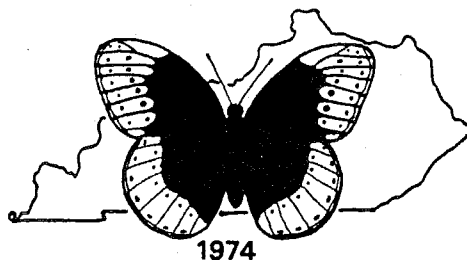


# KENTUCKY LEPIDOPTERIST

*The Society of  
Kentucky Lepidopterists*



VOL. 15, NO. 1

M. L. McInnis, Editor

January, 1989

## 15th Annual Meeting - A Rousing Success

The festivities commenced on Friday, November 18, with a graciously hosted open house. Charlie and Betty Covell out-did themselves in welcoming us to their home for the fine fellowship which followed. Charlie topped the evening off by sharing a slide show of his recent trip to Costa Rica with us.

The annual meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m. by Dr. Covell on Saturday, November 19. Our President, Roy Rings, was vacationing in Acapulco and unable to attend (the meeting date was changed at a late date due to scheduling conflicts). However, Roy officially welcomed the membership via letter.

The business portion of the meeting included a Treasurer's Report (by Covell; current balance of \$477.32), an exhortation for increased participation in submitting articles for the newsletter (McInnis), and a review of our 1988 collecting trips by Field Coordinator, Loran Gibson. A somewhat spirited debate ensued as to whether or not the newsletter was a valid source for the Zoological Record. Consensus reflected the opinion that newsletters and other vehicles, not subject to peer review, should be invalid as sources.

The nominating committee, Jim Merritt-Chairman, nominated the following slate of officers for 1989:

President: George Balogh/John Calhoun  
Sec/Treas: C. V. Covell, Jr.  
Editor: Mike McInnis  
Field Trip Coordinator: Loran Gibson

George Balogh and the balance of the Nominating Committee's slate were elected to serve during 1989.

An amendment to our constitution was offered by Mike McInnis (as proxy for our President, Roy Rings). The amendment was approved such that article 6b now reads:

- 6b. Awards shall be issued pursuant to recommendation by the Board of Directors and passage by a majority vote of the members present at an annual meeting.

Plans were made for a field trip to the Red River Gorge, Menifee County, on June 24, 1989. The target species will be Calephelis borealis.

On our fifteenth anniversary, our founders, C. V. Covell and Richard Henderson, were honored by the membership with a presentation of "Founder's Memorial Plaques". Many thanks to Charlie and Richard for their efforts in creating this organization which has provided so much enjoyment for all of us.

Our meeting was highlighted by Dr. John M. Burns' presentation of "American Hesperidae: Skipping Through Fuzzy Species". Dr. Burns' humorous and thought provoking examination of Erynnis will be long

remembered. Other presentations were made by George Balogh (collecting in Michigan and Wisconsin), Roger Zebold (Butterfly World), John Calhoun (abundance of Pontia Protodice in Ohio) and Charles Watson (collecting in Clemson Woods, S.C.).

It was a fantastic meeting, attended by members representing eight states. After Charlie's dissemination of door prizes, we adjourned for dinner at Mastersons, a nearby restaurant.

#### AN ANGULIFERA CLOUDBURST

Warren Herb Wagner, Jr.  
and Michael K. Hansen

It pays to be patient. As the saying goes, "It never rains but it pours." In my (WHW) travels in the Appalachian region through the years, I have occasionally seen the nocturnal males of tulip tree moths, Callosamia angulifera, on walls and signs around lights, but never had I seen a female in the wild. Several years ago, on July 15, 1985, we (WHW and MKH) were botanizing near Pikeville, Pike County, Kentucky. The weather was extremely hot and muggy, and there has been some rain. We reached the motel where we were to stay, west of Pikeville, after dark. One thing we immediately noticed were dozens of detached wings of large moths scattered around below the lights of the motel, which was at the top of a high hill. The fragments included many wings of angulifera. We sensed that this must represent a major flight, and the moths, attracted to the motel lights at night and attaching themselves to the walls and walkways, were being eaten wholesale early in the morning by birds. We discussed it with the desk-person at the motel, and were told that moths had appeared by the hundreds over the past several nights, and it was necessary to sweep up the mess in the morning after the birds had come.

