

Badger Butterfly

The e-Newsletter of the Southern Wisconsin Butterfly Association **JUNE 2009**

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

1 NEXT SWBA FIELD TRIPS. MARK YOUR CALENDAR !!

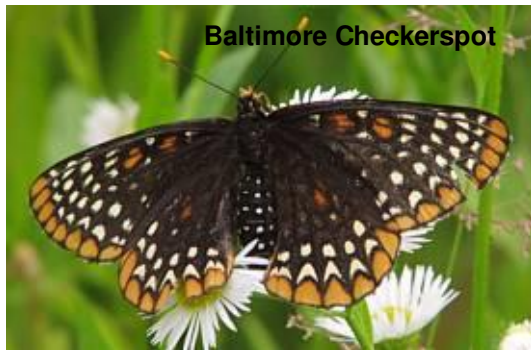
(For a complete list of SWBA field trips and butterfly counts, visit our Web site.)

Saturday, June 20: Butterflies & Wildflowers at Pleasant Valley Conservancy

9: 30 - noon

Leaders are Ann Thering and Kathie and Tom Brock.

This is a joint trip with The Prairie Enthusiasts and the Madison Audubon Society. Pleasant Valley Conservancy is one of our newest State Natural Areas, and one of the most beautiful. It is situated in the Driftless Area and boasts steep goat prairies on the south-facing hillsides and oak savanna along the ridge top. There is also a large high quality marsh in the adjacent lowland area.



The various habitats are home to numerous butterflies. This time of year we hope to see Baltimore Checkerspots and perhaps some wetland skippers, such as Mulberry Wing. Other possible butterfly species include Black Swallowtail, Tiger Swallowtail, Giant Swallowtail, American Lady,

fritillaries, blues, hairstreaks, and sulfurs. All of these butterflies will have many wonderful native plants to nectar on this time of year.

We will be hiking two to three miles, including a steep hillside. Long pants, a hat, water, and sturdy hiking shoes are recommended. Bring binoculars -- the closer they focus, the better. (We have a few extra binoculars.) Contact the trip leaders only if you have questions: Tom: (608) 238-5050, tdbrock@charter.net, or Ann, therann@yahoo.com, (608) 836-1097.

Meet at 9:30 a.m. The trip will last until noon. Directions: NOTE: There will be road construction on Hwy 14 between Cross Plains and Mazomanie so use this detour: From Middleton take Hwy 12 to the northwest. Turn left at Hwy 19. Turn left at Hwy 78. At 14 turn right and enter Mazomanie. Just across the bridge turn left on KP. Heading east for 2.7 miles turn right at F. Continue on F for another 3 3/4 miles turning left onto Pleasant Valley Road. Drive 3/4 mile and stop at the walking trail on the left. Park off the road facing the entrance. (Take these directions and a good map with you!)

Saturday, June 27: Butterflies of Cherokee Marsh

10 a.m. - noon

Trip leader: Kathy Kirk

This is a joint trip with the Madison Audubon Society

On this walk we'll observe and learn about butterflies, those small but exquisitely beautiful creatures that dance about our ankles in summer. Conservation Biologist Kathy Kirk will lead this two-hour walk at Cherokee

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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. Consider wearing long pants and a hat for protection from the sun.

Meet at 10 a.m. 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 north end of Sherman Ave. Call Kathy only if you have a question about the trip, at (608) 442-1642.

Sunday, July 5: Madison Butterfly Count

9 a.m. - noon

Count leaders: Karl and Dorothy Legler

This is a joint trip with the Madison Audubon Society and the UW Arboretum.

This is our 19th annual count! Each summer butterfly enthusiasts from all over North America participate in some 483 censuses of butterfly species. Each count is similar to a Christmas Bird Count. These censuses help to monitor the health of butterfly populations; the results are published in an annual report. If you can identify butterflies or can help spot butterflies, or just want to see and learn about butterflies, join us on this count/field trip. Bring binoculars, the closer they focus the better, or just get close! (We will 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 fee from each participant to cover publishing costs. (If you would like to count butterflies at your own site within the 15-mile diameter circle, call the number below. Anyone is welcome to continue counting in the afternoon.) 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 call Karl and Dorothy Legler at (608) 643-4926 or karlindot@charter.net

2 UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS (Details will be in the July e-Newsletter. Or see our Web site.)

