

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)

JULY, 2024

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

1 NEXT FIELD TRIP SANDHILL WILDLIFE AREA

Saturday, July 6, 10 am-3pm

Leader: Ron Arnold

If you've never visited Sandhill, you're missing out!

Located northeast of Necedah and southwest of Wisconsin Rapids, Sandhill has multiple wetland and dry habitats, each with its own varieties of butterflies flying. In early July, you'll likely see many hairstreaks, with the Acadian being a field trip favorite. Sedge skippers abound—Dion, Black Dash, Mulberry Wing, Delaware, Northern Broken-Dash, Two-Spotted, and Broad-Winged are all possible! And the fritillaries include Variegated, Aphrodite, Silver-Bordered, Great-Spangled, and Meadow. Did I mention lots of Karner's Blues? A day at Sandhill can pep up the most sluggish butterfly year.

Ron Arnold, who lives near Sandhill leads this trip, bringing his extensive knowledge of these 9,150 acres. You'll drive the 14-mile road through Sandhill, stopping at chosen sites, including the Bison Enclosure where I usually find Karner's Blues.

To see SWBA's video about Sandhill, use this web address: tinyurl.com/SandhillRocks

NEW DIRECTIONS: There is construction! Sandhill is just west of Babcock, WI. Take I-90/94 West to I-39 North to 73 North in Plainfield. Stay on 73 North through Nekoosa (turn right after crossing the bridge coming into Nekoosa) and turn left onto 54 West. Continue on 54 West into Dexterville and then turn left onto County Road X about 1 mile out of Dexterville. County X will go directly past the Sandhill entrance in about 5 miles. Google Maps lists a drive time of 2 hrs 10 mins from Madison.



Acadian Hairstreak, photo by Douglas Buege



Dion Skipper, photo by Douglas Buege



Broadwinged Skipper, photo by Douglas Buege

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2 UPCOMING FIELD TRIP—SHEA PRAIRIE, IOWA COUNTY

Sunday, July 14, 10am-Noon

Leaders: Donna Williams-Richter and Rich Henderson

Our own Donna Williams-Richter and The Prairie Enthusiasts' Rich Henderson lead us through one of the finest prairies around in this trip which should garner you a good look at our largest fritillary, the endangered Regal Fritillary. Shea Prairie is a unit in The Prairie Enthusiasts' Mounds View Grasslands Preserve. Shea covers 102 acres consisting of dry and dry-mesic prairie, a trout stream, ground water fed wetland restorations, fen seeps and ephemeral ponds. In the floristically rich prairie planting we hope to observe Regals along with the flowers and other inhabitants of this extensive grassland. Long pants and long shirt sleeves, a hat, insect repellent, and hiking shoes are recommended. Bring binoculars—the closer they focus, the better!

DIRECTIONS: Estimated travel time from Madison = 1 hour

Address is 3095 Mounds View Road, Barneveld. From US Highway 18/151, 1.5 miles west of Blue Mounds, turn south on Mounds View Road. Proceed on Mounds View for 2.5 miles to where it joins briefly with Prairie Grove Rd. Stay with Mounds View and go another 0.7 miles. Look for the kiosk and parking lot on the left.



Regal Fritillary on Monarda, photo by Douglas Buege



Another Regal Frit on Monarda, photo by Douglas Buege

3 HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CATHOLIC ECOLOGY CENTER FIELD TRIP

The Catholic Ecology Center made its SWBA debut on May 25th with a count led by Donna Williams-Richter and Ethan Brown. Even with the light attendance, good fun was had by all. The dedicated butterflyers were hesitant at the start with only a handful of common species seen; likely due to the chilly overnight low. However, as the day went on, the species diversity surged. Possibly the strangest events we saw were a Question Mark laying an egg on the invasive buckthorn and Baltimore Checkerspot caterpillars on some species of Ash.

The CEC is one of the best places in the state to see the elusive Harvesters. Certain accounts have recorded more than ten sightings in one visit. Some staff even report seeing caterpillars which are seldom found. Hopefully in the future more butterflies visit this newly established property.

Complete list:

E Tiger Swallowtail 5
Cabbage White 3
Clouded Sulphur 6
Little Yellow 1 ☆
Harvester 1
Eastern Pine Elfin 2

Spring Azure 3
'Summer' Spring Azure 7
Pearl Crescent 5
Question Mark 5
American Lady 5
Painted Lady 2

Red Admiral 20+
Monarch 4
Silver-spotted Skipper 20+
Hobomok Skipper 4



Olympia Marble



Hoary Elfin



Henry's Elfin

By the way, Ethan has published a guide, [A Hiker's Guide to Midwestern Butterflies](#), available where better books are sold!