Not to be outdone by the birds, we got up around 5:30 a.m., when it was

still dark, and we walked around the buildings. Sure enough, along with such other large moths as lunas, imperials, regals, underwings, and sphingids, there were dozens and dozens of tulip tree moths, far more females than males. From these we selected 56 females but only 11 males, because the latter were mostly worn. We released or ignored the rest. The series of females showed quite a bit of variability -- several of them almost as dark as angulifera males; several others were pale-orange like C. securifera females. Some had a pinkish blush on the forewings. Later, when we left the motel with our specimens, I scoffed at the birds that had, by this time, done their destruction. It seemed far better that the doomed moths ended up in an insect case that ultimately will be donated to a public research collection than mangled in a bird's crop, their rejected wings scattered about by the wind.

#### ADDITIONS TO THE KENTUCKY FAUNAL LIST

C. V. Covell, Jr.

The Kentucky list of Lepidoptera now stands at 2,220 species. The following records have recently been added.

Dyseriocrania griseocapitella (Wlsm.)  
ERIOCRANIIDAE 9854

3

Bullitt Co., Bernheim Forest, May 4-8, 1976 (Malaise trip), A. J. Brownell, det. D. Davis

Amydria dyarella (Dietz)  
TINEIDAE 9597  
333

Bell Co., July 19, 1975, A. J. Brownell.

Monopsis crocicapitella (Clemens)  
TINEIDAE 9635  
415

Specimen in USNM coll., det. Don Davis, labeled "Ky." and "Aug. Busek Coll."

Mompha circumscriptella (Zeller)

MOMPHIDAE 7750  
1434

Hickman Co., Columbus-Belmont  
Battlefield St. Park, June 21, 1980, J.  
S. Nordin, det. R. W. Hodges. Also  
taken by L. D. Gibson in Christian Co.  
on June 27, 1981.

Endothenia infuscata (Heinrich)

TORTRICIDAE 6628  
2742

Gallatin Co., Markland Dan, Aug. 3,  
1988, L. D. Gibson, det. C. V. Covell.

Eucosma cocana (Kearfott)

TORTRICIDAE 6926  
3072

Powell Co., Red River Gorge, May 14,  
1988, L. D. Gibson, det. C. V. Covell.

Eucosma rusticana (Kft.)

TORTRICIDAE 6980  
3125

Bullitt co., 7 miles E. of  
Shepherdsville, July 9, 1988, D. J.  
Wright, det. C. V. Covell.

Cydia garacana (Kft.)

TORTRICIDAE 7269  
3457

Gallatin Co., Markland Dan, Aug. 3,  
1988, L. D. Gibson, det. C. V. Covell.

Meroptera cviatella (Dyar)

PYRALIDAE 6182  
5786

Same as garacana, det. M. A. Solis.

Caudellia albovitella (Dyar)

PYRALIDAE 6377  
6013

Meade Co., Otter Creek Park, Oct. 11,  
1986, B. S. Nichols, det. M. A. Solis.

Lithophane disposita (Morrison)

NOCTUIDAE 2225  
9892

Powell Co., RRG, 0.8 mi. E of Nada  
Tunnel, Nov. 4, 1988, L. D. Gibson.

NEWS AND NOTES FROM THE  
SECRETARY-TREASURER

C. V. Covell, Jr.

We are saddened by the news of the death December 27, 1988, of Dr. William "Bill" Tilden of San Jose, California, a long-time friend, author, and expert on North American butterflies. Gifts in his memory may be sent to the Lepidopterists' Society Memorial Fund, care of Jim Tuttle, Treasurer of the Lepidopterists' Society.

