
KENTUCKY LEPIDOPTERIST

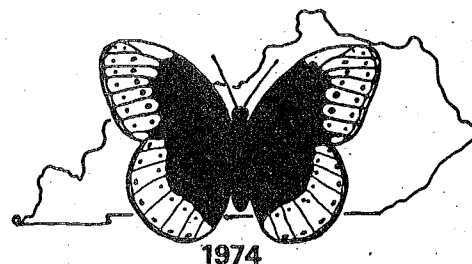
Newsletter of the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists

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EDITORS' NOTES

Unfortunately, we didn't have enough material for a full issue. PLEASE send in your contributions. We need YOU. The next issue will be formatted by the time this gets to you but don't wait for it before sending what you can. We can use the backlog.

I'm working on a membership database. We need info from each of you. Should you wish to have it included, I need your name, current address, phone numbers (any you wish to include), E-mail addresses (including AOL, Prodigy, Netcom, Iglou, etc.), INTERESTS, and anything else you wish to provide. We are hoping to have it finished by the end of the year. Please, send in a 3 x 5 card with this info. Actually, any scrap of paper with the information will do. The best and quickest method for you computer users, is to submit this information (and any other articles, or the like, you have lying around) via E-mail to the address in the newsletter header.

Immediately following this section is the information for the meeting. Please note the change in the Friday party location from the normal location. Plan on attending. Also, if you have something you'd like to present, please contact Dr. Covell so he can write the final agenda. Thanks. We'll see you there!

KENTUCKY LEPIDOPTERISTS' SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

by Charles V. Covell Jr.
Biology Department,
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announced in the last issue, our guest speaker is Dr. Lawrence Gall from the Peabody Museum of Natural History at Yale University (New Haven, CT). The tentative schedule is as follows:

Friday, November 10: Annual party at the home of Jay, Jessica, and Marianne Hutti, 3066 Beals Branch Road., Louisville, Kentucky. Time: 7-11 P.M. EST (bring a dish or other refreshments). [Ed. Note: more on this from Marianne Hutti follows this article.]

Saturday, November 11: Meeting at Room 321 in the Life Sciences Building at the University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky.

9:30 A.M. - view collections, swap specimens, swap stories [Ed. Note: A.K.A. "yarns".], etc.

1:00 P.M. - Annual Business Meeting, Dr. James K. Adams, President, presiding.

2:00-5:00 - Program. Special Guest: Dr. Lawrence Gall, "Studies on the Catocala (Underwing Moths) of North America: Progress on the Moths of America Fascicle."

Also: "Butterfly conservation in Indiana" by Dr. John Shuey, "Mimicry in Tropical Lepidoptera and Other Insects" by Dr. James K. Adams, "Butterfly Gardening 1995" by Charles V. Covell, Jr., and other talks by members, including **YOU** if you wish to participate:

5:00 - Annual Door Prize Drawing (please bring something to donate for this traditional climax to our meeting).

6:00 - Dutch treat dinner together at Masterson's Restaurant.

New and beginning members are PARTICULARLY urged to attend this meeting.

The Annual Meeting of the KLS will be held November 10-11, 1995 here in Louisville, KY. As

The Annual Party of the Kentucky Lepidopterists' Society, November 10, 1995

by Marianne Hutti
3066 Beals Branch Road.,
Louisville, Kentucky

The Annual Party of the Kentucky Lepidopterists' Society will be held at our house this year. Our address is 3066 Beals Branch Drive, Louisville, Kentucky 40206. Our phone number is (502) 895-5285. We are located in the back of Cherokee Gardens near Seneca Park. Directions from the Watterson Expressway (265): Take the Watterson Expressway to the Breckinridge Lane Exit, go North on Breckinridge Lane to the first major intersection at Dutchman's Lane. Turn left at Dutchman's Lane (pass shopping center on the right and the Springs medical building on the left). Take Dutchman's Lane to the three-way stop at the Jewish Community Center. At JCC, turn right onto Cannons Lane. Stay on this for about 2 miles (you will go over I-64). After crossing over I-64, go through 1-2 traffic signals, and you'll come to a four-way stop at Seneca Park. Turn left at the four-way stop onto Pee Wee Reese (Seneca Park will be on the left). Go less than one mile and take the first street on the right. This will be Cherokee Gardens Road. Go one block, and it will dead-end into Beals Branch Drive. Turn right on Beals Branch Drive. Our house is the 2nd house on the right - a two story red brick house with black shutters (up on a hill).

From I-64: Take the Cannons Lane Exit, turn North onto Cannons Lane. Go about 1-2 miles to the four-way stop at Seneca Park. Turn left onto Pee Wee Reese, go about .7 miles to Cherokee Gardens Road and turn right. Follow this one block where it dead-ends into Beals Branch Drive. Turn right and we're the 2nd house on the right.

You can also get to Beals Branch Drive from Garden Drive off Lexington Road. Garden Drive dead-ends into Beals Branch Drive.

There is also a Beals Branch ROAD that comes off Cannons Lane just past Seneca Park. You can not get to our house from this road - people always get lost when they try this route.

We look forward to seeing everyone.

