

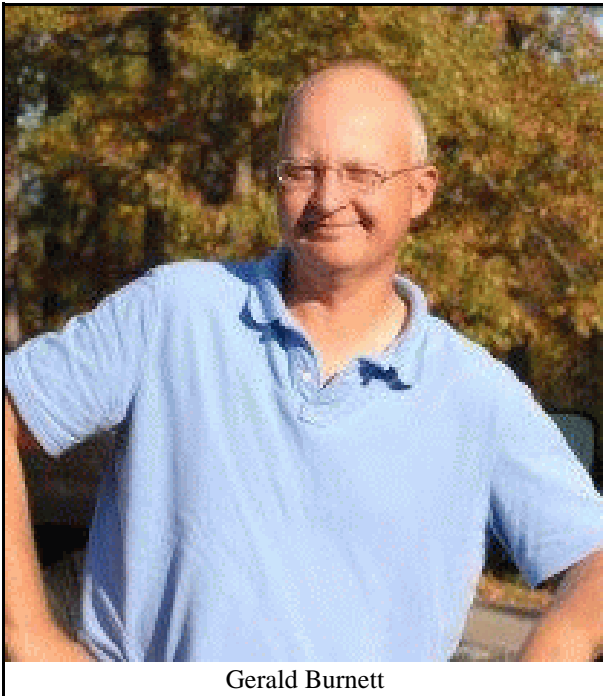


Kentucky Lepidopterist

Newsletter of the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists

Volume 38 Number 4, 18 January 2013

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Gerald Burnett

Wow, what a year 2012 has been! Record drought in my end of the state this year followed record 2011 flooding. The effects are still lingering from both extremes in the Lepidoptera community with the “winter that never was” of 2011-2012 sandwiched in-between. I can remember almost no *Catocala* being present at the Ballard WMA in the summer/fall of 2011 while the butterflies were sparse at best in 2012 until we started getting some late summer rains. I don't know the extent that the weather played in these observations but there seems to be a correlation.

My name is Gerald Burnett and I work for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources on the Ballard County WMA in far western Kentucky. My interest in Lepidoptera started when I was about 6 or 7 years old when my aunt gave me a butterfly net as a gift. I soon wore it out and was really too young to appreciate it anyway. I regrettably lost interest for most of my youth and didn't pick up the hobby again until my work with the Department took me to Doug Travis WMA (formerly the Westvaco WMA) where every morning, under a mercury vapor light, the office wall overlooking the Mississippi River would be covered with moths. The year was 2002 and I started collecting using

stainless steel pins and flat pieces of Styrofoam for pinning boards. I recalled seeing an article in the local newspaper featuring our past President, Bill Black, and highlighting his interest in the hobby. When I contacted him expressing my interest he was quick to invite me to the “Fall Field Meeting” which was scheduled to be close to home in Paducah. The rest is history!

I received my B. S. from Murray State University in 1991 in Wildlife Biology and spent my summers traveling around the South doing seasonal jobs (mostly bird work with Neo-tropical migrants) in Mississippi, Missouri, Arkansas and South Carolina followed by a year-long apprenticeship at Land Between the Lakes in western Kentucky. My current job, which I started as a seasonal worker in 1991, eventually turned into full-time in 1995 and involves working on the Ballard WMA (Kentucky's most well known waterfowl management area.)

As I start my job as President I want to thank everyone in The Society who came before me for laying a solid foundation. My thanks especially to Bill Black, our out-going President, for his help in all things related to Lepidoptera (and even some things not Lepidoptera related) and for his willingness to mentor and tutor me from my beginnings in the Society on through to the present. I only hope I can do my job as President half as well as Bill!

I want to be an encourager to the other members and I want to have a heart of service to The Society as your President. Our members come from a wide range of socio-economic backgrounds but we all share a love of Lepidoptera. There is a special sense of fellowship and camaraderie within the Society that you don't find in other societies.

