

# Kentucky Lepidopterist

Newsletter of the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists

Volume 23, Number 4 October 1997

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## Annual Meeting

### 23rd Annual Meeting of the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists

Friday evening, November 7, 7:00-11:00 p.m.  
at the Covell's, 2333 Brighton Drive, Louisville, KY 40205-3023  
1-502-456-6122 (home), 852-6771 (work)

Saturday, November 8, 1997 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.  
Room 332, Life Sciences Building, University of Louisville

Our special guest speaker is **Mr. Ron Boender**, founder of Butterfly World,  
America's premier butterfly park in Coconut Creek, FL

Ron will speak to us about the founding, development, and running of Butterfly World, and also about his founding of the Passiflora Society for those interested in rearing longwing butterflies on passionvines. He will give information on rearing many different kinds of Heliconiidae and divulge his method of keeping wild-caught Lepidoptera alive and healthy for several days while in the field.

James Adams and Charlie Covell will also present talks on some of their research and observations (like hybrid admirals). In addition, we invite you to give a talk, slide show, show and tell, or exhibit at this meeting. Please notify Charlie Covell of your intention so program time can be scheduled (see telephone numbers above).

We especially welcome new members, young people, and those of you who have never been to one of our meetings. It is a great mixture of beginners and experienced lepidopterists.

The Friday evening meeting is our annual party with food, beverages, slides, video, but mostly fellowship with others interested in Lepidoptera. **Accommodations:** For information on where to stay in Louisville or if you want to share a room - contact me.

by Charlie Covell

## President's Message

Dear Fellow KYLEPS:

This is my last message as President of the Society. You should receive this before the November 7-8 meeting, and I urge all of you who possibly can to attend. First of all, you will be entertained. Ron Boender, our speaker, does some truly amazing things with butterflies in his facility just outside Fort Lauderdale, and I am sure he will have some of his work with him for you to see.

continued next page

## President's Message continued

We also have a full plate of decisions needing every vote we can muster.

The election of officers for the coming year is, of course, important. Roger Zebold, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, is sure to have a prime slate.

As always, nominations from the floor are welcome.

Of deeper significance, however, is a proposition to rewrite our Constitution. The changes are of some significance. Other than neatening things up, the proposed Constitution contains some revisions which affect the way we find and elect officers and more clearly delineates duties here and there. I urge you, in preparation for the vote on the Constitution, to review the write-up in the May, 1997, issue of our Newsletter.

Attendance at the annual meeting in the past has been a small percentage of our total membership. Those present this time will participate in the shaping of our Society's future. Please make every effort to be there.

See you in November.

Jim Taylor

## Northern Metalmark

From: Brainard Palmer-Ball  
To: Charlie Covell

Richard Cassell and I saw a Northern Metalmark in Larue county on September, 1997. Richard should have some nice photos of it. The habitat seemed correct--dry woods w/ some limestone outcrops--but there seem to be no records for this late (although there are late records for *C. muticum*). This individual looked pretty fresh to me; I originally thought it looked like a female, but after looking in books I suppose it was a male. Is it possible for it is a late brood here? Larue Co would be the farthest west record for KY wouldn't it?

From: Charlie Covell  
To: Carolyn Roof

I have identified this butterfly as the Swamp Metalmark (*Calephelis mutica*) which was known from Meade and Christian counties only prior to this record.

**Ed. note:** Kentucky has 12 counties (only Texas and Alaska have more) Meade is one county west of Louisville, Christian on the Tennessee border 100 miles east of the Mississippi, and Larue two counties south of Louisville. Paducah is where the Tennessee and Ohio rivers join. Hickman is on the Mississippi.

## Law News & Legalese

from James J. Kruse

### ITALIAN MAN FINED FOR TAKING BUTTERFLIES FROM PARKS - Scripps Howard News Service

"Fresno, CA - Italian tourist and butterfly fancier Adriano Teobaldelli's trek through America ended suddenly in federal court when he discovered that butterflies are not free--especially those taken from national parks.

Teobaldelli pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor charge of illegally transporting wildlife taken in violation of U. S. law after rangers in Sequoia national Park found him with a butterfly new and 51 dead butterfly in his possession Saturday.

Later they confiscated nearly 200 more that Teobaldelli admitted he captured in other parks across the United States.

The butterflies were in cellophane bags and labeled, rangers said.

