



# *Kentucky Lepidopterist*

*Newsletter of the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists*

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**THE SOCIETY  
OF  
KENTUCKY  
LEPIDOPTERISTS**

**OFFICERS**

**PRESIDENT**

Bill Black, Jr.  
201 Friedman Avenue  
Paducah, KY 42001-4744  
E-mail: black8808@bellsouth.net

**TREASURER**

Les Ferge  
7119 Hubbard Avenue  
Middleton, WI 53562  
E-mail: lesferge@gmail.com

**FIELD TRIP COORDINATOR**

Gerald Burnett  
233 Gray Road  
LaCenter, KY 42056-9542  
E-mail: gdburnett@brtc.net

**EDITOR**

Leroy C. Koehn  
3000 Fairway Court  
Georgetown, KY 40324-9454  
E-mail: Leptraps@aol.com

**SECRETARY**

Tony Merkle  
1501 Stephenson Road  
Walton, KY 41094  
E-mail: jamphoto@juno.com

**AT-LARGE MEMBERS**

Loran Gibson - 2012\*  
Richard Henderson - 2011\*  
James Adams - 2012\*  
\* term expires

**THE SOCIETY OF KENTUCKY  
LEPIDOPTERISTS**

is open to anyone with an interest in the Lepidoptera of the State of Kentucky. Membership dues are annual: \$12.00. Dues sent to the Treasurer: Les Ferge, 7119 Hubbard Avenue, Middleton, WI 53562

## **WESTERN KENTUCKY FIELD TRIP 9 - 11 SEPTEMBER 2011**

Our annual September field meeting will be in Ballard County. Once again Bill and Nancy Black's son David has offered the use of his hunting lodge in Ballard County (directions below) as the headquarters for this year's meeting. The activities will start Friday night at the lodge with dinner provided at 6:30 pm CDT. Anyone wishing to set out light traps or bait traps before the festivities can do so anywhere on the nearby Ballard County WMA (no permit required). There will be a charge of \$45.00 per person per night at this beautiful lodge, and breakfast will be provided on both Saturday and Sunday. It is requested that attendees notify Gerald Burnett, [gdburnett@brtc.net](mailto:gdburnett@brtc.net) or call: 270-559-8214 by 5 September 2011 to let us know exactly how many to expect at the lodge. The lodge can be viewed online by going to [www.thefowlerfarm.com](http://www.thefowlerfarm.com). The Fowler Farm accommodates up to 16 duck and goose hunters in sleeping rooms with bunk beds, divided among (4) bunk rooms and (4) bathrooms.

Saturday morning, we will meet at the lodge at 8:00 am CDT for breakfast and depart for the field at 9:00 am. Plan on sack lunches or snacks during the day. We will spend part of the day at the Ballard WMA collecting butterflies. The remainder of the day will be spent looking for butterflies and suitable light trap locations in the surrounding counties. We will stop in the Wellingham Bottoms area to search for skipper butterflies. We will stop on the road for an evening meal before heading back to the lodge for the night.