**THE SOCIETY
OF
KENTUCKY
LEPIDOPTERISTS**

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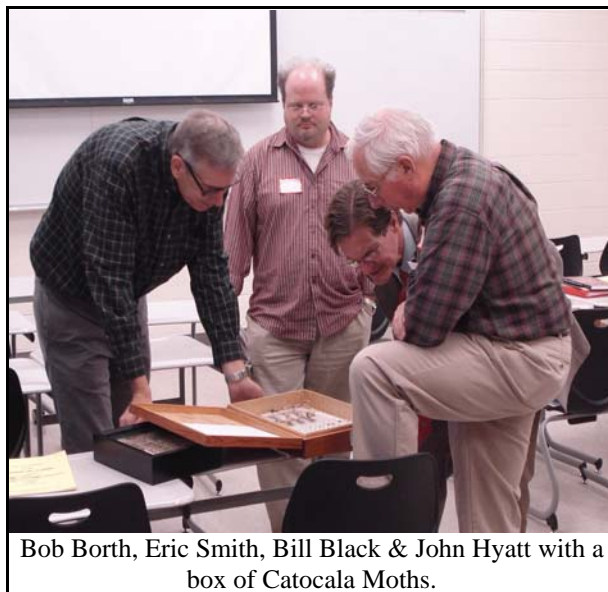
Loran Gibson - 2016*
Richard Henderson - 2014*
Don Tangrean - 2016*
* term expires

I've discovered most of my memorable times afield have involved spending time with other members even though I sometimes want to spend time in the field alone. Some of my best friends in life are people I've met thru the Society! Whether I just want to enjoy this hobby for what it is, or relieve stress, or need something deeper and more profound the Society and its members have always been there. Let me know if I can do anything different and let me encourage you to keep dreams alive through this cold and dark time of year as we await warmer weather.

Gerald Burnett, President
Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists

2012 ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

The 2012 Annual Meeting of the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists was held at the University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky on November 9 & 10. The meeting began Friday morning at 9AM in the Insect Museum, Dimock Animal Pathology Building. It was a time of visiting with old friends and making some new friends. Specimens were identified, coffee and donuts consumed and tales of collecting in Kentucky and elsewhere were told. Enthusiastic Kentucky Lepidopterists brought specimens of *Catocala* moths for our featured speaker, Robert (Bob) Borth to identify or to confirm their identifications.



Bob Borth, Eric Smith, Bill Black & John Hyatt with a box of Catocala Moths.

The Friday night get-together, "A Gathering of Lepidopterists" was held at the E.S. Good Barn on the Campus of the University of Kentucky. It was a great time of food and fellowship. And once again, Betty Koehn, the wife of our Editor, Leroy Koehn, provided a table of food and some excellent deserts.

Saturday morning we reconvened at the Insect Museum at 9AM. The Insect Collection was open for viewing. Many specimens of newly arriving members were identified and many more were brought for everyone to see. The Society Board met at 10AM and we broke for lunch at 12 Noon.



GROUP PHOTOGRAPH OF MEETING ATTENDEES

Following lunch we moved over to the lecture hall in the Agriculture Science Center, North Building. A business meeting was held with various officers reporting, an election of officers for 2013, and society business was discussed.

Following the business meeting our featured speaker, Bob Borth presentation on *Catocala* moths was excellent. Bob extensive knowledge of *Catocala* moths and the DNA work that he is conducting was well illustrated with some excellent photographs.

Saturday evening 22 Kentucky Lepidopterists and spouses gather at Abuelo’s Restaurant in Lexington. Excellent food and great conversations was had by all.

A special thanks to Leroy for making all of the arrangements, his liaison the University of Kentucky and all of the preparation for the meeting. It was a great meeting!!



Bob Borth - Featured Speaker

Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists Board Meeting Minutes November 10, 2012 By Tony Merkle

Attendees were: Bill Black, President; Gerald Burnett, Field Trip Coordinator; Les Ferge, Treasurer; Richard Henderson, Member At-Large; Leroy Koehn, Newsletter Editor and Tony Merkle, Secretary

The meeting was opened by President Bill Black. The first item of discussion was the slate of officers to serve for the upcoming year. President Black nominated Gerald Burnett for president. This led to a discussion about who would fill the field trip coordinator position that would be vacated by Gerald should he accept the nomination for president. Charles Wright was mentioned as a possibility for this. All agreed that he would be a good person for the position if he was willing to accept the nomination. Since he had not yet been approached regarding the matter, it was decided that this would be done later in the day if possible. Les Ferge, Leroy Koehn, Tony Merkle and Richard Henderson all agreed to continue serving in their present capacities. It was mentioned that the terms for the positions held by Loran Gibson and James Adams were due to expire. All present agreed that Loran probably would be agreeable to serving again but were unsure about James feelings regarding the matter. It was decided that it would be best to fill his position with another individual. A discussion took place regarding who should be nominated to do so.