Teobaldelli, 60, a hospital administrator in Macerata, Italy, was fined \$500 by U. S. Magistrate Judge Sandra Snyder after the U. S. Attorney's office and Teobaldelli's lawyers, Roger Vehrs and Sal Sciandra, had worked out a plea agreement."

I am interested, and somewhat perplexed, in/with the fact that they nailed him for TRANSPORTING, and not necessarily collecting in the parks (and I know that the Lacey Act deal transporting).

Did they have to wait until he crossed the park boundary? If not, was there a case regarding transportation before he admitted to having butterflies from other parks?

Comments? Thoughts about the amount of the fine?

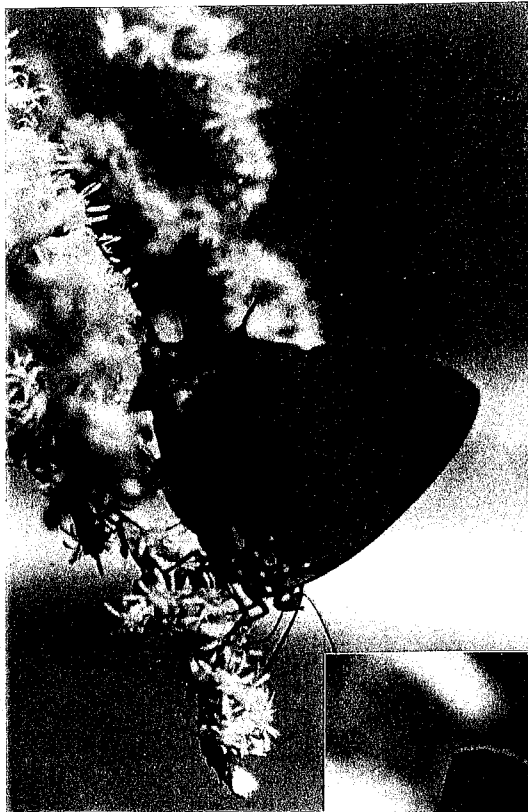
Please don't mistake my above questions for condoning any of the activities this man apparently is guilty of. I do not myself, nor support the act of collecting within National Parks or other areas protected by law. So hold the flames, they would be misdirected.

Jim Kruse  
e-mail:kruse@nature.berkeley.edu

## Videos

As an added incentive to attend the Annual Meeting -

Charlie Covell wrote to say that those who arrive early at the Annual Meeting on Saturday will be given a wonderful video (free) and picture guides to Butterfly World - as long as they last.



**Atliedes halesus** documented by Bill Black,  
September 1997, On Island Creek, Paducah,  
McCracken County, KY  
Accompanying article on following page



**Atliedes halesus**

Starting top left going clockwise:  
(Pictures of A. halesus taken at Island  
& Cross Creeks intersection, Paducah,  
McCracken Co., KY, September 1997)

Bill Black

SW corner, 12:40 pm, Sept. 25

NW corner, 12:10 pm, Sept. 23

SE corner, 1:10 pm, Sept. 23

SW corner, 12:40 pm, Sept. 25

## PADUCAH AND THE GREAT PURPLE HAIRSTREAK

by Bill Black, Jr.

On 27 Sep 95, I stopped to check some Golden Rod and other wild flowers at the top of the steep bank of the Tennessee River, about a mile above its mouth at the Ohio River at Paducah, KY, where I live. A clam shell crane off-loads sand from river barges here, onto a sand conveyor, which delivers it to a materials handling company, and ultimately across the I-24 Downtown Loop to a concrete plant. A river island known as Cuba Towhead lies offshore a hundred yards. I had observed several Gulf Fritillaries (*Agraulis Vanillae*) here since 1989, and it had been a place worth checking when I had time.

My heart leapt as I noticed a size and shape which in combination I had never seen in a butterfly. I swept it with my net from its Golden Rod perch, and I felt that despite its tattered condition, this was a prize. This hairstreak that was too large, I learned, was the Great Purple Hairstreak. Professor Charlie Covell at the University of Louisville told me it was only the third *Atlides halesus* ever collected in Kentucky.

That winter, I searched the bare tree tops of the Tennessee River bank and of Cuba Towhead for mistletoe - the caterpillar food plant - but only saw a half dozen clumps. However, a quarter of a mile downstream, in the tree tops over Island Creek, I found the mother of all mistletoe infestations! This stand of mistletoe spans roughly 50 yards in its width, and runs eight city blocks in its length along Island Creek. (Island Creek also hosts scores of large cypress trees, within the city limits of Paducah.) Three miles west of the river, I found two more mistletoe concentrations, but though each spanned several neighbors' yards, they were small in comparison to the Island Creek mistletoe stand.