The Ohio Lepidopterists held a gala 10th anniversary meeting January 13-15 in Columbus, beginning with an open house at Dave and Kay Iftner's. The meeting was held in excellent rooms at a Red Carpet Inn near Eric Metzler's house, and the featured speaker was Dr. Paul A. Opler. A banquet that evening was held at the Inn, and a brunch for those who still were in the area was attended next day. Several slide presentations were given, and I had the pleasure of distributing door prizes. I also collected a great deal of data on Ohio Geometridae for the Ohio Lepidoptera Survey project. There were 67 in attendance, and two TV stations sent crews to cover the proceedings.

In 1988, a total of 1,216 specimens of Lepidoptera were donated to the University of Louisville collection, some of them representing species new to the state or to the collection. Many thanks to all of you who gave this fine material.

I have been informed that Dr. Larry Gall considers the moth figured as Catocala miranda in the Field Guide to Moths (Pl. 34, fig. 8) to be in fact miranda, not orba, as in my errata sheets. That was welcome news!

With the addition of new state records recently identified, the Kentucky Lepidoptera list now stands at 2,232 species. We now have 64 families, with the addition of the Eriocraniidae.

I will be conducting a weeklong short course on moth systematics, biology, and advanced technique from July 2-8, 1989, at the Eagle Hill Wildlife Research Station above Bar Harbor, Maine. For information, write Joerg-Henner Lotze, Director, Steuben, ME 04680. Phone: (207) 546-2821. It would be great having some of you there.

Dr. Ron Hodges informs me that the Moths of America fascicle on the Sesiidae by Eichlin & Duckworth should be reaching those who ordered it any time now.

A current membership list is included. On it are people who have their dues paid through 1988. Please remit your 1989 dues promptly if your mailing label indicates you are not paid up past 1988. Thank you.

#### NOTICES

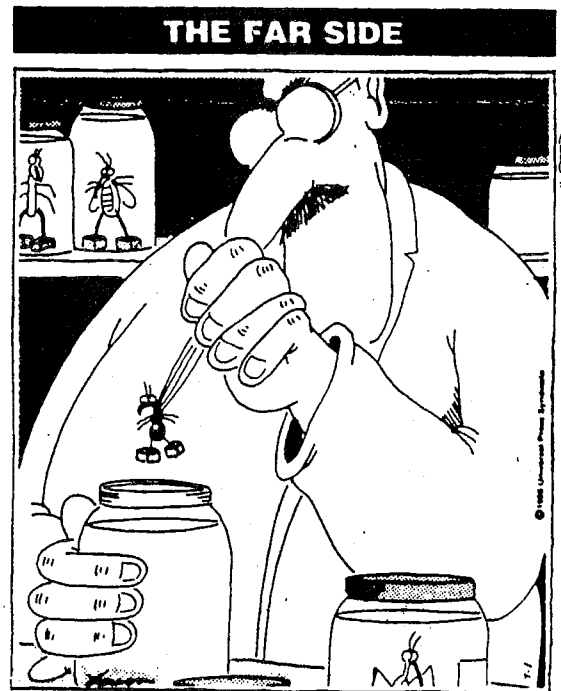
Southeastern Indiana Natural Areas Conference  
Date: April 22, 1989  
Location: Clifty Inn at Clifty Falls State Park, Madison, Indiana  
Contact: Terrie Temple, Division of Nature Preserves  
(317) 232-4052

The Division of Nature Preserves of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources is organizing the annual spring Indiana Natural Areas Conference. Wildlife, rare plant species, flatwoods, geology and other natural features of the southeastern Indiana area will be the main focus of this year's meeting.

A series of presentations relating to the natural history of the region and natural resource management and preservation will be scheduled for Saturday morning. Saturday afternoon will be set aside for field trips to various nature preserves and natural areas.

