

## Kentucky Lepidopterist

Newsletter of the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists

Volume 25, Number 2 June 1999

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# President's Message

After the rather hectic winter season experienced by our officers and editor, we are making progress in getting our group's business in order. Toward that end, I have agreed, for the time being, to assist Charlie with maintaining the membership list and recording dues payments.

Dues for 1999 are now payable, and are to be sent to me for processing. Please use the payment form and addressed envelope included in this Newsletter.

The year through which our records indicate your payment is current, appears on the Newsletter mailing label. Please bring any discrepancies to my attention, as well as any errors or changes in name or address.

## MOTHING

Spring has been mixed up here in Wisconsin. In late March into early April we experienced above-normal temperatures. My first trip of the season sugaring for moths was on March 27, almost exactly when I was able to start last season. The moths found that night were almost all hibernating species of Noctuidae, with just a few very fresh spring-emerging species noted.

Several days of strong southerly wind probably aided the early appearance of the Army worm moth and a couple of other species that likely move into Wisconsin from the south each year. Spring-emergers quickly became more numerous in the next few nights.

Then the weather turned cold and rainy. Conditions improved in late April, but very few butterflies or moths were seen. It appears that we will not have a repeat of last year's extremely early season.

Les Ferge, President

## **Genetically Altered Plants**

There is increased controversy over the safety of genetically altered plants. Cornell University researchers claim monarch caterpillars may be harmed by eating milkweed leaves dusted with the Bt corn pollen. Entomologist John Losey found the the caterpillars that ate the Bt corn pollen dusted milkweed leaves grew slower and died sooner than those that did not. Larvae of the butterfly and corn borer are similar. European Union regulators plan to delay approving pending requests by Pioneer Hi-Bred International and DeKalb Genetics to sell genetically modified corn based on concerns raised by the study. EU will not revoke earlier approvals of requests from Novartis and Monsanto to sell Bt corn. jel@cornell.edu

Page 7

## Field Trip Announcements

## June 25–27 Pike County Field Trip

Les Estep and Joan Carr will host a Field Trip at their home in Pike Co. - Kentucky's easternmost county. Collectors bring black lights and light traps for moths.

We will leave from Joan's house at 9:00 a.m.EDT, Saturday, June 26, heading first for a cane site 25 miles away. She has observed new county records in bird species and wildflower species at the cane site earlier.

The Appalachians have no dots on the distribution map in Eric Quinter's manuscript on new species of cane-feeding moths which he will be describing. A search for caterpillars in the cane might produce data for this previously unsurveyed area.

The Diana Fritillary exists in Pike Co., and Joan and John will guide us to sites where they hope we can observe it. It is scarce, so we are asked to collect by camera only.

Joan and John would like to make arrangements to eat as a group on Friday and Saturday evenings. They encourage us to bring a spouse or significant other. If they aren't butterfly chasers, they can enjoy lots of relaxation among birds, flowers, and trees on decks and patios.

Joan said that "We are amateurs among you and need help with procedures for field trips. So, volunteer and contact us. Most of the excursions will be on our property, but one will be in WV, about five miles away. We have a 4 wheel drive truck to accommodate those who can't make the grade, literally and figuratively. Even with the truck, some of the terrain can be rough!"

LODGING: Historic Mountaineer Hotel, 1-800-484-5154, \$29-39 for rooms, \$59 sitting room, etc., Williamson WV across the Tug Fork of the Big Sandy River from South Williamson, KY.

There are several eating and dining places on premises from Cigar Bar to The Venetian Room (gourmet but pricey)

Sycamore Inn, 1-800-446-6865, \$54 plus tax, AAA and AARP discount, Williamson WV.

Super 8 Motel, 1-606-23-7-5898, \$49.30 one person, \$52.12 two persons, Goody, KY

**TENT CAMPING:** If you want to pitch a tent, Joan says they have plenty of room, just let her know.

**DIRECTIONS:** I-64 east to Bert T. Combs Mountain Parkway (exit 98), proceed for 75 miles. The Parkway ends at Salyersville and continues as KY Route 114, continue east to US 23, approx. 18 miles. Take US 23 south towards Pikeville, approx. 22 miles. Turn left on US 119 north, and proceed for about 30 miles to South Williamson, KY.

Turn left off US 119 onto KY292 west. Proceed to Bevins Citgo Gas Station in South Williamson. Turn left at gas station. Proceed a few hundred feet, turn left at Happy Valley Road. Continue 1/4 mile to house on left with butterfly at the fence. Joan said that when all else fails, follow Butterflies!, Or, telephone for help!

