

Kentucky Lepidopterist

Newsletter of the Society of the Kentucky Lepidopterists

Volume 26 Number 1 January 2000

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At Large Members -

Dr. James K. Adams - 2000*
Eric Metzler - 2001*
George Balogh - 2002*

*term expires

A message from the President A Great Field Year in Kentucky 1999

Despite the worst drought I have ever seen in Kentucky, it was a very satisfactory year in the field for many of us in the state. I would like to recount some of the highlights that I either participated in or had reported to me.

Beginning in the year 2000, I would like to see each issue of "Kentucky Lepidopterist" have a Field Report Section as is done for the Southeast states in the "Southern Lepidopterists' News". That way people will be aware of how the season is shaping up and what butterflies and moths have been seen and what people are doing. This means we have to keep an eye on the deadlines projected by Carolyn so we get the copy to her in a timely fashion. Won't you all help with this?

Thanks, Charlie Covell

2000 Dues Payable Now

Please check the address label on this newsletter for your current dues status. For the convenience of members who haven't paid their dues for 2000, a dues envelope is enclosed with this newsletter. In order to continue to receive your newsletters, please pay any dues in arrears.

No envelope is provided if you are paid up for 200 or ahead. Also, the courtesy of notification would be appreciated if you change address or wish to discontinue your membership.

New Members

Scott & Susan Kelley, 11605 E. Winner Rd, Independence, MO 64052
John MacGregor, 102 West K Court, Nicholasville, KY 40356
James E. Spieth, 616 Lilac Circle Road, Clarksville, IN 47129
Yvonne M. Mohlman, MD, P. O. Box 27028, Cincinnati, OH 45227
Connie May, 680 Mt. Vernon Road, Frankfort, KY 40601
Bill and Joey Shively, 38 Calm Street, Delaware, OH 43015

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Phone 706-602-6993, e-mail jadams@em.daltonstate.edu
Ron King, e-mail kingsrb@bellsouth.net

Fall Meeting Review

Our 26th annual fall meeting of the Kentucky Lepidopterists began informally on Friday, November 19, with an evening get together at Charlie Covell's house. A good spread of food and refreshments were provided. Good conversation, video, and slide viewing were the order of the evening as members caught up with each other on their butterfly seasons. About 25 members and guest were in attendance and it was a very enjoyable evening. The party broke up a little before 11:00 P.M.

On Saturday, we met at the Entomology Lab at the University of Louisville for the informal activities of setting up displays and specimens, examining the University collection, 'bug' talk and eating donuts and coffee.

At about 1:00 the business meeting got underway with president Les Ferge presiding. Elections were held and the results were the following:

President -Charlie Covell
Treasurer -Les Ferge
Secretary -Ron King
Newsletter Editor- Carolyn Roof
Field Trip Coordinator-Bill Black-
Member at Large -
George Blaugh
James Adams

Announcements made during the meeting included that back issues of the Kentucky Lepidopterist newsletter and books were available at the meeting. There were plenty of copies present and they could perhaps be purchased in the future. Charlie stated that he might sell some of his books in the future.

Reed Watkins invited members to attend the Ohio Lepidopterist Society annual ID day on December 4, at the Entomology Museum, Ohio State University. The Annual winter meeting of

the OLS will be held at the same venue on Saturday, January 15. This year's agenda includes local speakers who will give presentations on a variety of subjects. John Peacock promoted the OLS's sales program, which include various books and publications, pins, as well as mounting and spreading equipment.

John also told of his trip in early November to the Smithsonian to work with Larry Gall and Larry Hawkes on the long awaited Catacola fascicle of "Moths of America North of Mexico". John sketched some possibilities on the books content and organization and hinted it may be finished in the foreseeable future.

Bill Black, Charlie Covell, and Ron King described possibilities for next years summer field trips. They include Bernheim Nature Preserve near Louisville; Pine Mountain Settlement School, eastern KY; Hoosier National Forest, Southern Indiana, as well as the annual trip to Paducah and Western KY. Specifics will be forthcoming.