**PUBLICATION FOR SALE:** 75 page Y.E.S. International Entomology Resource Guide (Second Edition); 450 businesses and

organizations offering entomology equipment, supplies, services, preserved specimens, live arthropods, books and publications, audio-visuals, educational materials, gift and novelty items, insect zoos and butterfly houses, and entomological organizations. Send US \$7.50 to the Young Entomologists' Society, Dept. of Entomology, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824-1115 USA.



Scenes from the entomology underworld.

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 Washington, DC 20560  
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 Sociedad Mexicana de Entomologia, Apartado Postal 7-1080, Mexico 7 D.F., MEXICO

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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. CVC updated 1/18/89

CONSTITUTION OF THE SOCIETY OF KENTUCKY LEPIDOPTERISTS

ARTICLE 1: Name  
This society shall be known as The Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists.

ARTICLE 2: Purpose  
a. The purpose of this Society is directed to efforts and activities that shall enhance, supplement and advance the growth of scientific knowledge pertaining to the Lepidopteran fauna of the Commonwealth of Kentucky and surrounding areas.  
b. As an ancillary function, the Society shall strive to further communication and other means of social interaction between individuals that share a common interest in the Lepidoptera.

ARTICLE 3: Membership  
a. Membership in this society shall be open to any person or organization having an interest in the purpose of the society. Membership will be terminated upon (1) death, (2) receipt by the Secretary/Treasurer of a written resignation, or (3) failure to pay dues within six months of the due date.  
b. Applications for membership should be made to the Secretary/Treasurer and should be accompanied by dues for one calendar year.

ARTICLE 4: Organization  
a. The elected officers of this Society shall include a President, a Secretary/Treasurer, an Editor and a Field Research Coordinator. These officers as a group shall constitute the Board of Directors.  
b. The President shall annually appoint a nominating committee of three (3) members of the Society. Said committee shall nominate at least one (1) candidate for each office, obtain a written statement from the candidate of willingness to serve, if elected; and submit a report of its activities to the President not less than sixty (60) days prior to each annual meeting.  
c. The officers shall be elected by written ballot of the members present at the annual meeting, and shall serve from the following January 1 for a period of one (1) year.  
d. The duties of each officer shall be those normally pertaining to the respective office.  
e. Officers shall serve without compensation.  
f. The Board of Directors shall meet annually and at such other times as deemed necessary by the President. Should a special meeting be called by the President, at least fifteen (15) days notice shall be provided to all other Directors.  
g. A quorum shall be constituted by presence of three (3) directors.  
h. Vacancies in the membership of the Board of Directors that occur between annual meetings may be filled by majority vote of the remaining Directors.

ARTICLE 5: Meetings  
The Society shall hold meetings at times and places selected by the Board of Directors. All meetings will be announced in The Kentucky Lepidopterist and will be held not sooner than thirty (30) days after the notice is mailed. There shall be an annual meeting at which officers are elected. The Society's fiscal year will coincide with the calendar year.

ARTICLE 6: Awards  
a. Awards including grants of Society funds may be awarded to members for outstanding accomplishment as it relates to the Society's purpose.

b. Awards shall be issued pursuant to recommendation by the Board of Directors and passage by a majority vote of the members present at an annual meeting.

ARTICLE 7: Publications  
The Society shall publish and distribute a newsletter, The Kentucky Lepidopterist, to the members four times annually.

ARTICLE 8: Dues  
a. The dues for each year will be set by the Board for each class of membership.  
b. Dues notices will be distributed with the last issue of each volume of The Kentucky Lepidopterist for each calendar year.

