

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)

AUGUST, 2025

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

1 NEXT FIELD TRIP Smith-Reiner Drumlin Prairie, Dane Co

Saturday, August 30, 10am-Noon

Leaders: Fred Dike and Bob

Kendall

Together with The Prairie Enthusiasts, SWBA brings you a new venture into the realm of August prairie, with a great chance to see various Blazing Stars (*Liatris* spp.) in bloom, along with Gentians, Gay Feather, and others. Will we find Leonard's Skipper? Join and find out on this rare opportunity to butterfly in eastern Dane County. Please register at:

<https://tinyurl.com/AugustSWBA>

DIRECTIONS: 2656 Clear View Road, Cambridge WI is across the road from the prairie. From the intersection of US 12 and HWY 73, take 73 south 1.5 miles and turn left (east) onto County PQ. After about a mile, turn right onto Clear View Road and head south 0.6 miles where you can park along the shoulder.

IN THIS ISSUE

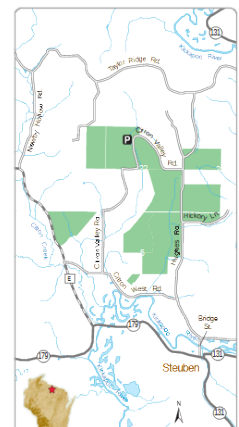
1. Next Field Trip Smith-Reiner Drumlin Prairie
2. Upcoming—Hogback Prairie Trip, Sept 13
3. Door County's Back on the Map
4. Butterfly of the Year
5. Remaining Field Trips for 2025
6. Comma Slam for the Count
7. Looking Forward



2 UPCOMING—HOGBACK PRAIRIE FIELD TRIP, SEPTEMBER 13

In 2024, those fortunate to attend the Hogback Prairie trip had an opportunity to see the rare visitor, the Funereal Duskywing. Once again, in mid-September, Ethan Brown and Donna Williams-Richter will lead another foray to Crawford County's geological oddity, the limestone-capped ridge that rises 300 feet from the surrounding farm fields. For those willing, the climb rewards hikers with the most extreme examples of hilltopping in the Badger State, with Regal Fritillaries, Swallowtails,

Hogback Prairie - #334



and maybe Variegated Fritillaries hustling up the steep sides of the ridge as part of their conjugal pursuits. For the less venturesome, roadsides will still have Common Checkered Skippers, Little Yellow, and others.

ACCESSIBILITY: Donna Williams-Richter and Ethan Brown plan to lead two separate parties around and up the ridge. Be prepared to hike, especially if you plan to walk up the ridge as the footing is not the easiest. The trail up Hogback is more difficult, but worth the effort. The trail below and around Hogback is usually a pretty easy walk.

DIRECTIONS: From the intersection of State Highway 179 and Bridge Street in Steuben, go north on Bridge Street for 0.2 miles, then west and north on Hughes Road for 2.1 miles, then west on Citron Valley Road for 0.25 miles. Park in the new parking area. (If you are familiar with Hogback the new parking area was created when the silo was removed in 2024.)

FACILITIES: There are no restrooms at Hogback. There are restrooms at the Steuben Park and if you come from Boscobel direction there is a Kwik Trip at the north end of town.

PICNIC INVITATION: Join Donna and Ethan for a complementary picnic lunch in the Steuben Park shelter, less than 5 miles away.

Please register your intent to attend with Donna Williams-Richter (dowiri124@gmail.com).

3 DOOR COUNTY'S BACK ON THE MAP

Some readers might remember Janice Stiefel, a Door County advocate for insects who wrote for, edited, and distributed the Wisconsin Entomological Society's newsletter. She, along with the Leglers and her husband John, helped organize the Sister Bay butterfly count, first run in 2001. After she moved on in 2008, the count continued for a few years, without her incredible energies, and then fell by the wayside. I'm quite pleased to announce that Janice's spirit is remembered and that Amanda Matzke has reintroduced the Door County Count, drawing on the talents of Mike Reese to get it up and running. Door County's unique ecology and geography make it a special part of the Badger State. Surveying its butterflies is essential to understanding the ways the insects employ Lake Michigan for navigation. Notable finds on their July 20th count include Dorcas Copper, Mulberry Wing, and Appalachian Brown. Thank you, Amanda!

4 BUTTERFLY OF THE YEAR FOR WISCONSIN, 2025

Do you have a nominee for Butterfly of the Year? Email me at djbuege@gmail.com with your nomination and your reasons for selecting that species. Nominations will be open until November. Consideration will be given to species that had particularly good years, that traveled farthest to get here, or that made the "news" in some other interesting way.

5 REMAINING FIELD TRIPS FOR 2025

	County	Date and Time	Leader(s)
Smith—Reiner Drumlin Prairie	Dane	August 30, 10am-noon	Fred Dike and Bob Kendall
Hogback Prairie	Crawford	September 13, 10am-noon	Ethan Brown and Donna Williams-Richter

6 COMMA SLAM FOR THE COUNT

The eleventh annual Northern Oconto County Count distinguished itself as the first Wisconsin count to feature a rare event, the Comma Slam—finding all four Commas, Eastern, Gray, Green and Satyr in one locality in a single day. Driving his Forest Service pickup, Nick Gremban stopped short of the next stop when he saw a bunch of butterflies in the road not far southeast of Waubee Lake. He confirmed a Green Comma first. Easterns and Grays were also seen. Then Amanda Matzke noted a brighter individual which she photographed. It flew into the trees though not so high that we couldn't confirm it as a very fresh Satyr Comma, completing the slam. The Satyr, one of Wisconsin's more elusive species, had only been reported in Oconto County once before, by Gremban on the day after the count a few years ago. Oh, we repeated this performance on July 29th in Forest County.



Satyr Comma

7 LOOKING FORWARD

SWBA operates with the generosity of many volunteers. It takes a lot of time and energy to plan field trips, keep up the website, produce and distribute this newsletter, and respond to all the queries that come in through email. People can help by volunteering to lead counts and field trips, or to do added extras like bringing a treat to one of our get-togethers. Some people share articles that end up being presented in the newsletter. Others offer ideas for field trips that might interest the public. All these actions help us keep this going. Also, it really helps when the knowledgeable step up and help folks on field trips that they aren't leading. Once again, SWBA is ours to do with as we see fit. Please consider doing something to keep the group active!

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

Officers of SWBA:

President: To Be Determined

Vice-President: Karl Legler

karlndot@charter.net

Secretary: Dorothy Legler

Treasurer: Fred Dike

Other SWBA contributors:

e-Newsletter Editor: Douglas
Buege

Butterfly Reporting: Mike Reese
at

www.wisconsinbutterflies.org

Field Trips: Pam Skaar

Speaker's Bureau: Vacant

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

To stop receiving this e-Newsletter simply send an email to the above editor's