On 18 Sep 97, I collected a nearly perfect Great Purple Hairstreak at the original site on the Tennessee River at the sand conveyor. This time, I high-tailed it over to the Island Creek neighborhood perusing the area for wildflowers. *Atlides halesus* were observed at three different sites along Island Creek and its tributary, Cross Creek. I searched during my lunch hour and after work, observing a total of fourteen Great Purple Hairstreaks spread over four sites. I collected four specimens.

Now, on 7 Oct 97, about three weeks later, the total statistics stand as follows:

- Observations of *Atlides halesus*: 90
- Number of sites where *Atlides halesus* observed: 16  
(All are associated with Island Creek or Cross Creek,  
except the original Tennessee River Site.)
- Specimens collected : 6

None has been observed at the two lesser mistletoe sites three miles away.

The *Atlides halesus* favorite nectar flower has successively been Eupatorium, Golden Rod, and now Frost Asters. Three times, I observed a Great Purple Hairstreak nectaring at a fourth wild flower which I have not yet been able to identify.

These butterflies are very tame. They allow me within a couple of inches of them with a close-up lens. I could have collected almost every specimen observed. Of the six specimens collected, three were collected directly with the killing jar, without a net. They don't seem to fly often, and when they do fly, their brilliant blue upper side does not show up as obviously as I had imagined it would. They sit with their wings folded behind them, and from a distance they look like a black guitar pick perched on the flower. They seem to work a flower intensively as they nectar, remaining in a very small area of the flower surface, and remaining there from ten minutes to half an hour.

I have wondered about predators and this easy-going butterfly. Many specimens bear bird beak scars, almost always on the outer angle of the hind wings. The curved, iridescent design of this portion of the hind wings

looks like eyes of an insect such as the dragon fly. The hair tails look like antennae. The butterfly rubs its hind wings up and down against each other continuously.

In scanning wild flowers for these butterflies, I have realized a sort of stealth technology they have, which may actually hide them from predators. The flat black of the underside of their wings (the guitar pick look) appears sometimes to be a void in the clusters of flower heads. Alternately I found myself mistaking an actual void for the Great Purple Hairstreak, and the nectaring butterfly for a void.

And speaking of predators, fears, and dangers! What about the lepidopterist? The Island Creek area is an interesting paradox. It is an urban cypress creek. It is a small remote area, surrounded by rather dense, old neighborhoods. The margins of this creek habitat are also the margins of mown back yard lawns. The Eupatorium, the Golden Rod, and the Frost Asters make their living in this margin. That is where I can find the Great Purple Hairstreak. The neighbors have been very open and kind. Not a single neighbor has refused me permission to look for butterflies. I have sensed that the butterfly net in my hand explains that I am up to something scientific, and am not a threatening intruder. I have carried it into alleys, and creek banks, on the margins of back yards - even when I had no intention to collect, but only to observe. Yesterday, the wisdom of this practice was confirmed in a conversation I had with a neighbor whom I had just met. "Yeah", he said "I recognized you by your truck, from last week. The first time I looked out my window and saw you out there in the alley, you would look this way, and then that way. I said to myself, 'What is he up to?' And I went to get my pistol. But when I came back with my pistol in my hand, I saw that butterfly net. And I said to myself, 'Ah, He's just a nut!' And I knew you were OK."

Halleluia for Paducah and the Great Purple Hairstreak!

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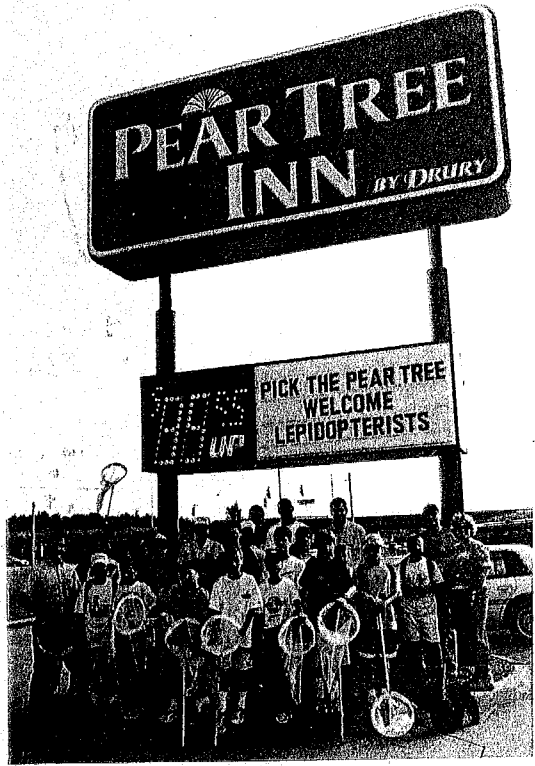
### **Robert Vincent Gregg, Ph.D. 1928-1997**

