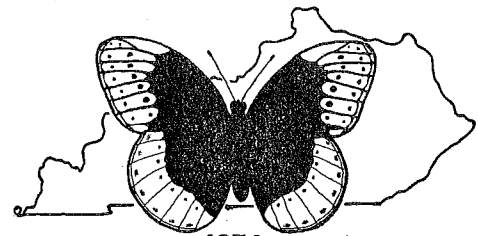

KENTUCKY LEPIDOPTERIST

Newsletter of the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists

VOLUME 16, NUMBER 3: OCTOBER 1990

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EDITORS' NOTES

The Index To The Kentucky Lepidopterist: Volumes 1-16 is coming along slowly. I doubt I'll have it done in time for the meeting. I'm using Lotus 123 to do the initial sorting. I will transfer the final draft into Wordperfect 5.0. Any suggestions for the index would be appreciated.

I received nothing for inclusion in this issue by the deadline of July 31, 1990! I finally had enough for this issue as of October 11. This has caused a 10 week delay in the publishing of the newsletter. This has happened with every issue in volume 16. I considered making this issue both Number 3 & 4. We need to be more timely. To do this, we need YOUR submissions. This is your newsletter. We would like to add more pages but this is not yet possible. The deadline for 16:4 is December 7, 1990. I had to push it back to allow for this late issue. I welcome any correspondence, submissions, and/or suggestions.

LEARNING TO RELAX: NOTES ON RELAXING BOXES

by Charles V. Covell, Jr.

One of the most critical technologies for a lepidopterist wishing to spread specimens well is that of softening, or "relaxing," specimens in a satisfactory way. I confess that when I first formed a collection as a teenager I did not know that dried butterflies could be relaxed and set on a spreading board at any time in the future. Many more people would become involved in collecting Lepidoptera if they knew how to soften and spread dried specimens.

There are many containers one can select as a "relaxer." Containers such as glass refrigerator dishes, plastic dishes, one-

gallon crocks, tobacco tins, and jars of various sizes. I have seen or used all of these. The main requirement is the ability to keep the moist inside from drying out, so that once the inside "environment" is balanced to your satisfaction, it can be maintained. I would not choose tobacco cans or other similar containers as they rust. The many kinds of plastic containers (Tupperware and clones) today make container choice the least of your problems.

Once you have chosen a container, you must next put a layer of water-absorbing material in the bottom. I use layers of paper toweling; but I have seen sand used, as well as other absorbent materials. This layer must be at least a quarter-inch deep, to hold enough moisture to do the job.

The absorbent layer is then wetted with enough water to dampen it thoroughly. However, do not allow excess water in the container as this will make the relaxer too wet. Next, add your anti-mold chemical. We use phenol (carbolic acid) in solution, adding drops over the surface of the wet paper toweling. Crystals of thymol or paradichlorobenzene can be sprinkled there instead. I do not like Lysol, because of its odor; and I question its ability to retard mold. Naphthalene may work, but I cannot recommend it at this time. I'd be interested in hearing about other chemicals that work well.

Above the prepared surface I place a cardboard sheet - usually file folder card. This provides a platform for specimens so they will not come in contact with the moist paper toweling. I have seen quarter-inch-square screening used, arranged about a half-inch above the moist surface. If made of card, this platform will need changing from time to time.

It is best to close the lid down tightly on your relaxer and leave it for a day or two

before putting in any specimens. If water droplets form on the sides and top inside, it is too wet. Swab off the droplets, leave the lid off for an hour or so, and shut it again. Repeat these procedures until you feel that the humidity inside is 100%, but that no water will collect on the sides, top, or specimens.

Now put your specimens in the box. Many variations are used at this point. Olaf Mielke says skippers will be soft enough to spread easily after 48 hours in the box, but he removes them from envelopes. Stan Nicolay has moist paper toweling he places over the specimens, but leaves them in envelopes while they soften. If you are softening a specimen on a pin, be sure not to leave it too long, as black pins will rust after a couple of days. Of course, the more expensive (but duller) stainless steel pins don't present the rust problem.

