

# Badger ButterFlyer

The e-Newsletter of the Southern Wisconsin Butterfly Association

A chapter of NABA (North American Butterfly Association)

OCTOBER, 2018

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

## 1 NEXT SWBA MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2018

The next SWBA meeting will be held at **7:00 p.m.**, in the meeting room of the **Fitchburg Public Library, 5530 Lacy Road, Fitchburg, WI.** (**Mark your calendar!**)

## History and Ecology of the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area.

The Sauk Prairie Recreation Area, located in southeastern Sauk County, consists of a portion of the decommissioned 7,354-acre Badger Army Ammunition Plant. It manufactured nitrocellulose-based propellants during World War 2, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. It was the largest munitions factory in the world during World War 2. The Sauk Prairie Recreation Area contributes important areas of grassland habitat needed to reconstruct and experience a natural mosaic of prairie-savanna-woodland at a landscape scale. Directly adjacent to Devils Lake State Park, it serves as an ecological transition from the Baraboo Hills to the Wisconsin River.

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1. NEXT SWBA MEETING 11/7/2018.
2. Sonnenberg Memorial Lecture Fund.
3. A Gift from Prairie Enthusiasts will enable SWBA to help the Endangered Swamp Metalmark.
4. Butterfly Sightings of Year End.
5. Georgia couple visits Wisconsin for life butterflies.
6. Trempealeau NABA Butterfly Count.
7. Texas Butterfly Festival. Nov. 3-6.



Our speaker will be **Mike Mossman**, noted DNR Ecologist. He has been described as a natural scientist, historian, educator and activist.



Aphrodite Fritillary

**Everyone is invited to attend this free program.** The meeting will last from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. We will have displays, books, handouts and plenty of time afterwards to enjoy *delicious* snacks and refreshments, and talk with our speaker and other butterfly enthusiasts.

### DIRECTIONS TO THE MEETING:

From the Beltline, take Fish Hatchery Road (= County D) south for about 2.4 miles and turn left (east) at Lacy Rd. After 1 block the library is on the left, at the intersection of Lacey Rd. and Research Park Rd. Continue on Lacy and take the entrance road around the far (east) end of the library to access parking near the entrance, (behind the library). **OR** if you prefer to park underground, turn left (north) onto Research Park Rd and then turn right into the ramp leading to the underground parking lot.

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## 2 SWBA RECEIVES \$500 DONATION TO HELP FUND A DAN SONNENBERG MEMORIAL LECTURE SERIES

An anonymous donor has provided funding to help establish a memorial lecture series in the name of former Vice-President of SWBA, the late **Dan Sonnenberg**. It will be used to help defray the cost of obtaining speakers for SWBA Meetings. SWBA thanks the donor for the donation and the great idea on how to honor Dan Sonnenberg!

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## 3 SWBA RECEIVES MEMORIAL GIFT FROM PRAIRIE ENTHUSIASTS (SAND PRAIRIE CHAPTER) TO HELP THE ENDANGERED SWAMP METALMARK

Dan Sonnenberg was a member of the Prairie Sands Chapter of The Prairie Enthusiasts. The Chapter has made a donation of \$1,500 to SWBA honoring **Dan Sonnenberg** who passed away in November of 2017. The money is earmarked to help save the Endangered Swamp Metalmark.



Swamp Metalmark

Since the Swamp Metalmark was extirpated at the Riveredge Nature Center in Ozaukee County recently (for the second time!) there remains only a single site in Wisconsin known to harbor the Swamp Metalmark. But even that population has declined over the decades.

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## 4 BUTTERFLY REPORTS IN THE PAST MONTH

On September 16, a **Cloudless Sulphur** was photographed in Herbster, in Bayfield County in extreme northern Wisconsin. It is unusual for such a very rare southern immigrant to reach northern Wisconsin.

On the same day a **Monarch with a tag** was photographed at Neenah, Winnebago County. That is also very unusual.

In the September newsletter I wrote that "The find of the year may well be Douglas Buege's sighting of two very rare butterflies at Olbrich Gardens on August 31: Funereal Duskywing and Horace's Duskywing!" But just 3 weeks later I was proven wrong! On September 22, SWBA members Pam Skaar and Bill and Ginny Nelson found and photographed an immigrant **Ocola Skipper** at Olbrich Gardens.