1-606-237-1119, e-mail SCA00122@MAIL.WVNET.EDU Joan Carr and husband John Estep

## July 3 Butterfly Count

The annual July 4th Count will be held July 3, Saturday, Horner Wildlife Sanctuary, Brownsboro, KY, 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. EDT.

DIRECTIONS: Traveling east on I-71 from Louisville, take exit 14 (approximately 20 miles). Turn left off of the ramp to Brownsboro (approximately one mile). Meet at the Brownsboro General Store. Bring a sack lunch.

RAIN DATE: In case of rain on Saturday, the Count will be on Sunday, same time, same place. If you want your name listed there is a \$3.00 fee.

For more information contact Charlie Covel

## September 3-6 Fall Field Trip

The Labor Day Weekend has been chosen in hopes of finding the Duke's Skipper in its prime at the Zip Track Site in Paducah. The extra day will allow an expanded trip. Bring light traps and bait traps.

Some of you may wish to arrive Friday afternoon, Sept.3. We will rendezvous at 8:30 a.m., CDT, Sep. 4 at Denny's for breakfast. You will be welcome to continue through into Monday Sept. 6, if your itinerary will allow.

Paducah is easily reached by I-24. There are 11 motels at Exit 4; and four motels and an RV campground at Exit 3.

Spouses are invited to visit the Museum of American Quilters Society and historic downtown. For more information contact Bill Black.

## Spring Field Report by Charles V. Covell

The spring season began early with no late frosts. However, there was much cloudy and cool weather, preventing much early field work throughout most of our area.

Butterfly sightings in the Covell yard and garden, 1999:

First Seen	Remarks
Mar 30	flying across back yard
Apr. 6	flying across back yard
May 1	flying across back yard
May 1	flying across back yard
nis May 16	on Pyracantha branch
	First Seen Mar 30 Apr. 6 May 1

April 5. A lovely day, though clouding toward the end of it. I drove down to the Rt. 480 exit of I-65 in Bullitt Co., and met Loran Gibson and Tony Merkle at the Pine Creek Barrens Nature Preserve. There we recorded the following butterflies, and photographed some of them. No sign of Hesperia metea, which we were seeking. We think its time has passed. Butterflies recorded: Erynnis brizo, E. iuvenalis. E. horatius, Battus philenor (3 seen), Eurytides marcellus, Papilio polyxenes asterius, female, P. glaucus, P. troilus. Pieris rapae. Anthocharis midea (about 4 seen), Colias philodice, C. eurytheme, Calycopis cecrops, Callophrys grynea, C. henrici, C. niphon (several), Strymon melinus, Everes comyntas, Celastrina ladon, Clossiana bellona, Phyciodes tharos, Polygonia comma, P. interrogationis. Vanessa virginiensis. V. atalanta, Anaea andria (several), Cyllopsis gemma, and Danaus plexippus. Moth species there included Nadata gibbosa (Notodontidae) and Leptostales rubromarginaria (Geome tridae). Bird's foot violet was very common and in perfect flower: also Hoary Ponace and a small liliaceous flower visited by many of the butterflies.

**April 9.** From Brainard Palmer-Ball - "Mclean Co., KY, Falcate orange-tips common in bottomland forest along Pond River (a white cress flowering the the woods -food plant??) also one worn Monarch.

April 11. Jefferson Co., KY-One worn Monarch observed."

May 11. Lovely day. First field trip for the Bernheim Bug team at Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest. Butterflies recorded included: *Epargyreus clarus, Erynnis juvenalis (worn), T. pylades, A. hegon* (photographed; saw at least 3 individuals), *Atalopedes campestris* (male), *P. peckius* (common in Great Meadow), *B. philenor, P. glaucus, P. troilus, E. marcellus* (1), *P. rapae, C. eurytheme, C. philodice, C. niphon* (saw 2, one on Fountain butterfly bush; made photos); *C. grynea* (collected one worn one), *E. comyntas* (frequent), *P. interrogationis, P. tharos* (frequent), *Anaea andria* (one collected by Melissa Duley), *L. arthemis astyanax* (one dead one in back road). 75 miles driven.

May 16. Chuck, Rob, Katherine and I went down to Pine Creek Barrens Nature Preserve off Rt. 480 in Bullitt Co., where I got photos of Atrytonopsis hianna, of which we saw several fresh individuals. I also recorded the following species: Erynnis juvenalis (2, worn), Amblyscirtes vialis, Poanes zabulon, Battus philenor, Heraclides cresphontes (small), Pterourus glaucus, P. troilus, Eurytides marcellus, Callophrys grynea (nectaring), Everes comyntas, Anaea andria (at least 3 seen), Phyciodes tharos, and several unidentified fast fliers. Warm, sunny, breezy. A few coneflowers just beginning to open; daisies out.

