

All the news that's flit to print

Badger ButterFlyer



The e-newsletter of the Southern Wisconsin Butterfly Association

A chapter of NABA (North American Butterfly Association) **APRIL, 2024**

***NEW* WEB SITE:** <http://www.naba.org/chapters/SWBA>

1 NEW WEBSITE

In late 2023, NABA switched over to a new website and we just had to tag along.

naba.org/chapters/swba

Our new site will be updated frequently as the season progresses. Take a look and you'll find our schedule of field trips and counts, along with lots of priceless information about where to find the bugs you're looking for. That's right

—absolutely free, but we aren't offended if you show your thanks by starting or continuing your membership to NABA. Be sure to mention SWBA when you register as we get a percentage of your fees.

You'll also find all the Badger ButterFlyers going back to 2008—click and download! But don't stop there! Each month we'll feature an informative video as well as images of YOUR butterfly gardens. Submit a photo and it might show up on the web!

2 EARLY FIELD TRIPS FOR 2024

BUTTERFLIES AND BIRDS OF SPRING GREEN PRESERVE EAST

Sunday, April 28, 2024, 10:00 a.m.– Noon.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) area in what is often called Wisconsin's desert includes some of the state's rarest plant communities in its sand and dry bluff prairies and black oak barrens. It hosts a diversity of unusual plants, insects, reptiles and birds. We should see cactus and, hopefully, Olympia Marble butterflies and Lark Sparrows. Leaders will be Mike Reese and Becky Abel. Long pants, a sun hat, water, and hiking shoes are recommended. There are no bathrooms on site. Bring binoculars. This is a joint trip of the Southern Wisconsin Butterfly Association and the Southern Wisconsin Bird Alliance.

ACCESSIBILITY: Paths are frequently sandy, uneven, rutted, and narrow.



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7. Wisconsin Insect Fest.
8. ●Butterflies & Dragonflies of Wehr Nat. Center.
9. List of 2023 Butterfly Field Trips.

To be contacted in case of cancellation or other changes, please register your intent to attend with Badgerland Bird Alliance after 3/1/2024 at

<https://madisonaudubon.org/all-events/2024/4/28/butterflies-birds-spring-green> .

Registration is limited to 25 people. If weather is poor the trip will be canceled. Contact Pam Skaar (605-241-5332) only if you have other questions about the trip.

Directions: From the intersection of US Highway 14 and State Hwy 23 near Spring Green, travel north on Hwy 23 for 0.5 mile to its intersection with Jones Road on the east (right). Travel east on Jones Road for 0.75 miles to the preserve on the left. Turn left on the dirt access road marked with the TNC preserve entrance sign.

3 BUTTERFLY AND BUTTERFLYING VIDEOS

SWBA now has a youtube channel where we try to post a new video each month. Topics so far have included introductory videos to help people learn groups of butterflies and the basics of butterflying. We'll be examining why certain species have disappeared from the Badger State, with our first video about the demise of the Poweshiek Skipper now available. Identification videos for Checkerspots and Commas and the Question Mark are also available.

To find the videos on youtube, search for "Southern Wisconsin Butterfly Association."

Also: Jim Ebner's classic production, "A Video Guide to Classic Wisconsin Butterflies" from 1992 can be found and watched at: <https://archive.org/details/WiscButterflies>

4 EARLY BUTTERFLIES IN THE BADGER STATE FOR 2024

Ten reports of butterflies appeared on wisconsinbutterflies.org this February, accounting for a mix of eleven Mourning Cloaks and Eastern Commas. Rory Williams, in Winnebago County, led the pack, reporting a Neenah backyard Mourning Cloak on February 21st. As of this writing, 37 reports have come in in March, a paltry sum compared to 2012's 115, but still more than any other year. Edgar Spalding found the earliest Cabbage White at UW's Birge Hall on March 7, eight days earlier than the previous record. That same day, less than a mile away, Darcy Kind was surprised by a Clouded Sulphur, setting a new record for that common butterfly in Wisconsin.

