

Badger ButterFlyer

The e-Newsletter of the Southern Wisconsin Butterfly Association

A chapter of NABA (North American Butterfly Association)

JULY, 2018

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 of Sandhill Wildlife Area (Wood Co.)

Saturday, July 7

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

This could be the best trip of the year! The Sandhill State Wildlife Area, in Wood County, covers more than 14 square miles and is an outstanding area for butterflies. Sandhill has large marshes and many flowages, interspersed with low sandy uplands, pine and oak barrens and restored prairies. Butterfly expert **Ron Arnold** will lead us in finding such beauties as Acadian and Coral Hairstreaks, Aphrodite Fritillary, the rare Two-spotted Skipper, Bronze Copper, Eyed Brown, Northern Pearly-eye, White Admiral and many others. Skippers will include Black Dash, Broad-winged, Dion, Long Dash and many others. We may see the beautiful Baltimore Checkerspot, Harris' Checkerspot and the Federally Endangered Karner Blue. Bring binoculars, the closer they focus the better. (We will have a few extra pairs of binoculars.) Also bring insect repellent to protect against mosquitoes and ticks. A hat, long sleeves and long pants are recommended. Bring a bag lunch and water.

Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Sandhill Headquarters parking lot.

DIRECTIONS: Take I-90/94 up to the New Lisbon area in Juneau Co. and take Hwy 80 north. In Wood County, just 1/3 mile before Babcock, turn left onto County X. Go 1 1/4 mile on X to the Sandhill entrance. (1715 County Road X, Babcock, WI.) Allow at least 1 hour and 45 minutes for travel. Call Ron at (715) 424-2996 only if you have a question about the trip. On the day of the trip, Ron will have his cell phone on: (715) 741-0052. (If rain threatens, call Ron to see if the trip must be cancelled due to weather.)

Madison Butterfly Count

Sunday, July 8

9:00 - Noon

This is our 28th annual Madison butterfly count! Each year, butterfly enthusiasts all over North America participate in more than 400 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

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Acadian Hairstreak



Edward's Hairstreak

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.

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

Butterflies and Flowers of Shea Prairie

Saturday, July 21

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 some extra binoculars). This trip is co-sponsored by The Prairie Enthusiasts. The leaders are **Karl and Dorothy Legler** and **Rich Henderson**. (Call Karl and Dorothy at (608) 643-4926 only if you have a question about the trip.)

Meet at 10:00 AM at the parking area.

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 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 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 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.



Giant Swallowtail

2 HIGHLIGHTS OF FIELD TRIPS

Baltimore Checkerspot.
Photo by Dorothy Legler

Pleasant Valley Conservancy

Trip day was warm, mostly sunny, but very humid! On June 17, 25 people observed 19 species on SWBA's annual Pleasant Valley Conservancy field trip. The trip was led by Ann Thering and Kathy Brock.

Butterflies seen on the Pleasant Valley field trip:

Black Swallowtail	cat	Meadow Fritillary	1	Silver-spotted Skipper	5
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail	1	Silvery Checkerspot	18	Least Skipper	6
Cabbage White	5	Baltimore Checkerspot	100+	European Skipper	1
Clouded Sulphur	1	Red Admiral	1	Long Dash	2
Eastern Tailed-Blue	1	Red-spotted Purple	2	Tawny-edged Skipper	1
Summer Azure	3	Eyed Brown	3		
Great Spangled Fritillary	3	Monarch	4+cat		



Cherokee Marsh

28 people attended this walk to observe butterflies. For days before, it had rained every day. The forecast was for cool conditions (upper 60's) and mostly cloudy. But on trip day the weather had completely changed! It was 75 ° and sunny! Even more important, the gravel trails were very damp from days of rain -- which attracted male butterflies to land on the trails in order to sip up dissolved salts which they need for mating. We had one of the best butterfly shows! Comparing with the previous 7 years, this trip produced the highest number of individuals for Baltimore Checkerspot, Great Spangled Fritillary, Bronze Copper, Eyed Brown and Eastern Comma! To everyone's delight the Hackberry Emperors repeatedly landed on people! We saw 15 species. Photo by Gil Helland.

Butterflies seen on the Cherokee Marsh Field Trip:

Eastern Tiger Swallowtail	1	Pearl Crescent	15	Hackberry Emperor	5
Cabbage White	20	Baltimore Checkerspot	23	Eyed Brown	6
Clouded Sulphur	1	Bronze Copper	4	Monarch	1
Summer Azure	10	Eastern Comma	12	Silver-spotted Skipper	6
Great Spangled Fritillary	18	Viceroy	2	Mourning Cloak	1



Hackberry Emperor
lands on a butterfly
enthusiast!

Swamp-Lovers Preserve

This field trip was on another hot day in the upper 80's with high humidity! But we held down the amount of hiking so it was tolerable. Leaders were Tod Highsmith and Karl and Dorothy Legler. We had some very nice butterfly observations: Meadow Fritillary and the beautiful but infrequently seen **Silver-bordered Fritillary**. Two **Baltimore Checkerspots** were appreciated. Eyed Browns showed themselves. Peter Fissel spotted a **Bronze Copper** that we all got to see. On the hilltop we were cooled by breezes, had lunch, and found 3 Hairstreaks: Coral, Banded and Edward's. We found a Band-winged Meadowhawk (dragonfly).

Bronze Copper.



