

# Badger ButterFlyer

The e-Newsletter of the Southern Wisconsin Butterfly Association

A chapter of NABA (North American Butterfly Association)

JUNE, 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 AND WILDFLOWERS OF PLEASANT VALLEY CONSERVANCY

Saturday, June 15, 2019

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 Checkerspot 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 **Tom 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 and The Prairie Enthusiasts.) Contact leaders only if you have a question about the trip: Douglas at



Baltimore Checkerspot

(608)  
441-  
9833

or Tom at (608) 238-5050 or [tdbrock@charter.net](mailto:tdbrock@charter.net)

**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.

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##### 1. NEXT FIELD TRIPS

• **Butterflies and Wildflowers of Pleasant Valley Conservancy.**

• **Butterflies and Wildflowers of Cherokee Marsh.**

• **Butterflies and Dragonflies of Swamp-Lovers Preserve.**

• **Butterflies of Sandhill SWA.**

• **Madison NABA Butterfly Count.**

##### 2 Highlights of Recent Field Trips:

• **Butterflies of Bauer-Brockway Barrens.**

##### 3. Recent Butterfly Sightings!

##### 4. Butterfly Field Trip Schedule 2019.

##### 5. Butterfly NABA Count Schedule 2019.

##### 6. Decision on Monarch status postponed.

### BUTTERFLIES AND WILDFLOWERS OF CHEROKEE MARSH

Saturday, June 22, 2019

10:00 a.m. to Noon

On this morning walk we'll observe and learn about butterflies, those exquisitely beautiful creatures that dance around us in summer. **Karl and Dorothy Legler, Jan Axelson and Peter Fissel** 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.



Great Spangled Fritillary

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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 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.

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## BUTTERFLIES AND DRAGONFLIES OF SWAMP-LOVERS PRESERVE

Thursday, July 4, 2019

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.



Eastern Amberwing



Meadow Fritillary

Leaders are **Tod Highsmith, Karl and Dorothy Legler**. This is a joint trip of SWBA and The Prairie Enthusiasts.

**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 Karl Legler at (608) 643-4926 or cell (608) 228-0743 only if you have a question about the trip or if the weather is questionable.

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## BUTTERFLIES OF SANDHILL STATE WILDLIFE AREA (Wood Co.)

Saturday, July 6, 2019

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**This could be the best trip of the year!** The Sandhill State Wildlife Area, in Wood County, covers more than 14 square miles and is an outstanding area for butterflies. Sandhill has large marshes and many flowages, interspersed with low sandy uplands, pine and oak barrens and restored prairies. **Butterfly expert Ron Arnold** will lead us in finding



Acadian Hairstreak



Mulberry Wing.  
(Photo by Dan Sonnenberg.)

such beauties as Acadian and Coral Hairstreaks, Aphrodite Fritillary, the rare Two-spotted Skipper, Bronze Copper, Eyed Brown, Northern Pearly-eye, White Admiral and many others. Skippers will include Black Dash, Broad-winged, Dion, Long Dash, Mulberry Wing, and many others. We may see the beautiful Baltimore Checkerspot, Harris' Checkerspot and the Federally Endangered Karner Blue. Bring binoculars, the closer they focus the better. (We will have a few extra pairs of binoculars.) Also bring insect repellent to protect against mosquitoes and ticks. A hat, long sleeves and long pants are recommended. Bring a bag lunch and water.

Call Ron at (715) 424-2996 only if you have a question about the trip. On the day of the trip, Ron will have his cell phone on: (715) 741-0052. (If rain threatens, call Ron to see if the trip must be cancelled due to weather.)

Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Sandhill Headquarters parking lot.

**DIRECTIONS:** Take I-90/94 up to the New Lisbon area in Juneau Co. and take Hwy 80 north. In Wood County, just 1/3 mile before Babcock, turn left onto County X. Go 1 1/4 mile on X to the Sandhill entrance. (1715 County Road X, Babcock, WI.) Allow at least 1 hour and 45 minutes for travel.

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## ANNUAL MADISON NABA BUTTERFLY COUNT

Sunday, July 7, 2019

9:00 - Noon

This is our 28th annual Madison butterfly count! Each year, butterfly enthusiasts all over North America participate in more than 450 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. If

you can identify butterflies, or can help spot butterflies, or just want to see and learn about butterflies, join us on this 3 hour count/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 **Karl and Dorothy Legler and Peter Fissel**. The North American Butterfly Association (NABA) requires a **\$3.00 fee** from each participant to help cover publishing costs.