Field trip coordinator Bill Black gave a year-end report of field trips by the Kentucky Lepidopterist. These included trips to Bernhiem Nature Preserve, Pike County, KY to look for *Speyeria diana* and cane-feeding moths, and the annual Western Kentucky trip.

Out-going treasurer Charlie Covell reported our current budget to be \$1217.71. He also reported that some members are in listed in arrears and may not be receiving their newsletter because of that reason. He encouraged members to check to see if their membership is up to date and to notify other members who may have let their memberships accidentally expire.

Charlie polled members to see if interest existed on the

possibility of some joint activities with other groups with entomologic interests which may be non-collecting in nature. An example given included the Solato Wildlife Center in Frankfort, Kentucky, which has expressed an interest in a butterfly watch.

Charlie expressed concern over the future location of University of Louisville Entomological collection and raised the possibility that it could be scrapped and sent out of state.

Charlie reported his yearly activities. In addition to the afore mentioned field trips, Charlie attended the Lepidopterist Society annual meeting in Sierra Vista Arizona in August. On September 11, Charlie spoke to the Idalia Society in Kansas City and met with Richard Heitzman. The bimonthly meeting was attended by 71 people. On October 20, Charlie spoke to Loriguin Society in Los Angeles at the LA county Museum. This was attended by 100 persons. Charlie described their "insect fair" which included dealers who sold entomological items.

George Hootz donated the University of Cincinnati -Annette Brown Microlepidopterist to Charlie Covell. This collection contains specimens that were caught around the turn of the century.

George Blaugh announced the Michigan Entomological Society will hold its annual meeting on June 2, 2000 at the Kellogg Center at Michigan State University. Guests will include David Arenholdt, a noted wildlife photographer. James Adams extended an open invitation to those who plan to travel through Georgia, to stop at his new house.

After a break, Eric I Quinter, Dept of Entomology, American Museum of Natural History, gave a presentation entitled "The

Continued next page

Minutes continued

Saga of the Canefeeder's" A cornucopia of rare and hitherto unknown *Noctuid* moths". The interesting talk featured information of recent study on the genus *Papiapema*. James Adams gave a report on his ongoing study of moth faunas and the effects of Bt-sprayed vs. Bt-free areas near Highlands, North Carolina. Loren Gibson reported personal sightings of 95 butterfly species this year despite a crippling drought. He presented a great slide presentation of some of these specimens. Charlie presented a slide presentation of his trips of 1999.

After the last break, Richard Henderson presented some computer applications for the Lepidopterist wishing to catalog and photograph their collection. This was very interesting and a number of members felt that this was something that could serve their needs in the future.

Dinner afterwards was at University Club, since Mastersons stopped serving Saturday evening dinner. Overall, the meeting was a well attended success and a good time was had by all.

Ron King, Secretary

Bernheim Field Trip

The first field trip of the season is scheduled for Saturday, April 8, at Bernheim Arboretum & Research Forest, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Bernheim is located at the I-65 exit Clermont - 12 miles north of Elizabethtown, KY.

Charlie Covell will lead those who wish to participate in at this jewel of an arboretum in the knobs of central Kentucky.

For more information and "reservations" contact Charlie at: 1-502-852-5942
1-502-852-0725 fax
covell@louisville.edu

Possible Field Trip to Hoosier National Forest

By Ron King

Four years ago, John Shuey showed me a road in the Hoosier National Forest, which we both felt, may have some of the largest variety in Indiana. Last June 17, at this location, which includes a double brood of *Calpheiles muticum*; I counted 35 species in just over two hours.

The unpredictableness of a field trip there rests on whether the local highway mowing crews cut the roadside vegetation. When this happens, it is not uncommon to see as little as seven species.

I have contacted the chief forest ranger in that area to express our interest regarding a field trip to that area. She recorded the information and said she would follow up contact with the local highway department to keep the road from being mowed. There are other areas within the forest, which I have found to be good for other things including a couple of interesting mothing areas.

