

All the
news
that's flit
to print

Badger ButterFlyer



The e-newsletter of the Southern Wisconsin Butterflyfly Association

A chapter of NABA (North American Butterfly Association)

JULY, 2025

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

1 NEXT FIELD TRIP Kalscheur Savannah, Blue Mounds, Iowa County

Saturday, July 5th, 10am-Noon
Leader: Fred Dike and Rich Henderson

An amazing 243 plant species make a home on this 19-acre prairie that combines wetland, savannah and woodland. So it's a great place for butterflies, and what better way to spend part of the holiday weekend than looking for fritillaries, swallowtails, hairstreaks and more. 42 species reported so far though you might find 43. The immigrant Southern Dogface even makes the extended list of butterflies seen on this hilly land. For novices, it's a great field trip to learn some new species. For veterans, you'll have a chance to see great habitat and perhaps some lepidopteran rarities. This trip is brought to you by SWBA and The Prairie Enthusiasts.

DIRECTIONS: The savannah is located just two miles south of Hollandale. Unfortunately, Co K is closed just south of Hollandale. To detour, in Hollandale take Hwy 39 west for ~1 mile, then turn left onto Norton Road for ~1 mile. That will take you back to Co K to continue going south.

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2 Another Field Trip! SANDHILL WILDLIFE AREA, WOOD COUNTY

Saturday, July 19th, 10am-3pm
Leader: Ron Arnold

You might have to drive a while to get to Sandhill, but if you do, you'll have a great butterflying experience, weather permitting!

July brings out the Hairstreaks, Fritillaries, and lots of intriguing Skippers. Ron Arnold's been butterflying in the area for close to 40 years so you won't find a better guide to take you through the 16-mile journey, with many stops to study particular wetland, prairie, and woodland habitats AND to enjoy a lunch break.



*Dion Skipper by
Douglas Buege*

Past finds include Acadian and Coral Hairstreaks, Aphrodite Fritillary, Bronze Copper, Eyed Brown, Northern Pearly-eye, White Admiral and many others. The abundant skippers usually include Black Dash, Broad-winged, Dion, Long Dash and possibly the rare Two-spotted. Bring a lunch and water for this extended trip. Around 2 PM we will take a side trip to look for Bog Coppers.

Long pants, a hat, water, and hiking shoes are recommended. Prepare for ticks and mosquitos! Bring binoculars—the closer they focus, the better!

DIRECTIONS: Travel time from Madison is roughly 1 and $\frac{3}{4}$ hours from Madison. Take I-90/94 north to the New Lisbon exit in Juneau County and take Hwy 80 north. As you approach Babcock, County X will branch off to the left. Take X 1.25 miles to the Sandhill entrance. Keep an eye out for the big fence!

3 AN ODD YEAR FOR JUTTA ARCTICS

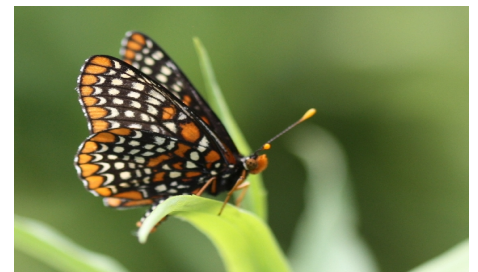
It's been an odd year in more ways than one, but only one way concerns a medium-sized butterfly of the northwoods. The Jutta Arctic, denizen of spruce/tamarack swamps, takes two years to go from egg to adult, spending its first winter as a second instar caterpillar and the second as a late instar. A hardy species that can be found north of the Arctic Circle in North America, Europe, and Asia, Juttas tend to have greater numbers, at least in the eastern half of Wisconsin, during odd numbered years. 2025 has created a (very) minor hysteria with multiple parties scouring the bogs for them! Scandinavian researchers believe that parasite loads may be responsible for the on/off year pattern. See you in 2027, Juttas!



