

Badger ButterFlyer

The e-Newsletter of the Southern Wisconsin Butterfly Association

A chapter of NABA (North American Butterfly Association)

AUGUST, 2018

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

1 NEXT FIELD TRIP

Field Trips are free and open to the public.

Mark your calendar!

Butterflies of the Avoca / Blue River Area

Saturday, August 4

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 Giant Swallowtails, late butterflies and several unusual southern immigrants. A hat and long pants are recommended. Bring water, a lunch, and binoculars (the closer they focus the better). A few extra binoculars are available.

Meet at 10:30 a.m. Allow 60 minute travel time from Middleton.

NEW DIRECTIONS (Lone Rock bridge is closed and we will meet at a different spot from last year): From Madison, take Hwy 14 west. Before you reach Spring Green, turn left onto County C. Continue on C until you reach Hwy 130. Turn RIGHT and travel on North 130. At the closed bridge the Hwy becomes 133. Continue west about 5.0 miles, turn right on **Hay Lane Road**, and drive north to the first parking area. Call Mike at (920) 787-2341 only if you have a question about the trip.

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2. HIGHLIGHTS OF FIELD TRIPS.

● Butterflies of Sandhill Wildlife Area.

● Madison NABA Butterfly Count.

● Butterflies & Flowers of Shea Prairie.

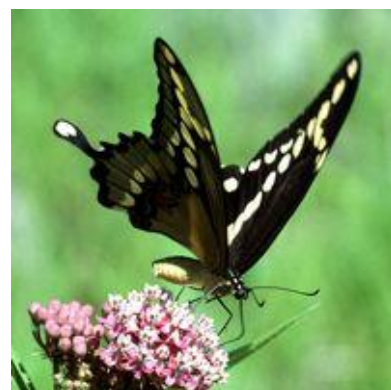
3. NABA Biennial Meeting, FLORIDA.

4. TEXAS Butterfly Festival.

5. What is "puddling"?

6. Butterfly Sightings as of Late July.

7. Monarchs and alien swallow-wort.



Giant Swallowtail

2 HIGHLIGHTS OF FIELD TRIPS

Butterflies of Sandhill State Wildlife Area (Wood County)

We had a nice group of 22 people that explored Sandhill. It was sunny with a high of 80°. Ron Arnold led this wonderful trip through a rich wetland butterfly area. **We found 33 species of butterflies!** After the field trip ended at Sandhill, Ron led several of us to a bog along Seneca Road in the town of Cranmoor where the Bog Copper was found. A special highlight of the trip unrelated to butterflies was finding a set of Bobcat tracks, which was a first for many of the participants.





Karner Blue



ABUNDANT BUTTERFLIES

Left: Dion Skipper. Note the light V on hindwing.
 Upper Right: Two-spotted Skipper. Note the white along lower edge of hindwing.
 Lower Right: Acadian Hairstreak. Photo by Lester Doyle.



Appalachian Brown
 Photo by Lester Doyle.

We found the following 33 species:

Clouded Sulphur
 American Copper
Bog Copper 1
Coral Hairstreak
Acadian Hairstreak
 Edwards' Hairstreak
 Banded Hairstreak
 Summer Azure 2
Karner Blue 2
 Great Spangled Fritillary 3
Aphrodite Fritillary

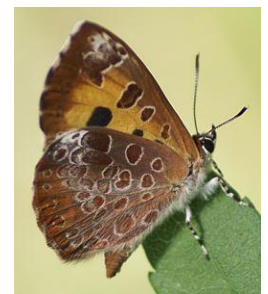
Silver-bordered Fritillary
 Meadow Fritillary 1
 Northern Crescent
 Eastern Comma 1
 Mourning Cloak
 American Lady 1
 Red Admiral 1
 Red-spotted Purple
 Eyed Brown
Appalachian Brown 1
 Common Wood-Nymph

Monarch
 Least Skipper 1
 Peck's Skipper
 Long Dash
 Northern Broken-Dash
 Delaware Skipper
Mulberry Wing
Dion Skipper
 Black Dash
Two-spotted Skipper 6+
 Dun Skipper

Madison NABA Butterfly Count

Owing to schedule conflicts we were not able to field as many parties and cover as many areas as we usually do. Nevertheless we made some interesting observations. Thanks to Peter Fissel who led the group at the Grady Tract in the UW Arboretum.

This was the 28th annual Madison NABA Count. 5 observers in 2 parties spent 6.3 hours finding **168 individuals of 23 species**. Harvester was new to the count. Tawny Emperor hadn't been seen for 7 years. Coral Hairstreak had its highest count ever. Edward's Hairstreak bounced back from none last year to 16 this year. Encouragingly, Monarchs had their 2nd highest number in the 28 years!



