

Badger ButterFlyer

The e-newsletter of the Southern Wisconsin Butterfly Association

A chapter of NABA (North American Butterfly Association)

AUGUST, 2023

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

Field Trips are free and open to the public.

(Mark your calendar!)

1 NEXT FIELD TRIP

BUTTERFLIES OF THE LOWER WISCONSIN RIVERWAY (AVOCA UNIT AND BLUE RIVER UNIT)

Saturday, August 12, 2023

10:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.



Giant Swallowtail
Photo by Stan Rehm.

In good 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 butterfly expert, Mike Reese**, who runs the award-winning citizen science website, wisconsinbutterflies.org. 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) 643-4926 only if you have a question about the trip, or



Little Yellow

if the weather is questionable.)

Meet at 10:30 a.m. Allow 1-hour travel time from Middleton.

SPECIAL ROAD DETOUR DIRECTIONS: From Madison, take Hwy 14 west to Lone Rock, south on Hwy 130, across the bridges, then turn **left** following Hwy 130 to the south for about 2 miles. Pass by the intersection with County C, then turn right onto Bigelow Hill Road. Follow this back road for 3 miles until it reaches Hwy 133. Turn left (west) on 133 and go 3 miles. Turn right onto Hay Lane Road, at the sign for Avoca Prairie and Savanna, and drive north to the first parking area.

● **FOR A LATE ADDED FIELD TRIP SEE ARTICLE 8 BELOW.**

2 HIGHLIGHTS OF BUTTERFLIES AND DRAGONFLIES AT SWAMP-LOVERS PRESERVE ON JULY 4

On July 4th eleven participants enjoyed a warm but fruitful Southern Wisconsin Butterfly Association field trip to the Swamp-lover's Preserve along the Ice Age Trail near Cross Plains. We found the following 22 species of butterflies:

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1. NEXT FIELD TRIP:

- Lower Wisconsin Riverway (Avoca and Blue River Units) AUGUST 12 10:30
- 2. Highlights of SwampLovers.
- 3. Highlights of Mud Lake NABA Count.
- 4. Highlights of Madison NABA Count.
- 5. Northern Kettle Moraine was cancelled.
- 6. Highlights of Walking Iron.
- 7. Wisconsin Insect Fest.
- 8. ● **Butterflies & Dragonflies of Wehr Nat. Center.**
- 9. List of 2023 Butterfly Field Trips.

Black Swallowtail 7
 Eastern Tiger Swallowtail 1
 Cabbage White 7
 Clouded Sulphur 10
 Orange Sulphur 2
 Coral Hairstreak 1
Edwards' Hairstreak 4
 Banded Hairstreak 2

Eastern Tailed-Blue 3
 Great Spangled Fritillary 10
Meadow Fritillary 6
Baltimore Checkerspot 1
 Question Mark 1
 Mourning Cloak 2
 American Lady 1
 Red Admiral 10

Common Buckeye 1
 Hackberry Emperor 2
Eyed Brown 10
 Monarch 4
 Least Skipper 2
 Dun Skipper 2



Common Buckeye



Band-winged Meadowhawk
 Photo by Tim Fenske.



Edwards' Hairstreak
 Photo by Tim Fenske.

3 HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MUD LAKE NABA COUNT ON JULY 6

This was the **35th annual butterfly count** for this area in **Columbia County**. NABA counts are performed within a permanent 15-mile diameter circle and is similar to a Christmas Bird Count. The area has been under severe drought this year. The count, originally scheduled for June 30, had to be postponed to July 6 because of Very Unhealthy air quality rating due to smoke from Canadian wildfires. Seven of us, in 2 parties, spent 13.2 party-hours observing butterflies. **We found 368 individuals of 35 species.**

Black Swallowtail 7
Giant Swallowtail 1
 Cabbage White 13
 Clouded Sulphur 11
 Orange Sulphur 8
 Coral Hairstreak 4
Acadian Hairstreak 2
Edwards' Hairstreak 1
 Banded Hairstreak 3
Striped Hairstreak 2
 Eastern Tailed-Blue 6
 Summer Azure 3
 Great Spangled Fritillary **58**
 Pearl Crescent 2
Baltimore Checkerspot 1
 Eastern Comma 3
 Mourning Cloak 5
 American Lady 2

