

Badger ButterFlyer

The e-Newsletter of the Southern Wisconsin Butterfly Association

MAY, 2016

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

1 NEXT FIELD TRIP

Mark your calendar!

Butterflies of Bauer-Brockway Barrens (Jackson Co.)

Saturday, May 21

10:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.



Gorgone Checkerspot

The best place in the state to look for early butterflies in May is Jackson County. Butterfly expert **Mike Reese** will lead us in finding and observing many scarce and unusual species, many that only fly in May! We expect to find all 5 of the state's Elfins, including the very rare (and State Threatened) Frosted Elfin. We should find Olympia Marble, Gorgone Checkerspot, Cobweb Skipper, Dreamy and Sleepy Duskywings, etc. Over the past 9 years we have averaged 21 species. Bring binoculars if you have them, close-focusing ones work best. (A few extra pairs of binoculars are available.) Also, bring a bag lunch and water. A hat, long pants and long sleeves are recommended.

Meet in Jackson Co. at 10:30 a.m. at the corner of West Bauer Road and Brockway Road. We will butterfly until 3:00 p.m. DIRECTIONS: From the intersection of I-94 and Hwy 54 in Black River Falls, go east on Hwy 54 approximately 3.8 miles to Brockway Road. Turn right on West Bauer Road and drive 3.8 miles to the intersection with North Brockway Road. (This area is about 2 1/4 hours northwest of Madison via I-94.)

Participants must PRE-REGISTER for this trip by either calling Mike at (920) 647-0196, or include your phone number in an email to mikereese@wisconsinbutterflies.org (so we can contact you in case of postponement or cancellation due to weather).



Olympia Marble

IN THIS ISSUE:

1. NEXT FIELD TRIP.
Bauer-Brockway Barrens.
2. Highlights of SWBA Meeting.
3. Two Upcoming Field Trips.
4. Wisconsin's Northern and Southern Butterflies.
5. SWBA Receives Donation.
6. Results of 2015 NABA Counts.
7. Spring Butterfly Reports.
8. NABA Counts help document decline of Regal Fritillary.
9. SWBA Field Trip Schedule.
10. NABA Counts Schedule.

2 HIGHLIGHTS OF MEETING

35 butterfly enthusiasts attended the April Meeting of SWBA to hear two presentations:

Aldo Leopold's Land Ethic and the Fate of the Monarch Butterfly by Professor Stanley Temple, and 2015 -- The Year in Butterflies by Mike Reese. We learned about additional land areas that could conceivably be managed for Monarchs and other pollinators, such as some portions of farm land, highway medians, Railroad right-of-ways, and power-line right-of-ways.

Mike noted limited immigrants last year except for an unusual influx of the very rare stray



Funereal Duskywing (5X).

The current Officers of SWBA were re-elected: President Douglas Buege; Vice-President Karl Legler; Treasurer Ginny Nelson; and Secretary Dorothy Legler.

(Thanks to Dorothy Legler for providing delicious snacks!)

3 TWO MORE UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Butterflies & Wildflowers at Pleasant Valley Conservancy

Saturday, June 18

11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Pleasant Valley Conservancy is a beautiful state natural area situated in the Driftless Area, with 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 this time of year. Long pants, a hat, water, and sturdy hiking shoes are recommended. Leaders are **Ann Thering and Tom and Kathie Brock**. This is a joint trip of SWBA with Madison Audubon and The Prairie Enthusiasts. Optional: bring along a bag lunch for after the field trip; beverages and dessert will be provided. Bring binoculars--the closer they focus, the better. (We have a few extra binoculars.) Contact the trip leaders only if you have a question about the trip. Tom: (608) 238-5050, tdbrock@charter.net, or Ann: acthering@gmail.com, (608) 836-1097.



Baltimore Checkerspot

Directions: (4609 Pleasant Valley Rd, Black Earth, WI.) 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. We'll meet near the sign/gate area and then proceed into the wetland.

