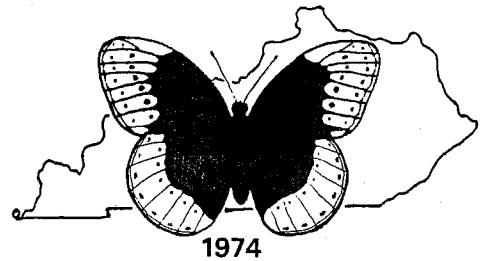


NEWSLETTER OF
*The Society of
Kentucky Lepidopterists*



VOL. 13, NO. 1

M.L. MCINNIS, EDITOR

JANUARY, 1987

OPEN LETTER TO THE MEMBERSHIP

Eric H. Metzler

The 13th Annual Meeting of The Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists in Louisville on November 15, 1986 was its usual success, thanks to the continued hard work of Charlie Covell and to the loyal members of the Kentucky lepidopterists. For me, it was especially poignant. My election as President of the Dean of state organizations is "a consummation devoutly to be wished." (I wish I'd thought of that phrase before Shakespeare did.) I have always admired the pride and organization of The Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists and its founders, Charlie Covell and Richard Henderson. To be its president is an empyreal experience for which I am very grateful.

It was not coincidental that The Ohio Lepidopterists was formed only a few years after The Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists. It was the success of the Kentucky lepidopterists that inspired me and several other people to start a group in Ohio. Our imitation was offered as the sincerest of compliments. We made special effort not to compete with our fellow lepidopterists to the south, rather our job was to bolster the concept of state organizations so we would all be stronger. After watching Charlie, Richard, and the other members of the Kentucky Lepidopterists work hard to

ensure success, we knew we had our work cut out for us. It's paying off. Now in my travels I frequently hear good things about the activities of the lepidopterists in the midwest. Kentucky and Ohio are leading the charge.

There is still lots to do. Our state organizations are like any other organization - we're either moving ahead or backwards. Nothing stays the same. In Ohio we're working hard to move ahead, and in Kentucky we also have to work hard. It is important not to set back and let others carry the load. To this end, I was encouraged by all the ideas for future activities expressed at the 13th Annual Meeting in Louisville. Charlie Covell will soon be producing workshops for us all to learn about techniques and ideas that will assist us in our studies and enjoyment of lepidoptera. And Mike McInnis, taking over editorship of the newsletter, the Kentucky Lepidopterist, needs lots of support. (I have personal experience on this front.)

I hope that all of us will do our best to contribute to our organizations. Send items to the Newsletters. Come to the meetings. Attend the workshops Charlie is organizing. Write letters and let all of us know that you are proud members. I'll work hard to do my best. Thanks.

ANNUAL MEETING A SUCCESS

M. L. McInnis

The 13th Annual Meeting of The Society was convened on November 15, 1986 at the University of Louisville. Thirty-nine (39) members and guests were present and seven (7) states were represented. The festivities began with a Friday night open house at the Covell residence. Once again, The Society is indebted to the Covells for their effort and enthusiasm in hosting this event. Food, drink, and conversation were enjoyed by all and Charlie Covell was kind enough to share his recent experiences in Costa Rica via slides.

Our President, Dennis Currutt, opened the business meeting, on Saturday morning, in the Natural Sciences Building at the University. An outstanding slate of officers was elected.

President, Eric Metzler: Eric's tireless efforts on behalf of the Ohio lepidopterists and the Lepidopterists' Society are well known. We are fortunate to have him at the helm during 1987.

Secretary/Treasurer, C. V. Covell: After twelve years as Editor (frequently Author) of our newsletter, Charlie has once again been pressed into service.

Field Trip Coordinator, Loran Gibson: This will mark Loran's thirteenth straight year of juggling weather, flight periods, accomodations, and the moon to assure our enjoyment.

Following the election process, the attendees expressed the Society's appreciation for the efforts of past officers, Denny Currutt (President), Blaine Early (Secretary/Treasurer), and Charlie Covell (Editor).