*Jutta Arctic photographed by
Douglas Buege*

4 PLEASANT VALLEY FIELD TRIP REPORT

June's temperature extremes could not stop thirteen intrepid butterflies from tromping the lowlands of the Pleasant Valley Reserve. Fortunately, a breeze kept mosquitoes at bay while helping cool the marchers. Unfortunately, a breeze kept the numbers of butterflies down, though plenty of Baltimore Checkerspots made for a good show. Notable finds included 12 Great Spangled Frits, 2 Silvery Checkerspots, one Viceroy, one Monarch, one Red-spotted Purple, and a single Northern Cloudywing. Thanks to all attendees and Kathie Brock for sharing her space!



5 ORCHIDS AND DEAD EUROPEANS: A CONNECTION?

On August 1st, you can find out. Matt Knickelbine, environmental scientist, has been observing instances of showy lady slipper (*Cypripedium reginae*) flowers being filled with dead European skipper butterflies (*Thymelicus lineola*). Showy lady slipper, a denizen of wetlands, faces many hardships. European skipper butterflies invaded North America in 1910 and plague responsible butterfly counters who can never account for all they see. Learn about Matt's observations, past accounts of this phenomenon, and ideas for future research



in a Zoom talk hosted by the Wisconsin Wetland Association. Go to this URL for more information and to register for the talk:

<https://www.wisconsinwetlands.org/wetland-coffee-break/>

6 CATHOLIC ECOLOGY CENTER FIELD TRIP

Jess Scott is credited as saying, "Good things come to those who wait." And wait we did. The Catholic Ecology Center Field Trip date was rescheduled due to weather predictions of a very chilly day in May. As we arrived on Saturday, attendees could all feel the 'butterfly promises' of a sunny and hot June day unfolding. The group gathered to begin in the Butterfly Garden. With so many flowers around it seemed disturbingly quiet, but within moments the first butterfly, a Hobomok Skipper, was spotted and a fine butterfly day unfolded.



*Baltimore
Checkerspot
puddling*

The Baltimore Checkerspot is an early summer highlight at the Center. They were on the trail so often that everyone had to be careful not to step on them. We spotted one puddling that basically refused to move so everyone was able to get their Baltimore Checkerspot dose in one stop! Another highlight was the Harvester. Finding three provided good views and photo opportunities for all, with the first one found in the middle of the trail by the youngest attendee. Great Spangled Fritillaries kept darting above and around the group. 'Summer' Spring Azures kept spiraling upward above our heads while the Least Skippers seemed to find us as they popped out of nowhere. The Bronze Copper was a surprise sighting, even though we did eventually find host plants in the area.



*Some of the
attendees*



Bronze Copper

With eighteen species spotted, nearly 100 butterflies counted, three new county photo records, one new county sighting, great camaraderie and a beautiful location, it was a good butterfly day! Truly, what could be better than a day filled with butterflies and shared with both new and old friends? Big thank you to Field Trip Coordinator, Pam Skaar, for all she does!

7 SCHEDULED FIELD TRIPS FOR 2025 so far

	County	Date and Time	Leader(s)
Spring Green Preserve	Sauk	April 26, 10am-noon	Mike Reese and Emma Raasch
Cherokee Marsh	Dane	June 14, 10am-noon	Tod Highsmith
Pleasant Valley	Dane	June 21, 10am-noon	Douglas Buege and Kathie Brock
Catholic Ecology Center--	Dodge	June 28, 10am-noon	Ethan Brown and Donna Williams-Richter
Kalscheur Savannah	Iowa	July 5, 10am-noon	Fred Dike
Sandhill Wildlife Area	Wood	July 19, 10am-3pm	Ron Arnold
Smith-Reiner Drumlin Prairie	Dane	August 30, 10am-noon	Pam Skaar
Hogback Prairie	Crawford	September 13, 10am-noon	Ethan Brown and Donna Williams-Richter

6 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 AUGUST, 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

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