I find that in a properly balanced relaxer most butterflies and medium-sized moths need about 48 hours to soften properly. Tiny moths and the smallest butterflies will be ready to spread in about a day. Very large-bodied moths like Saturniidae, and some of the largest skippers and butterflies may take a third day to be limp enough to spread. One learns to gauge the time after a little experience.

Problems come when you put too many specimens in to spread, and then don't get to them for a week or more. Very often these will get too wet and discolor, or mold will finally develop. They may even rot, and disintegrate when you try to spread them. There have been times when the moisture-chemical balance has been so good that even after several weeks the specimens are still in good shape and can be successfully spread.

After you select a specimen from your relaxer, test it to see if it is properly softened. You should be able to manipulate the wings easily - even blow on them and see movement. Of course, those wings will never be as pliable as when you place freshly caught specimens in a relaxer for an overnight softening before setting; but wings

must be relaxed enough to you can spread the specimen without ripping it apart. Another tip: close the relaxer promptly after your selection, to maintain that balance of moisture as long as possible.

Well, I hope this has helped you learn to relax. Let me know if you have further comments on this subject!

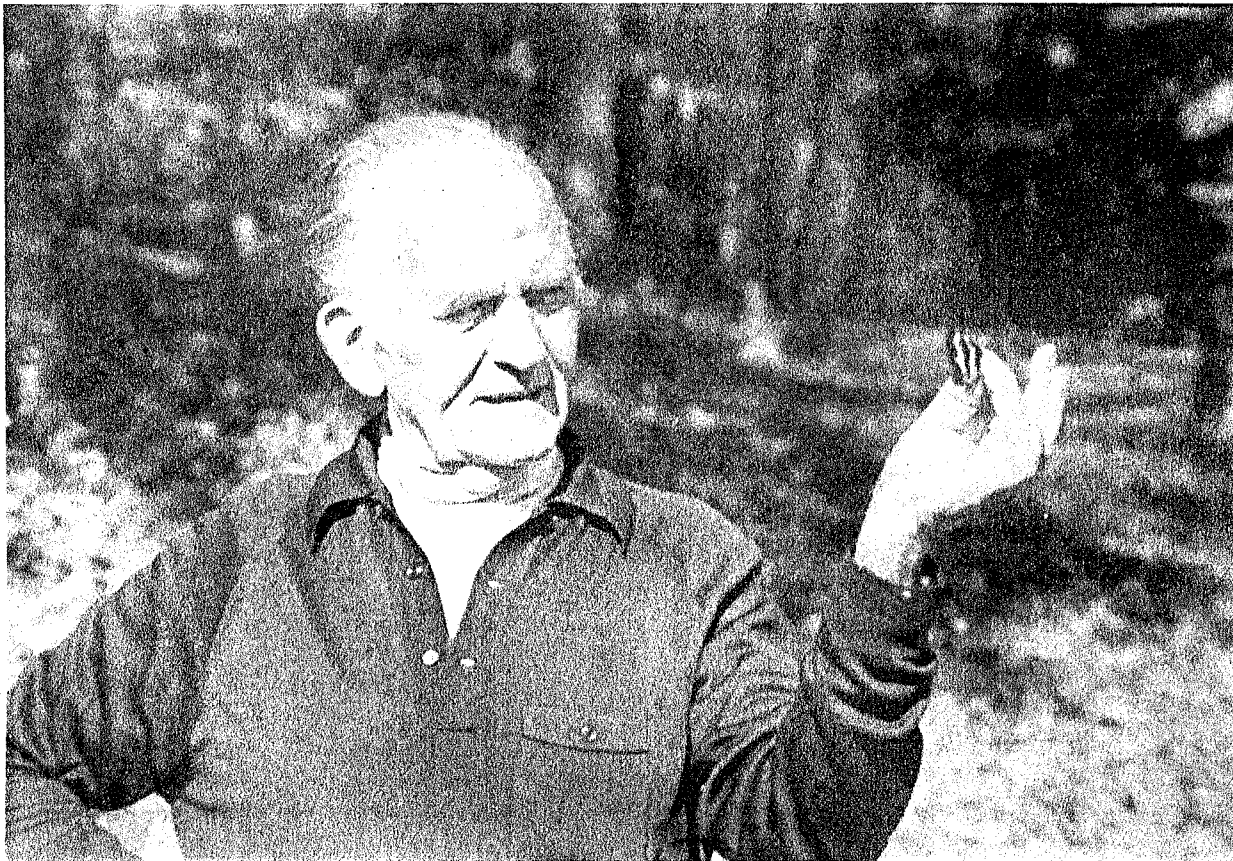
**OBITUARY: Siegfried Scholz
(1899-1990)**