Don Tangren was mentioned as a candidate. Several of the individuals present agreed that he would be a good person to have in the position. Again, since the matter had not been discussed with him previously, it was decided that he too would be approached later in the day to confirm his willingness to serve. After a brief mention by President Black of the Carl Cornett Award and the need to create a list of its recipients for purposes of recognition and reference, the discussion of the organization's officers ended.

The second item discussed was the organization's finances. Treasurer Les Ferge reported that despite some unexpected expenses, finances are good. He further reported that the electronic newsletter was saving some money and that dues reminders including an explanation of the billing process would be included in the next newsletter. He also reported that because it was feasible for him to do so, he would be covering the travel and lodging costs for the featured speaker for the annual meeting in progress. Discussion of the organization's finances led to a mention by President Black that we need to consider how to subsidize the travel and lodging of featured speakers. A suggestion that we solicit donations to cover/offset such costs was discussed briefly; however, no actions were taken regarding this.

The third item of discussion was the organization's website. It was mentioned that a question had been posed regarding its status, particularly whether it is still an active site, since the last update to it was done over two years ago. The need to update the site was expressed. President Black indicated that he would contact Charlie Covell and Jeff Marcus regarding future possibilities.

The fourth item discussed was membership outreach. Various avenues for building awareness of our organization and distributing application forms were mentioned including through county 4H groups, through presentations at facilities such as state parks and through participation in events such as festivals. The possibility of getting an e-mail list of county 4H leaders and contacting them was discussed; however, no decision was made regarding this. Also mentioned was the prospect for continued participation in the Butterfly Festival at Oak Grove during the third weekend in September.

The fifth item discussed was the field trip schedule for 2013. Several areas of interest were mentioned including: the Beaver Creek Wilderness Area of the Daniel Boone National Forest in McCreary County, the Dawson Springs area encompassing several counties around and particularly north of the town, Robey Swamp in Simpson

County and Sloughs Wildlife Management Area in Henderson and Union Counties. There was also some discussion about whether to include a field trip targeting *Papaipema* moths, a.k.a. The Great *Papaipema* Chase, as part of the schedule. It was decided that such a field trip or field trips would be left for individuals to coordinate separately rather than being included as part of the organization's official schedule. The tentative schedule upon which all agreed was for a trip to the Beaver Creek Wilderness Area in the Daniel Boone National Forest in McCreary County in the spring and to the Henderson Sloughs Wildlife Management Area late in the summer along with the Fourth of July Butterfly Count that is held annually at the Horner Wildlife Sanctuary in Oldham County near the Fourth of July in late June or early July.

The meeting concluded with brief discussions of several items including the need to send data regarding important discoveries in the state to Loran Gibson for inclusion in the season summary report, reimbursement to Leroy Koehn of money used to purchase a new printer for use on the newsletter, and the possibility of having identification/membership cards made for members. Treasurer Ferge indicated that given the organization's good financial standing he saw no reason why Leroy could not be reimbursed for the printer. A motion was made that this be done. The motion was seconded and all agreed with it. No decision was made regarding the issue of identification/membership cards. President Black opened the floor for additional items to be discussed. None were presented. A motion was made that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded. All agreed and the meeting was adjourned.



A late fall 2012 female of *Papilio polyxenes*

Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists Business Meeting Minutes by Tony Merkle

The business meeting was opened by President Bill Black. The first item of discussion was the Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Les Ferge reported that the treasury was "holding its own" with a balance of \$3,020.32 in the bank. He further reported that there was a slight budget surplus for the year despite some very large expenses, particularly those associated with the keynote speaker at last year's annual meeting. A reminder that dues payments would be accepted at the meeting was given. A question was asked regarding the number of members currently in the organization. It was reported to be at eighty three including three new members who had joined during the meeting.

The second item of discussion was the slate of officers for the year ahead. President Black presented the following list of nominees:

- President-Gerald Burnett
- Treasurer-Les Ferge
- Field Trip Coordinator-Charles Wright
- Newsletter Editor-Leroy Koehn
- Secretary-Tony Merkle
- Member at Large-Richard Henderson
- Member at Large-Loran Gibson
- Member at Large-Don Tangren

Following the presentation of the list of nominees, a motion was made to close nominations. The motion was seconded. All present agreed. Another motion to elect the slate as presented was made. The motion was seconded. All present agreed. The slate of officers as presented was thus approved.

The third item of discussion was the field trip schedule for 2013. The tentative schedule given was for a trip to the Beaver Creek Wilderness Area of the Daniel Boone National Forest in McCreary County in April, to the Horner Wildlife Sanctuary in Oldham County for the Fourth of July Butterfly Count in late June or early July and to the Sloughs Wildlife Management Area in Henderson County in August.

