

Badger ButterFlyer

The e-Newsletter of the Southern Wisconsin Butterfly Association

A chapter of NABA (North American Butterfly Association)

AUGUST, 2019

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 OF THE AVOCA / BLUE RIVER AREA

Saturday, August 3, 2019

10:30 a.m.- 4 p.m.



Common Sootywing.

In some years this can be the best butterfly trip of the year! This trip will highlight several areas in the **Lower Wisconsin State Riverway**, including Avoca Prairie and Savanna State Natural Area in Iowa County, and Blue River unit in Grant County. Leader is **Dr. Douglas Buege**. We expect to see late butterflies and several unusual southern immigrants. A hat and long pants are recommended. Bring water, a lunch, and binoculars (the closer they focus the better). A few extra binoculars are available. Call Karl Legler at (608) 228-0743 only if you have a question about the trip, or if the weather is questionable.

Meet at 10:30 a.m. Allow 50 minute travel time from Middleton.

DIRECTIONS: Take Hwy 14 west to Lone Rock, south on Hwy 130 then turn right on Hwy 133. Go west about 5.0 miles, turn right on Hay Road, and drive north to the first parking area.

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Giant Swallowtail

BUTTERFLIES OF THE SAUK-PRAIRIE RECREATION AREA **NEW**

Saturday, August 10, 2019

10:00 a.m. to noon

The Sauk Prairie Recreation Area, located in southeastern Sauk County, consists of a portion of the decommissioned 7,354-acre Badger Army Ammunition Plant (BAAP). The Sauk Prairie Recreation Area contributes important areas of grassland habitat needed to reconstruct a natural mosaic of prairie-savanna-woodland at a landscape scale. Directly adjacent to Devils Lake State Park, it serves as an ecological transition from the Baraboo Hills to the Wisconsin River. This is a huge area! We hope to see about 20 species or more. Leaders are **Karl and Dorothy Legler**. A hat and long pants are recommended. Bring water and binoculars (the closer they focus the better). A few extra binoculars are available. Call Karl Legler at (608) 228-0743 only if you have a question about the trip, or if the weather is questionable.

Meet at 10:00 a.m. along the entrance road. (SEE DIRECTIONS ON NEXT PAGE:)



Eastern Tailed-Blue

DIRECTIONS: From Middleton, take Hwy 12 to Sauk City. From the stoplight at the bridge over the Wisconsin River continue on Hwy 12 for 8.7 miles. Turn right at the sign for "Museum: Badger Army Ammunition" and meet along the road.

2 HIGHLIGHTS OF RECENT FIELD TRIPS:

Highlights of Pleasant Valley Conservancy Field Trip

Led by Douglas Buege and Tom and Kathy Brock. 28 butterfly watchers attended. The weather forecast had been 60% rain chance and mostly cloudy. But we got lucky: it was sunny and no rain! We found 15 species -- and a Fox Snake.



Silvery Checkerspot

Butterflies seen on the Pleasant Valley field trip:

Black Swallowtail	1	Pearl Crescent	2	Silver-spotted Skipper	1
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail	1	Baltimore Checkerspot	37	Northern Cloudywing	1
Giant Swallowtail	1	Viceroy	1	European Skipper	1
Cabbage White	1	Little Wood-Satyr	1	Northern Broken-Dash	1
Silvery Checkerspot	4	Monarch	6	Tawny-edged Skipper	1

Highlights of Cherokee Marsh Field Trip

This was an annual field trip of the Southern Wis Butterfly Association. 28 butterfly watchers participated. We found 10 species which was *the lowest number in the 9 years we have data!* Presumably cold winter and cool spring is the cause. Hackberry Emperor landed on various people which is always enjoyable! Great Spangled Fritillary was absent. We saw 18 last year! This indicates they and other species, including plants, are running late this year.



Hackberry Emperor

Butterflies seen on the Cherokee Marsh Field Trip:

Eastern Tiger Swallowtail	1	Baltimore Checkerspot	8	Silver-spotted Skipper	11
Cabbage White	1	Red Admiral	1	Least Skipper	10
Summer Azure	7	Hackberry Emperor	1		
Pearl Crescent	10	Monarch	3		

Highlights of Swamp-Lovers Preserve Field Trip

Annual Southern Wisconsin Butterfly Association field trip on July 4. 26 participants. After lunch we butterflyed on the hill top. Altogether we found 20 species of butterflies and 11 species of dragonfly. Great fun!



Photo of Tawny Emperor by Glenda Denniston.

Butterflies seen on the Swamp-Lovers Preserve Field Trip:

Black Swallowtail	1	Meadow Fritillary	3	Tawny Emperor	1
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail	1	Silvery Checkerspot	4	Eyed Brown	8
Cabbage White	1	Baltimore Checkerspot	3	Silver-spotted Skipper	2
Clouded Sulphur	2	Eastern Comma	1	Least Skipper	20
Banded Hairstreak	4	Mourning Cloak	2		
Hickory Hairstreak	1	American Lady	6		
Summer Azure	4	Painted Lady	2		
Great Spangled Fritillary	6	Red Admiral	20		

Sandhill State Wildlife Area Field Trip (Wood Co.)