Red Admiral **35**
Red-spotted Purple 5
Viceroy 1
 Hackberry Emperor 5
Tawny Emperor 3
Eyed Brown 3
 Common Wood Nymph **55**
 Monarch 11
 Silver-spotted Skipper 8
 Least Skipper 5
Peck's Skipper 1
 Northern Broken-Dash 14
Delaware Skipper 1
 Mulberry Wing 7
Broad-winged Skipper 2
Dion Skipper 1
 Dun Skipper 10



Acadian Hairstreak
Photo by Jim Otto.



Tawny Emperor



Striped Hairstreak

4 HIGHLIGHTS OF MADISON NABA BUTTERFLY COUNT ON JULY 8

This was the 33rd annual, long-term, NABA Madison Butterfly Count done by SWBA (a chapter of NABA). Fifteen observers, using binoculars and cameras searched within a fixed 15-mile diameter circle for 15 party-hours, finding 441 butterflies, of 35 species. The count coincided with a field trip to the UW Arboretum Grady Tract led by Donna Williams-Richter and Fred Dike. Other observers were at 9 other wildlife areas around Madison. (We did pretty well, considering Madison was in an “Extreme Drought”!)

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Black Swallowtail 19 | Summer Azure 8 | Red-spotted Purple 3 |
| Eastern Tiger Swallowtail 1 | Great Spangled Fritillary 52 | Viceroy 1 |
| Cabbage White 56 | Aphrodite Fritillary 1 | Hackberry Emperor 1 |
| Clouded Sulphur 47 | Pearl Crescent 13 | Northern Pearly-eye 2 |
| Orange Sulphur 7 | Baltimore Checkerspot 2 | Eyed Brown 4 |
| Bronze Copper 1 | Eastern Comma 1 | Common Wood Nymph 41 |
| Coral Hairstreak 10 | Mourning Cloak 2 | Monarch 82 |
| Edwards' Hairstreak 1 | American Lady 1 | Silver-spotted Skipper 4 |
| Banded Hairstreak 11 | Red Admiral 11 | Least Skipper 15 |
| Eastern Tailed-Blue 6 | Common Buckeye 2 | Dun Skipper 5 |
| European Skipper 1 | Delaware Skipper 3 | Dion Skipper 8 |
| Northern Broken-Dash 13 | Mulberry Wing 6 | |



Bronze Copper



Northern Pearly-eye



Aphrodite Fritillary

5 HIGHLIGHTS OF NORTHERN KETTLE MORAINES NABA COUNT JULY 12

Regrettably, this count had to be cancelled because of rain forecast, and various schedule conflicts did not permit a timely make-up date.

6 HIGHLIGHTS OF BUTTERFLIES OF WALKING IRON COUNTY PARK, JULY 23

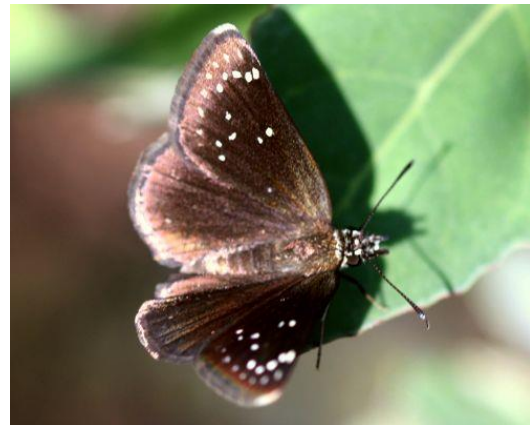
This was a sunny day with temperature from 70 to 80. We walked 1.5 miles and spent 2 hours looking for butterflies. **This part of the state has been under “Extreme Drought”**. But we received a good rain the afternoon and evening before this outing. We found 13 species including Giant Swallowtail, 11 American Coppers (which are now naturalized butterflies after coming to North America from Europe in the 1600’s. The first hill has lots of their caterpillar food plant, Sheep Sorrel.) and 1 each of Coral Hairstreak, Common Sootywing and Delaware Skipper. The full list is below. Thanks to Dr. Skye Bruce for expertly leading the trip. The Regal Fritillaries present last year did not make an appearance this year.

