

# Badger ButterFlyer

The e-newsletter of the Southern Wisconsin Butterfly Association  
A chapter of NABA (North American Butterfly Association) **JUNE, 2023**  
WEB SITE: <http://www.naba.org/chapters/nabawba>

Field Trips are free and open to the public.  
(Mark your calendar!)

## 1 NEXT FIELD TRIPS

### BUTTERFLIES AND WILDFLOWERS OF PLEASANT VALLEY CONSERVANCY Saturday, June 17, 2023 10:00 a.m. --- Noon.

Pleasant Valley Conservancy is a beautiful state natural area situated in the Driftless Area, with steep goat prairies, oak savanna, and a large, high-quality marsh. This time of year, we hope to see Baltimore Checkerspots and perhaps some wetland skippers. Other possible butterfly species include swallowtails, Silvery Checkerspot, fritillaries, and blues. All of these butterflies will have many wonderful native plants to nectar on at this time of year. Led by **Dr. Douglas Buege and Kathy Brock**. Long pants, a hat, water, and hiking shoes are recommended. Bring binoculars—the closer they focus, the better! (We have a few extra binoculars.) If you would like, bring along a bag lunch for after the field trip. This is a joint trip of SWBA with Madison Audubon. Contact Douglas at [djbuege@gmail.com](mailto:djbuege@gmail.com) only if you have a question about the trip. (If you would like to be contacted in case of cancellation please register



Baltimore Checkerspot

#### IN THIS ISSUE

- NEXT FIELD TRIPS:**
  - Butterflies and Wildflowers of Pleasant Valley Conservancy.
  - Butterflies and Wildflowers of Cherokee Marsh.
  - Butterflies of Columbia County.
  - Butterflies and Dragonflies of Swamp-Lovers Preserve. 4<sup>th</sup> of July
  - UW Arboretum: Grady Tract.
- Results of Jackson County NABA Count.
- Texas Butterfly Festival Nov. 4 – Nov. 7.
- Full List of 2023 Butterfly Field Trips.

your intent to attend with Madison Audubon at <https://madisonaudubon.org/all-events/2023/6/17/butterflies-wildflowers> )

**DIRECTIONS:** (4554 Pleasant Valley Road, Black Earth) Heading south into downtown Black Earth follow County Hwy F as it turns right (west). After a mile or so, F turns left (south). Continue on F for another 3 3/4 miles turning left onto Pleasant Valley Road. Drive 3/4 mile (past the buildings on the right) to the state natural area sign. Park off the road.



Silvery Checkerspot

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# BUTTERFLIES AND WILDFLOWERS OF CHEROKEE MARSH

Saturday, June 24, 2023

10:00 a.m. – Noon.



Great Spangled Fritillary

On this morning walk we'll observe and learn about butterflies, those exquisitely beautiful creatures that dance around us in summer. **Tod Highsmith** and **Dreux Watermolen** (DNR) will lead this 2 hour walk at Cherokee Marsh on the northeast side of Madison. We will observe a variety of butterflies as they take nectar from wildflowers, and learn about their identification, behavior, and lifestyle. Bring binoculars if you have them — close-focusing ones work best. We have a few extra pairs of binoculars. Wear sturdy shoes, long pants and a hat for protection from the sun.

This is a joint trip of the Southern Wisconsin Butterfly Association, with Madison Audubon Society, and Friends of Cherokee Marsh.

Meet at 10:00 a.m. **DIRECTIONS:** On the north side of Madison take Northport Drive (Highway 113) then turn north on Sherman Ave. Meet at the Cherokee Marsh parking lot at the extreme north end of Sherman Ave. (6098 N Sherman Ave, Madison, WI.) Email Tod at [tohighsmith@me.com](mailto:tohighsmith@me.com) only if you have other questions about the trip.

(If you would like to be contacted in case of cancellation, register your intent to attend with Madison Audubon at <https://madisonaudubon.org/all-events/2023/6/24/butterflies-wildflowers> )

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# BUTTERFLIES OF COLUMBIA COUNTY

Friday, June 30, 2023

9:00 a.m. – Noon

We will visit Rocky Run Fishery Area and Oak Savanna State Natural Area. The State Natural Area was designated in 1988, and the following year Karl and Dorothy Legler began an annual NABA butterfly survey here for the past 34 years. We will stay mostly on trails and expect to find American Coppers, Banded Hairstreaks, Delaware Skippers, Mulberry Wing, and many others. Leaders are **Karl Legler** and **Fred Dike**. Long pants, a hat, water, and hiking shoes are recommended. Bring binoculars—the closer they focus, the better! (We have a few extra binoculars.) Call Karl at (608) 643-4926 only if you have a question about the trip.

**DIRECTIONS:** Meet at 9:00 a.m. Taking Hwy 51 north from Madison, continue straight north on Hwy 22. Go 1.3 miles past the intersection of Hwy 22 with County B. The parking lot for Rocky Run is on the left.



Northern Pearly-eye

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# BUTTERFLIES AND DRAGONFLIES OF SWAMP-LOVERS PRESERVE

Thursday, July 4, 2023

9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Celebrate July 4th at this beautiful private preserve that consists of remnant and restored wetlands, remnant bluff prairie, restored tall grass prairie, and dry hilly oak-hickory woodland. In past years, we have observed an impressive variety of dragonflies and butterflies as we explored the different habitats. Bring binoculars (close-focusing ones work best). (We will have a few extra binoculars.) Bring your own lunch and beverages to enjoy when we finish the trip by driving up to the bluff-top picnic shelter. Leaders are **Edgar Spalding** and **Tod Highsmith**.



