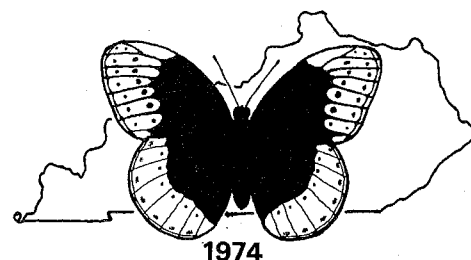
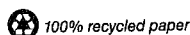

KENTUCKY LEPIDOPTERIST

Newsletter of the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists

VOLUME 17, NUMBER 3: AUGUST 1991

BARRY S. NICHOLS, Editor
7004 Ethan Allen Way,
Louisville, KY, USA 40272



EDITORS' NOTES

If it were not for the field trip announcement in this issue, there would not have been an issue 17:3. I received no submissions. I did not have a file of articles. This has been a chronic problem which has plagued the newsletter for some time. I need your articles in order to continue. There is a wealth of experience in the membership. Articles on any aspect of Lepidopterology are welcome, including those outside our geographical focus.

The deadline for 17:4 is October 20, 1991. The tentative deadlines for the first part of volume 18 are as follows:

18:1 January 15
18:2 May 15.

Please take note of these dates for submissions to the newsletter. I wait until said dates before I format the newsletter. It usually takes me about a week to format an issue and about 4 working days to get it printed. PLEASE plan for this when submitting something with a time limit.

NEWS AND NOTES

FIELD TRIP: There will be a field trip to the Bayou de Chien area September 6-8. We'll meet at the Quality Inn, at the Mayfield exit of the Purchase Parkway at 7:00 pm on Friday (the 6th) or at 9:00 am on Saturday. For further details, contact Charles Covell at the address on the back cover, or call (502) 588-6771 (DAY), or (502) 456-6122 (HOME).

The Mitchell's satyr, Neonympha mitchellii French, is now federally protected. Once

found at 60 sites in the Eastern U.S., fewer than 1000 individuals are believed to exist at 15 sites in Indiana and Michigan. The illegal collection of the butterfly can result in a \$50,000 fine and a year in jail. Warning signs will be posted on those areas from which the butterfly is believed to remain. Federal conservation officers will assist local officers in enforcing the protection order. [Ed. note: This information was garnered from a newspaper article sent to Covell. A citation was not given.]

ANNUAL MEETING. The annual KY LEPS meeting will be held at the University of Louisville on Friday and Saturday, November 15-16. More on the program will be given in the next issue.

The latest fascicle of **THE MOTHS OF AMERICA NORTH OF MEXICO** will be available in September 1991. It is Fascicle 25.1: Noctuidae, Plusiinae by J. Donald Lafontaine and Robert W. Poole. It will have 182 pages, 4 color plates, 18 monochrome plates, and 68 text figures. Prepublication (until Sept. 1) price is (US) 60.00 and \$3.00 shipping for U.S. and Canada, \$4.00 overseas. After September 1 the price will be \$70.00. To order, make checks payable to The Wedge Entomological Research Foundation, c/o National Museum of Natural History, MRC-127, Washington, DC 20560 USA. [Ed. note: This may make a FINE gift for the coming Christmas season. Hint to Margarita]

Seven members participated in the Xerces Butterfly Count in Oldham county on June 22. They recorded 2,443 individuals within 50 species. The species are as follows: E. clarus, T. pylades, E. icelus, E. horatius, E. baptisiae, P. catullus, N. lherminier, A. numitor, P. coras, P. themistocles, P. origenes, W. egeremet, P. verna, A. campestris, A. logan, E. ruricola, B. philenor, P. polyxenes, asterias, P.

cresphontes, P. glaucus, P. troilus, E. marcellus, P. rapae, C. philodice, C. eurytheme, E. nicippe, F. tarquinius, H. titus, S. edwardsii, S. calanus, S. liparops, M. grynea, S. melinus, E. comyntas, C. ladon, C. borealis, L. bachmanii, P. interrogationis, P. comma, V. virginensis, V. atalanta, S. cybele, P. tharos, L. arthemis astyanax, A. celtis, A. clyton, E. anthedon, M. cymela, C. pegala, and D. plexippus.