ARTICLE 9: Policies  
The Society and its members, in carrying out activities in the support of its purpose, shall be guided by these policies.  
(1) The Society will cooperate with the Lepidopterists' Society.  
(2) The Society will encourage scientific publication by its members.  
(3) The Society will function as a non-profit, non-political, educational organization.  
(4) The Society will encourage activity by members who are not professional entomologists.  
(5) Members of the Society are expected to follow ethical guidelines relative to collecting as developed by the Lepidopterists' Society.  
(6) Members are encouraged to develop information on Lepidoptera and forward this to the zone coordinator for compilation and publication.  
(7) Members are encouraged to establish affiliations with museums and educational institutions for the deposit and preservation of specimens.

ARTICLE 10: Amendments  
This constitution may be amended by motion made, seconded, and passed by a majority vote of the members present at an annual meeting, and concurred in by a 3/4 affirmative vote of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE 11: Dissolution  
In the event that this Society should cease to exist, all of its assets shall be liquidated as follows:  
(1) All outstanding debts shall be paid promptly.  
(2) All remaining assets shall be given to the Lepidopterists' Society.  
(Adopted unanimously at the 12th Annual Meeting, Nov. 16, 1985)  
(Amended at the 15th Annual Meeting, Nov. 19, 1988)

## Try This Business For Big Net Profits: Butterfly Collecting

\* \* \*  
The Winged Insects Attract  
A Swarm of New Fans;  
The Danger of Rustlers

By CARRIE DOLAN

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.  
COCONUT CREEK, Fla.—Like a lot of other ranchers, Ronald Boender has to keep a sharp eye out for rustlers who would steal his prized livestock.

"It's a big problem," he says. "I caught one boy with 15 in a plastic bag. His mother probably put him up to it."

Mr. Boender is a butterfly farmer. As one of the largest commercial breeders in the U.S., he hopes to cash in on a recent flutter of activity in this part of the insect world.

Tourists are pouring in to new butterfly "aviaries" to stroll among thousands of the winged wonders. Gardening to attract butterflies has become a hot hobby, and butterfly watching is gaining popularity, too. "A lot of birders are getting into it," says one enthusiast. There are even informal pupa exchanges for hobbyists seeking to swap caterpillars about to burst into full glory.

### A Butterfly Factory

People surrounded by skyscrapers seem to appreciate the insects most. "In urban areas, people have looked around and said, 'Where have all the butterflies gone?'" says Julian Donahue, the president of the Lepidopterists' Society in Los Angeles, a club for butterfly and moth fanciers. Butterflies, he says, are a "symbol of environmental health. When you see a butterfly, you think everything is rosy."

But increasingly, butterflies aren't free. Mr. Boender also runs Butterfly World, a three-acre, \$1.5 million park that charges visitors \$6 to walk among 3,000 butterflies from around the world. They are held captive in giant screened compounds. At least two other butterfly parks have opened recently as well: Callaway Gardens in Georgia and an exhibit at Marine World/Africa USA in Vallejo, Calif.

Mr. Boender, an electrical engineer by training, began butterfly growing as a hobby and took it up full time four years ago. Now, he raises up to 1,500 a week, many of which he ships to insect zoos, universities and other butterfly aviaries. He has pioneered what one customer calls "factory production methods," carefully harvesting freshly laid eggs and giving the resulting caterpillars enough tender loving care to improve their narrow odds for survival. "He's vigilant against stinkbugs and spiders," the main enemies, says Clive Farrell, who opened the London Butterfly House in 1981.

### A Short, Sweet Life

About 85% of Mr. Boender's caterpillars manage to survive metamorphosis. A butterfly's life is short—about 10 days. Not all enjoy a natural death here at Butterfly World. A few meet untimely ends under the heels of distracted visitors.

Butterflies can be a pricey passion. Garden-variety ones cost between \$3 and \$12. Rare species, which often require permits to breed, can cost \$500. (Some take two years to hatch and live about a week.) Tropical specimens that can't be raised easily in captivity are imported from suppliers in the Far East and Central and South America. The closer to the equator, the more colorful the butterflies tend to be.