**Saturday, July 11:
Pretty Things With Wings:
Birds, Butterflies and Dragonflies
at Lakeshore Preserve**

**Saturday, July 18:
Flowers and Butterflies
at Schurch-Thomson Prairie**

3 LAKE WALES, FLORIDA !! Regional NABA Meeting, September 25-27, 2009



This is a wonderful opportunity to visit some great butterfly areas with expert leaders! Quoting from the brochure: "The month of September is the best time of year to see some of the rarer butterflies found in central Florida. Join us for field trips to natural areas and to one of the most amazing butterfly gardens in the state. Field trips for beginners and experts alike!"

Field trips will go to Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park, Bull Creek Wildlife Management Area and Triple N Ranch Wildlife Management Area. They have a great list of top-notch leaders, including Jeff Glassberg (Butterflies Through Binoculars), Rick Cech (Butterflies of the East Coast) and many others. Trips run 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Registration is \$120 per person (for NABA members) and includes the Friday Evening Welcome program, Saturday evening Banquet and Program; all tours; field trips and programs, box lunches on Saturday and Sunday; drinks and snacks. For non-members the fee is \$150 but it includes NABA membership (you get American Butterflies and Butterfly Gardener quarterly magazines). You can stay at Westgate River Ranch Resort for

\$89/night; camping is also available. See you there!!

Download the Brochure: <http://www.naba.org/chapters/florida/NABAStateBrochure2009.pdf>

Download the Registration Form: <http://www.naba.org/chapters/florida/MeetingRegForm2009.pdf>

More details at: <http://www.naba.org/chapters/florida/meeting.html>

Email Lisa Lewis at lewis@naba.org for more information.

4 SOME UPCOMING (SWBA SPONSORED) BUTTERFLY COUNTS

Some 16 NABA Butterfly Counts take place in Wisconsin each year. Below are ones that are connected with SWBA.

- ❖ Mud Lake (Columbia County) Thursday, July 2
- ❖ Madison (Dane county) Sunday, July 5 see field trip article above.
- ❖ Trempealeau (Trempealeau County) Thursday July 9
- ❖ Northern Kettle Moraine (Fond du Lac County) Wednesday, July 15
- ❖ Sister Bay (Door County) Monday, July 20

To join in on these counts or for more information about SWBA-sponsored NABA counts, please contact: Karl and Dorothy Legler, count coordinators: karlndot@charter.net (608) 643-4926
(For a list of additional Butterfly Counts in Wisconsin, visit NABA's Web site at www.naba.org/counts/um_g.html . Contacts are listed.)

5 NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2009

At this meeting the speaker will be butterfly expert Ann Swengel. Her talk will be on:

Adventures in Muskegs and Kettleholes: A Presentation on Bog Butterflies of Northern Wisconsin.

The meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. at Warner Park Community Recreation Center at 1625 Northport Drive in Madison.

6 BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION IN CALIFORNIA: Bay Checkerspot

Thanks to subscriber Jane Mussey for calling our attention to this item. See this interesting article about alien plants, nitrogen, and smog, with cows and grazing as the best hope for the threatened Bay Checkerspot; from the High Country News.

<http://www.hcn.org/issues/41.9/bring-in-the-cows?>



7 DOWNLOAD ARTICLES ON FINDING BUTTERFLIES BY ANN SWENGEL

Butterfly expert Ann Swengel has written two articles on finding butterflies in two major areas of Wisconsin:

The Beguiling Butterflies of the Jackson County Pine-Oak Barrens.

The Fascinating Butterflies of Northwestern Wisconsin Bogs.

These articles discuss the various unusual butterflies of these areas, provide locations for finding them and useful information about flight periods and behavior. Both these articles are available on our Web site and can be downloaded as PDF files. Or click on these links:

www.naba.org/chapters/nabawba/JacksonCountyButterflies.pdf

www.naba.org/chapters/nabawba/NWWiscBogButterflies.pdf

8 MAY BUTTERFLIES REPORTED TO www.wisconsinbutterflies.org

Mike Reese's butterfly Web site received 121 reports during May with detailed observations of more than 2,000 individual butterflies of about 65 species. Highlights were especially the barrens butterflies of Jackson County and other areas, and northern bog species. Many outstanding photos of very scarce butterflies were posted, such

as Columbine Duskywing, Frosted and Henry's Elfins, Cobweb Skipper, Jutta and Chryxus Arctics, Freija and Frigga Fritillaries, Red-disked Alpine, Western-tailed Blue, Mottled Duskywing and West Virginia White. Some of these species may still be flying (consult the two articles by Ann Swengel mentioned in the previous Section). Be sure to share your observations by submitting your own reports online this summer.