Ocola Skipper. Photo by Pam Skaar and Bill and Ginny Nelson.

This was only the 2nd time the Ocola Skipper has been found in Wisconsin! Congratulations to Pam, Bill and Ginny on such an important find. (Immigrant butterflies are more apt to show up late in the season at botanical gardens such as Olbrich because at this time of year other nectar sources are waning so the gardens become more attractive to the remaining butterflies.)

Which raises the question: How did last year's Butterfly of the Year (**Painted Lady**) do this year? Last year there were hundreds of reports of Painted Lady (a migrant). But this year there were only about 8 sightings! The population of Painted Ladies varies rather dramatically. When they have a big surge in population it's not unusual for the Painted Lady population in the following year to crash.

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

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## 5 COUPLE FROM GEORGIA VISITS WISCONSIN FOR "LIFE BUTTERFLIES"

We met John Crosby at the National Butterfly Center in Texas a year ago. Like many of the visitors, he was photographing butterflies. He and his wife Nancy travel around different states and different countries to see and photograph as many birds and butterflies as they can. We suggested that he and Nancy, participate in one of the Wisconsin NABA Butterfly Counts. So in July they spent about 9 days in Wisconsin observing and

photographing butterflies. They participated in the Mud Lake NABA Butterfly Count, visited Black Earth Prairie, Buena Vista Grasslands, Sandhill Wildlife Area and many other places. They were able to see 25 life butterflies (butterflies that they had never seen before) and add them to their "life list" of butterflies. Here are just a few of the photographs they took:



Hickory Hairstreak.



Regal Fritillary



Bog Copper



Karner Blue



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## 6 RESULTS OF THE TREMPEALEAU NABA COUNT



TV Camera Crew at Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge.

I have space to discuss only one out of several NABA Butterfly Counts done in Wisconsin this year: Trempealeau County. This was the **29th year** for this count. **13 people participated** in the count, including the Leglers, Mike Reese, Douglas Buege, Al Sheldon, Judy Bautch, and 7 others. We counted for 12 hours in 3 groups and found **292 individual butterflies, of 38 species**. The best sightings were a **Juniper Hairstreak**, a **Variiegated Fritillary** and a **Gray Copper (Special Concern)**. We also saw 52 Monarch's, which was the highest density of the 29 years!



Gray Copper (Special Concern).  
Photo by Mike Reese.

**A local TV station in La Crosse covered the event** and aired a few minutes on the news. This is the video of the story as it aired on July 31, 2018:

<https://www.news8000.com/news/talk-of-the-town-counting-butterflies-in-trempealeau/775689482>

Here are the results of the count:

Red-spotted Purple 2  
Eastern Comma 3  
Question Mark 6  
Eastern Tailed-Blue 3  
Summer Azure 5  
**Baltimore Checkerspot 15**  
**Gorgone Checkerspot 1**  
**Gray Copper 1**  
American Copper 7  
Northern Crescent 36  
Hackberry Emperor 1  
**Tawny Emperor 1**  
Great Spangled Fritillary 10

Meadow Fritillary 2  
**Variiegated Fritillary 1**  
Coral Hairstreak 1  
**Juniper Hairstreak 1**  
Red Admiral 10  
**Appalachian Brown 3**  
Eyed Brown 24  
Common Wood-Nymph 21  
Northern Pearly-Eye 6  
Black Dash 11  
Delaware Skipper 5  
Dun Skipper 2  
Least Skipper 1

**Little Glassywing 1**  
**Mulberry Wing 5**  
Northern Broken-Dash 12  
**Common Roadside Skipper 2**  
**Common Sootywing 1**  
Silver-spotted Skipper 13  
Clouded Sulphur 9  
**Giant Swallowtail 6**  
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail 6  
Mourning Cloak 1  
Cabbage White 5  
**Monarch 52**

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## 7 2018 TEXAS BUTTERFLY FESTIVAL November 3 - 6, 2018

To get information or to register, click on:

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



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

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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](mailto:karlndot@charter.net)

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