

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) **JUNE, 2024**

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

## 1 WISCONSIN MONARCH COLLABORATIVE—from Dr. Skye Bruce

Support Monarch Conservation with the Wisconsin Monarch Collaborative!

Fellow butterfly lovers, the Wisconsin Monarch Collaborative (WMC) needs your passion and dedication! Established in 2017, WMC unites over 50 organizations to safeguard monarch butterflies by increasing habitat and spreading knowledge across Wisconsin. They are striving to meet ambitious goals under the Wisconsin Monarch Conservation Strategy, aiming to significantly boost the number of milkweed stems—a crucial resource for monarchs—by 2038.

Your involvement could make a real impact. By subscribing to the WMC newsletter, you'll get the latest on technical and financial assistance for habitat creation, educational resources, and conservation strategies directly in your inbox. It's a great way to stay connected and informed about how you can contribute to the survival of this iconic species.

Join us by signing up today at the WMC homepage (newsletter sign-up form is located at the bottom of the page): [wimonarchs.org](http://wimonarchs.org). Together, we can turn the tide for monarchs in Wisconsin!

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## 2 HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WAZEE/BAUER-BROCKWAY NABA COUNT, JACKSON COUNTY

On May 17, a group of seven gathered to scour the barrens of Jackson County for butterflies. This is SWBA's first official count of the year. All five Elfins were found, a significant accomplishment. The results are:

**E Tiger Swallowtail 18**

**Olympia Marble 86**

**Clouded Sulphur 4**

Orange Sulphur 5  
Harvester 2  
Brown Elfin 1  
Hoary Elfin 1  
Frosted Elfin 6  
Henry's Elfin 5  
E Pine Elfin 47

E Tailed-Blue 2  
'Spring' Spring Azure 7  
Silvery Blue 5  
Meadow Fritillary 1  
Gorgone Checkerspot 105  
Northern Crescent 4  
Mourning Cloak 3

American Lady 11  
Painted Lady 1  
Red Admiral 3  
Monarch 2  
Juvenal's Duskywing 18  
Persius Duskywing 20  
Dusted Skipper 1



*Olympia Marble*



*Hoary Elfin*



*Henry's Elfin*

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### 3 HOST PLANT—BEARBERRY (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*)

If you are interested in finding the Hoary Elfin, pictured above, you'll want to be on the lookout for Bearberry, also known as kinnikinnik, a low-growing broadleaf evergreen found in some of Wisconsin's barrens. Sporting bright red berries in fall and winter, the plant is an easily identified member of the Heath family, alongside blueberries and cranberries. It forms large mats of groundcover, with white to pink flowers. Brown Elfins and Freija Fritillaries also use bearberry as a caterpillar host plant.



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### 4 ANN SWENGEL'S GUIDES TO WISCONSIN HABITATS

Many butterflyers are happy to tally the butterflies they see in their backyards. If you're one of those intrepid people who want to wander farther away, though, to find those rare species in the Badger State, you'll want to refer to the many articles that expert Ann Swengel has crafted revealing the secrets of her countless hours of observation. The SWBA website has them all—and all you need to do is click, download, and read at your pleasure. If you're going to drive a few hundred miles to find that Mottled Duskywing at Crex Meadows, Swengel's work will help you determine your "Timing, Timing, Timing" so you find the correct "Location, Location, Location."

Please remember that we employ binoculars and cameras to help our observations. We do not deploy nets or promote collecting which can both do unintended damage.

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## 5 PERIODIC CICADA FIELD TRIP, JUNE 8

Pat Fojut has organized a field trip to Big Foot Beach State Park for June 8th see the ultra-rare convergence/emergence of 13-year and 17-year cicadas, an event that happens only every 221 years. 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.



*2024 Cicada photo by  
Douglas Buege*

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## 6 FIELD TRIP TO PLEASANT VALLEY CONSERVANCY, DANE COUNTY

**Saturday June 15, 2024**

**Leaders: Douglas Buege and Kathie Brock**

**10:00 a.m.– 12:00 p.m.**

Pleasant Valley Conservancy offers viewers a chance to see how well ecological habitat restoration can work. Trip leader Kathie Brock has spent the last 30 years restoring the multiple habitats in what was a dairy farm when purchased. The rolling hills of western Dane County draw butterflies hoping to see the striking Baltimore Checkerspots that take a starring role on this walk through wetland prairie. We're also likely to see Red-Spotted Purples, Pearl Crescents, Swallowtails, and Silvery Checkerspots. Long pants, hiking footwear, a hat, and water are recommended. Also recommended, binoculars, particularly close-focusing ones. We may have extras. Bring a lunch if you wish to eat with the group when the trip ends.

If you want to register to attend and be alerted to any changes in the trip, contact Douglas Buege ([djbuege@gmail.com](mailto:djbuege@gmail.com)).

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

**DIRECTIONS:** (4554 Pleasant Valley Road, Black Earth) Heading south into downtown Black Earth, follow County Hwy 4 as it turns right (west). In a mile or so, turn left with F as it heads south. Continue south on F for 3 ¾ miles and turn left onto Pleasant Valley Road. Drive past the building on the right, heading ¾ of a mile to a parking area on the left. Please park off the road.

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## 7 FIELD TRIP TO CHEROKEE MARSH NORTH UNIT, DANE COUNTY

**Saturday June 22, 2024**

**Leaders: Tod Highsmith and Dreux Watermolen**

**10:00 a.m.– 12:00 p.m.**



Once again, Tod and Dreux lead this trip through the wilds of north Madison's Cherokee Marsh complex. Folks will gather at 10 am in the parking lot at the extreme northern end of Sherman Avenue. We recommend good hiking shoes, long pants, and hats to protect from the sun. Also, bring water!

We'll learn skills in identifying butterflies and understanding behavior as we survey the lepidoptera as they nectar from the varied flowers of late June. Close-focusing binoculars and cameras are recommended.



**DIRECTIONS:** Cherokee Marsh's parking area is at 6098 North Sherman Avenue, Madison WI. You can take Northport Drive to Sherman Avenue and head north, staying on Sherman for a few miles. You'll pass a golf course and the road will turn to gravel. Continue on the gravel to the parking area which is well-labeled. Email Tod at [todhighsmith@me.com](mailto:todhighsmith@me.com) only if you have other questions about the trip.

## 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 8	Pat Fojut
Pleasant Valley Conservancy	Saturday	June 15 10am to Noon	Dr. Douglas Buege Kathie 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	Penny and Gary ckelford and Mike se



## 9 LIST OF 2024 OFFICIAL NABA COUNTS IN WISCONSIN

Name	County	Years	Tentative Date	Contact
Scott and Experimental Road Forest		First	June 20	Douglas Buege
Mud Lake	Columbia	35	June 27	Karl Legler
Madison	Dane	33	July 3	Fred Dike
Northern Oconto County	Oconto	10th	July 8	Douglas Buege
Trempealeau	Trempealeau	32	July 9	Mike Reese
Northern Kettle Moraine	Fond du Lac	27	July 16	Mike Reese
Avoca	Iowa/Grant		August 10	Mike Reese

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

The next issue will be in **JULY, 2024.**

#### Officers of SWBA:

President: Dr. Douglas Buege

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Vice-President: Karl Legler

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Secretary: Dorothy Legler

Treasurer: Fred Dike

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#### Other SWBA contributors:

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[www.wisconsinbutterflies.org](http://www.wisconsinbutterflies.org)

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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 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](mailto:djbuege@gmail.com)

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