Burt and Mark Monroe conducted a Butterfly Count in the Red River Gorge in Powell county. They recorded 394 individuals in 36 species. The species are as follows: B. philenor, P. glaucus, P. troilus, C. euytheme, C. philodice, P. rapae, F. tarquinius, S. melinus, C. ladon, E. comyntas, L. bachmani, C. nycteis, L. archippus, L. arthemis astyanax, P. tharos, P. comma, P. interrogationis, V. atalanta, E. anthedon, H. sosybia, M. cymela, D. plexippus, A. lyciades, A. cellus, E. clarus, E. baptisiae, E. horatius, A. aesculapius, A. numitor, A. campestris, P. zabulon, P. coras, P. origenes, P. themistocles, P. verna, and W. egeremet.

Due to an oversight, Joel Johnson was left out of the membership list printed in the December 1990 issue. His address is: 59 East 400 North, Payson, UTAH 84651. Joel was the editor of *Utahensis* (Bulletin of the Utah Lepidopterists' society) between 1981 and 1983. I regret any inconvenience the omission may have caused.

The highest diversity of butterfly species in the world has been found in the rainforests of Rondonia, BRAZIL. This area is being cleared at an increasing rate. SOS RAIN FOREST PROJECT is trying to purchase 10,000 or more acres to be used as a reserve. Ten dollars will buy an acre of rainforest. For more information, write SOS RAIN FOREST FUND, 421 Carr Hall, Dept. of Zoology, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida 32611, and have yourself placed on their mailing list.

ERRATA FOR 17:2. Roderick Irwin's article on hypodermic needles should read "...law

enforcement authorities who might not only be 'gung-ho' vis-a-vis drug laws...". The word "only" was somehow dropped, thereby changing the meaning.

NEW PUBLICATION: Taft, W.H., D. Smitley, and J.W. Snow. 1991. A Guide to the Clearwing Borers (Sesiidae) of the North Central States. NCR Publication #394.

This publication is intended for naturalists, horticulturalists, nurserymen, and extension personnel who need a handy, color reference guide to this difficult to identify group of moths. The topics covered include: identification, host plants, pheromone attractants, trapping techniques, life cycles, flight periods, and economic importance. The guide includes 35 large color plates, six line drawings and three informational tables. Many of the clearwing moths covered in the publication have a geographic range that includes the eastern seaboard and the deep south. For a copy, please send \$7.50 to: Publications Office, Cooperative Extension Service, Michigan State University, Room 10B, Agricultural Hall, East Lansing, MI 48824-1039.

MY FIRST DIANA FEMALE by Charles V. Covell, Jr.

I suppose you aren't really initiated into the ranks of American Lepidopterology until you've read the entrancing, detailed vignettes scattered through Holland's BUTTERFLY BOOK and MOTH BOOK. Of these, my favorite is "A Race After A Butterfly" (pp. 104-105 of the BUTTERFLY BOOK, revised edition). The imagery conjured up of a boy risking the taunts of a flock of young ladies to capture his prize, plus the legendary quality imparted to the female Diana Fritillary, Speyeria diana (Cramer), have made this particular butterfly quite possibly the favorite of eastern U.S. collectors.

It was not long after I became a fanatical teen-aged collector in 1949 that I learned about the desirability of S. diana -

especially the dark blue and black female. In the summer of 1951 my collecting friend and I sought diana in vain amid the red clay hills of Stokes Co., NC, near a church camp we were attending. The following June, in the same area, we were rewarded with a few choice males, but no females. The female became more and more awesome, and we often spoke hungrily of the hoped-for capture.