Giant Swallowtail 1
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail 2
Cabbage White 2
American Copper 11
Coral Hairstreak 1
Summer Azure 3
Great Spangled Fritillary 3

Pearl Crescent 5
Red Admiral 1
Monarch 13
Silver-spotted Skipper 4
Common Sootywing 1
Delaware Skipper 1



American Copper



Common Sootywing

7 MISCELLANEOUS: Wisconsin Insect Fest

The **2023 Wisconsin Insect Fest** event is coming to the **Upham Woods Outdoor Learning Center** near the Wisconsin Dells on **Saturday, August 19th**. This year’s Insect Fest is a one-day event starting at **2 PM** and going into the evening hours with an insect survey after sundown. A cookout-style dinner will be provided to participants in the evening (please RSVP. See link below for more information).

[Wisconsin Insect Fest – UW Entomology](#)

●8 BUTTERFLIES AND DRAGONFLIES OF WEHR NATURE CENTER (FRANKLIN, WISCONSIN) AND RAINBOW AIRPORT PRAIRIE

Sunday August 27, 2023

10:00 a.m.– 2:00 p.m.

This hike is on wood chip trails, an accessible boardwalk and one hill with erosion marker steps. It's also accessible from Wehr Drive. A checklist for butterflies and dragonflies seen at this time of year will be provided by **Pat Fojut of WI Metro Audubon**, who will lead the hikes. Long pants, a hat, water, and hiking shoes are recommended. Bring binoculars—the closer they focus, the better! If you would like, bring along a bag lunch. After lunch we will caravan to Rainbow Airport prairie, which is just south of Hwy 100 or Ryan Rd. Park on 76th Street, either side of the gate entrance. This is a joint trip of the Southern Wisconsin Butterfly Association and Wisconsin Metro Audubon.

If you would like to be contacted in case of cancellation or other changes, please register your intent to attend with Pam Skaar at hyndla53704@yahoo.com. Please include your phone number in your email.

DIRECTIONS TO WEHR: Estimated travel time from Madison is 1 hour 20 min. to the Center at 9701 W College Ave, Franklin, WI. Parking fee is \$5.

Head east on I-94 and take I-41S/US-45S to Exit 60 at 108th St South. Continue south on 108th St/US-45 to College Ave. Turn east (right) on College Ave and follow it until Nature Drive. Turn south (right) and stay on Nature Drive to the parking lot.

9 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 (Postponed to July 6 due to smoke.)	Friday	June 30	Karl Legler Fred Dike
Butterfly and Dragonfly Swamp-Lovers Holiday	Tuesday	4 th of July	Edgar Spalding Tod Highsmith
Madison NABA Butterfly Count UW Arboretum: Grady Tract	Saturday	July 8	Fred Dike Donna Williams-Richter
Northern Kettle Moraine State Forest Canceled due to rain.	Wednesday	July 12	Mike Reese
Butterflies and Wildflowers of Walking Iron County Park	Sunday	July 23	Dr. Skye Bruce Pam Skaar
Butterflies of the Lower Wisconsin Riverway	Saturday	August 12	Mike Reese

Also see Article 8 for a late added butterfly and dragonfly field trip in the Milwaukee area at Wehr Nature Center and Rainbow Airport Prairie.

The **Badger ButterFlyer** flits to you every month in summer.

The next issue will be in **SEPTEMBER, 2023.**

Officers of SWBA:

President: Dr. Douglas Buege
djbuege@gmail.com

Vice-President: Karl Legler
karlndot@charter.net

Secretary: Dorothy Legler

Treasurer: Fred Dike

Other SWBA contributors:

e-Newsletter Editor: Karl Legler
karlndot@charter.net

Webmaster: Douglas Buege

Butterfly Reporting: Mike Reese at
www.wisconsinbutterflies.org

Field Trips: Pam Skaar

Speaker's Bureau: Douglas Buege

NABA Liaison: Joan Braune

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

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