Eastern Amberwing



Meadow Fritillary

**DIRECTIONS:** Meet at 9:30 a.m. Travel west from Cross Plains on Hwy

14. Just outside town take County KP to the right (north), go about 1.3 miles and turn left at the Swamp Lovers sign. When the road turns to the RIGHT park on the left near the tree. Call Tod at [todhighsmith@me.com](mailto:todhighsmith@me.com) only if you have a question about the trip or if the weather is questionable.



Black Swallowtail

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## UW ARBORETUM: GRADY TRACT

Saturday, July 8, 2023

9:00 a.m. – Noon

This is our **33rd annual** Madison butterfly survey at UW Arboretum! Each year, butterfly enthusiasts all over North America participate in more than 330 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 results are published in an annual report for North America. This walk is just one of many taking place in the Madison area, all contained within a 15-mile diameter circle. If you can identify butterflies, or can help spot butterflies, or just want to see and learn about butterflies, join us on this 2 to 3-hour 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. Leaders are **Donna Williams-Richter** and **Fred Dike**.



Edward's Hairstreak

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 walk, contact **Karl Legler** at (608) 643-4926.



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## 2 RESULTS OF THE 2023 ANNUAL “WAZEE” NABA SPRING BUTTERFLY COUNT (JACKSON COUNTY)

(SWBA no longer does this butterfly count as a public field trip because the weather is too erratic in Jackson Co. in mid-May. We can't put an X on the calendar. Instead, counters must be able to do the count on a suitable day, on minimal notice.)



Olympia Marble

This was the 17<sup>th</sup> annual Wazee NABA Spring Butterfly Count, which was conducted in Jackson County at the Bauer-Brockway Barrens and Black River State Forest on May 16, 2023. Such counts are conducted within a 15-mile diameter circle, similar to a Christmas Bird Count. By holding out for the best weather, we had sunny but smoky-white skies (due to smoke from Canadian forest fires) and temperature ranging from 63°F to 79°F. 8 observers in 4-5



Eastern Pine Elfin

parties spent 24 party-hours counting and identifying butterflies with close-focusing binoculars and cameras. We found **885 individuals of 24 species.** 885 individuals are the second highest count of the 17 years. 24 species is slightly above average. Thanks to the observers, Ann and Scott Swengel, Mike Reese, Donna Williams-Richter, Fred Dike, Douglas Buege, Karl Legler and Pam Skaar. The results are listed below. (Bold type indicates the best sightings.)

Black Swallowtail 1  
**Canadian Tiger Swallowtail 1**  
Cabbage White 3  
**Olympia Marble 429**  
Clouded Sulphur 1  
Orange Sulphur 3  
**Brown Elfin 3**  
**Hoary Elfin 4**

**Frosted Elfin 51**  
**Henry's Elfin 49**  
**Eastern Pine Elfin 81**  
Eastern Tailed-Blue 1  
Spring Azure 101  
**Silvery Blue 8**  
Meadow Fritillary 2  
**Gorgone Checkerspot 1**

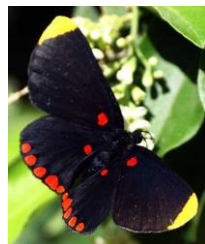
Mourning Cloak 15  
American Lady 36  
Monarch 1  
**Jutta Arctic 1**  
**Dreamy Duskywing 3**  
**Sleepy Duskywing 5**  
Juvenal's Duskywing 70  
**Persius Duskywing 17**

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## 3 NABA 2023 TEXAS BUTTERFLY FESTIVAL Nov. 4 to Nov. 7

This is the premier butterfly event in the country. It is run by NABA's National Butterfly Center in Mission, Texas. The million-dollar building was opened in 2010. NABA's purpose in acquiring the 100-acre property adjacent to the Rio Grande River and Bentsen State Park was to preserve a superlative site for butterflying. It is located at the southernmost tip of Texas, in the Rio Grande Valley (LRGV – an area about 120 miles long by 20 miles wide) which is the most productive butterfly-finding area in the United States. The climate with mild winters results in a rich diversity of plants and animals



Red-bordered Pixie

with a southern affinity, many of which do not occur further north. The LRGV is home to more than 1,200 different species of plants, 500 species of birds, 200 vertebrate species, roughly 300 species of butterflies, and over 90 species of dragonflies!

Attendees will spend 3 days exploring renowned public lands and private properties with world-class trip leaders and expert guides. The Festival is taking place during prime butterfly season, when you may reasonably expect to see more than

60 species in a day.

For more information see <https://www.texasbutterflyfestival.com/index.php>

## 4 FULL LIST OF 2023 BUTTERFLY FIELD TRIPS

FIELD TRIP	DAY	DATE	LEADERS
Butterflies and Wildflowers of Pleasant Valley Conservancy	Saturday	June 17	Dr. Douglas Buege Kathy Brock
Butterflies and Wildflowers of Cherokee Marsh	Saturday	June 24	Tod Highsmith Dreux Watermolen
Butterflies of Columbia County	Friday	June 30	Karl Legler Fred Dike
Butterfly and Dragonfly Swamp-Lovers Holiday	Tuesday	4 <sup>th</sup> of July	Edgar Spalding Tod Highsmith
Madison NABA Butterfly Count	Saturday	July 8	Fred Dike Donna Williams-Richter
Northern Kettle Moraine State Forest	Wednesday	July 12	Mike Reese
Butterflies and Wildflowers of Walking Iron County Park	Sunday	July 23	Skye Bruce Pam Skaar
Butterflies of the Lower Wisconsin Riverway	Saturday	August 12	Mike Reese

The ButterFlyer flits to you every month in summer. The next issue will be in JULY, 2023.

### Officers of SWBA:

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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 summer. Send any news notes to the editor, Karl Legler, at [karlndot@charter.net](mailto:karlndot@charter.net)

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