Among collectors and breeders, a pupa trade is flourishing. Pupa refers to the insect when it is enclosed in a cocoon-like shell. Mr. Farrell says pupae make "convenient live packages that can be sent by express post." Not all travel well. A recent shipment from Malaysia was lost in the mail on its way to Florida, and the butterflies hatched en route. Hundreds were dead on arrival.

To a butterfly enthusiast, the insects' fleeting moments of glory are worth the effort. "The color combinations are gorgeous. I didn't realize all those species existed," says Pauline Renaud of Woonsocket, R.I., visiting Butterfly World. Delia Kusiak, her mother, says she was drawn to the attraction because she collects butterflies, albeit "on refrigerator magnets, rings, towels, pillows. I can't afford real ones."

Visitors enter the large screened exhibition areas at Butterfly World through a set of triple doors equipped with fans that keep winged inhabitants from escaping. Inside, an Emerald Swallowtail from the Philippines flutters by, past a bright blue Buckeye from the Far East. Sitting on a green fern are three orange butterflies soaking up the sun. The insects' body temperatures must be at least 94 degrees before they can fly.

### Shedding Skins

Nearby, a Brazilian owl butterfly, whose six-inch wings make it one of the largest species in the world, is munching on a rotten banana. In the wild, a guide says, butterflies will dine on fruit, manure, mud and animal sweat. Some eat plants that are poisonous to other wildlife.

When they are ready to lay eggs, butterflies are herded into a private area filled with varieties of plants. (Butterflies are finicky; each species lays eggs only on a particular type of plant.) Butterfly World employees pick the freshly laid eggs daily and take them to a laboratory. When the eggs hatch into caterpillars a few days later, each is placed in a little plastic box. Every day, the box is stuffed with fresh leaves for the bug to munch.

In the lab, a caterpillar sheds several skins like a snake. The last skin hardens into a pupa. After about a week in the pupa, a butterfly emerges. The newly metamorphosed critter fluffs its wings for 30 minutes, then takes off to begin its short life of eating and mating.

Butterflies are "fairly non-violent," says Mr. Farrell, except for the male monarch, which sometimes attacks a female viciously during mating. Better-mannered species shower a yellow powder on their intended "to get her in the mood," he says.

Russell Groves of McPherson, Kan., is a breeder who doesn't go in for such fancy methods. He raises caterpillars in a styrofoam ice chest, feeding them dill and parsley. "They eat like pigs," he says. After raising his wards and watching them transform into butterflies, he kills them. "I let them pump up their wings and then I mount them in shadow boxes. I have 75 in my freezer, waiting to be mounted."

The delicate creatures also moonlight as ambassadors for conservation efforts. Rudi Mattoni, president of Lepidoptera Research Foundation in Beverly Hills, Calif., is trying to restore the habitat of the El Segundo Blue butterfly, near Los Angeles International Airport. "The butterfly in this case is a symbol, a key rallying point to save an entire ecosystem," he says.

### An Almightly Honor

The Xerces Society, a Portland, Ore., organization that tries to protect habitats of invertebrates, uses butterflies for "Insect PR," says executive director Melody Allen. "It's the only bug that people can stand."

Xerces, named after a San Francisco-area butterfly that died out when development destroyed its habitat, has grown to 1,200 members from 300 three years ago. Currently, the group is establishing preserves for migrating monarchs.

One of the payoffs of watching butterflies is that enthusiasts who identify new species are allowed to name them. However, unlike astronomers who get new comets and asteroids named after themselves, insect etiquette requires new bugs to be named after someone else. "It's quite an honor," says Mr. Donahue of the Lepidopterists' Society, who specializes in the study of obscure moths. He should know. He has had six insects named after him so far. Among them, he proudly notes, is a mite that dwells in the ears of moths.



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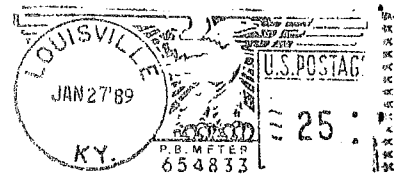
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