4 HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PLEASANT VALLEY CONSERVANCY FIELD TRIP

Rich Henderson, Kathie Brock and Douglas Buege led a group of 25 through our annual tour of the lower wetlands of the Pleasant Valley Conservancy in western Dane County. Some stubborn clouds decreased our butterfly finds but we did see many **Baltimore Checkerspots** nectaring at *Angelica*. Also seen were **Black Swallowtail**, **Red Admiral**, **"Summer" Spring Azure**, **Cabbage White**, **Common Buckeye**, **Great-spangled Fritillary**, **Meadow Fritillary**, **Orange Sulphur**, **Eastern Tiger Swallowtail**, **Silvery Checkerspot**, **Silver-spotted Skipper**, **European Skipper**, **Pearl Crescent**, **American Lady** and one **Question Mark**. Thanks to Joan and Tod for helping with critter identification!



Intrepid Explorers Prep at Pleasant Valley, photo: Douglas Buege

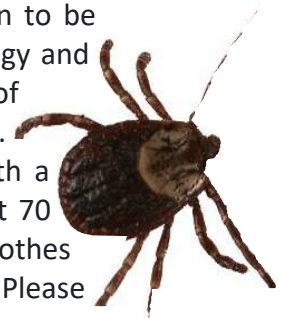
5 FIELD TRIP CANCELLATIONS

I don't know if we are seeing an increase in canceled outings for SWBA but this season we have abandoned a few trips due to weather, most recent being the June 22nd Cherokee Marsh field trip. Trip organizer Pam Skaar would like to formulate a policy, starting next year, for having backup plans for field trips. We currently do not have an effective way to communicate field trip cancellations and are looking into options.

If you have input, please email Pam-- hyndla53704@yahoo.com

6 PROTECTION FROM TICKS, MOSQUITOES, CHIGGERS

This is neither a sales pitch nor a recommendation. SWBA and none of its members benefit financially from this information. But if you spend a lot of time in the field, you've become familiar with some of the down points of butterflying, the worst in my estimate being Deer Ticks, the carriers of Lyme Disease. When I butterflyed with employees of the Forest Service, I learned that they send clothes in to be treated with Permethrin. While I work to keep a serious distance between my biology and organic chemicals of a toxic nature, my research has led me to believe that the risks of Permethrin exposure outweigh the risks of Lyme or not spending time in the field. Insect Shield is the company that sells spray bottles to treat your own clothes, with a treatment lasting six washings. Nicole of the USFS says that clothes sent in will last 70 washings. I found the pricing quite reasonable and prefer having pros treat my clothes rather than use the sketchy spray bottle. I wanted you all to know about this option. Please do your research and stay healthy!



7 HOSTPLANT—PIPEVINE (*Aristolochia* spp.)

2024 marks the 3rd non-consecutive year that the illustrious Leglers have been visited by a most gracious southerner, the Pipevine Swallowtail (*Battus philenor*). Are they drawn by Karl's loquacious nature or Dorothy's cooking? Neither. It's the fact that Dorothy had the foresight to plant Pipevine in the yard years ago. Now those wandering butterflies find it (amazingly) and lay eggs for another brood. Dorothy recommends *A. tomentosa* for Wisconsin, the species she planted, but notes that *A. macrophylla* will do well also but is less hardy. Ollbrich Botanical Garden, on Madison's eastside, also has a wall of Pipevine abutting the Monona Drive ballfield where Pipevine Swallowtails meet. Others have spotted Pipevine Swallowtails in Milwaukee, along the Nojoshing Trail and at Schlitz Audubon. From my experience, pipevine is hard to grow from cuttings, so I recommend starting seed (which takes a long time) or buying a plant. But do your research first as not all species or varieties will survive in Wisconsin. **If you plant it, they might come!**



8 LIST OF UPCOMING 2024 BUTTERFLY FIELD TRIPS

FIELD TRIP	DAY	DATE	LEADERS
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

		to Noon	Shackelford and Mike Reese
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8 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 12	Mike Reese
Northern Kettle Moraine	Fond du Lac	27	July 16	Mike Reese
Avoca	Iowa/Grant		August 10	Mike Reese



Mike Reese takes off his hat (to you)

The Badger ButterFlyer flits to you every month in summer.

The next issue will be in AUGUST, 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

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