Dr. Robert V. Gregg, Distinguished Teaching Professor at the University of Louisville until his retirement in 1991, passed away on July 15, 1997. Bob had lived in Goshen, KY outside Louisville from 1979 to 1996, and for 45 years was an avid collector of butterflies and moths. Many of his 40,000 specimens provided valuable records now in the manuscript of "The Butterflies and Moths of Kentucky," making him a significant contributor to that work.

Bob was born in Long Beach, CA on February 16, 1928, and served in the U.S. Marine Corps before receiving his degrees from UCLA and the University of Southern California. He was Professor and Chairman of the Department of Anatomy at USC's School of Dentistry until 1970 when he moved to Louisville. He was Professor and Coordinator of Basic Sciences for the University of Louisville Dental School until his retirement in 1991. He was also Visiting Professor at St. George's University, Grenada, West Indies. He received numerous awards for his innovative teaching methods and insistence on the highest standards of achievement from each student.

After retirement Bob donated many Wednesday afternoons as a Curatorial Assistant in the University of Louisville's Lovell Insect Collection, where he identified and arranged the butterflies from outside North America - a time-consuming and most welcome contribution. About half of his collection was made up of butterflies and moths from 18 countries; the other half were taken at incandescent lighting outside his home in Goshen. At least two unique Kentucky records of species resulted from his collecting. The moths will be placed in the collections at the University of Florida, Gainesville, while the butterflies will remain in his family. He is survived by his wife Katherine, children Wendy Scharfer, Dr. Richard Gregg, and Carolyn Koesters, three grandchildren, and his mother. His body he left to the University of Arizona School of Medicine, as he wanted to "teach as long as possible, even after death."

I spent many pleasant hours in the field with Bob, some in such places as Malaysia and Latin America. Bob was a Charter member of the Society and was awarded the Carl Cornett Award in 1995. I miss him very much. -  
Charlie Covell



September 6, 1997, the Kentucky Society of Lepidopterists and Boy Scout Troop I, gathered at the Pear tree Inn (Paducah, KY) to begin its annual fall field trip. The location was most appropriate as they were headed to Hickman Bottoms which had been well baited with pears from Bill Black's own pear tree. The pears really brought them, the butterflies, in.

Charlie Covell was caught taking a picture of the mating of *Limenitis archippus* (female) x *Limenitis arthemis astyanax* (male), ca. 5:00 pm CDT, ca. Bunge Corp. grain loading facility, Mississippi River, Hickman, Fulton Co., KY



# Field Trip

## The Fall Field Trip in Western Kentucky

by Charlie Covell

Bright sunshine and cool temperatures marked what has become an annual gathering of Society members in the Jackson Purchase area of Kentucky. This year our leader, Bill Black, suggested we stay at one of several motels in Paducah, and some arrived Friday night. It being quite cool, tired souls forwent blacklighting to chat about 'bugs' and learn about rare bricks in Bill Black's basement.

Next morning we met at Denny's Restaurant, and 16 boys from Paducah's Boy Scout Troop 1 (one of 13 original Boy Scout of America troops) joined us, along with some of their parents and leaders.

Bill took us to the Massac Bottoms of Rte. 60 where we visited a year ago. This is a power transmission line sited with large stands of cane and a wetland component containing many wildflowers.

There we observed, photographed or colled 34 butterfly species including such desirable ones as the Yehl Skipper (*Poanes yehl*), the Dion Skipper (*Euphyes dion*), the Snout Butterfly (*Libytheana caminata* [recently replaced the name *L. bachmani*]), the Tawny Emperor (*Asterocampa clyton*), the Hackberry Butterfly (*Asterocampa celtis*), and many others.