Edward's Hairstreak

**Coral 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 count, contact leaders Karl and Dorothy Legler at (608) 228-0743 or [karlndot@charter.net](mailto:karlndot@charter.net)

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## 2 HIGHLIGHTS OF RECENT FIELD TRIPS

### BAUER-BROCKWAY BARRENS (Jackson County)

The reason we required pre-registration for this trip to Central Wisconsin is that May tends to have more cool cloudy days that are not suitable for butterfly watching. We must be able to cancel or, if possible, postpone the trip because of weather. This year we had to postpone the trip and the spell of poor weather lasted from May 19 to May 23 when we held the field trip. I should say the poor weather lasted *through* May 23 because the forecast kept deteriorating as the 23rd approached and deteriorated on that day. We had an actual high of only 65°, mostly overcast, and 15 mph breeze. As a result, two groups of observers found less than we hoped for but more than we feared: 112 individual butterflies of 15 species. Here is what we saw:

Eastern Tailed-Blue 4

Spring Azure 23

**Gorgone Checkerspot 2**

**Eastern Pine Elfin 6**

**Hoary Elfin 2**

American Lady 9

**Painted Lady 2**

Red Admiral 5

**Dreamy Duskywing 1**

**Juvenal's Duskywing 42**

**Persius Duskywing 7**

**Sleepy Duskywing 1**

Clouded Sulphur 1

**Olympia Marble 6**

Monarch 1



Painted Lady

**Painted Ladies** are usually scarce this early in the season but this was their strongest showing in the 13 years we've been doing this trip!

### 3 RECENT BUTTERFLIES REPORTED ON [wisconsinbutterflies.org](http://wisconsinbutterflies.org)



Red Admiral

In April the commonest butterfly was the **Red Admiral**. 70% of butterfly reports to [wisconsinbutterflies.org](http://wisconsinbutterflies.org) included one or more Red Admirals. This was the strongest migration into Wisconsin in the past 7 years. By the end of May the peak migration of the Red Admiral was winding down: Only about a third of reports included the Red Admiral.



Red Admiral caterpillar sewing leaves of Stinging Nettles into a leaf nest on June 8 in Dane Co.

Currently, many Red Admiral caterpillars of the 2nd generation have used silk threads to tie closed the leaves of Stinging Nettles where they eat the leaves from inside the leaf nest. Look for the tell-tale closed leaves in a large patch of Stinging Nettles which can be found in wetland areas, along ponds and streams. The 2nd generation of Red Admirals will emerge during June.

**Monarchs** were first seen here in Wisconsin more than 3 weeks later than last year! However, on [wisconsinbutterflies.org](http://wisconsinbutterflies.org) the average rate of sighting of Monarchs in the first third of June, 2019, was 3.33 Monarchs per report. That is nearly three times higher than in the same period last year! Now it will be up to June to provide a warmer than average month instead of a cooler than average month!

Here is the list of 47 First of Year species reported to [wisconsinbutterflies.org](http://wisconsinbutterflies.org) during the month of May, 2019. (Butterflies with an asterisk only fly in the spring. 5/10 indicates it was first seen this year on May 10.

Brown Elfin* 5/3	Persius Duskywing* 5/20
Hoary Elfin* 5/3	Cobweb Skipper* 5/20
Harvester 5/4	Jutta Arctic* 5/20
Juvenal's Duskywing* 5/4	Gorgone Checkerspot 5/23
Satyr Comma 5/4	Pink-edged Sulphur* 5/25
Henry's Elfin* 5/4	Orange Sulphur 5/25
Eastern Pine Elfin* 5/4	Frigga Fritillary* 5/25
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail 5/5	Dusted Skipper* 5/25
Mustard White 5/7	Chryxus Arctic* 5/26
Eastern Tailed-Blue 5/10	Northern Crescent 5/26
Frosted Elfin* 5/11	Gray Hairstreak 5/26
Dreamy Duskywing* 5/11	Silver-spotted Skipper 5/26
Sleepy Duskywing* 5/13	Western Tailed-Blue* 5/26
Question Mark 5/13	Common Roadside Skipper 5/26
Silvery Blue* 5/13	West Virginia White* 5/30
American Copper 5/15	Little Wood Satyr 5/30
Monarch 5/15	Common Ringlet 5/30
Pearl Crescent 5/15	Canadian Tiger Swallowtail* 5/31
Meadow Fritillary 5/15	Hobomok Skipper 5/31
Freija Fritillary* 5/17	Pepper & Salt Skipper* 5/31
Red-disked Alpine* 5/17	Juniper Hairstreak 5/31
Columbine Duskywing 5/20	Common Sootywing 5/31
Wild Indigo Duskywing 5/20	Red-spotted Purple 5/31

