

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)

APRIL, 2026

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

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## 1 NEXT FIELD TRIP Mirror Lake Marbles

Saturday, May 9, 10am-Noon

Leaders: Pam Skaar & Tod Highsmith

Lost your marbles? Pam, who diligently organizes our field trips, will help you find them on this early trip to see Olympia Marbles patrolling the sandy barrens near Mirror Lake State Park. A joint venture with Friends of Mirror Lake State Park and the Southern Wisconsin Birding Alliance, the hike over gentle terrain will require you to have a state park sticker, available on site, if you bring your car or other large vehicle. Feel free to bike or walk to the site.



**Please register!** Go to SWBA's website and click the link in field trip schedule.

**DIRECTIONS:** Meet at 10 am in the Wild Rice Parking Area on the east side of Mirror Lake Road just south of the right turn onto Turtleville Road. A map is available on the website's write-up.

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## 2 DOES IT GET BETTER THAN THIS?

In 2026, SWBA will offer eight field trips in six different counties in the state. Kudos to Pam Skaar who has coordinated with the Southern Wisconsin Birding Alliance, The Prairie Enthusiasts, and Friends of Mirror Lake State Park to bring these FREE educational and recreational trips to the people! Once again, please join us and PLEASE bring a youngster who can leave their "devices" at home and learn something new and exciting. Likewise, if you wish to offer your services for future trips, please contact Pam. We are underserving the vast metropolis of Milwaukee/Racine/Kenosha and could probably offer a trip there if we could get some leaders. Also, don't let the "Southern" in the name fool you! If we have people willing to lead northern trips, let us know and we'll make it happen.

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## 3 IS THIS WINTER A HARBINGER OF FUTURE WINTERS?

Shannon Haley spotted 2026's first Wisconsin butterfly on January 13<sup>th</sup>, an Eastern Comma flitting around Marquette County's Observatory Hill State Natural Area. That lone flier is also the first January butterfly ever reported to [wisconsinbutterflies.org](http://wisconsinbutterflies.org). On February 16<sup>th</sup>, Mike Reese found another Eastern Comma at Spring Green Reserve in Sauk County. A bunch of flyers were reported on March 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> as a few warm days invaded Wisconsin. 2026 could be the first



*Eastern Comma, photo by Douglas Buege*

year that butterflies fly in all twelve months, an interesting but frightening prospect. We have had December butterflies in four different years—most recently in 2024. Keep your eyes open and your reports rolling in!

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## 4 SECOND FIELD TRIP CATHOLIC ECOLOGY CENTER—DODGE COUNTY

**Saturday, May 17 10am-Noon**

**Leaders: Ethan Brown and Donna Williams-Richter**

Rain Date: May 31<sup>st</sup>

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.



*Harvester, photo by Douglas Buege*

**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.

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## 5 SCHEDULED FIELD TRIPS FOR 2026

	County	Date and Time	Leader(s)
Mirror Lake Marbles	Sauk	May 9, 10am-noon	Pam Skaar and Tod Highsmith
Catholic Ecology Center	Dodge	June 6, 10am-noon	Donna Williams-Richter and Ethan Brown
Pleasant Valley Conservancy	Dane	June 20, 10am-noon Rain date: June 21	Dreux Watermolen, Ethan Brown and Kathie Brock
Swamplovers Preserve	Dane	July 4, 10 am-noon	Edgar Spalding
Sandhill	Wood	July 11, 10am-3pm	Ron Arnold
Hogback Prairie SNA	Crawford	July 25, 10am-noon with picnic following	Donna Williams-Richter and Ethan Brown
Smith-Reiner Drumlin Prairie	Dane	August 29, 10am-noon	Fred Dike and Bob Kendall
Borah Creek Prairie SNA	Grant	September 12, 10am-noon	TBD

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## 6 LIST OF 2026 OFFICIAL COUNTS IN WISCONSIN—Dates May Change Based Upon Weather

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	Year	Date	Contact
Wazee aka Bauer-Brockway	Jackson	19	May 19	Mike Reese <a href="mailto:mikereese@wisconsinbutterflies.org">mikereese@wisconsinbutterflies.org</a>
Scott and Experimental Road	Forest	2	June 20 & July 21	Douglas Buege <a href="mailto:djbuege@proton.me">djbuege@proton.me</a>
Mud Lake	Columbia	35	June 30	Karl Legler <a href="mailto:karlindot@charter.net">karlindot@charter.net</a>
Madison	Dane	35	July 8	Fred Dike <a href="mailto:freddmadison@aol.com">freddmadison@aol.com</a>
N. Oconto County	Oconto	12	July 7	Douglas Buege
Trempealeau	Trempealeau	33	July 10	Mike Reese
N. Kettle Moraine	Fond du Lac	28	July 13	Mike Reese
Avoca	Iowa/Grant	19	August 8	Mike Reese

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

**The next issue will be in MAY, 2026.**

### Officers of SWBA:

President: Vacant

Vice-President: Karl Legler

[karlindot@charter.net](mailto:karlindot@charter.net)

Secretary: Dorothy Legler

Treasurer: Fred Dike

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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@proton.me](mailto:djbuege@proton.me)

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