9 NABA SUMMARY OF ALL 2008 BUTTERFLY COUNTS AVAILABLE

Copies of the Summary are available

The 2008 NABA Butterfly Count Report for more than 500 counts has been published and may be ordered from the address below. The Summary details the results of each count and also lists the top count for each species. The first printing of the count summary has sold out and the second printing, which is coil bound (rather than perfect bound, as was the first printing) is now available for \$11 for NABA members and \$16 for non-NABA members. Order from: NABA Butterfly Count, 4 Delaware Rd., Morristown, NJ 07960

Copies of the previous NABA Butterfly Count Reports (years 1982-1987, 1989-2007 are also available). Each report is \$11 for NABA members and \$16 for non-members. Shipping and handling is \$2 for the first item and \$1 for each additional item. Please make check payable to NABA.

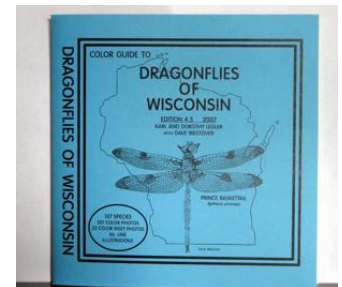
Wisconsin Counts in 2008

In 2008 there were 16 NABA butterfly counts conducted in Wisconsin. We sent in the data from SWBA's field trip to Jackson County in May. We found good numbers of the Endangered Frosted Elfin. These were the first Frosted Elfins ever recorded on any NABA count!

- Three species were seen by a Wisconsin count, in the highest number of any count in North America:
 - Swamp Metalmark (2) at Northern Kettle Moraine in Fond du Lac County (Endangered species).
 - Gorgone Checkerspot (147) also at Northern Kettle Moraine.
 - Two-spotted Skipper (23) at Sandhill/Seneca in Wood County.
-

10 DRAGONFLIES OF WISCONSIN (2007) IS AVAILABLE.

After butterflies, the 2nd most beautiful, fascinating and observable macro-insects are dragonflies. The guide book Dragonflies of Wisconsin (by Karl and Dorothy Legler, with Dave Westover) 2007, has been reprinted. It is available at the UW Arboretum Bookstore at 1207 Seminole Highway, Madison, WI 53711-3726. The price is \$14. To order by phone with a credit card, call (608) 263-7888. Postage will be \$3.00. The bookstore is open on weekdays from 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. and weekends 12:30 - 4 p.m.



11 BUTTERFLY GARDENING: When the Fritillaries are Flitting!

By Dorothy Legler, Master Gardener

July is a great month for butterflies. You will probably see the orange Great Spangled Fritillary flitting about. Some great nectar plants for them are Bergamot, Purple Cone-flower, Joe Pye-weed, milkweeds, Dogbane, Black-eyed Susans and thistles. The host plant for this butterfly is any of our violets.

Although mating early, the female becomes dormant and delays egg laying until she reappears in late summer. She will lay eggs on the ground, on twigs or foliage near a stand of violets. When the egg hatches the caterpillar surprisingly goes directly into hibernation without feeding. In the spring the caterpillar must locate violets and begin feeding. They feed at night for safety.

When the Great Spangled is sitting with wings closed up, look for the obvious wide pale yellow band on the underside of the hindwing. These butterflies are found in open areas, fields, roadsides and forest edges but they will come to garden flowers.



I am also recommending a useful and interesting book **How to Spot Butterflies by Patricia and Clay Sutton**. (1999). It has chapters on gardening for butterflies, conservation, the basics of butterflies, finding butterflies through the seasons and around the country.

**The Badger ButterFlyer flits to you every month (every other month in winter).
The next issue will be in JULY.**

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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 website at <http://www.naba.org/chapters/nabawba/>

Our e-Newsletter, the **Badger ButterFlyer**, will be published monthly in spring to fall and every other month in winter. Send any news notes to the editor, Karl Legler, at karlndot@charter.net

To stop receiving this e-Newsletter simply send an email to the above editor's address.