Field trip activities for 1987 were

discussed but not finalized. Tentative sites and dates are as follows:

Mid-April - Green Swamp area of North Carolina. Loran and Leroy Koehn will initiate discussion on a joint meeting with the Southern Lepidopterists. The Green Swamp area harbors such choice species as Mitoura hesseli, Incisalia irus, Atrytonopsis hiana/loammi intermediates, Amblyscirtes carolina, A. reversa, and A. alternata.

Mid-August - Christian County, Kentucky. This is the area, discovered by Richard Henderson, that has yielded Calephelis muticum, Parrhasius m-album, Mitoura gryneus, Amblyscirtes belli, and Erynnis martialis. I understand that moth collecting is excellent with several state records obtained during 1986.

Charlie Covell concluded the "new business" section of the meeting by suggesting that the Society sponsor an annual workshop with specialists providing guidance related to the study or preparation of Lepidoptera. Response to this concept was enthusiastic and Charlie has tentatively scheduled the inagural workshop. The particulars are set forth below. Mark your calendars.

Featured Guest: Dr. Jacqueline Miller, Florida State Museum.

Date: March 28-29, 1987

Place: Room 321
Life Sciences Building
University of Louisville

Topics: 1. Collections
a. Importance of collections
b. History of some U.S. collections
c. Maintenance of collections,

- preparation of specimens, labeling, and repair.
 - d. Identification of specimens.
 - e. Procedure on endangered species.
 - f. Immatures and preservation of material.
2. Publication of results.
- a. Genitalia preparations.
 - b. Wing venation drawings.
 - c. Other salient features.
 - d. Final draft and illustrations.

Please contact Dr. Covell for further details and to voice your opinions concerning the proposed topics. Lodging will be "on your own".

The balance of the formal meeting was devoted to presentations highlighted by our featured guest, Dr. Austin "Bob" Platt. Dr. Platt's presentation was entitled "Hybridization and Evolution in North American Limnitis". It was an outstanding presentation that addressed selective forces and phenotypic divergence among the familiar Admiral butterflies. For those of you that could not attend the meeting, a similarly thought provoking article by Austin Platt, George Rawson, and George Bulogh can be found in the Journal of the Lepidopterists' Society 32(4), 1978, 289-303.

Following Dr. Platt, Bob Borth gave an informative presentation on the complications of recent tax code revisions for insect collectors (charitable contributions, etc.). Charlie Covell concluded our program with slide presentations covering his recent travels to French Guiana and Florida.

Many participants concluded the weekend activities by meeting for dinner at nearby Masterson's Restaurant. As

always, a superb weekend that makes one yearn for the passing of winter and the coming of spring.

A PERSONAL INVITATION TO COLLECT
IN OHIO

John V. Calhoun

Ohio is often thought of as a state situated somewhere in the Midwest where many would like to live but few would like to visit. It is a much-maligned, little understood state. Most people have heard of the cities of Toledo, Dayton, Cleveland, and Cincinnati but some would be surprised to learn that all are found in Ohio. Such is also the case with its natural wonders.

With respect to its natural history, Ohio is a rich state. This quality is reflected in its butterfly, skipper, and moth fauna. Appalachian, northern, southern, and (to a lesser extent) western aspects influence the number and composition of lepidoptera species found in Ohio. A diverse array of habitats directly contributes to a high diversity of lepidoptera species which exist here.

There is still much to learn about Ohio's lepidoptera. The Ohio Lepidopterists cordially invite and encourage Kentucky Lepidopterists to experience Ohio's wealth of natural history.

