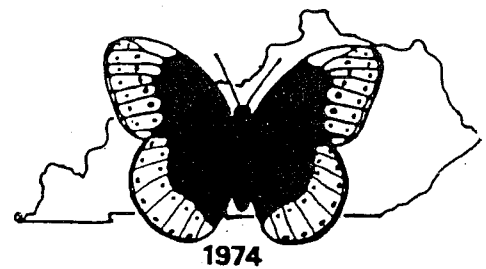

KENTUCKY LEPIDOPTERIST

Newsletter of the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists

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EDITORS' NOTES

The membership list issue is being held in order to get out this late-breaking field trip information. Please note the upcoming dates as this information is being rushed to you. We'll be going to new and seldom sampled habitats. We hope many of you come. Info follows this column directly.

There is nothing for issue # 3 for this year. It may contain additional meeting information and not much else. PLEASE send your submissions to me soon. Articles may also be sent to me via E-mail (PREFERRED) at the address in the header. Thanks.

By the Way, are there any budding cartoonists and/or artists out there? We could always use your work here in the newsletter. Why not send in something now?! And what of you photographers? Care to share your interesting shots? We'd love to see them.

This issue contains a Dues Notice for 1996 (page four). Please check your mailing label to make sure you are in good standing. Dues are per calendar year and as we're catching up, it won't be long until 1997 dues are due. The mailing label comes from the most up-to-date list Covell has. Please contact Charles Covell should there be a problem with your mailing address, dues, etc. The address is: Charles Covell, Department of Biology, University of Louisville, Louisville, KY 40292. You may also reach him via E-mail at: CVCOVE01@ULKYVM.LOUISVILLE.EDU.

With heavy heart, I have decided that this will be my last year to edit the *Kentucky Lepidopterist*. It's been a fun ride but I have been Editor now for seven years and I feel it would be better to infuse the newsletter with some new blood. The issues to finish this year/volume (Volume 22) will be completed by me but folks need to give thought to running for editor now as the Annual Meeting is only a few months away. The newsletter really needs a lepidopterist able to communicate with experienced and beginning lepidopterists alike. Is that person you? Please let your presence be known! I am committed to as smooth a transition as possible so it will not be baptism by total immersion for the newly elected Editor. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions. Thanks to all the members for a fun seven years. I hope you had as much fun as I did! I hope to see you all for many years to come!! In the meantime, **LET'S GET READY FOR A GRAND FALL FIELD TRIP!!!!**

The 1996 Fall Field Trip

by Bill Black, Jr.
201 Friedman Avenue
Paducah, Kentucky 42001

The Fall Field trip will begin in Paducah, Kentucky, on Friday, September 13, 1996. We will sample Lepidoptera in four (possibly five) counties. Bring knee-high rubber boots. Here is the itinerary for the three day trip:

FRIDAY (IX-13-1996)**Paducah, McCracken County at Massac Creek**

Afternoon collecting near marsh fields and cane breaks. Set bait traps and light traps.

SATURDAY (IX-14-1996)

9:00 A.M. Meet for breakfast. Rendezvous at Denny's Restaurant at I-24 and US Highway 60 (I-24 EXIT 4).

Paducah, McCracken County at Massac Creek

Retrieve bait and light traps from the previous night. Collect butterflies in marsh fields and cane breaks.

Ballard County at Stovall Creek

Collect butterflies at open beaver swamp gravel creek beds, and cane breaks.

Hickman County at Murphy's Pond

(Note: this may be the LAST opportunity to collect in this famous cypress swamp for private collections. Murray State University has given the Kentucky Lepidopterists permission for this field trip; but the Kentucky Nature Preserves Commission will soon take control of Murphy's Pond, and they will only allow capture-and-release collecting.) Habitats are Wildflower fields, swamp/woods. We'll set bait and light traps.

Fulton County: Willingham Bottoms in Little Bayou de Chien, and the Mississippi River bank at Hickman City

We'll collect in these areas and also check the landmark "rubidus" hybrid site.

Hickman County at Murphy's Pond

Return to collect moths at blacklight.

SUNDAY (IX-15-1996)

Livingston County at the Limestone Bluffs overlooking the Cumberland River. Special Requests for certain habitats are invited.

CONTACT HOST FOR DETAILS:

Bill Black
201 Friedman Avenue
Paducah, Kentucky 42001
Home phone: (502) 442-9587

See the list on page three for accommodations. Pear Tree Inn, next to Denny's Restaurant, is recommended. For Pear Tree Inn's special rate, tell them you are a Kentucky Lepidopterist, and ask for the "rate per Curt" (\$44.96/single; \$52.16/double).