Fourteen hopeful participants showed up this gloomy morning. Leader was Ron Arnold. After a slow start we were rewarded with sunshine and butterflies. Several flowages were surveyed along with some wooded areas. **We found 30 species!** Highlights included the wetland skippers (Two-spotted Skipper, Mulberry Wing) and hairstreaks along with the Bronze Coppers and Harris' Checkerspots. After the trip ended, a few of us traveled to a nearby bog and managed to find a single Bog Copper.



Harris' Checkerspot. Photo by Sylvia Barbarich.

The butterflies seen were:

Orange Sulphur	1	Silvery Checkerspot	2	Eyed Brown	8
Bronze Copper	8	Harris' Checkerspot	2	Little Wood-Satyr	1
Bog Copper	1	Northern Crescent	21	Monarch	10
Coral Hairstreak	1	Eastern Comma	1	Least Skipper	8
Acadian Hairstreak	8	Mourning Cloak	1	European Skipper	1
Banded Hairstreak	1	American Lady	3	Peck's Skipper	1
Eastern Tailed-Blue	1	Red Admiral	5	Long Dash	6
Summer Azure	2	White Admiral	1	Mulberry Wing	3
Aphrodite Fritillary	1	Viceroy	1	Two-spotted Skipper	5
Silver-bordered Fritillary	6	Northern Pearly-eye	4	Dun Skipper	1

3 BUTTERFLIES REPORTED ON wisconsinbutterflies.org

Over the summer a small but increasing number of rare or very rare immigrants from the South (and West) have been reported. These cannot survive Wisconsin's winter. but wander northward and breed in Wisconsin--if they can find their caterpillar food plant! Some immigrant species simply die out in winter but some species are known to return south in the fall, e.g. Painted Lady, Red Admiral, Common Buckeye. Below is a list of this year's migrant or immigrant species, ranked by the number of reports of that species received by wisconsinbutterflies.org so far this year. (To put things in perspective, a total of 1,034 reports have been received this year.) Some of these immigrants will continue to straggle into the state in August and September. And some new ones may yet show up. So don't put away your binoculars yet! Good luck!



Zebra Swallowtail, very rare, turned up at Olbrich Gardens on July 9 and 10. Photo by Douglas Buege.

Monarch is a common migrant which is being seen this year in high numbers.

Red Admiral is a migrant and has had a pretty strong year.

Painted Lady has been fairly common.

Common Buckeye (31 reports)

Little Yellow (9 reports)

Common Sootywing (8 reports)

Gray Hairstreak (7 reports)

Variiegated Fritillary (5 reports)

American Snout (5 reports)

Fiery Skipper (3 reports)

Dainty Sulphur (2 reports)

Checkered White (2 reports)

Common Checkered-Skipper (2 reports)

Reakirt's Blue (2 reports)

Zebra Swallowtail (2 reports)

Funereal Duskywing (1 report)

Pipevine Swallowtail (1 report)

Keep sending reports to www.wisconsinbutterflies.org

4 BUTTERFLIES IN THE NEWS.

Monarch butterflies bred in captivity may lose the ability to migrate, study finds

This study found that Monarchs that are purchased from commercial breeders, even when raised by the purchaser in natural outdoors conditions, are unable to migrate. (I would add that even wild-caught Monarchs in Florida do not migrate. And additionally, there could well be another effect: normal Monarchs that mate with these commercially bought Monarchs could have their own migratory ability degraded.)

On the other hand, wild-caught Monarchs that were raised in cages *outdoors* appeared to have the ability to migrate.

More surprisingly, wild-caught Monarchs, when they were raised *indoors* -- *even when control of temperature and hours of daylight mimicked the outdoors* -- showed (as a group) a loss of migratory ability. Read this article by clicking on the link:

<https://www.uchicagomedicine.org/forefront/biological-sciences-articles/2019/june/monarch-butterflies-bred-in-captivity-may-lose-the-ability-to-migrate>

5 2019 24th Annual TEXAS BUTTERFLY FESTIVAL



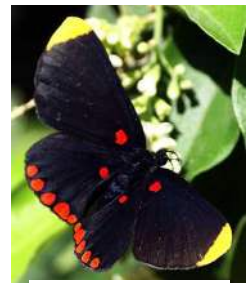
SATURDAY, NOV. 2 - TUESDAY, NOV. 5, 2019

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 in the southernmost tip of Texas, in the Lower 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 with a southern affinity, many of which do not occur farther 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!



Long-tailed Skipper



Red-bordered Pixie

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.

Proceeds from the Butterfly Festival go to NABA's National Butterfly Center.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER, GO TO THE WEBSITE:

<http://www.texasbutterflyfestival.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TexasButterflyFestival>

The ButterFlyer flits to you every month in summer. The next issue will be in SEPTEMBER, 2019.

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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.