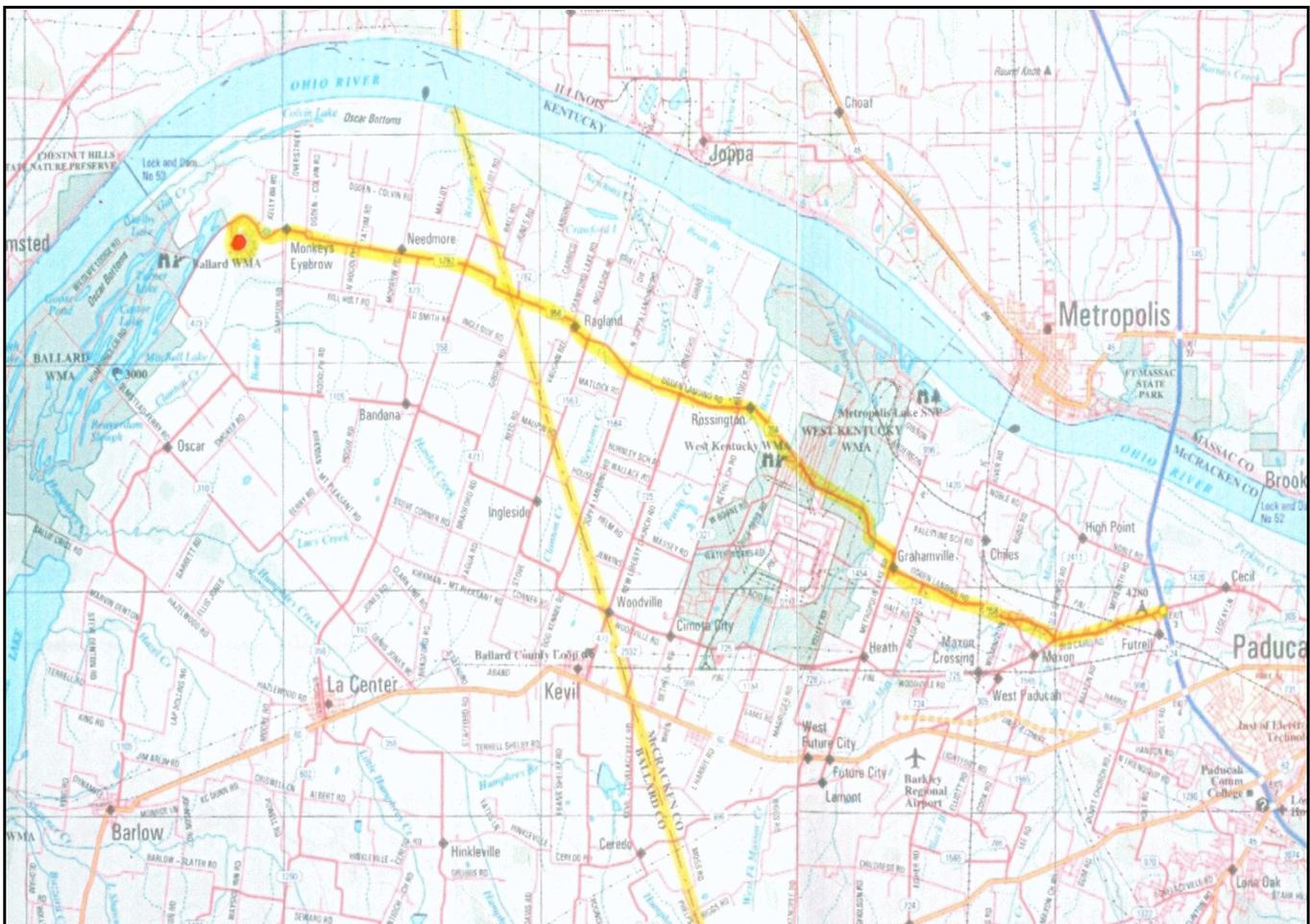
Sunday morning we will meet at the lodge again at the same times, and after breakfast the group will collect and sort through their light traps before ultimately ending up in Fulton County downstream from the city of Hickman to check the Red Spotted Purple/Viceroy Hybridization Hot Spot next to the Bunge Corporation on the Mississippi River. We will set out a number of bait traps and bait pots several days prior to the meeting. We may get lucky and find a hybrid or two this year. We will also visit the [Phyciodes phaon](#) location south of Hickman to see if it survived the winter and the spring flooding.

Below are the directions to the Lodge and a map is enclosed. The map is from Pages 58/59 of the DeLOMRE Kentucky Gazetteer. Also, if you use a Garmin, it will take you to the Lodge on a different set of roads. The directions below will be marked with the Society Logo and arrows to point the way. If you get lost, contact Gerald Burnett: Cell: 270-559-8214.

### Directions to The Fowler Farm:

- 1.) Turn left at bottom of ramp.
- 2.) Continue on Route # 305 until reaching the “Y” at Pugh’s Midway.
- 3.) Take right Y on Route # 358.
- 4.) Continue to stop sign in Grahamville.
- 5.) Turn right at stop sign.
- 6.) Turn left on next road (still Route # 358).
- 7.) Travel approximately 10 miles to stop sign (careful of the curves).
- 8.) Go straight at stop sign (toward big transmitter tower).
- 9.) After passing tower go through 2 curves.
- 10.) New Hope Church Lane will be on the left. Turn left.
- 11.) Go past church through gate to lodge.