**Daniel Boone Natural Forest
Collecting Permit Available**

by Charles V. Covell, Jr.
Department of Biology
University of Louisville,
Louisville, Kentucky 40272

I have received a "blanket" permit for collecting Lepidoptera in the Daniel Boone National Forest, and it includes members of the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists. Anyone wishing copies and information should contact Charles Covell ASAP at the address above or via E-mail at: CVCOVE01@ULKYVM.LOUISVILLE.EDU. You will need a copy on your person in order to collect in the DBNF. There is much unexplored territory there.

Queen Butterflies Observed in Louisville

by Charles V. Covell, Jr.

Department of Biology

University of Louisville,

Louisville, Kentucky 40272

On July 16, 1996, at about 5:15 PM EST, I was walking through the Louisville Zoo (here in Kentucky), on the way to a meeting in one of the buildings. As I passed a garden of coneflowers and daylilies, I saw the familiar maroon colored butterfly often encountered in our southern-most states, the Queen, *Danaus gilippus berenice*. I rubbed my eyes and looked again. Sure enough, it was indeed a Queen - well out of its range here in Louisville.

At the meeting, I asked Education Curator Marcelle Gianelloni whether butterflies had been released recently. Yes was the answer, and that was on July 3, 1996 - 13 days earlier! There had been an exhibit opening, and a local company called **Visual Presentations** had set free about 220 butterfly adults obtained from an outside source. We went outside so I could show her the butterfly, and this time we found a pair of them mating, suspended from a daylily stem. There was no doubt of their identity.

With further information from Marcelle, I later found that the butterflies were imported from the Tampa, Florida area, from a company called **Butterflies in Flight**. They were shipped under USDA APHIS PPQ Form 526 - Section C - #31381. The permit, signed by APHIS official Robert V. Flanders, stated that the species were *Danaus plexippus*, *Danaus gilippus*, and *Vanessa cardui*. Under "permit conditions", there was the statement that "This permit is issued for the interstate movement and local release of the butterflies *Danaus plexippus* (Monarch), *Danaus gilippus* (Queen), and *Vanessa cardui* (Painted Lady) only. All species are indigenous to North America and are widely distributed. Application for interstate movement for release of any other species is denied." This

presumes Queens are "widely distributed", which as far as most of the US is concerned, is not true. I have relayed this information to Mr. Flanders, and have talked to people at both **Visual Presentations** (this has been their only butterfly release, they said.) and **Butterflies in Flight**.

As an entomologist concerned with monitoring biodiversity, the chance observation of an "alien" butterfly in Kentucky is disturbing. We do have one possible sighting in Ballard Wildlife Refuge, Ballard County, on June 20, 1980; but it was not verified. A sight record of this species is certainly big news here, if the butterfly is not introduced. Introduced butterflies, therefore, can lead to invalid reporting of strays.

In addition, people studying population genetics are disturbed about any introduction of butterflies and other wildlife, even when the species is endemic. Why? Because individuals from other populations of the same species, far distant parts of the overall population, or which have been artificially reared, all could modify the gene pool of the wild populations of those species artificially. This is true even in common species. Thus the rearing, movement, and release of butterflies is not a good idea, despite the benefit of better appreciation of butterflies by the public. We should strive to educate those well-meaning people who may engage in such activities. There has been much discussion on this topic on the INTERNET in the last two years. I urge those with access to search out this discussion.

NEW MEMBERS

T.L.Herig
3510 Walker Road,
Lansing, Michigan 48906

[Ed. Note: In case some of you view T.L. as a familiar name, he is the brother of Ted Herig.]

Margaret C. Lyon
3051 Rio Dosa Drive, Apt. #317,
Lexington, Kentucky 40509

Marie Thierjung
776 Lesner Ave.,
Norfolk, Virginia 23518

NEW ADDRESSES

Rozenna Carr
1003 Beverly Drive,
Laredo, Texas 78045

Robert V. Gregg
993 Calle Carmona,
Rio Rico, Arizona 85648
Phone: (520) 281-7526

[**Ed. Note:** Bob invites members to contact him if they plan to be in the Tucson area, and plan to collect together.]

James Merritt
740 Zorn Avenue,
Louisville, Kentucky 40206

Paul Milner
272 Skye Drive,
Pisgah Forest, North Carolina 28768

[**Ed. Note:** Paul writes "The male dianas are flying through our forest lot!"]

Stephen Passoa
USDA-APHIS-PPQ,
Ohio State University
Museum of Biodiversity,
1315 Kinnear Road,
Columbus, Ohio 43212

Akira Watanabe
SBTS P.O. Box 1133,
3825 Lexington Road,
Louisville, Kentucky 40280