

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 2026**

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

1 NEXT FIELD TRIP SMITH-REINER DRUMLIN PRAIRIE, **Saturday, August 29, 10am- Noon** **Leaders: Fred Dike and Bob Kendall**

Working with the Prairie Enthusiasts and the Southern Wisconsin Birding Alliance, we've designed this trip—in its second year—to allow more people to see exquisite later-season prairies with gentians and Rough Blazingstar and, hopefully, many Monarchs and other butterflies. This is the Prairie Enthusiast's preserve.

DIRECTIONS: 2656 Clearview Road, Cambridge WI is across the road from the prairie. From the intersection of US 18/12 and HWY 73, take HWY 73 south 1.5 miles to HWY PQ. Turn left onto PQ and follow it 1 mile east to Clearview Road. Turn right onto Clearview and travel 0.6 miles and park along the road, off the shoulder.

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2 SANDHILL BRINGS THE SKIPPERS

On July 11th, thirteen intrepid people met in our Central Sands at the Sandhill Wildlife Area for an exciting exploration of wetland skippers and many other butterflies. Ron Arnold showed us some of the best butterflying stops on the 16-mile drive through various wetlands, all protected by an extensive deer-excluding fence. Broad-winged skippers abounded, alongside Dion, Mulberry Wing, Dun, and Two-spotted Skippers. With all this Swamp Milkweed, we were pleased to see flowerheads boasting multiple species.



Ask anyone on the trip and they'll tell you it's worth the drive!

3 HOGBACK PRAIRIE FIELD TRIP

Saturday, July 25, marked the third consecutive year for the Hogback Prairie trip with a record 20 participants splitting into two groups. Ridgewalkers chased a few Regal Fritillaries, while the Valley-footed reported a new county species Silver-Bordered Fritillary. Then the crowd enjoyed a feast in nearby Steuben, catered by Donna and Bill. Thanks to everyone who participated!

3 NO WORDS NEEDED—PHOTO BY FRED DIKE



4 SMOKEY SKIES, BEDRAGGLED LUNGS

July 15th brought what to my eyes were the smokiest skies I've seen in northeastern Wisconsin ever. Fires in Canada and Minnesota's northwoods barreled through without warning, on the heels of the hottest temps of the year. My breathing—a regular, joyful activity—took a hit that lasted more than a week as I felt my lungs had taken on a good share of oatmeal. What impact did these fine particulates have on butterflies, insects, and other wild creatures? We don't know, but I do believe that numbers dropped off after that bad air, except for Dun Skippers, of course. Folks, be careful out there! The lack of response to climate change in the 1980s and ever since is catching up with us and now we live with this (if we're lucky).

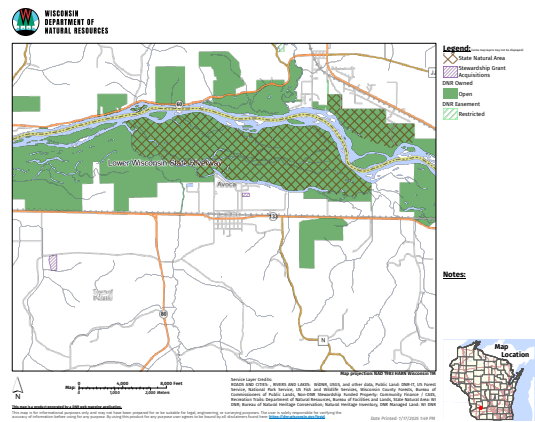
5 REMAINING FIELD TRIPS FOR 2026

	County	Date and Time	Leader(s)
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 AVOCA COUNT IS ALSO A FIELD TRIP!

If you're saddened to see only two field trips remaining for our season, I recommend a little flexibility and consider joining leader Fred Dike on the August 8th count to tally the butterflies of Avoca Prairie and other spots along the lower Wisconsin River. If you've never seen a Sleepy Orange male patrolling along roadsides, or enjoyed Little Yellows plying their way through swaths of Partridge Pea, this event will excite.

AVOCA—IOWA COUNTY Saturday, August 8th, 10:30am—3pm



DIRECTIONS: Take Highway 14 to Lone Rock and follow HWY 130 south to cross the Wisconsin River, then turn right (west) on HWY 133, travel roughly 5 miles and take Hay Road north to a parking area where the group will meet.

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 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.

The next issue will be in **SEPTEMBER, 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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