Butterflies of Cherokee Marsh

Saturday, June 25

10:00 a.m. to Noon

On this morning walk we'll observe and learn about butterflies, those small but exquisitely beautiful creatures that dance about our ankles in summer. **Karl and Dorothy Legler and Jan Axelson 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



Hackberry Emperor on arm.

identification, behavior, and lifestyle. Bring binoculars if you have them — close-focusing ones work best. We have a few extra pairs of binoculars. It's best to wear 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 north end of Sherman Ave. (6098 N Sherman Ave, Madison, WI.) Call Karl at (608) 643-4926 or email karlndot@charter.net, only if you have a question about the trip.

4 WHICH OF OUR BUTTERFLIES ARE SOUTHERN? NORTHERN?

How many of our Wisconsin butterflies are northern or southern? The question came up at the SWBA Meeting. Here are the results. I've marked the scarce butterflies R (rare), VR (very rare) or X (accidental, few records).

Wisconsin butterflies seen only or primarily in the northern half of Wisconsin: 34

White Admiral	Brown Elfin	Red-disked Alpine R
Green Comma	Eastern Pine Elfin	Cobweb Skipper
Satyr Comma R	Henry's Elfin R	Common Branded Skipper R
Greenish Blue R	Hoary Elfin	Indian Skipper
'Karner' Melissa Blue	Atlantis Fritillary	Pepper and Salt Skipper
Northern Blue VR	Bog Fritillary R	Arctic Skipper
Western Tailed-Blue R	Freija Fritillary R	Pink-edged Sulphur
Harris' Checkerspot R	Frigga Fritillary R	Canadian Tiger Swallowtail
Bog Copper R	Purplish Fritillary R	Mustard White
Dorcas Copper R	Chryxus Arctic R	West Virginia White R
Northern Crescent	Jutta Arctic	
Tawny Crescent R	Common Ringlet	

Wisconsin butterflies seen only or primarily in the southern half of Wisconsin: 37

Red-spotted Purple	Fiery Skipper	Silver-spotted Skipper
Gorgone Checkerspot	Little Glassywing R	Dainty Sulphur
Pearl Crescent	Mulberry Wing	Little Yellow
Hackberry Emperor	Northern Broken-Dash	Sleepy Orange X
Tawny Crescent R	Ottoo Skipper VR	Southern Dogface R
Regal Fritillary R	Powesheik Skipperling VR	Cloudless Sulphur VR
Gray Hairstreak R	Sachem R	Eastern Tiger Swallowtail
Swamp Metalmark VR	Southern Cloudywing	Giant Swallowtail
Appalachian Brown	Columbine Duskywing	Pipevine Swallowtail VR
Black Dash	Funereal Duskywing VR	Spicebush Swallowtail X
Broad-winged Skipper	Horace's Duskywing VR	Zebra Swallowtail X
Byssus Skipper VR	Common Checkered-Skipper R	
Crossline Skipper	Common Sootywing	

Wisconsin butterflies seen primarily in western or central Wisconsin: 10

WESTERN WI:	Juniper Hairstreak	Persius Duskywing R
Reakirt's Blue VR	Dusted Skipper	Wild Indigo Duskywing
Gray Copper R	Two-spotted Skipper R	CENTRAL WI:
Hickory Hairstreak	Mottled Duskywing R	Frosted Elfin R

Wisconsin butterflies seen throughout Wisconsin, or nearly so: 55

Viceroy	Acadian Hairstreak	Least Skipper
Eastern Comma	Banded Hairstreak	Leonard's Skipper
Gray Comma	Coral Hairstreak	Long Dash
Question Mark	Edward's Hairstreak	Tawny-edged Skipper
Eastern Tailed-Blue	Striped Hairstreak	Northern Cloudywing
Silvery Blue	Harvester	Dreamy Duskywing
Spring Azure	American Lady	Juvenal's Duskywing
Summer Azure	Painted Lady	Sleepy Duskywing
Common Buckeye	Red Admiral	Clouded Sulphur
Baltimore Checkerspot	Monarch	Orange Sulphur
Silvery Checkerspot	Eyed Brown	Black Swallowtail
American Copper	Common Wood-Nymph	Compton Tortoiseshell
Bronze Copper	Little Wood-Satyr	Milbert's Tortoiseshell
Purplish Copper R	Northern Pearly-Eye	Mourning Cloak
Aphrodite Fritillary	Common Roadside-Skipper	Cabbage White
Great Spangled Fritillary	Delaware Skipper	Checkered White
Meadow Fritillary	Dion Skipper	Olympia Marble
Silver-bordered Fritillary	Dun Skipper	
Variiegated Fritillary	Hobomok Skipper	