by Richard Henderson

Siegfried Scholz was born on December 15, 1899 in Hamburg, Germany and died in Louisville, Kentucky on March 25, 1990 at Humana Hospital. Scholz, a retired carpenter, came to this country in 1967 and continued his, and our, beloved pursuit of acquiring and studying Lepidoptera. Being an avid moth "nightbutterflies" collector, Scholz wasted no time and began collecting at nearby Waverly Park in Valley Station, KY. Riding a bicycle to a spot in the forest almost every other evening, he would be out there collecting. To put it in his words, "I must see what is good and what is interesting for collector".

He was a charter member of The Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists in 1974. Scholz, his father, and his father's father were all Lepidopterists, making this hobby more than a fancy but a family tradition, with the highest priority on the noctuid moths and their relatives.

When I first met Scholz in 1970, I was what one might call "green" as a moth collector; using feeble methods and apparatus, but learned sharply from his knowledge and experience. Over the years until 1987, I learned from him, while on moth forays, such things as good nights to collect, the best light to use, the right place to put the light and the right direction to aim it, and many other resourceful things such as the use of banana flavoring (amyl acetate) on his black light setup to attract bait feeding moths; a high wattage mercury vapor lamp for summer nights; and a low wattage one for late fall, winter,



SIEGFRIED SCHOLZ, October 22, 1977 (Photo by Richard A. Henderson)

and early spring; and a special piece of paraphernalia, he called "my nightcatcher" to procure all the bait feeding moths of a bait strip on a tree trunk. Siegfried had one facet that I do not have room to record herewith. All those intriguing memorial experiences of his collecting days in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and other countries, told to me while with him. Spending many of his nights collecting and days pinning and spreading, Siegfried accumulated and sold to the University of Louisville over 17,000 specimens in 1976, and after his death, the University purchased the remainder of his collection in 1990, an additional 12,000 specimens. Among these collections, many new records for the State of Kentucky have been identified.

Although an amateur collector, and having no degrees or affiliations, Siegfried Scholz was the type of collector whose devotion and love of Lepidopterology was honor and reward in itself. Scholz wrote down on paper and kept notes on all of his collecting activity in German, and if still available, this documentation needs to be procured and translated. Those of us who knew Siegfried Scholz will sincerely miss him. While alive he related to me his wishes that one of his survivors would carry on in his footsteps as a moth or butterfly collector. He is survived by his son, Helmuth Scholz; his daughters, Lydia Samraney and Angela Stolze; five grandchildren, William Sorrells, Bobby Sorrells, Elizabeth Thompson, Rose Doyle, and Lydia Scholz Dill; and four great grandchildren, Benjamin Sorrells, Amanda Sorrells, Carol Ana

Sorrells, and Malinda Brook Scholz Dill.

NEWS AND NOTES

The treasury at this point contains 658.77, of which \$188.00 remains dedicated to the Identification Fund. The latter moneys will be expended as soon as Dr. W.E. Miller identifies a group of Tortricidae for the Kentucky Lepidoptera Survey. The response of members was most gratifying, totalling \$404.00, of which \$216.00 has been expended with eight new state records and many new county records resulting.