A little past noon the group moved to an old railroad yard site in downtown Paducah where some of us saw the Gulf Fritillary (*Agraulis vanillae*) and we also recorded several Delaware Skippers (*Atrytone logan*) and the Variegated Fritillary (*Euptoieta claudia*).

Next we went on to Fulton County and stopped at our favorite spot along Rte 94, 2.5 miles east of Cayce, in a cypress swamp habitat known as Willingham Bottoms. Water was high and flowering plants inside were not too evident. Richard Henderson joined us there, and reported Yehl and Dion skippers. I caught one Clouded Skipper (*Lerema accuis*) and we saw a few Southern Pearly-eyes and Appalachian Eyed Browns (*Satyrodes appalachia*) which is often abundant there this time of year.

We stayed only about a half-hour, then drove to our site adjacent to the Bunge Corp. grain loading facility on the Mississippi River shore at Hickman. Bill Black had put out rotten pears in abundance along with two bait traps. The Viceroy (*Limenitis achippus*) was most common there with good representations of Tawny Emperors, Hackberry Butterflies, Commas (*Polygonia comma*), Question Marks (*Polygonia interrogationis*), Red-spotted Purples (*Limenitis arthemis astyanax*) plus one individual of the Goatweed Butterfly (*Anaea andria*) in a trap.

The finale of the day was a big thrill: Taylor Paris pointed out to Charlie Covell a few male Viceroy atting with a male Red-spotted Purple on the ground close to a pile of bait. "Is this wue looking for?", he asked. It surely was, and we observed tographed the phenomenon for over a half-hour when the twoe ecaped and we caged the female Viceroy. As of this wreptember 12, that butterfly is caged and drinking honey wabbie Roundtree's lab at the University of Louisville, but has not yet laid eggs. We have our antennae crossed.

After the sun dropped over the Mississippi we parted and the trip was officially over, as most of us were too tired for blacklighting.

Members and friends who attended included: Ron King, Owensboro; Rich Henderson, the Covell's - Charlie, Chuck and Rob, and Leigh Cowan of Louisville; Cindy, Tom, Taylor and Sarah Paris of Gallatin, TN, George nret Fonda, New Albany, IN; and Bill Black, John and Russ McCracken of Paducah; plus 15 other Scouts and their parents and leaders. Editor Carolyn Roof and member Phil Sisto made brief cameo appearances' Friday night, but could not be with us on Saturday.

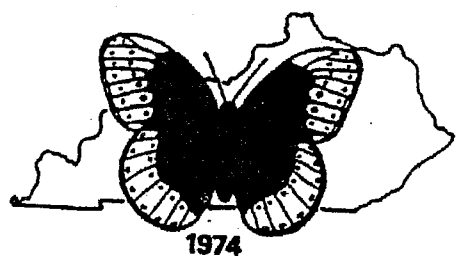
In addition, on the way out to Paducah, Rob and I stopped at Pennyriile Forest State Park where we met program directorg Hargrove and a teacher, Pat Bush from Madisonville. She wanted to learn how to tag Monarchs for the Monarch Watch Project, and we did some netting and tagging. I took them to our good spot where Swamp Metalmark (*Celephelis mutica*) has been found in the past.

It was late in the day, but we did find Leonard's Skipper (*Hesperia leonardus*) there, and many Gemmed Satyrs (*Cyllopsis gemma*). The best catch as a Southern Pearly-eye, which was a new country record. Counting what I recorded for Pennyriile Forest and the spots visited in McCracken and Fulton counties that weekend, my tally was 45 butterfly species. A few others may have escaped my listing.

And, yes, I forgot to mention: Rich Henderson spotted an Orange-barred Sulfur (*Phoebus philea*) along the Purchase Parkway that Saturday and on Friday, September 5, Bill Black caught a Long-tailed Skipper (*Urbanus proteus*) at Hickman, KY Both of these are strong fliers from the "Deep South" that occasionally show up in Kentucky.

I considered the trip to be most enjoyable from the standpoint of what we saw and the people who attended. I still wonder that so few of our members get to our field trips, and more will give it a try next time one is planned. Many thanks to Bill and Nancy Black for hosting this field meeting. I think everyone who attended had a most enjoyable time.

The Kentucky Lepidopterist Newsletter is published quarterly-January, April, July, and October.  
Membership dues are \$10.00 annually, payable at the Annual Meeting in November.  
The organization is open to all interested in Lepidoptera



MAIL EARLY



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