to take you to the most common butterflies and groups. A complete index to English and scientific names is also provided.



Although Kenn Kaufman's guide is useful and I'd definitely recommend it as a 2nd guide, the distinct advantage of this Swift Guide is the

comparatively large photos (spread over 420 pages!) They simply show butterflies *in more detail* than in the smaller-sized images in Kaufman.

There have been two important improvements in this 2nd Edition. Some reviews complained about the binding wearing out in the first edition but the 2nd edition has a new publisher and it has an obviously improved binding! The

2nd weakness in the 1st edition was that the butterfly name was small and inconspicuous. In the new edition the names are in a little larger type and in **bold face** which makes the name stand out. The price on Amazon is \$23.40.

To make the guide easier to use for Wisconsin I will put a new **Quick Index to Wisconsin Species for this 2nd Edition**, on the SWBA website within a few days. It can be downloaded and taped into the book.

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## 6 BUTTERFLY REPORTS FROM [wisconsinbutterflies.org](http://wisconsinbutterflies.org)

May was cool and rainy. The Swengels described the effect as "many cloudy and rainy days are simply making there be shorter, smaller flights." May had fewer reports this year than last. That typically indicates that butterflies were under the weather!

Two records stand out: Mike Reese found the first record of **Common Ringlet** in Waushara County on June 4. The Common Ringlet has spread south from Canada and was first seen

in northern Wisconsin in Burnett County in 1961. It has been gradually spreading southward in Wisconsin ever since. It has taken 56 years to get to Mike Reese! Who will it get to next?!

Another interesting photo record was a **White Admiral** photographed in Sauk County on June 2 by Muffy Barrett. White Admirals seldom get very far south of their northern Wisconsin range.

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

## 7 UPCOMING SWBA FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE FOR JULY AND AUGUST. (mark these on your calendar!)

These field trips are free and open to the public.

DAY	DATE	TRIP TITLE	LEADER(S)
Saturday	July 15	Butterflies and Flowers of Schurch-Thomson	Dr. Douglas Buege Rich Henderson
Saturday	July 29 <b>NEW</b>	Butterflies of Kalscheur Oak Savanna	Dan Sonnenberg Rich Henderson
Saturday	August 5	Butterflies of Avoca/Blue River Area	Dan Sonnenberg

## 8 2017 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	THIS YEAR WILL BE THE
Mud Lake	Saturday	July 1	Columbia Co.	29th year
Oconto	Friday	July 7	Oconto Co.	3rd year
Madison	Saturday	July 8	Dane Co.	27th year
Dubuque (Wis. portion)	Sunday	July 9	Grant Co.	15th year
Trempealeau	Tuesday	July 11	Trempealeau Co.	28th year
Northern Kettle Moraine	Friday	July 14	Fond du Lac Co.	21st year

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

### Officers of SWBA:

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Treasurer: Ginny Nelson  
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NABA Liaison: Joan Braune  
Chair of Nominating Committee:  
Tod Highsmith

## 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.**