Lepidopterists' Society T-shirts in yellow or dark navy blue with the Society logo on the front are now available from Julian Donahue, Dept. of Entomology, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles Co., 900 Exposition Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90005. I believe they are \$10.00 postpaid (in the U.S.), but check with him first. The shirts are all cotton, and come in sizes S, M, L, XL. Steve Loftin did the fine job of silk-screening. We are hoping for Kentucky Lepidopterists' T-shirts soon (orange with black logo).

Several of our members embarked 17 October on a trip to Iryan Jaya, which is the Indonesian (Western) half of the island of New Guinea. Members scheduled to go include Tom Emmel (leader), Charlie Covell, Lee Guidry, Larry Hummer, Paul Pfenninger, and Marge and Bob Schaumleffel.

Jim Merritt reports a number of *Feniseca tarquinius* in his back yard in Louisville this summer.

The death of J.F. Gates ("Jack") Clarke on Sept. 17 is a crushing loss to lepidopterology. Jack identified many of our first Kentucky moth records, and willingly helped with our survey. He was our main speaker at the 1982 annual meeting, and his enthusiasm for his work was plain to see. He described a host of microlepidoptera, wrote numerous articles and several book-length treatises as well as a popular butterfly book. His studies of pacific island

Lepidoptera are unmatched. His friends and colleagues mourn his loss at the age of 85.

Several members went on a collecting trip to the Little Bayou de Chien, on Route 94, 2.5 miles east of Cayce. Those present were James Bess, Bill Black, Charles Covell, Jonathan Feiler, Seth Hendrix, Phil Jaeger, Barry Nichols, John Suggs, and Keith Wood. Thirty-eight species of butterflies were recorded. Moth data are not yet available.

Just after this trip, Bill Black took *Agraulis vanillae* (L.) 4413 at the spot where the Tennessee River in Paducah. On September 22, Phil Jaeger and others saw six and caught one in Land Between the Lakes in Trigg Co. on the Tennessee border. Bill Black has seen a single individual on October 11 & 12 at the Paducah site.

Additions to the Kentucky list include:

GRACILLARIIDAE

- 615 *Caloptilia negundella* (Cham.) - Big Bone Lick State Park, Boone Co., June 25, 1980, L.D. Gibson, det. D. Davis, 1990
- 595 *Caloptilia bimaculatella* (Ely) - Owsley Co., 3 miles NE Booneville, May 10, 1980, L.D. Gibson, det. D. Davis 1990
- 594 *Caloptilia belfrageella* (Cham.) - OTC, Meade Co., May 3, 1980, L.D. Gibson, det. D. Davis 1990

OECOPHORIDAE

- 889 *Agonopterix argillacea* (Wlsm.) - Pendleton Co., overlook of Ohio River along Rt. 8, July 2, 1987, D.J. Wright, det. R. Hodges 1990

PYRALIDAE

- 5188 *Blepharomastix apicalis* (Gn.) - Bullitt Co., Pine Creek Forest Rd., 0.5 mi. N of Rt. 480, July 22, 1989, D.J. Wright, det. M.A. Solis 1990

5686 *Acrobasis caryivorella* Rag. - Morehead, Rowan Co., June 20 & 25, 1962, T.N. Freeman, det. M.A. Solis 1990