The scarce butterflies are mostly restricted to isolated locations. One way to locate a scarce butterfly is to look at www.butterfliesofwisconsin.org website to determine specific locations where they have been seen (taking into consideration their flight period, listed on the same website, or in some field guides). You can see the specific range and flight period of a particular species by looking in Glassberg's Butterflies Through Binoculars -- The East.

5 SWBA RECEIVES DONATION IN MEMORIUM

Our THANKS to SWBA member Stan Rehm who provided SWBA with a generous donation in memory of his mother, Edythe Rehm, who passed away in December at the age of 97.

6 SOME BUTTERFLIES HAD HIGH COUNTS ON THE 2015 WISCONSIN NABA BUTTERFLY COUNTS.

In 2015 there were 433 butterfly counts held by NABA around North America. Wisconsin held 17 NABA Counts. For some species, Wisconsin had the highest count of any of the 433 North American Counts! These species are listed in the table below. (The Wazee Spring Count is partly the result from the Bauer-Brockway Field Trip in Jackson County, which is coming up on May 21, 2016. See Section 1 of this newsletter.)



Swamp Metalmark

SPECIES	Number seen is HIGHEST of the 433 counts	Count Name	Number of counts that found this species.	Comment.
Olympia Marble	251	Wazee (Spring)	1	NEW North American Count High!
Frosted Elfin	6	Wazee (Spring)	2	State Threatened.
Eastern Pine Elfin	5	Wazee (Spring)	3	
Melissa Blue	126	Crex Meadows, WI	26	The Federally Endangered Karner Blue is here considered a sub-species of the Melissa Blue.
Swamp Metalmark	2	N. Kettle Moraine	1	Endangered.
Eastern Comma	68	Baraboo	176	
Sleepy Duskywing	7	Wazee (Spring)	3	
Juvenal's Duskywing				
Mottled Duskywing	2	Crex Meadows, WI	1	"Special Concern", declining.
Persius Duskywing	20	Wazee (Spring)	11	Tied with a count in Colorado. "Special Concern".
Cobweb Skipper	3	Wazee (Spring)	1	"Special Concern".
Dion Skipper	39	Sandhill, WI	38	
Two-spotted Skipper	31	Sandhill, WI	8	



Eastern Pine Elfin

Of the 433 NABA Counts in North America, only a single Wisconsin count has found the beautiful, but Endangered, **Swamp Metalmark!**

The **Mottled Duskywing** has declined and is of "Special Concern" which indicates it could become Threatened in the future. The **Eastern Pine Elfin**, like other Elfins in Wisconsin, flies during May.



Mottled Duskywing

7 2016 SPRING BUTTERFLY REPORTS TO wisconsinbutterflies.org

In the last issue of Badger ButterFlyer we listed the first 15 species seen for 2016. Here we list the additional species seen up until mid-May. 37 species have been found so far this year.

#	SPECIES	DATE	#	SPECIES	DATE	#	SPECIES	DATE
16	Hoary Elfin	4 / 22	24	Harvester	5 / 5	32	Persius Duskywing	5 / 6
17	E. Pine Elfin	4 / 23	25	Dreamy Duskywing	5 / 5	33	Pearl Crescent	5 / 7
18	Henry's Elfin	4 / 23	26	Canadian Tiger Swallowtail	5 / 6	34	Orange Sulphur	5 / 7
19	Juniper Hairstreak	4 / 25	27	Freija Fritillary	5 / 6	35	Red-disked Alpine	5 / 7
20	Meadow Fritillary	5 / 1	28	Question Mark	5 / 6	36	Eastern Tailed-Blue	5 / 7
21	Silvery Blue	5 / 2	29	Northern Crescent	5 / 6	37	Chryxus Arctic	5 / 8
22	Juvenal's Duskywing	5 / 2	30	American Copper	5 / 6			
23	Black Swallowtail	5 / 5	31	Frosted Elfin	5 / 6			

Species that have only a **single brood** are in bold-face type. The others will have at least one more brood later in 2016.

