Photodocumentation of Foodplants

With this project, NABA intends to document the caterpillar foodplants of North American butterflies. For those who would like to participate in this photodocumentation, here are instructions:

1. Photograph the actual individual plant on which the egg or caterpillar was found, showing any key features needed for the identification of the plant.
2. Photograph the egg or caterpillar.
3. Either leave the egg or caterpillar on the original plant, perhaps sleeving the plant it is on with netting, allowing the caterpillar to develop in the wild, or remove the egg or caterpillar to your home and feed it only the same species of plant on which it was found.
4. Photograph later instars of the caterpillar.
5. Photograph the resulting chrysalis.
6. Photograph the adult after it emerges from the chrysalis.
7. If the egg or caterpillar was relocated for raising, release the adult back into the wild at the spot where you found it.

In addition to appearing in American Butterflies, the results of this project will be posted to the NABA website. Please send any butterfly species/plant species/state or province trio that is not already posted to naba@naba.org.

(continued on inside back cover)

Readers Write

The Issue is Conservation

Just to say that I thought that Vol 21 Fall/Winter 2013 of American Butterflies was an especially excellent issue! Of course I look forward to each and every issue, but this one was of particular interest to me with three articles focusing on the northeast — yours (effective use of Count data from one locality — quite persuasive in my view), plus Conrad Vispo’s nice focus on farms and Hall’s summary of the situation in Quebec. Plus Ann Swengel’s passionate account of her struggles in the Midwest — I so admire her! How many people (aside from you, of course) have the guts to take on the “agency biologists” who think they know everything about habitats for all creatures? They don’t! Burning is dangerous and way over-hyped. There are some fire-happy people in the MA F&W who should read her stuff.

If you want to know the current status of any species in Massachusetts, each species account on my website has been updated with MBC, NABA Count and other data through 2013. All MA fritillaries show declines.

Thank you for an excellent, thought-provoking issue.

Sharon Sticht, Cambridge, MA

Many thanks for the superb double issue focusing on butterfly conservation (Vol. 21, issues 3-4; Fall/Winter 2013). These essays make a stunning collection, each with its particular or national range inhabited by one or several disappearing butterflies. I find it impossible to single out one essay about the others, for as I read, transfixed, each one, however different in subject matter, combined an expert’s knowledge, data, and experience with locale, weather, and biology, with the ability to make details live in the minds of a general audience. Accounts of environmental loss have sorrow built into them, but this collection also has sorrow’s opposite: that awareness entails hope. Here are men and women vigorously engaged in research and spreading the news of that research to experts and non-experts alike, in all spoken or unspoken supposition that wide-spread awareness could and should lead to saving the complexity of earthly life.

Ann Watts, Metuchen NJ

Depressing for the most part, but quite well done.

Harry Zirlin, Scarsdale, NY

Correction: On page 6 of last issue, Palatka Skipper was incorrectly spelled as Pilatka Skipper.

NABA News and Notes

(continued from inside front cover)

Matching Donations

Those of you who generously contribute donations to NABA and work at a large corporation may be able to double your contribution. Many corporations have matching gift programs. Check with your human resource or public relations department.

NABA News and Notes

Members Photo Gallery

If you would like one of your photos to be considered for this feature, please submit no more than two, high resolution, interesting and unusual photos of either adult or immature butterflies taken of wild, unmanipulated butterflies or immatures in the United States, Canada, or Mexico. Photos should be in digital form, and should be uncropped and unaltered/minimally altered. Send your entries on a CD to: NABA Members Gallery, 4 Delaware Rd., Morristown, NJ 07960.

Cover photo of a horse and rider going over a jump fashioned in the image of a Golden Banded-Skipper was taken by Lou Kellenberger on March 8, 2014 at the Red Hills Horse Trials at Elinor Klapp-Phipps Park, Leon Co., FL. See the article by Dean and Sally Sue on page 44.