In June 1953, we returned to the church camp once more. After competing to get to the next likely Orange Milkweed for the first crack at a tipping diana, we decided to take turns. After catching a few males, I became distracted by a new sweetheart, and lost interest in butterflies for the rest of the camp period. Still no female diana; I had been leaving these Appalachian foothills before many of the females was on the wing.

After a short sojourn at home in Southern Pines, NC, I accompanied my dad and sister to another church camp, Kanuga, near Hendersonville, NC. We stayed in a wooden cabin beside a dirt road. The cabin was in the last row, and across the road there was an open field in which bloomed a few clumps of Orange Milkweed. Behind the cabin the terrain rose gently, a mixture of hardwoods and pines. For the first three days (June 22-24, 1953) I visited the milkweeds when possible, and plucked a few male dianas from the blossoms. The great day came on June 25.

Right across the road, at the edge of the field, there was a small mound of earth under a pine tree. Growing beside this little mound was an Orange Milkweed. On this still, hot day I inspected the plant, which had yielded a few males in the previous days. There, sitting on the mound of clay, was a perfectly fresh female diana - the first I had ever seen close up. With her wings displayed outspread against the red clay, she was a vision of butterfly perfection. The sight had me transfixed; I just couldn't swing my net. Besides, the nature of the mound was such that the butterfly might escape an imperfect move. So I just watched her, until she rose up, circled a time or two, then began flying at

a leisurely pace across the dirt road and up the hill past my cabin toward the woods. I followed stealthily; musn't make an aerial swing and alarm her, or that would be the ball game.

As the diana flew about six feet from the ground into the pines, I did a strange thing. I was wearing leather-soled loafers and I found myself slipping and sliding as I jogged after the butterfly I had no intention of losing. Instead of making the best of that situation, or kicking off the shoes, I abandoned my chase, and went into the house. I changed shoes, then walked back into the hilly woods and picked my way through the trees until I came to the crest of a hill. A small, fenced concrete pool of water was there and I went around this little reservoir to the far side. There, on a tree branch at eye level, sat a perfect female diana. This time my nerves were as steel, and I made the successful capture. Then came the jubilant whooping and hollering to the empty forest.

Was this the same female I had been following? Why had I quit the chase to change shoes? And how fantastic that I had found what seemed to be the same butterfly after losing sight of it! This is my diana story; it was an experience I'll always remember.

NEW MEMBERS

Mary Lynn V. Ante
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Connie McDowell
510 North Fourth St.,
Bardstown, KY 40004
(502) 348-1487

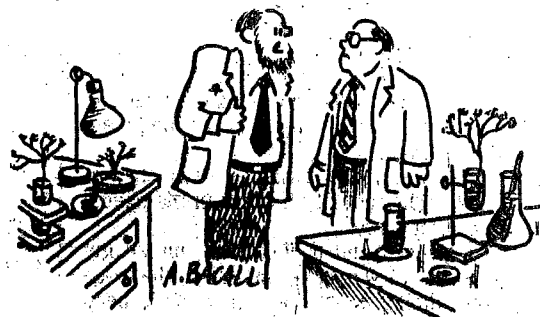
C. Michael Stintson
2710 Hillside Terrace,
Louisville, KY 40206

Kristin Troutman
7015 Fieldview Ct.,
Louisville, KY 40291

Howard White
311 Lincoln Park Rd.,
Springfield, KY 40069

NEW ADDRESSES

Dike Bixler
813 College Avenue #3,
Clemson, SC 29631
(803) 654-0754



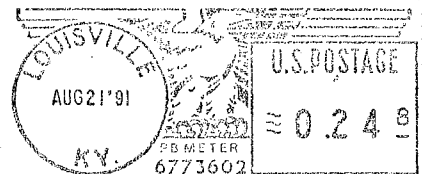
"This is quite an ethical dilemma. I discovered an endangered species of caterpillar that can survive only by eating an endangered plant."

A NOTICES section was not printed due to lack of space. The section will return in 17:4.

PRESORTED

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FIRST-CLASS



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