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

8 RESEARCH ARTICLE USES NABA COUNTS TO DOCUMENT THE DECLINE OF REGAL FRITILLARY IN CENTRAL U.S.

Scott and Ann Swengel have a new paper about Regal Fritillaries, "Status and Trend of Regal Fritillary (*Speyeria idalia*) (Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae) in the [NABA] 4th of July Butterfly Count Program in 1977-2014."

Scientifica vol. 2016, Article ID 2572056, 10 pages, 2016.

They comment, "The work people have done to maintain NABA's '4th of July' Counts has been really valuable for this project and many others."

ABSTRACT: Regal Fritillary (*Speyeria idalia*) primarily inhabits prairie, a native grassland of central North America, and occurs rarely in nonprairie grasslands further east. This butterfly has experienced widespread decline and marked range contraction. We analyze Regal Fritillary incidence and abundance during 1977–2014 in 4th of July Butterfly Counts, an annual census of butterflies in North America. Volunteers count within the same 24 km diameter circle each year. Only 6% of counts in range reported a Regal, while 18% of counts in core range in the Midwest and Great Plains did. 99.9% of Regal individuals occurred in



Regal Fritillary

core range. Only four circles east of core range reported this species, and only during the first half of the study period. All individuals reported west of its main range occurred in two circles in Colorado in the second half of the study. The number of counts per year and survey effort per count increased during the study. During 1991–2014, >31 counts occurred per year in core Regal range, compared to 0–23 during 1975–1990. During 1991–2014, all measures of Regal presence and abundance declined, most significantly. These results agree with other sources that Regal Fritillary has contracted its range and declined in abundance.

To download the article click on

<http://www.hindawi.com/journals/scientifica/2016/2572056/>

Then select the "Full-Text PDF" button to download the PDF file.

9 FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE FOR 2016 (mark these on your calendar!)

These field trips are free and open to the public.

DAY	DATE	TRIP TITLE	LEADER(S)
Saturday	May 21	Butterflies of Bauer Brockway Barrens (Jackson Co.)	Mike Reese
Saturday	June 18	Butterflies and Wildflowers at Pleasant Valley Conservancy	Ann Thering Kathie and Tom Brock
Saturday	June 25	Butterflies of Cherokee Marsh	Karl & Dorothy Legler and Jan Axelson
Saturday	July 2	Butterflies of Sandhill Wildlife Area (Wood Co.)	Ron Arnold
Monday	July 4	Butterflies and Dragonflies of Swamp Lovers Preserve	Tod Highsmith Karl and Dorothy Legler
Saturday	July 9	Butterflies of Page Creek Marsh	Dan Sonnenberg
Saturday	July 16	Butterflies and Flowers of Shea Prairie	Eric Preston Dr. Douglas Buege
Saturday	July 23	Butterflies of Walking Iron County Park	Karl and Dorothy Legler
Saturday	August 6	Butterflies of Avoca/Blue River Area	Mike Reese

10 2016 NABA BUTTERFLY COUNT SCHEDULE

This is a good way to gain more experience with a range of butterflies. Whether experienced or novice, you are always welcome to participate. To join in, or if you have a question, contact the coordinators (Karl and Dorothy Legler, karlndot@charter.net, (608) 643-4926).

(NABA charges a \$3 fee to participate in a count, to help defray the cost of publication.)

(For a list of additional Butterfly Counts in Wisconsin and elsewhere, visit NABA's Web site at www.naba.org/counts/us_mx_map.html Contacts are Listed.)

COUNT NAME	DAY	DATE	COUNTY	NUMBER OF YEARS
Mud Lake	Friday	July 1	Columbia Co.	27
Dubuque (Wis. portion)	Sunday	July 10	Grant Co.	13
Trempealeau	Wednesday	July 13	Trempealeau Co.	26
Northern Kettle Moraine	Monday	July 18	Fond du Lac Co.	19

**The Badger ButterFlyer flits to you every month from spring into fall.
The next issue will be in June.**

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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

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