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Map to Fowler Farm Lodge from Paducah, Kentucky

## FIELD TRIP REPORT YELLOWBANK W.M.A. BRECKINRIDGE COUNTY

The meeting began Friday morning at 9AM at the Yellowbank WMA Information Center. Those present included Gerald Burnett, Bill Black, Megan McCarty and her father David, Ellis Lauder milk, Charles Wright, Loran Gibson, Don Tangren, Jay Timberlake, Jonathan Smith and Leroy Koehn.

The weather was warm and the skies were clear. However, butterflies were not particularly abundant. Leroy Koehn set out several bait traps as we journeyed through Yellowbank. Our first stop was the boat landing at Yellowbank Creek. Some butterflies were seen while others searched for Tiger Beetles. We traveled north to Chenault School Road. Milkweed was in bloom and looked great, still only a few butterflies were seen. We traveled further down Chenault School Road we stopped in the area where Calephelis mutica had been encountered in 2010. No C. mutica were encountered although Loran Gibson found the larval host plant. We spent most of the afternoon along the Chenault School Road we found some butterflies, nothing was abundant and most records were for single individuals.



Fig.#1: Group Photograph of Meeting Attendees.  
Photograph taken in Restaurant Foyer.

It was late afternoon when we traveled to Hardinsburg to check into the Motel and eat diner. Once we were checked in, we decided to have Mexican. However, as we

looked off the west, dark clouds were rolling up, thunder could be heard and a large thunder storm was heading towards Hardinsburg. It began to rain and rain very hard as we were in the process of entering the restaurant. While we consumed an excellent meal while the storm past.

After dinner we returned to Yellowbank WMA and set out Light Traps. Don Tangren and Leroy Koehn set up the Light Rigs along the Chenault School Road. Don Tangren found a small meadow surrounded by the forest. About a 1/4 mile to the west, Leroy Koehn set up his rig in the parking lot for the hiking trails. Several Sphingids were collected: Ceratonia catalpe, Eumorpha pandorus and Darapsa versicolor. Other moths collected or observed were Anisota virginensis, Anisota stigma and Dryocampa rubicunda were in great abundance along with many smaller moths. It was well after mid-night when we called it a day, packed up the lights and travel back to Hardinsburgh for the night.



Fig.# 2: *Abrostola ovalis*  
Photograph by Jim Vargo

During the night it began to rain off and on and by morning the rain increased making collecting of the Light Traps difficult. We decided to have breakfast at an all you can eat buffet (It was a losing affair for the restaurant that morning with the likes of Gerald Burnett, Leroy Koehn, and Bill Black feasting like famished wolfs). However, a small accident occurred that morning. Jonathon Smith was up before 5AM and decided to go to Yellowbank early to collect his Light Traps and then return to the motel to sort them out in is room. As he was on his way back he encountered a heavy down pour and his vehicle hydroplaned and nick a mail box. This set off the drivers side door air bags.



Jonathon Smith's vehicle with dented fender and Gerald Burnett looking to hitch a ride.

He managed to return to the Motel. He followed us to the breakfast buffet at which time we cut out the air bags, removed a broken lower wind deflector. As soon as the make shift repairs were completed, he made his way home Morehead, Kentucky without incident.

Once we collected our Light Traps we met at the Yellowbank Information Center to sort them out. Leroy Koehn's Van and Charles Wright's station wagon were placed back to back the rear doors open. A blue tarp was place between them creating a Auto-Tent. Don Tangren, Charles Wright, The McCarty's, Bill Black, Jay Timberlake and Leroy Koehn sorted the Light Traps under the tarp as the rain continued to fall. The only species that was of real interest was a single Plusiinae moth, Abrostola ovalis (Fig #2). This is only the 5<sup>th</sup> record for this moth in Kentucky. The other records are from Menifee and Powell County in eastern Kentucky.

As the morning waned it continued to rain and once the Light Traps were sorted, everyone but Don Tangren began there journey homeward. The McCarty's, Megan and her father David began another journey that would eventually find them in New Haven, Connecticut to attend the annual meeting of the Lepidopterists Society. They traveled through the mountains of West Virginia, to the Poverty Hollow in Montgomery County, Virginia (With directions provided by Leroy Koehn), through Pennsylvania before reaching New Haven, CT.