The last item discussed involved aspects of outreach that would be pursued by the organization. The primary focus of this discussion was the Butterfly Festival held in the town of Oak Grove in Christian County near the Fort

Campbell Military Reservation. Leroy Koehn indicated that it was a worthwhile event and described some of his experiences from it this year. He further expressed a desire that our organization continue to participate in it in the future as it is a good opportunity for interaction and promotion. It was mentioned that several application forms were distributed there. It was also mentioned that individuals wanting a copy of the form could obtain it by e-mailing a request to either Les or Leroy. No further business was presented and the meeting adjourned.

The business meeting was preceded by an informal gathering of some of the members where individuals could relax and enjoy each other's company while sharing stories, showing specimens and enjoying fresh baked goods. It was followed by a presentation by featured speaker Robert Borth on issues related to Noctuid moth taxonomy particularly those in the genus *Catocola* and closely associated genera. The day ended with many of us meeting at Abuelo's Restaurant and enjoying dinner together there.



Charles Wright, Gerald Burnett & Tony Merkel
Discussing the matter at hand?

THE 2012 OAK GROVE BUTTERFLY FESTIVAL

In mid-August I read an advertisement in the Bluegrass Energy Coop magazine for the Oak Grove Butterfly Festival. It sounded interesting, so I visited their web site and found it very informative. So I looked up Oak Grove, KY on the map. It is a small town south of Hopkinsville in western Kentucky. I then contacted the organizer, Maria Guerra. After some discussions with Maria, I decided to attend.

I contacted Gerald Burnett, Bill Black and several others in an attempt to get a group together, create a display of butterflies and moths and participate in the Butterfly Festival. In the end, My wife Betty, Gerald Burnett and yours truly arrived at the Oak Grove Butterfly Festival on Saturday morning Saturday, 15 September 2012. Together Gerald and I brought a dozen drawers of specimens. We were provided with tables, chairs and canopy where we set up a display. Our display was located between the entrance to the festival and the Live Butterfly House.

We had a stack of membership applications and a stack of Newsletters, some current, some older. All of the newsletter were taken as well as most of the membership applications.

The butterfly house was fairly large and had live Monarchs and Painted Ladies and many lowering plants. There were smaller displays including a University of Kentucky extension agent with a display of larger insects, scorpions, tarantulas other large ugly insects. There were various displays of art work and nature related subjects along with food vendors. At 4PM there was a butterfly release of 800 monarchs which concluded the festival activities.

The weather was beautiful although some what windy, a large crowd of visitors, all very delighted to be in attendance provided for a great festival. The 2013 Oak Grove Butterfly Festival is schedule for 28 September 2013. The Society of Kentucky Lepidopterist have been invited to participate. Mark your calendar and plan on participating.

KENTUCKY CULTURE

EVENT CALENDAR

Butterfly Fantasy

Oak Grove's 4th Annual Butterfly Festival holds fun and fantasy for the whole family. Visit live butterflies in their habitat in Butterfly House or beautiful Butterfly Garden. Enjoy the bubble zone, the monster mural, and new stage shows this year. The event at War Memorial Walking Trail concludes with a live butterfly release of 800 butterflies. The festival is Saturday, September 22, from 11a.m.-5 p.m. For more info, go on the Web to oakgrovebutterflyfest.com or call (270) 439-5675.



Magazine Advertisement for the Oak Grove Butterfly Festival 2012



The gate opened at 9AM. Within minutes of the opening a line began to form to see our display. That line would grow in length as they day progressed. At one time there were several hundred people in line to see our display. The visitors ask questions, took pictures of our specimens and were amazed at what they saw. We talked to dozens of visitors who shared stories of encounters with butterflies and moths and many told of collecting butterflies, moths and other insect as children or teenagers. Very few were aware that the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists existed.