5 PERIODIC CICADA FIELD TRIP, JUNE 1 OR 8

Pat Fojut has organized a field trip to Big Foot Beach State Park for a yet-confirmed date in early June to see the ultra-rare convergence/emergence of 13-year and 17-year cicadas, an event that happens only every 221 years. The tentative dates will be either Saturday 6/1/24 OR 6/8/24 with Rain dates on 6/2 OR 6/9 respectively. The date will be determined closer to the end of May with the help of Lakeland Audubon Society. Folks will meet at Big Foot Beach state park at 11:00 am. A park sticker is required. Expect mosquitos and flying insects, wear protective clothing, long sleeves, solid shoes, hat and water. This fieldtrip is sponsored by WI Metro Audubon Society and Lakeland Audubon Society. To register, please see the SWBA website.



Canada Cicada, photo: Douglas Buege

6 ARTICLES OF BADGER BUTTERFLYER

If you have articles or images you wish to share through the Butterflyer, please contact Douglas Buege at djbuege@gmail.com.

7 FIELD TRIP TO CATHOLIC ECOLOGY CENTER, DODGE COUNTY

Saturday May 25, 2024

Leaders: Donna Williams-Richter and Ethan Brown

10:00 a.m.– 2:00 p.m.

The Catholic Ecology Center is part of a 225 acre preserve including prairies, forest, the Rubicon River, Otter Creek, a pond and organic gardening areas. Donna Williams-Richter and Ethan Brown will lead us in spotting the butterflies. Some butterflies that we are likely to see include Eastern Comma, Gray Comma, Question Mark, Red Admiral, American Lady, Painted Lady, Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, Black Swallowtail, Giant Swallowtail, Peck's Skipper, Hobomok Skipper and Mourning Cloak. Harvesters have been seen in numbers in the past, as well as colonies of Woolly Aphids, the host for this carnivorous caterpillar. Other exciting possibilities include Arctic Skipperling or one of the Tortoiseshells.

Long pants and long shirt sleeves, a hat, insect repellent, and hiking shoes are recommended. Bring binoculars—the closer they focus, the better!

If you would like to be contacted in case of cancellation or other changes, please register your intent to attend with Donna Williams-Richter (dowin124@gmail.com).

ACCESSIBILITY: Trails are easy to travel, but rain may cause them to be muddy so proper footwear is encouraged.

DIRECTIONS: Estimated travel times are 1 hour from Madison and 45 minutes from downtown Milwaukee. Meet in the parking area.

The Catholic Ecology Center is located at W1468 County Road NN Neosho, WI 53059. Google their website to get customized directions from your location.

8 LIST OF 2024 BUTTERFLY FIELD TRIPS

FIELD TRIP	DAY	DATE	LEADERS
Spring Green Preserve	Sunday	April 28 10am to Noon	Mike Reese, Becky Abel and Emma Rasch
Catholic Ecology Center	Saturday	May 25 10am to Noon	Donna Williams-Richter Ethan Brown
Periodic Cicada Trip, Big Foot Beach State Park	Saturday	June 1 or 8	Pat Fojut
Pleasant Valley Conservancy	Saturday	June 15 10am to Noon	Dr. Douglas Buege Kathy Brock
Cherokee Marsh Northern Unit	Saturday	June 22 10am to Noon	Tod Highsmith Dreux Watermolen
Sandhill Wildlife Area	Saturday	July 6 10am to 3pm	Ron Arnold
Shea Prairie	Sunday	July 14 10am to Noon	Donna Williams-Richter
Fair Meadows Sanctuary	Sunday	July 21 10am to Noon	Penny and Gary Shackelford and Mike Reese

The Badger ButterFlyer flits to you every month in summer.

The next issue will be in MAY, 2024.

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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 NABA Web site at <http://www.naba.org/>

Our e-Newsletter, the Badger ButterFlyer, will be published monthly in summer. Send any news notes to the editor, Dr Douglas Buege, at djbuege@gmail.com

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

