

All the  
news  
that's flit  
to print

# Badger ButterFlyer



The e-newsletter of the Southern Wisconsin Butterfly Association

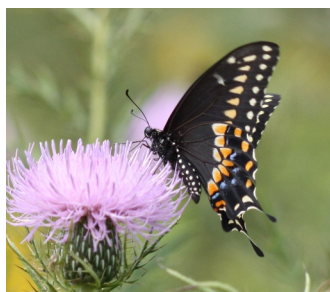
A chapter of NABA (North American Butterfly Association)

MAY, 2025

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

## 1 NEXT FIELD TRIP Catholic Ecology Center, Dodge County Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 10am-Noon Leaders: Donna Williams-Richter & Ethan Brown Rain Date, May 31st

Ethan's heading off for college in the fall so we might not be seeing his expertise for a while, giving a sense of urgency to this field trip.



Visit this 225-acre preserve that includes prairie, forest, gardens and riverine wetlands to find some of our early fliers. A great chance to see multiple Harvesters, our only carnivorous butterfly; the larvae feed on Woolly Aphids which may also be seen.

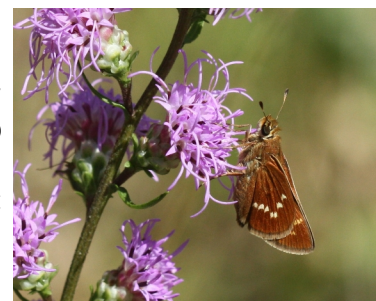
**Think spring!** You might see Commas, Question Marks, Red Admirals, Ladies, Swallowtails, Skippers and Mourning Cloaks.

**Please register!** your plans to attend by emailing Donna Williams-Richter ([dowiri124@gmail.com](mailto:dowiri124@gmail.com)). Registration ensures contact concerning any changes in date, time or location

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

## 2 SPRING PLANTING—CAN YOU DIG IT?

Whether you've got a plantation or a balcony, May's rising temperatures make this our month to get plants in the ground...or containers, or whatnot. Perhaps that pesky strip of ground next to the garage, with its full sun, would be a great spot for a few blazingstars (*Liatriis* species) that will draw monarchs, fritillaries, and swallowtails. That fence in back might prove a great place for pipevine (*Aristolochia* species) which could invite visiting Pipevine Swallowtails. Or maybe you go all out and grow some pawpaws to lure in Zebra Swallowtails. Farmers' markets are great places to find locally grown and ecologically adapted plants that you and the butterflies will enjoy for years to come!



*Leonard's Skipper on Blazingstar*

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### 3 BUTTERFLIES REPORTED IN APRIL

With the slower developing spring this year, seventeen species were reported to [wisconsinbutterflies.org](http://wisconsinbutterflies.org) in April. Will you add yours to May's observations?

Eastern Comma	Red Admiral	Mourning Cloak
Gray Comma	Compton Tortoiseshell	Cabbage White
"Spring" Spring Azure	Olympia Marble	Green Comma
American Lady	Juvenal's Duskywing	Black Swallowtail
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail	Clouded Sulphur	Meadow Fritillary
Eastern Pine Elfin	Dreamy Duskywing	

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### 4 SLOW START TO 2025 MIGRATION OF MONARCHS

While a few Red Admirals have found the Badger State this year, Monarchs are certainly not moving north as quickly as in the last few years. On April 14<sup>th</sup>, Illinois reported a Monarch near St. Louis, but this lone butterfly was likely an outlier. Maps at [JourneyNorth.org](http://JourneyNorth.org) showed the bulk of Monarchs in Oklahoma, Tennessee, and southward to the Gulf of Mexico.\* Jacob Swanson, from Journey North, speculates that the slow emergence of Milkweeds—the caterpillar host plants, is holding Monarchs at the Oklahoma border. What Swanson doesn't explain is how northbound Monarchs would know the status of milkweeds ahead of them. Perhaps they have some form of telepathy, not unlike how an Easter cactus knows when to bloom even though Easter's occurrence is seemingly unpredictable. Nonetheless, here's another poorly understood aspect of this insect's migration.

\*The use of the actual name of the body of water is not used as a blatant political statement or an act of resistance; it's geographical.

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### 5 SCHEDULED FIELD TRIPS FOR 2025 so far—more will be added

	County	Date and Time	Leader(s)
Spring Green Preserve	Sauk	April 26, 10am-noon	Mike Reese and Emma Raasch
Catholic Ecology Center	Dodge	May 17, 10 am-noon	Ethan Brown and Donna Williams-Richter
Pleasant Valley	Dane	June 21, 10am-noon	Douglas Buege and Kathie Brock
Sandhill Wildlife Area	Wood	July 15, 10am-3pm	Ron Arnold

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## 6 ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT: SHARE YOUR VIEWS

When most of our effective environmental policies harken back to the Nixon administration, it should be no surprise that some people want to gut those regulations that helped us get cleaner air and water, and slowed down the extinctions humans cause. Now the Departments of Interior and Commerce want to hamper the Endangered Species Act by redefining “harm” to mean only intentional acts that kill animals and plants. Unintentional acts, like building a stadium or draining a wetland, would likely be permitted, despite the obvious loss of populations and species! You have until May 19 to submit your comments concerning this very bad policy change. Use this [link](#) or type <https://tinyurl.com/Save-the-ESA> into your browser.



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## 7 LIST OF 2025 OFFICIAL COUNTS IN WISCONSIN

These are the counts in Wisconsin. Note: the Forest County and Northern Oconto County counts are no longer NABA events. All others listed are NABA counts.

Name	County	Years	Contact
Scott and Experimental Road Forest		2	Douglas Buege
Mud Lake	Columbia	36	Karl Legler
Madison	Dane	34	Fred Dike
Northern Oconto County	Oconto	11	Douglas Buege
Trempealeau	Trempealeau	33	Mike Reese
Northern Kettle Moraine	Fond du Lac	28	Mike Reese
Avoca	Iowa/Grant		Mike Reese

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

**The next issue will be in JUNE, 2025.**

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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](mailto:djbuege@gmail.com)

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