TORTRICIDAE

- 3246+ *Pseudexentera escala* Cho. - BNM, Bullitt Co., in malaise trap, April 6-9, 1976, A.J. Brownell
- 3246+ *Pseudexentera creta* Cho. - CAC, Carter Co., April 29, 1972, CVC; BBL, Boone Co., March 21, 1979, L.D. Gibson
- 3073 *Eucosma monitorana* (Heinrich) - RRG, Tunnel Ridge, Powell Co., April 28, 1989, D.J. Wright May 21, 1988, CVC
- 2933 *Phaneta marmontana* (Kft.) - Lexington, Fayette Co., in Malaise trap, August 22-25, 1975, P.H. Freytag; BBM, Harlan Co., elevation 3950', August 14, 1984, Blacklight, J.S. Nordin
- 2790 *Olethreutes mediopartitus* (Heinrich) - OCP, Meade Co., May 15, 1982, 1 male, L.D. Gibson
- 2740 *Endothenia conditana* (Wlsm.) - BBL, Boone Co., August 4, 1989, L.D. Gibson, 2 males

COME TO THE 17th ANNUAL MEETING!

The 17th annual meeting will feature Dr. Lincoln P. Brower, Distinguished Professor of Zoology at the University of Florida. Dr. Brower is a leading authority in the area of mimicry, chemical ecology, and migration of butterflies - particularly the Monarch. He will be giving a public lecture, "The Grand Saga of the Monarch Butterfly," on Thursday, Nov. 15, at the University of Louisville (Ekstrom Library Auditorium, 8 PM). On Friday he will give a second talk in the Biology Seminar series, "Annual Dynamics of Chemical Defenses in the Milkweed Plant/Monarch Butterfly Migration Cycle in North America." This talk will be given at 3 PM, place to be announced at a later date. That evening, we will have a traditional Open

House at the Covells', 2333 Brighton Drive, Louisville, from 8-11 PM. Saturday morning at 9:30 AM the annual meeting will begin with a period for identifications and viewing collections at 320 Life Sciences Bldg., University of Louisville. At 1 PM, we will have our annual business meeting, Christa Anderson, presiding. After a break, we will have our special talk by Dr. Brower, "Biological Rationale for Urgency in Conserving the Monarch Butterfly Migration Cycle in North America." Don't miss this program; Lincoln's slides of overwintering monarchs are fantastic. Next, other talks, field reports, show-and-tell presentations, etc. will be featured, as is our custom. (PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU PLAN TO GIVE A PRESENTATION.) Hopefully we will have slides to show of the trip to Iryan Jaya, New Guinea as well. The meeting will end with DOOR PRIZE drawing (Please contribute a prize if you can). We will also have items to sell, and free butterfly specimens for young collectors, as well as refreshments. After the meeting, those who wish to will dine together at nearby Masterson's Restaurant.

Contact Barry Nichols for information on attendance at the lectures and the annual meeting. Phones: (502) 588-6771 (U of L) and (502) 583-5835 (home). Maps and motel information will be furnished on request. We hope this will be our most successful meeting ever!

NOTICES

Wish to EXCHANGE for specimens of *Calephelis muticum*, particularly females. Can offer numerous species in return. Ronald R. Gattelle, 126 Wells Rd., Goose Creek, SC 29445.

I would like to obtain a copy of TREE & SHRUB INSECTS OF THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES by W.G.H. Ives and H.R. Wong. 1988. INFORMATION REPORT NOR-X-292. It was published by the Northern Forestry Centre, Canadian Forestry Service. It is no longer in stock. If anyone knows of a copy please contact Barry S. Nichols, 7004 Ethan Allen Way, Louisville, KY 40272.

Fine bait traps for sale. Normal, cone-type traps and a "tropical" type with a wide lip instead of a cone. They are 3 ft. high, 15 in. in diameter, and have a 22 in. access zipper and a 16 sq. in. plywood base. Those with cones have a cone opening of 4 inches. Cost is \$35.00 (plus \$1.80 shipping). Contact Chris Ward at 1474 Melbourne Dr. SE, Girard, OH 44420, or call (216) 539-5374 for more information.

BOOKS FOR SALE. I am selling a complete library of books and journals (over 300 volumes) dealing with butterflies and moths from the United States and other countries, especially Africa. The books, old and new, are in very good condition. For a complete listing, send a self addressed stamped business sized (#10) envelope (SASE) with 45 postage to: Eric H. Metzler. 1241 Kildale Sq. N. Columbus, Ohio 43229-1306. Inquiries (with SASE) about individual items are welcome.