SOCIETY OF KENTUCKY LEPIDOPTERIST FINANCIAL STATEMENT**Statement of Cash Flow for the Period 30 October 2011 thru 5 November 2012**

Balance on 30 October 2011	Checking Account	\$2,857.66
	Petty Cash	<u>\$22.81</u>
	TOTAL	\$2,880.81

Cash Receipts

Dues and contribution deposited in checking acct.	\$1,496.00
Donations at meeting	\$31.00
Dues Deposited in Petty Cash	<u>\$20.00</u>
TOTAL	\$1,547.00

Cash Disbursements

Featured speaker expenses (Lodging)	\$336.80
Keynote speaker expenses (Travel expense)	\$483.00
Dues billing postage & office supplies	\$35.73
Newsletter Vol. 38 No. 1	
Newsletter Vol. 38 No. 2	\$300.00
Newsletter Vol. 38 No. 3	<u>\$250.00</u>
TOTAL	\$1,407.00

Balance on 5 November 2012	Checking Account	\$2,978.83
	Petty Cash	<u>\$41.49</u>
	TOTAL	\$3,020.32

Net increase (decrease) \$139.00

SUMMARY: Paid Society membership decreased to 81, with 11 members not responding to dues payment notice in 2012
25 members (approx. 30%) have elected to receive electronic newsletter only.

Newsletter Volume 38 No 1 costs were donated

Income was \$139.00 above expenses.

Members owing 2013 dues will be billed in January.

Submitted by Les Ferge, Treasurer, 10 November 2012

LIST OF MEMBERS

The Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists publishes a **List of Members** each year. The list is in alphabetical order and includes all current members as of 31 December 2012. On that date there were 89 members. The use of this list by members is encouraged. Report changes of addresses and typographical errors to the Treasurer, Les Ferge, 7119 Hubbard Ave. Middleton, WI 53562-3231: Email: lesferge@gmail.com

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RESEARCH PROJECT REQUEST

For a population genetics study regarding possible relationship between bourbon warehouse staining and moth polymorphism, I am interested in specimens of Phigalia titea, both typical and melanic forms (Photograph to right). The moth occurs from early March thru May. They do not have to be spread, or even pinned. But I would need collection data. If you are willing to send specimens, I will be happy to reimburse you for postage. Also please let me know if you want your specimens returned. Thanks in advance.

Susan Reigler, Department of Biology, Indiana University Southeast, 4201 Grant Line Road, New Albany, IN. You can contact me at: sreigler@IUS.edu

Photograph Courtesy of Leroy C. Koehn



Phigalia titea

MEETING & EVENT SCHEDULE FOR 2013

Spring Field Meeting: 12,13,& 14 April to Beaver Creek Wilderness Area, Daniel Boone NF, McCreary County. Trip Leader: Leroy C. Koehn Email: Leptraps@aol.com This is a somewhat remote location. Leroy is planning a scouting trip in mid-March prior to the meeting. A meeting announcement will appear in the next newsletter.

Summer Field Meeting: 23, 24 & 25 August to Henderson Sloughs WMA in Henderson County. Trip leaders Gerald Burnett & Bill Black. We will again return to Henderson Sloughs WMA. The weather was not very good during our 2012 meeting. We should find many interesting species with better weather, including average rain fall. Although some interesting species were collected, the 2012 drought and record heat had an impact on Lepidoptera.

The Annual July 4th Butterfly Count: Saturday 20 July 2013 at the Horner Wildlife Sanctuary in Oldham County.

Dr. Charles V. Covell will be leading the count. There will be more information in the next Newsletter.

Oak Grove Butterfly Festival: Saturday 28 September in Oak Grove, Kentucky. The Festival is a one day, 10 hour event. The Society has been invited to return this year and bring a display of butterflies and moths. Gerald Burnett, Bill Black and Leroy Koehn will organize the event for the Society. If you are interested in participating, mark your calendar for 28 September. There will be more information in future newsletters.

2013 Annual Meeting: November 15 & 16, 2013: University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY. The meeting will be at the University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY. Friday and Saturday November 16 & 16. We will meet in the Insect Museum in the Dimock Animal Pathology Building. The featured speaker will be Michael Pogue and his presentation will be on the Heliothinae moths of North America.

The 2013 Great Papaipema Chase: Only two participants reported their activities in 2012. A notice for the 2013 chase will appear in future newsletters.

The Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists Newsletter is published four times annually. Membership dues are as follows:

Regular Membership (Paper copy of Newsletter)	\$15.00 per year
Regular Membership (Email copy of Newsletter only)	\$15.00 per year
Sustaining Membership (Paper copy of Newsletter)	\$25.00 per year
Sustaining Membership (Email copy of Newsletter only)	\$25.00 per year

The organization is open to anyone with an interest in the Lepidoptera of the State of Kentucky. Information about the Society may be obtained from, and dues may be sent to: Les Ferge, Treasurer, 7119 Hubbard Ave., Middleton, WI 53562-3231

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