

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) **JUNE, 2026**

WEBSITE <http://www.naba.org/chapters/SWBA>

1 UPCOMING FIELD TRIP CATHOLIC ECOLOGY CENTER—DODGE COUNTY Saturday, June 6, 10am-Noon **The date given in the April newsletter was incorrect.**

Leaders: Ethan Brown and Donna Williams-Richter

Visit this 225-acre preserve that includes prairie, forest, gardens and riverine wetlands to find some of our early fliers. Established in 2016 but claiming its current name in 2021, the Center is open to all who can respect the natural world. A great chance to see multiple Harvesters, our only carnivorous butterfly; the larvae feed on Woolly Aphids which may also be seen. Visit their website: catholicecologycenter.org

Please register! your plans to attend by emailing Donna Williams-Richter (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 FROSTED ELFIN SURVEY AT FORT McCOY

On May 18th, a crew of volunteers joined Jessup Weichelt and other Endangered Species staff to survey one of Wisconsin's few habitats for the amazing Frosted Elfin. This diminutive May flyer can be found in barrens, with reports from Wood, Monroe, and Jackson Counties. The McCoy army base, like other military installations, offers a home to multiple endangered animals and plants on its roughly 60,000 acres, much of it undisturbed by agriculture and development. Many Frosted Elfins were found, along with lots of Gorgone Checkerspots, a few early Karner's Blues, and many others. Those wishing to visit the base in search of butterflies or other activities can learn more at <https://ftmccoy.isportsman.net/>



Frosted Elfin, photo by Douglas Buege

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3 FIELD TRIP—JUNE 20, PLEASANT VALLEY CONSERVANCY

DNR veteran Dreux Watermolen, Ethan Brown and Kathie Brock, who has been laboring to preserve this western Dane County site of multiple habitats, will lead this jaunt through the lowlands of the prairie to observe Baltimore Checkerspots and, hopefully, lots of other species.

4 MIRROR LAKE MARBLES



Six people ventured out in search of Olympia Marbles, one of spring's more interesting butterflies, on May 9th, with co-leader Pam Skaar reporting twelve species to wisconsinbutterflies.org, including a Common Roadside-Skipper, Eastern Pine Elfins, American Ladies, and nine Olympia Marbles. Unlike other locations, the Marbles here are quite photogenic, making this a worthy trip in the future.

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
Cherokee Marsh-North	Dane	June 27, 10am-noon	Fred Dike and Tod Highsmith
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	Donna Williams-Richter and Lindsey Dalton

6 AN UNWANTED VISITOR OR GUEST THAT WON'T LEAVE

30-some years ago, I met an edible plant, garlic mustard, in eastern Pennsylvania. I never thought that invasive pest would ever show up in the Badger state, but several years later, there it was. And there, and there, and even there. The Driftless Area has changed under its evil bloom, with woodlots filled with the precocious grower crowding out other species. Now I've found Garlic Mustard in both Marinette and Forest Counties for the first time. I picked all I found at Scott Lake Road but my bigger concern is for the area's West



Garlic Mustard at Scott Lake Road--May 26, 2026

Virginia White butterflies—a precious population, our only one. The females will lay eggs on GM but the caterpillars will die when they eat it. Why can't we be more careful with the natural places we have left?

7 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 21	Mike Reese mikereese@wisconsinbutterflies.org
Scott and Experimental Road	Forest	3	June 20 & July 21	Douglas Buege djbuege@proton.me
Mud Lake	Columbia	35	June 30	Karl Legler karlndot@charter.net
Madison	Dane	35	July 8	Fred Dike freddmadison@aol.com
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
Door County	Door	??	July 18	Amanda Matzke amatzke16@gmail.com
Avoca	Iowa/Grant	19	August 8	Fred Dike

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

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

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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@proton.me
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