I think the best time for a trip may be early to mid June depending on the preceding spring. If you think you may be interested in an out-of-state venture such as this please drop me a line or e-mail me at:

kingsrb@bellsouth.net

[<mailto:kingsrb@bellsouth.net>](mailto:kingsrb@bellsouth.net)

I will keep you informed on the exact date and subsequent arrangements on the next newsletter.

Kentucky Butterflies

For a copy of "Butterflies and Moths of Kentucky" contact Charlie Covell. This is the result of a 20 year study of Kentucky's butterflies and moths.

FYI-<http://ButterflyWebSite.com>
links with hummingbird website.

Angels of the Garden

From Southern Living

February 2000

The following is an article from Southern Living featuring KYLEPS member Ron Boender.

"When Ron Boender leads the way into his garden, the first things you notice are the incredible bursts of color that hang on every plant like delicate, lacy, exotic flowers. Then, in the warming light of a Florida morning, something amazing happens. The 'flowers' begin to fly.

"And not just fly. While a Beethoven symphony plays softly from hidden speakers, thousands of butterflies fill the air. They pirouette and spiral like dancers waltzing around a ballroom.

"They like classical music," Ron says with a smile as he stops to admire the aerial circus spinning its way among the garden paths at Butterfly World in Coconut Creek, Florida, the world's largest screened butterfly habitat. Seeing it for the first time is a magical experience."

A former electrical engineer who became bored after a week of retirement, Ron started raising butterflies on his patio, later went to London to study a conservatory there.

Today, you can explore his three acres of butterflies. "Winding paths that enable you to see only about 20 feet ahead are designed to create an experience as similar to a visit to a rain forest as possible." Ron estimates that 5,000 butterflies emerge each week.

Since beginning his butterfly house in 1988, he has worked to encourage conservation of butterflies across America.

Butterfly World, 3600 West Sample Road, Coconut Creek, FL, 33073 1-954-977-4400,
www.butterflyworld.com

Field Reports

By Charlie Covell

I was unable to attend the spring field trip to Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest, Bullitt Co., but Thomson Paris reported some good butterflies such as the spring Zebra Swallowtail, *Eurytides marcellus*; Falcate Orangetip, *Anthocharis midea*; Henry's Elfin, *Incisalia henrici*; and the Goatweed Emperor, *Anaea andria*.

May I began a three-year study on the insects of Bernheim Forest under a grant from the Isaac Bernheim Foundation. Working with Margaret Shea of the Bernheim staff, we planned to sweep for insects in a number of grassland sites, some partly burned over as a management technique, and others slated for burning or herbiciding in 2000. A group of volunteer and summer student wage helpers made many samples and did some blacklight trapping as well. I was eager to add species to the known butterfly and moth list, and we did add several, including Leonard's Skipper, *Hesperia leonardus* (Aug. 27), the Ocola Skipper, *Panoquina ocola* (Sept. 19), Cloudless Sulfur, *Phoebis sennae eubule*, and Ontario Hairstreak, *Satyrrium favonius ontario* (May 25).

At nearby Pine Creek Barrens Nature Preserve I was able to get good pictures of the Dusted Skipper, *Atrytonopsis hianna*, thanks to a tip from Loran Gibson. The purple coneflowers there did not bloom well, however, because of drought at a critical time.

I did a lot of butterfly photography because I am under contract to produce a *Field Guide to Kentucky Butterflies* for the University Press of Kentucky in another two years. We have quite a few good shots already, but many more are needed. Any of you who have sharp and attractive pictures of live butterflies in nature please let me see them for possible inclusion in the book.

At home I watched my garden whenever possible, as I record all butterflies seen (including those passing through). In 1998 I noted 31 species, and tied that number in 1999. Whereas a fresh Long-tailed Skipper, *Urbanus proteus*, was my big reward in 1998, the star in '99 was the female White-M Hairstreak, *Parrhasius m-album*, found on Buddleia on July 9 - my first seen in Jefferson Co., KY. The most amazing coincidence occurred when my son Chuck, who lives in nearby Lyndon, KY reported by e-mail what had to be another of the same species! He did not know the name; but he described it so there was no doubt as to what it was!

