Contributors

Bill Benner was inducted into the world of butterflying at meetings of the New York City Butterfly Club, under the expert guidance of Guy Tudor, Rick Cech, Skip Blanchard, Tom Fiore, and the rest of the gang, where he also perfected his chocolate chip cookie recipe. He has since moved to western Massachusetts, where he currently serves as President of NABA’s Massachusetts chapter.

Greg Breed grew up in Green Bay, Wisconsin, where he spent many summers searching for butterflies and their caterpillars. He is a currently a Banting Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Alberta and a Research Fellow at Harvard University. He earned dual Bachelors in Ecology, Evolution and Behavior and Plant Biology from the University of Minnesota, a Masters of Science in Biological Oceanography from Texas A&M, and a Ph.D. in Biology from Dalhousie University. Greg’s research currently focuses on movement processes in animals of many sizes, including work on animal migration in the oceans as well as climate-driven range and life-history changes in butterflies.

Don Dubois’ formal training is in the area of chemistry, with a Ph.D. from the University of Kansas. He retired in 2002 after working 32 years as a chemical researcher and relocated to the Houston, Texas area. Since then, Don has converted a large barren backyard into a butterfly friendly habitat with the addition of nearly 200 species of native plants (along with several non-native butterfly favorites). This effort has been rewarded with visits by over 80 species of butterflies, several of which were county records. The backyard is now a favorite stop on the annual butterfly count and monarch tagging event in October. His interest in butterflies and insects started at an early age and involved the usual insect collection. With the availability of good quality, reasonably priced digital cameras, collecting was abandoned in favor of photography. Don’s interest in native plants has been nurtured by volunteering with native plant specialists at Mercer Arboretum and Botanic Gardens.

Fred Heath is a NABA Director and Education Committee chair of SEABA, a chapter of NABA. He is a native of New York City where he took up birding as a teenager, continuing this avocation in California many years ago. He discovered butterflying 25 years ago in California and after moving to Arizona 4 years ago, is enjoying a whole new butterfly fauna with his wife Mary Klinkel. Helping to interest others in the world of butterflies, he has led field trips, written articles and authored An Introduction to Southern California Butterflies.

Mary Klinkel was captured and raised by butterflies as a young child. She has since raised over 50 species of butterflies and moths and continues to learn about nature by observing. A native of the Dakota prairie, she has lived in eight North American bioregions and now calls the Sonoran Desert her home. She is currently Community Relations Chair for SEABA, a chapter of NABA.

Mike Reese manages the NABA Recent Sightings web pages. He enjoys photographing wild flowers, birds, dragonflies, and, of course, butterflies. He is an educator in Wautoma, Wisconsin and has been recording and documenting the butterflies that are found there for over 15 years. He also maintains a website on the Butterflies of Wisconsin.

Sharon Stichter, Ph.D., is author of the website www.butterfliesof-massachusetts.net. She is a long-time member of the Massachusetts Butterfly Club (MBC), a chapter of NABA, and for many years edited the club’s biannual journal, and also its guide to good butterfly sites. Sharon recently participated in another analysis of MBC data, by biologists at Boston University, which found that many elfins and hairstreaks in the state have been emerging earlier in the spring as a result of increasing spring temperatures, and identified rates of flight advancement per degree of temperature.

Rita Venable is the founder of the NABA-Middle Tennessee Chapter and was the editor of NABA’s Butterfly Gardener from 2001 to 2003. For two years she conducted biological surveys in Tennessee state parks and natural areas, developed butterfly checklists for individual parks, led field trips, conducted training sessions for seasonal personnel and spoke at wildflower festivals and other state park events. She is a currently a freelance writer, photographer and speaker working on a book about Tennessee butterflies.

Harry Zirlin’s fascination with butterflies and other insects dates to his early childhood. He travels extensively in the United States, studying and photographing butterflies. He supports this passion by working as an attorney in the environmental area at the New York law firm of Debevoise & Plimpton.