WINTER Moth Collecting? You Must be Mad!

by Barry S. Nichols
7004 Ethan Allen Way
Louisville, KY 40272 USA

Now that it's getting cool, cold, or even snowing where you live, don't put up your gear just yet. You can still collect through the winter. Those of you who have discovered the technique of Sugaring or Baiting for moths need not feel the season is over. Many moths overwinter as adults and will fly or crawl to bait during "warm" days. Geometrids; a number of micros (many families); Noctuids-especially *Eupsilia* spp., *Lithophane* spp., and *Metaxaglaea* spp.; and others are prevalent. Many of these are infrequently caught during the late spring. For the butterfly enthusiasts, the anglewings are common at bait during "warm" days.

Now, what exactly do you mean by "warm"?

Obviously, the warmer the day, the better it will be for collecting. I have caught geometrids on days where the high temperature was 37°F. In my experience, the best collecting times were those where the high temperature that day was above 50°F and a light rain started just before dusk. It may be miserable but it makes for good collecting. If you keep track, there are usually a good number of unseasonably warmer days during the winter.

When would you start collecting?

Daytime will work best if you want to catch the butterflies. They'll come to baited trees, bait traps, manure, and rotting fruit. The best time for moths is dusk to early night. It really depends on how fast the air cools. Since low clouds and rain all help hold the temperature steady, I believe that is partially the reason that those conditions are best.

OK, I'm ready to give it a shot. Now what?

First, pick an area or two that have wide trails with trees along the edges. I have found hilltop trails to be the most productive but trails through bottomland have also provided interesting catches. Don't rule any habitat out! The moths are extremely wary. My favorite trails get a foot or two of leaves during the winter. Walking through them is not quiet. I take a rake and periodically drag it along the trail a few times to clear the leaves. It keeps your approach a lot more quiet. You'll quickly find that odd noises, bright lights, etc., spook the moths. Many evade capture by folding

up their wings and legs and dropping into the leaf litter and remaining completely motionless. Since most of the winter moths are dull browns and grays, they may be extremely difficult, or even impossible to find. I have been four feet from a tree and watched moths drop off and not been able to find where they landed. Another thing to be careful with is your breath. Steamy breath can also foil your efforts at getting close to them. I also typically use weak batteries with my lights for this type of collecting. You have to get accustomed to working in dim light as bright light will trigger evasion responses. Even dim light will prompt this behavior if kept on the moths for long periods.

O.K. O.K. I'll be careful. What do you use for bait? You could probably get as many different opinions on the "best" bait as you could for which stocks are the best investments. I use a one-gallon (maybe 1.5 gallon) garden sprayer. It's the same type they sell for applying dreaded pesticides! For years I mixed up chunky fruity muck and used a paintbrush to apply the mess. Not only does the tree get painted but so do your hands and eventually, parts of your clothing. I use about a gallon of apple cider or apple juice, a lot of molasses (you can substitute sorghum), and a LOT of sugar. I put in sugar until it becomes viscous, almost like a syrup. The sprayers require pumping air in to pressurize. Then all you need to do is walk the trail and spot spray. If you coat well, you won't need to reapply unless it is windy that evaporation becomes a problem, or so rainy that the bait gets washed off. I can also tell you that the time to bait a trail using a sprayer is roughly 25% that of using the traditional method. You should strive to bait the same place on the tree every time. These areas will become impregnated with an odor over time and may attract insects for days. I also keep a watch on the weather and may actually go out and "seed" the trail with bait a few times in the week before I plan to collect. This will help attract moths to your area.

Is there anything else I should know? While I have only briefly touched the subject, there are other tips I should tell you. Don't overlook manure piles if horses have also been on your trail. They are especially attractive to moths if fresh or wetted by rain. When you're walking the bait trail, pay attention to the eye-shine of the insects. For the most part, reddish eye-shine is from a moth, greenish to yellowish eye-shine is from spiders. The spiders quickly learn where to look for hungry moths! Also, bring a number of jars if you're collecting. You may need to wait for some to stop flying before adding fresh ones. I carry a five gallon bucket with extra jars, an extra light, etc. Also,

don't assume that the drab little bug you're looking at is nothing special. At one of my regular trails, I stumbled into a colony of *Pachypolia atricornis* Grt. (MONA 9992), a rarely caught noctuid. I've been watching the colony ever since.

Are you done yet? Nearly. Winter collecting is finished here when the Red Maples start to flower. They flowers seem to be more attractive to moths than bait. This is also the time when you can try rearing the larvae of some of the female winter moths you caught. Rearing them is a little more difficult as they specialize in eating the very small beginnings of new leaves, flower buds, flower petals, etc. It definitely takes some work but you may end up with useful data. Foodplants are unknown for some of the more commonly caught winter moths. I hope you use this as an opportunity to study leps during a rarely sampled time of year.

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AT MEETING
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DR COVELL

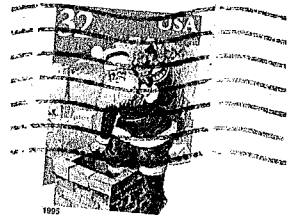
BACK ISSUES of the *Kentucky Lepidopterist*

can be purchased. Pricing is as follows:

Volume 1-18 \$1.25 individual issue/\$5.00 per volume
Volume 19 \$2.50 individual issue/\$5.00 per volume
Volume 20 \$2.50 individual issue/\$10.00 per
volume.

All prices are postpaid. (BSN)

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