Harvester

Black Swallowtail 6
 Eastern Tiger Swallowtail 1
 Cabbage White 21
 Clouded Sulphur 5
Harvester 1
Coral Hairstreak 19
Edwards' Hairstreak 16
 Banded Hairstreak 2

Hickory Hairstreak 1
 Eastern Tailed-Blue 4
 Summer Azure 2
 Great Spangled Fritillary 6
 Pearl Crescent 1
 American Lady 3
 Red Admiral 2
Tawny Emperor 1

Little Wood-Satyr 2
 Common Wood-Nymph 25
 Monarch 42
 Silver-spotted Skipper 4
Crossline Skipper 1
 Northern Broken-Dash 1
 Dun Skipper 2

Butterflies and Flowers of Shea Prairie

The weather forecast was poor. It was predicted that it would be mostly cloudy, start at 65° and have a 60% chance of rain! Nevertheless we had a group of 11 people. And the forecast was wrong! We had great sunny warm weather for this morning field trip! It was led by Douglas Buege and Rich Henderson. We found 20 species and had good views of beautiful and endangered Regal Fritillaries!



Part of our group walks up a hill among prairie flowers and butterflies to see Regal Fritillaries!

Black Swallowtail 2

Giant Swallowtail 1

Eastern Tiger Swallowtail 1

Cabbage White 1

Clouded Sulphur 6

Eastern Tailed-Blue 1

Summer Azure 1

Great Spangled Fritillary 8

Aphrodite Fritillary 1

Regal Fritillary 6

Meadow Fritillary 1

Pearl Crescent 1 6

Question Mark 1

Red Admiral 1

Red-spotted Purple 1

Viceroy 2

Common Wood-Nymph 10

Monarch 25

Silver-spotted Skipper 3

Dun Skipper 1

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**North American Butterfly Association
13th Biennial Members' Meeting
Tallahassee, FL
September 16-19, 2018**

To register or get more information, click on this link: <http://www.naba.org/meeting.html>



Zebra Swallowtail

**4 2018 TEXAS BUTTERFLY FESTIVAL
November 3 - 6, 2018**

To get information or to register, click on:
<https://www.texasbutterflyfestival.com/>



5 WHAT IS "PUDDLING"?

Butterflies, such as these Clouded Sulphurs, may be seen congregating along gravel or dirt roads! They are using their flexible soda-straw-like proboscis to sip salts that are dissolved in the wet substrate. Note that all the butterflies are males since they all have a solid black border on the upper side of the wings, which also shows through faintly on the underside of the wing. (One individual is an Orange Sulphur with wings open.)



The male butterfly needs salts that will be delivered to the female in mating. Consequently, the female does not have a salt deficiency, but the male does, and must obtain a salt supplement. That is the purpose of "puddling".

6 BUTTERFLY SIGHTINGS AS OF LATE JULY

A half dozen of our scarcest butterflies had no reports on wisconsinbutterflies.org (E=endangered; SC=Special Concern):

Northern Blue (E), Ottoo Skipper (E), Powesheik Skipperling (E), Byssus Skipper (SC), Cobweb Skipper (SC) and the unlisted Southern Cloudywing.

At this time of year there are usually an increasing number of stray species from the south that finally get into the state. So far this year the species reported have been Variegated Fritillary, Common Buckeye, Gray Hairstreak, Common Checkered-Skipper, Pipevine Swallowtail, Little Yellow and American Snout. This list should continue to grow over the next month or so.

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

7 WILL A UKRAINIAN MOTH HELP MONARCHS IN NORTHERN NEW YORK?

The Monarch faces many threats. A little known problem is swallow-wort which is an invasive plant from Eastern Europe. Because the plant has no enemies here it has been spreading in northeastern U.S. and in southeastern Canada for the past 20 years. Even deer will not eat it! Related to milkweed, swallow-wort pushes out the milkweeds that Monarch caterpillars require for food. And because swallow-wort is related to milkweed, Monarchs lay eggs on the plant 20% of the time but the caterpillars cannot survive on swallow-wort!



Scientists travelled to Ukraine where swallow-wort grows naturally but at a slower pace because it has an enemy. The caterpillar of the moth *Hypena opulenta* eats only swallow-wort. After more than a decade of research and testing, scientists have convinced the USDA that the moth will only eat two species of invasive swallow-wort -- and nothing else. The USDA has approved the limited introduction of the moth into the state of New York. The unknown question is whether the moth will reproduce well enough to seriously reduce the spreading of swallow-wort.

Thanks to Tod Highsmith for calling attention to this story.

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

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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. Send any news notes to the editor, Karl Legler, at karlndot@charter.net

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