

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) JULY, 2026

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

1 NEXT FIELD TRIP SWAMP LOVERS PRESERVE

Saturday, July 4, 10am-Noon
Leader: Edgar Spalding

Dragonflies and Butterflies, two of our favorite hexapods, bring some almost-silent fireworks to your Fourth of July on this classic SWBA outing. See a variety of western Dane County habitats on a pleasant hike, then hilltop with the crowd at the picnic shelter where folks will eat lunches they've brought.

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

DIRECTIONS: From Cross Plains, head west on Hwy 14 a short distance to County KP. Turn right (north), go about 1.3 miles and turn left at the Swamp Lovers sign. When the road turns to the RIGHT park on the left near the tree.

IN THIS ISSUE

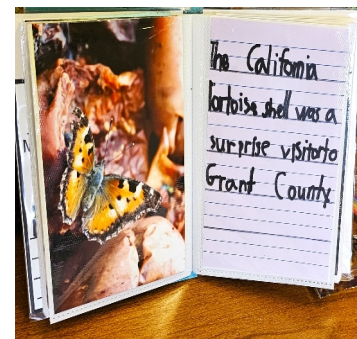
1. Next Field Trip Swamp Lovers Preserve
2. It's Working with Kids and Butterflies
3. Mowing Mischief? Some Thoughts
4. Does the "M" stand for "mysterious"?
5. Upcoming Field Trips for 2026
6. Sandhill Field Trip on July 11th
7. List of 2026 Official Counts in Wisconsin

2 IT'S WORKING WITH KIDS AND BUTTERFLIES

by Donna Williams-Richter, one of our great (retired) public school teachers

I was inspired by a colleague to take a class called Earth Partnerships. This class encouraged educators to include nature in their teaching. During the class I found Richard Louv's book Last Child in the Woods. His message led me to teaching Summer School Nature Classes that took the students outside and helped them to understand more about the environment. In retirement, I continued to teach these classes until 2025.

Retirement also provided me with the opportunity to visit a 2nd Grade Class during the school year. This monthly visit has progressed and changed over the years, partly because I became a Butterfly Enthusiast. One of my favorite books to share with students is the lovely 'egg to butterfly story' called *Butterfly House* by Eve Bunting. Other projects include cleaning the courtyard, feeding the birds and making Butterfly Ornaments from Milkweed seed pods at Christmas. We plant Milkweed in January and learn about



cold stratification. Students then take their growing plants home. Another project that began with only a photo, developed into learning about different butterfly species. Butterfly facts are shared and then students write about each butterfly in their journal. The class is introduced to both the Wisconsin Butterflies and SWBA websites. I am not sure who has more fun, the students or me!

3 MOWING MISCHIEF? SOME THOUGHTS

A recurring problem for butterflyers, as well as butterflies and other critters, is the completely crazy ways that municipalities maintain their rights-of-way. Yes, the most remote section of Wilderness Road gets the golf course treatment, even though nobody ever goes there (except us). What most villages, townships, and counties lack is a knowledgeable insect researcher so their policies destroy habitats at all the wrong times. I suggest that concerned individuals do a little homework and approach their municipal government in the winter (when these practices are usually determined) and offer some helpful suggestions for better timing of cutting, or eliminating cutting on specific stretches of road. Let your officials know that they can gain the butterflyer votes while likely saving money by limiting cutting. Avoid adversarial approaches and make some friends in the process, while helping out the six-legged!

4 DOES THE “M” STAND FOR MYSTERIOUS?

On May 11th, the illustrious Fred Dike found an even more illustrious butterfly in the wilds of Yellowstone Lake State Park—the White M Hairstreak! And, no, the “m” in the name refers to the pattern on the hindwing’s underside that helps identify this rare Wisconsin sighting. (None were reported in Wisconsin between 2012 and 2024.) As Ethan Brown will note, the upperside catches the eye for its amazing iridescent blue color which helped him differentiate it from the more common Gray Hairstreak. We are on the fringe of this southeastern butterfly’s range so you’ve got a chance of finding one.



White M Hairstreak, photo by Terry Mortier

5 UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS FOR 2026

	County	Date and Time	Leader(s)
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 SANDHILL FIELD TRIP ON JULY 11TH—10am to 3pm

Ron Arnold has been leading this field trip for decades as he lives close to this very special Wildlife Area—14 square miles of protected environments. Just north up HWY 80 from Necedah National Wildlife Refuge, Sandhill has some of the best butterfly viewing, particularly for July, as a number of hairstreaks, such as the Acadian, and many wetland skippers, including Dion, Mulberry Wing, Black Dash, and Two-spotted, will swarm to the many swamp milkweeds around the wetlands. But even the parking lot has great butterflying—the only place I’ve ever seen the Reakirt’s Blue. Please use your favorite device to find a way to get to Babcock, WI, and you’ll be glad you did. To learn more, refer to our website-- naba.org/chapters/swba .

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 19	Mike Reese mikereese@wisconsinbutterflies.org
Scott and Experimental Road	Forest	3	June 17 & July 21	Douglas Buege djbuege@proton.me
Mud Lake	Columbia	35	June 30	Karl Legler karlindot@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.

The next issue will be in **AUGUST, 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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