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

## 4 LIST OF 2019 SWBA BUTTERFLY FIELD TRIPS

Please put these butterfly field trips on your calendar!!

DAY	DATE	FIELD TRIP TITLE	LEADER(S)
Sunday	May 19	Butterflies of Bauer Brockway Barrens (Jackson Co.)	Mike Reese
Saturday	June 15	Butterflies and Wildflowers of Pleasant Valley Conservancy	Douglas Buege Kathie and Tom Brock
Saturday	June 22	Butterflies of Cherokee Marsh	Karl & Dorothy Legler, Jan Axelson, Peter Fissel.
Thursday	July 4	Butterflies and Dragonflies of Swamp Lovers Preserve	Tod Highsmith Karl and Dorothy Legler
Saturday	July 6	Butterflies of Sandhill Wildlife Area (Wood Co.)	Ron Arnold
Sunday	July 7	Madison Butterfly Count	Leglers, Peter Fissel
Saturday	July 20	Butterflies and Flowers of Kalscheur Oak Savannah	Douglas Buege Rich Henderson
Saturday	July 27	Butterflies of Yahara Heights <b>NEW</b>	Ginny Nelson and Pam Skaar
Saturday	August 3	Butterflies of the Avoca and Blue River Area	Douglas Buege
Saturday	August 10	Butterflies of Sauk-Prairie Recreation Area <b>NEW</b>	Leglers

## 5 SWBA/NABA BUTTERFLY COUNTS 2019 SCHEDULE.

COUNT NAME	DAY	DATE	COUNTY	THIS YEAR WILL BE THE
Mud Lake	Monday	July 1	Columbia Co.	31st year
Oconto		TBA	Oconto Co.	5th year
Madison	Sunday	July 7	Dane Co.	29th year
Trempealeau	Wednesday	July 10	Trempealeau Co.	30th year
Dubuque (Wis. portion)	Saturday	July 13	Grant Co.	17th year
Northern Kettle Moraine	Monday	July 15	Fond du Lac Co.	23rd year

These are similar to Christmas Bird Counts. 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](http://www.naba.org/counts/us_mx_map.html) Contacts are Listed.)

## 6 U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE DELAYS DECISION ON MONARCH

From their website:

### "1. What action is the Service taking?"

The Service is extending the deadline for making a finding on a petition to list the monarch butterfly under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). With this extension, the Service now expects to make its

determination by **December 15, 2020**. The Service was petitioned to list the butterfly as endangered in 2014. In 2014, we determined the information in the petition was substantial and began a review of the species' status to determine whether proposing to list it as endangered or threatened is warranted. Through an agreement with the plaintiffs, Center for Biological Diversity and Center for Food Safety, we were due to make a decision on June 30, 2019. The plaintiffs have agreed to extend the decision date to December 15, 2020.



## **2. Why is the Service extending the deadline?**

Assessing the status of the monarch is a vast and complex undertaking. It involves significant data collection and analysis across a huge swath of North America, including the species' wintering grounds in Mexico. Since 2014, we have devoted extensive staff time and resources to this assessment, launching the monarch conservation database, and working with partners on a wide range of voluntary conservation initiatives, including the rights-of-way candidate conservation agreement with assurances. The extension to December 15, 2020, allows the Service to focus additional effort on determining whether the monarch should be proposed for ESA listing. We will be able to study data from the most recent census of overwintering monarchs, as well as the next survey to be conducted in late 2019. The additional time will provide the Service with the data to produce a scientifically sound determination on the monarch, a species with a global range and complex life history.

## **3. Are the plaintiffs in agreement with the extension?**

The plaintiffs agreed to extend the deadline until December 15, 2020 and the extension was approved by the court. In the interim, the Service will provide the petitioners with progress reports on the decision process"

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

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

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