NEW MEMBERS

Karolis R. Bagdonas
28 E. St.
Rt. 2, Box 67, Highway 30
Laramie, WY 82070
(307) 742-8434

James A. Cocks
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Floyds Knobs, IN 47119
(812) 923-7407

Stuart M. Fullerton
469 S. Central Ave.
Oviedo, FL 32765
(407) 365-5279

Monica Miller
301 Timberidge Drive
Bethel Park, PA 15102

Ronald McCreadie
5001 Winona
Chicago, IL 60630

NEW ADDRESSES

James K. Adams
1702 Crow Valley Rd.
Dalton, GA 30720

Dike Bixler
1024 Old Stone Church Rd.
Clemson, SC 29631

Jevetta Breeding (formerly Jevetta Florence)
4630 Lenore Rd.
Cox's Creek, Ky 40013

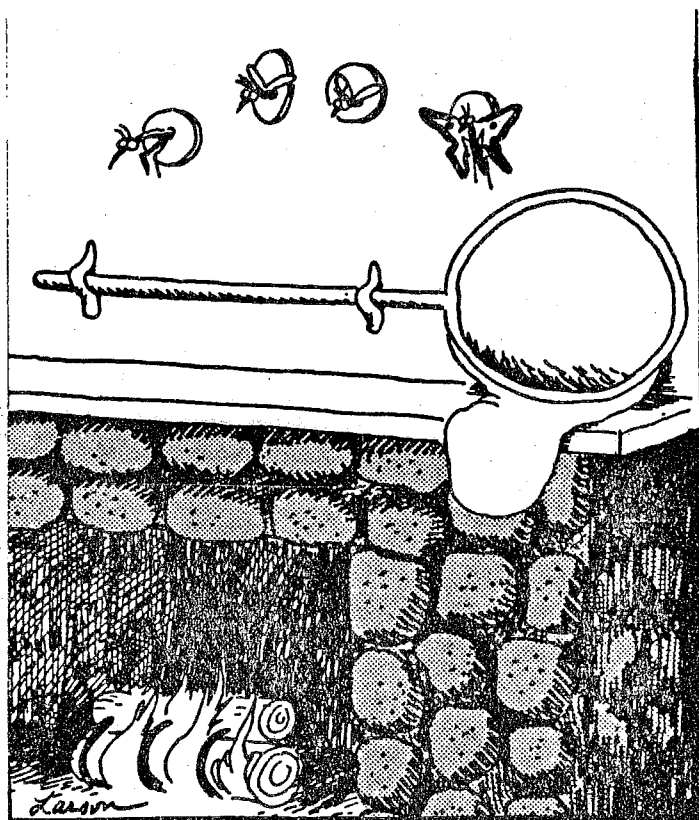
Michael & Deborah McInnis
6020 Benchmark
Floyds Knobs, IN 47119

John Shuey
Battelle Great Lakes Environmental Center 739
Hastings St.
Traverse City, MI 49684

SPECIAL NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

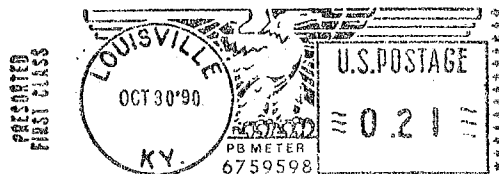
PLEASE note the year on your mailing label! In the last two issues, pleas for unpaid dues were largely unsuccessful. People with dues unpaid since 1988 or before have already been dropped. Those of you with unpaid dues since last year will be dropped after this issue. In the future, you will receive a dues reminder with your last issue. No additional reminders will be sent.





The KENTUCKY LEPIDOPTERIST is the quarterly newsletter of the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists. Membership dues are \$5.00 (US). Contact: Charles V. Covell, Jr., Treasurer, University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky 40292.

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