Butterflies seen were:

Black Swallowtail	8	Edward's Hairstreak	2	Silver-bordered Fritillary	2
Cabbage White	3	Coral Hairstreak	3	Baltimore Checkerspot	4
Clouded Sulphur	2	Summer Azure	1	Eyed Brown	8
Edward's Hairstreak	2	Great Spangled Fritillary	20	Common Wood-Nymph	5
Banded Hairstreak	1	Meadow Fritillary	5	Monarch	12
				Bronze Copper	1

The DRAGONFLIES seen were:

Common Green Darner	Blue Dasher	Wandering Glider
Twelve-spotted Skimmer	Eastern Pondhawk	Band-winged Meadowhawk
Common Whitetail	Black Saddlebags	Common Baskettail
Widow Skimmer	Red Saddlebags	Dot-tailed Whiteface

3 NEW RESEARCH ON CAUSES OF MONARCH DECLINE

"Monarch butterfly population decline in North America: identifying the threatening processes." by Thogmartin, W. E., et. al. (2017)

This analysis uses mathematical techniques to examine the influence of multiple factors on Monarch overwintering population size from 1993 to 2014. Their list of potential factors was based on the published literature. It included a variety of threats: climate trends at overwintering site; illegal logging; loss of Milkweed; loss of nectar sources; agricultural conversion of CRP land; temperature and precipitation; increasing climate variability; extreme weather events; climate change; parasites; insecticide use, etc.

ABSTRACT:

"The monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) population in North America has sharply declined over the last two decades. Despite rising concern over the monarch butterfly's status, no comprehensive study of the factors driving this decline has been conducted. Using partial least-squares regressions and time-series analysis, we investigated climatic and habitat related factors influencing monarch population size from 1993 to 2014. Potential threats included climatic factors, habitat loss (milkweed and overwinter forest), disease and agricultural insecticide use (neonicotinoids). While climatic factors, principally breeding season temperature, were important determinants of annual variation in abundance, our results indicated strong negative relationships between population size and habitat loss variables, principally glyphosate use, but also weaker negative effects from the loss of overwinter forest and breeding season use of neonicotinoids.



Further declines in population size because of glyphosate application are not expected. Thus, if remaining threats to habitat are mitigated we expect climate-induced stochastic variation of the eastern migratory population of monarch butterfly around a relatively stationary population size."

Here is the conclusion of the study:

"We began our threats assessment with three times as many variables as years in our time series of monarch butterfly population size. Partial least-squares regression focused our attention on a subset of the 76 variables, leading to a single best model comprised of three covariates (i.e. glyphosate use, number of warm days in early June, minimum August temperature) explaining greater than 90% of the annual variation in abundance. A structural equation model implicates the loss of milkweed as the mechanism by which glyphosate application influences monarch butterfly population size. To offset this loss of milkweed, we suggest that a strategy of restoring habitat in a variety of areas including CRP lands, public and private lands, roadsides and marginal agricultural areas, as well as protecting habitat where monarchs overwinter, would help increase monarch populations and thereby reduce the probability of extirpation. Further, we suggest that these conservation efforts should proceed quickly to avoid further monarch butterfly population declines."

To download the 16-page publication "Monarch butterfly population decline in North America: identifying the threatening processes" as a PDF file, click on the link:

<http://rsos.royalsocietypublishing.org/content/royopensci/4/9/170760.full.pdf>

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



Zebra Swallowtail

Here's an update on the upcoming NABA Members Meeting.

The speaker at the Tues. Sept. 18 banquet will be **Dr. Anurag Agrawal**, author of "Monarchs and Milkweed" and of a recent paper studying the decline of Monarchs using NABA Butterfly Count data. Dr. Agrawal is a professor at Cornell University. You can learn more about him at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anurag_Agrawal_\(ecologist\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anurag_Agrawal_(ecologist))

The speaker at the Mon. Sept. 17 banquet will be **Bruce Means**, president of the Coastal Plains Institute and Land Conservancy. You can learn more about him at www.brucemeans.com.

The speakers at the Sun. Sept. 16 welcome session will be **Dean and Sally Jue**. Dean is the president of the NABA-Tallahassee chapter and coordinator for the NABA/Texas Parks and Wildlife Frosted Elfin Survey.

You can now register for the 2018 NABA Biennial Members Meeting, to be held Sept. 16 through Sept. 19 in Tallahassee, Florida. We look forward to seeing you there -- it will be fun!

You can also register for exciting pre- and post-meeting trips to Ralph Simmons State Forest and Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge to see a wide variety of butterflies, but especially Dusky Roadside-Skipper at the former and the Florida subspecies of Dukes' Skipper at the latter.

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

5 NABA BUTTERFLY COUNT SCHEDULE FOR 2018

COUNT NAME	DAY	DATE	COUNTY	THIS YEAR WILL BE THE
Mud Lake	Monday	July 2	Columbia Co.	30th year
Oconto	Friday	July 6	Oconto Co.	4th year
Dubuque (Wis. portion)	Sunday	July 8	Grant Co.	16th year
Madison	Sunday	July 8	Dane Co.	28th year
Trempealeau	Tuesday	July 10	Trempealeau Co.	29th year
Northern Kettle Moraine	Friday	July 13	Fond du Lac Co.	22nd year

These are similar to Christmas Bird Counts. 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) 228-0743). (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 Contacts are Listed.)

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

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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

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