The 15th July 4th Butterfly Count was held on July 3, and 19 people came along, including those in Lexington who were going to conduct a NABA butterfly count the following week. We recorded 368 individuals of 32 species, of which the most abundant were the Little Wood Satyr, *Megisto cymela* (75), Pearl Crescent, *Phyciodes tharos* (50), Eastern Tailed Blue, *Everes comyntas* (43) and Great Spangled Fritillary, *Speyeria cybele* (33). The rarest was the one individual of the Northern Metalmark seen (*Calephelis borealis*).

I unfortunately missed the field trip to Pikeville and West Virginia with Joan Carr and Les Estep. The diana fritillary was apparently hard to find this year, but those attending had a fine time.

The fall trip was held in Paducah and environs, with Bill and Nancy Black hosting our visit. We got caught up on the work he and Eric Quinter, plus Loran Gibson and others had been doing to discover larvae of the cane-feeding *Papaipema* species (*Noctuidae*). *Nathalis iole*, the Dainty Yellow, was common in Carlisle and Fulton Co., and reported in other places. Despite severe drought that trip produced a total of 57 butterfly species, and at least one showy white geometrid moth, *Philtraea monillata* Buckett, common at the Sandy Branch site in Carlisle Co. and a new Kentucky record.

Brainard Palmer-Ball, Loran Gibson, Ron King and others have sent me a lot of records which I cannot abstract in time for this deadline. Thanks to all of you for your contributions in 1999, and especially for those of times past which provided so much data for *The Butterflies and Moths (Lepidoptera) of Kentucky: An Annotated Checklist*, which was published at last in December 1999.

There is still much to do. Are there Regal Fritillaries still in Kentucky? Let's make an effort to find out more about this butterfly in the year 2000. Our field trips are open to all, and we welcome new members in all our activities. Best of luck.

Cheers, Charlie

PS

January 10, 2000, I saw *Palaecrita vernata* at an Audubon Society Meeting. It was 58 degrees today.

Macromoths

By Ron King

After the birth of our first child, I thought my bug days were over. The anticipation of midnight feedings, ear infections, diaper changes and an already involved schedule seem to necessitate a departure from the usual intensive April through November collecting trips and night lighting expeditions. However, after visiting James Adams in Georgia over the summer, I was inspired to return to my roots.....moth collecting at public lights.

Having lived in Owensboro for three years, I had done some cursory studies to find nice safe mercury vapor lights, which were adjacent to interesting habitats, but was unsuccessful. Until one morning I noticed, while walking my dog, Community College had completed the new agricultural extension office on the west side of campus, which included 10m MV lights that shined like a beacon in the night and early morning. Later, after patrolling the county for garage sales for children, I found a gas station in Philpot KY, 5 miles SE of Owensboro that also had a healthy supply of MV lights. These two sites were about 12 minutes away from each other that meant I could visit both and be home within 30 minutes. Thus I have compiled a short list of the more interesting macromoths to my area and in adjacent areas where I took field trips.

Catocola illa 6/18/99

Owensboro, Daviess Co.

Catocola maestosa 9/6/99

Westvaco WMA, Ballard Co.

9/6/99 Bayou de Cheyne,

Fulton Co.

10/11/99 Owensboro

Community College (OCC),

Daviess Co.(2)

Catocola angust

8/14/99 Philpot, Daviess Co.

9/10/99 OCC Daviess Co.

Catocola vidua

First two weeks in Sept, OCC,
Daviess Co.

Catocola amatrlix 9/6/99

Westvaco WMA, Ballard Co.

9/10/99, 9/16/99 OCC

Catocola platrlix

8/14/99 Philpot, Daviess Co.

Catocola lacrymosa

8/16/99 Philpot, Daviess Co.

Catocola subnata 9/6/99

Westvaco WMA, Ballard Co.