May 18. Today was cloudy with intermittent showers in the morning, clearing in the afternoon. I took Jeremy Bennett and drove to Bernheim Forest, where Margaret Shea with interns Emily and Shannon met Peggy and us to go look at some of the more remote sites. We visited sites 2, 3, 4, 5, and 8, found that our new site 16 was really site 11. We found newly emerged *P. troilus female, Speyeria cybele,* and several *Megisto cymela.* Also recorded a female *Poanes zabulon* and a *Celastrina sp.*, unknown. Drove 73 miles. Recorded several *Scopula inductata* at site 5 flying in the open field.

May 20. I had 9 helpers last night at Bernheim Forest for mothing. Not too much of note, but they enjoyed the Luna Moth and a Tiger Moth we caught.

## Pine Mountain Field Trip by Loran Gibson

May 1, I spent the day on Pine Mountain, especially in Hi Lewis Pine Barrens State Nature Preserve (I think that is what they call it). I found a couple of fresh *I. irus* sitting in the road. I searched throughout the nice parts of the preserve and did not see a single *irus*! Then I see them sitting in the road. I took photos of both specimens but was unable to get either of them to perch on flowers or foliage. Oh well, I guess photos of irus in the road are better than no photos.

Other species seen in the preserve today were: Erynnis brizo(worn), E. icelus (most common Erynnis), at least one other large Erynnis, probably juvenalis, possibly horatius, possibly both?, B. philenor, E. marcellus, P. glaucus (numbers seem to be lower this spring), P. troilus, A. midea, I. augustinus (saw several), I. irus (saw two for sure, possibly a third), P. m-album (saw one very blue but slightly tattered specimen...I took a photo for the record), C. cecrops (common), E. comyntas (just starting to show up, saw a few), C. ladon?...if that is the name (saw two fairly fresh males), P. tharos (common), V. virginiensis (saw two), C. gemma (saw a few).

Do you know if anyone is keeping a list for this preserve? I have these records plus a shorter list made in spring of 1997 - that list included *H. metea*.

This is an update of Eric Quinter's list of cane-feeding moths, which was handed out at the November1998 Annual Meeting of The Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists:

## Nearctic NOCTUIDAE specializing on Arundinaria (Quinter MS)

Phylogenetic Affinity	Distribution	Host
Hadenini uncertain; doubtful Acontiine ker) Apameini		A. tecta & gigantea A. tecta (VA) & gigantea A. tecta A. gigantea A. tecta A. gigantea A. tecta A. tecta A. tecta A. tecta A. tecta
Apamem	VM, INC	A. tecta
	Hadenini uncertain; doubtful Acontiine ker) Apameini	Hadenini VA, NC, GA, FL, MS,, TN, IL, MO, KY uncertain; VA, NC, GA, KY, TN, AL, doubtful Acontiine MS, AR, MO, IL ker) Apameini VA, NC, SC, GA, FL, AL, MS, LA (?) Apameini KY, MO Apameini KY, TN, IL, MO, AR, MS Apameini KY, MO, MS Apameini VA, NC, FL, TN, IL, MO, KY, AR, MS Apameini NC, TN, IL, MO Apameini NC, TN, IL, MO Apameini NC, GA, TN, IL, MO, AR, MS, KY Apameini VA, NC, GA Apameini VA, NC ["Luperina"] Apameini TN, IL, MO, AR, MS VA, NC TN, IL, MO, AR, MS VA, NC, SC, GA

**Life History Code** - All are known, complete (except eggs and early instars, in some instances [Quinter MS]) unless otherwise noted. \*Known, partial [Quinter MS].

Field Notes - Eric Quinter, Bill Black, and Jim Wiker Western Kentucky May10-18, 1999

#### Larvae in Arundinaria

#### Location and Number found

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Sites: K1 - Sandy Branch, Carlisle Co, KY; K2 - Massac Creek, McCracken Co., KY; K3 - Willingham Bottoms, Fulton Co., KY: K4 - Reelfoot Lake, Fulton Co., KY; K5 - Boaz, Graves Co., KY; K6 - Burna, Livingston Co., KY; K7 - Stovall Creek, Ballard Co., KY.

Presence: A - present based on old borings; B - present based on larval head capsules under auxillary sheaths.

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– detach Membership Form here –

published quarterly-January, June, August, and October.

: the Annual Meeting in November.

Joptera.

### ates to Remember

24-25 Pike County Field Trip y 3 Annual Butterfly Count otember 3-6 Fall Field Trip ovember - Annual Meeting

## pidopterists' Society Annual Meeting

re Conference Center in Sierra Vista, AZ August 4-8. : \$18.

epidopterist Society, Vol. 40, no. 5, or contact Charlie Covell (see front 1 the new membership brochure to you for free.

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