THREE BUTTERFLY SPECIES FLUTTER BACK
FROM BRINK OF EXTINCTION

M. L. McInnis

Chuck Honaker, of Port Orange, Florida, recently forwarded an article published in the October 30, 1986 edition of "The News Journal" (article titled as above; the city of publication remains a mystery). The article describes member Tom Emmel's assessment of the population status respecting three (3) butterflies in Florida. Dr. Emmel notes a

resurgence of Heraclides aristodemus ponceanus and Eumaeus atala populations. A reduction of mosquito spraying efforts on Key Largo is credited with increased a. ponceanus sightings on that island (one in 1984 and 70 in 1986). Dr. Emmel now estimates that the total ponceanus population may approach 1,000 individuals. The Atala butterfly has enjoyed an even more impressive resurgence keyed to food plant adaptation. Larvae are apparently utilizing sago palms in addition to coontie. Transplantation programs were not mentioned in the article.

The third butterfly mentioned was Mitoura gryneus swadneri. It is apparently restricted to a few stands of red cedar near St. Augustine. Survival of this subspecies in Florida is keyed (not surprisingly) to preservation of the foodplant.

Copies of this article are available on request from the editor. It would also be interesting if one of our southeastern members would comment on the ranges and visual characters useful for differentiating the various subspecies of gryneus. I have seen little consistent difference between M. g. gryneus from Kentucky, M. g. castalis from Texas, M. g. smilacis from South Carolina, and M. g. swadneri from Florida (observed in Levy County rather than the St. Augustine area). Perhaps someone that is knowledgeable in this area can help.

NOTICES AND RESEARCH REQUESTS

Paul Grey, of Lincoln, Maine, recently wrote expressing an interest in insect exchanges. Since parting with his Speyeria collection (which now resides in the AMNH), he has been concentrating on noctuids. He is interested in exchanging northeastern moths and butterflies for noctuids necessary for his research.

The Ohio Lepidopterists' annual

meeting will be held on January 17, 1987 in Columbus, Ohio. Dr. John Rawlins, of the Carnegie Museum, will be the featured speaker. Further information can be obtained from David Iftner (614) 889-2024. This sounds like the perfect opportunity to shed those winter doldrums.

Dues remittances should be sent to the new Treasurer:

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

M. L. McInnis

As your Editor, I will strive to issue four (4) newsletters per year with the issuance dates conforming to January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1. Obviously, I didn't strive adequately on Volume 13, No. 1. I ask that all contributions intended for a particular issue be sent at least two (2) weeks prior to the issuance date. I will be very receptive to any comments or complaints that you may have concerning the newsletter. If you would like to change the format, if I error (quite likely), or if you would like to offer assistance in any form

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 Libraries (Acquisitions), Smithsonian Institution, 10th & Constitution Ave., Washington, DC 20560
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Note: If you change your address, please notify the Editor or the Secretary/Treasurer so our list can be updated. Membership remains \$3 per year. Some of you are still recorded as paid only through 1984, so please remit dues to maintain your membership. Thank you.

Charles V. Covel Jr.
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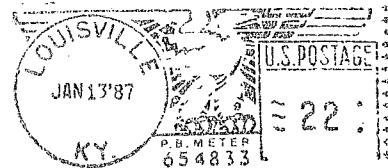
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Having broached the subject of
contributed articles in the paragraph
above, further comment appears
warranted. The sole purpose of this
newsletter is to facilitate
the dissemination of information
between members. As such it is a
convenient vehicle through which to
request information, to solicit
participants for field trips, to
forward controversial views for
discussion, to publish collecting tips
or checklists, or simply to relate
interesting experiences. Regrettably,
the newsletter has suffered from a
lack of member contributions. Charlie
Covell has occasionally served both as
Editor and as Author during the past
twelve years. His knowledge and wit
have allowed the newsletter to remain
informative and entertaining despite
the paucity of contributions.
Regrettably, I lack both Dr. Covell's
knowledge and his wit. For example,
my knowledge regarding moths is
limited to recognition of their
antennal deformities (missing club,
Castniidae excepted). Thus, I
earnestly solicit your assistance
through contributed material. The
newsletter is your vehicle to speak
out, use it.

THE KENTUCKY LEPIDOPTERIST
M. L. McInnis, Editor
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