Catocola nebulosa 9/6/99

Westvaco WMA, Ballard Co.

Catocola relecta 9/6/99

Westvaco WMA, Ballard Co.

SATURNIIDAE

Antheraea polyphemus

5/26/99 Commonwealth

Aluminum (CALum), Hancock Co

7/20/99- OCC

Callosamia angulifera

5/26/99 CALum

6/12/99 CALum

9/6/99 Westvaco

Anisota stigma

8/1/99 Vastwood Pk, along US

60, 2mi East of Cannelton Ind, in

Hancock Co. Ky

Anisota virginlensis

8/1/99 Vastwood Pk, along US

60, 2mi East of Cannelton Ind, in

Hancock Co. Ky

Eacles imperialis

7/20/99, 7/27/99, 8/14/99 OCC

Actias luna

5/26/99 CALum

7/14/99 Audubon Pkwy toll

booth, Henderson Co.

7/20/99-8/22/99 OCC

Citheronia regalis

6/12/99 Maceo, along US 60,

Daviess Co. (Maceo)

7/14/99 Audubon Pkwy toll

booth, Henderson Co.

7/21/99 OCC

SPHINGIDAE

Diamedia inscripta

5/23/99 Maceo

Ceratoma undulosa

5/26/99 CALum

6/12/99 Maceo

7/20/99- OCC

Ceratoma catalpa

6/12/99 Maceo

7/20-Sept OCC(ABUNDANT)

Ceratoma hageni

6/12/99 Maceo

8/3/99 OCC

9/6/99 Westvaco

Eumorpha pandorus

7/14/99 Audubon Pkwy toll

booth, Henderson Co.

8/14/99-9/13/99 OCC(common)

Eumorpha achemon

8/3/99 OCC

Eumorpha fasciata

8/13/99-9/13/99 OCC(several,
good condition)

Darapsa myron

8/3/99- OCC

Smerinthus geminatus

7/22/99 Philpot, Daviess Co.

9/6/99 Westvaco

9/8/99 OCC

Sphinx franckii

8/3/99, 8/12/99 Philpot,

8/18/99 OCC

Poanis exacaetus

6/12/99 CALum

8/7/99- OCC

8/22/99 Caneyville exit on

Western Ky Pkwy, Grayson Co.

Poanis myops

Throughout August-early Sept

OCC

9/6/99 Westvaco

Hemaris thysbe

8/1/99 Owensboro, Daviess

Co. (frontyard)

Manduca sexta

7/22/9-11/4/99 OCC

Manduca quinquemaculata

7/30/99-10/11/99 OCC

Isoparce cupressi

7/30/99 Philpot

9/6/99 Westvaco

Xylophanes tersa

7/20/99 OCC

7/22/99-Sept Philpot

Celerio ilneata

8/3/99 Philpot

9/3/99, 9/10/99 OCC

Pachysphinx modesta

8/6/99 Philpot

Paratreia plebeja

7/10/99 Natcher Pkwy toll

booth, Bowling Green, Warren

Co.

Common throughout mid-

August through early

September- OCC

8/18/99 -Labor Day week -

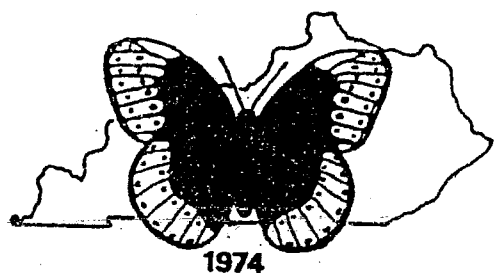
Philpot

Agrius cingulatus

9/7/99-10/11/99 OCC(common)

Daviess Co., western Kentucky
is on the Ohio River. Westvaco
is located in Ballard Co. on the
Mississippi River

The Kentucky Lepidopterist Society Newsletter is published quarterly-January, June, August, and October.
Membership dues are \$10.00 annually, payable November.
The organization is open to all interested in Lepidoptera.



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