On his way home, Leroy Koehn collected his bait trap at the boat landing and found a Lethe portlandia missarkae.

During earlier scouting/collecting trips to Yellowbank

WMA, he found several large areas with Prairie Dock (Silphium Terebinthinaceum). When he traveled to Yellowbank WMA he drove along Hwy 86 between Webster and Morning Star and found thousands of Prairie Dock plants on both sides of the highway. He was running late Friday morning, however that was not a problem traveling home. He found several large areas of Prairie Dock. A trip is planned to visit this area as part on the 2011 Papaipema Chase. Papaipema silphii host plant is Prairie Dock (Silphium Terebinthinaceum). It should occur in Breckinridge County.

Don Tangren remained at Yellowbank Saturday and although it continued to rain, he returned to the Yellowbank Information Center Saturday night to collect moths from the MV light on the front of the building. Don reported hundreds of beetles of all kinds. The only note worthy moth was Schinia lynx.

The meeting was over on Saturday but the stormy weather continued Saturday night as a Tornado passed over Hardinsburg and touch down about a mile east of the motel were we spent Friday night. The Tornado knock a roof or two off some barns and toppled several trees in the town of Harned and caused a ruckus.

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**KET**  
**(Kentucky Educational Television)**  
**MOTH STORY TO AIR**  
**SEPTEMBER 10, 2011**

The Moth story will air on Sept 10 on KET at 8PM. It should also air on Sept 11 at 4PM on KET, and will definitely air on Sept 11 at 7:30PM on KET2.

This will be the first segment for the new season and will feature several members of the Society. The segment was filmed at Bernheim Arboretum & Research Forest on August 14, 2010 and was reported in Vol. 36 No.3 Pg# 18 of this Newsletter. Bill Black, Loran Gibson, Keven & Craig Segebarth, Leroy Koehn, Richard Henderson and Ellis Lauder milk. The program will feature interviews with Loran Gibson, Bill Black and Richard Henderson.

Mark your calender or set your DVR.

## A LITTLE JEWEL IN THE LIGHT TRAP

Your Editor is no photographer. There are others like Jim Vargo of Mishawaka, Indiana who makes it look so easy. Your Editor ask Jim to use his photograph of Abrostola ovalis, he responded with several beautiful photographs. Jim’s photograph of Abrostola ovalis appears in the Yellowbank WMA Field Meeting report on Page #15 of this Newsletter. Jim also sent a photograph of a micromoth the was new to him. I have included the photograph (Fig. 1 below)

Jim writes:” Abrostola ovalis can be fairly common around here in wooded areas with stinging nettle. I have had as many as 4 in a light trap. I am attaching two photographs for your use. The collecting here has been very good for micromoths this last month. I have been straining my eyes trying to dissect and identify Nepticulid moths with 4mm wingspans.

Also, I am including a photograph of a micromoth Paraleucoptera albella with a 6mm wingspan. This was a single specimen in a light trap and it is a new species for me. These are often overlooked little jewels in light traps.”



Fig.# 1 Paraleucoptera albella

## SOCIETY OF KENTUCKY LEPIDOPTERISTS ACTIVITIES MARK YOUR CALENDAR

11 & 12 November 2011 - Annual Meeting in Lexington, Ky. Organizer: Leroy Koehn.

The date is an away game for Football. The University of Kentucky’s football scheduled is now confirmed. There will be meeting activities all day on Friday 11 November. Including a Friday night “Get Together”. There will be complete annual meeting information in the next Newsletter.

The Great Papaipema Chase 2011 is being planned for 6,7,8,&9 October 2011. It will take place in Whitley, McCreary and Laurel counties. If your are interested in participating, please contact the Editor: Leroy C. Koehn at: [Leptaps@aol.com](mailto:Leptaps@aol.com) or Tel: 502-542-7091.

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## NEWSLETTER UP DATE

As we look forward to the late summer field meeting in Western Kentucky, please plan on joining us. It is always a great weekend in the field and Gerald Burnett and Bill Black provide excellent accommodations and great locations to visit. Mark your calendar: 9, 10 & 11 September 2011.

Your Editor needs short articles, field reports and anything that may interest the membership. Did you take any photographs of interesting species this season? Send them to the Editor.

## FLY TRAP HUMOR

