

Kentucky Lepidopterist

Newsletter of the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists

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officers & chairmen

President

Les Ferge

1119 Hubbard Avenue
Middletown, WI, 53562
Home Phone: 1-608-836-9438
e-mail: lesferge@junc.com

Treasurer

Charles V. Covell, Jr.

Dept. of Biology
University of Louisville,
Louisville, KY 40292-0001
Phone: 1-502-852-6771 (w)
456-6122 (h)
e-mail:
cvcove01@homer.louisville.edu

Secretary

John Enz

2308 Hikes Lane, Apt. E-26
Louisville, KY 40218

Field Trip Coordinator

Bill Black, Jr.

201 Friedman Avenue
Paducah, KY 42001
Phone: 1-502-442-9587

Newsletter Editor

Carolyn Roof

2015 Lone Oak Road
Paducah, KY 42003-5310
Phone and FAX: 1-502-554-4466
e-mail: gardener@sunsix.infi.net

At Large Members

**Jessica Hutti
Loran Gibson
Reed Watkins
Eric Metzler**

President's Message

I would like to start by saying I am honored to have been chosen president of the Kentucky Lepidopterists, and am glad to have the opportunity to help serve the organization. Being from an area having few active Lepidopterists, membership in this Society has benefited me greatly.

While I've always enjoyed the Newsletter, having the annual meeting within an easy day's driving distance has been a great opportunity to renew old acquaintances, make new ones, and lose that feeling of isolation. The meetings have never failed to recharge my enthusiasm, and it is always a good feeling to get names on some of the moths I've been struggling with, thanks to having the University of Louisville collection and the combined expertise of our members available.

While there never seems to be enough time these days to do all the things we need to, please consider making a small investment of your time to support the Kentucky Lepidopterist. Active participation by more members would provide a well-deserved break for the few now carrying the load. By contributing items for the Newsletter, serving on Society committees or holding office, you can ensure that the society of Kentucky Lepidopterists will continue in its finest tradition.

In my opinion, one of the greatest but under-utilized benefits of a regional society like ours is the opportunity for members to quickly and inexpensively publish some of their Lepidoptera observations and discoveries. With formal journals becoming increasingly dry and statistical, it's refreshing to read articles like Bill Black's Great Purple Hairstreak piece in the previous newsletter - informal but highly informative. I'm sure just about everyone has something similar to offer about an unusual find, a memorable field trip, new larval host plant and rearing information, or many other topics.

By now everyone must have heard about this year's El Nino phenomenon, and may wonder what its effect will be on the climate where we live. The prediction I heard is that the southern U. S. will have more rain, and the north can expect a milder winter, which seems to be happening so far. This could have interesting implications for the 1998 field season.

It may be significant that 1987 and 1991, two of the greatest years on record for the appearance of southern migrant butterflies in the Midwest, were years associated with mild El Nino events. Some of you may remember these years for the widespread appearance of the Cloudless Sulphur (*Phoebis sennae*). In both instances, a mild winter preceded an early, warm spring. As the present El Nino is the strongest on record, it is possible that you may find some very unusual Lepidoptera in your area in 1998.

Les Ferge, President

PROFILE

At the Annual Meeting in November, a new president was elected. The following is Les Ferge in his own words:

LES FERGE - President

I am a lifelong resident of Wisconsin, born and raised in the central part of the state near Wausau, and a graduate of the University of Wisconsin - Madison, with a BS Degree in Entomology. I have just completed 20 years with the U. S. Forest Service, forest Products Laboratory in Madison, where I am employed as a Biological Technician in the Biodeterioration of Wood work unit. Initially, I served as the assistant to a research entomologist conducting termite studies, and was involved in early work on the use of insecticide-treated baits as a more environmentally acceptable method to control termite infestations. Although termite research at the Forest Products Lab was discontinued about 12 years ago, the bait method has evolved into a successful commercial system that has recently entered the market. When the termite work ended, I shifted into working with wood decay fungi, assisting several scientists in basic studies of fungal biochemistry and applied work in the area of wood preservation, along with answering calls and letters regarding wood-destroying insects.

My interest in Lepidoptera began at about age 11, and was stimulated by collecting with friends whose father had some interest in Lepidoptera. In November, 1963, my interest was intensified into a passion when I was invited to accompany my collecting friends to view the magnificent Harold Bower collection in Wausau. Less than two months later, Harold Bower passed away and his collection went to Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History, but I was hooked for life. I regard the 1964 season as my true beginning as a serious collector, pinning and labeling specimens in the proper scientific manner like the Bower collection. In 1970, I met Bill Sieker, Madison attorney and Sphingid enthusiast, whose encouragement and guidance provided significant direction to my fledgling efforts with the the moths.

My early years were devoted predominately to studying butterflies, but as time went on, I became more and more fascinated with the moths. Moth collecting appealed to me because there were so few people doing it in Wisconsin, and it was apparent that many new and exciting discoveries potentially awaited. I have devoted much of my time to studying the *Noctuidae* of Wisconsin, and in recent years have been working to round out my knowledge of macro-moths by becoming more familiar with the *Geometridae*, with the help of a number of colleagues and insects. I have been particularly interested in associating Lepidoptera species with the great variety of habit types found in Wisconsin, which involves selecting large or typical examples of various habitats and making monthly moth collections over 2-3 years, staggering trips to eventually achieve a bi-weekly sampling interval covering the entire season. Among the most rewarding areas for interesting moth discoveries have been the few remaining examples of wet or dry native prairie, pine barrens, and Great

Lakes beach and dunes. My current emphasis is returning to sphagnum bogs and sedge wetlands, some of which may soon be overrun and ruined by rapidly invading purple looses-trife.

Beside my new position as President of the Kentucky Lepidopterists, I am a Research Affiliate of the Milwaukee Public Museum, newsletter editor for the Wisconsin Entomological organizations. 1998 is my twelfth year as the Midwest zone coordinator for the Lepidopterists' Society Season Summary.

Southern Lepidopterists Society

by Dr. James Adams

The SLS has coerced me into hosting a spring field meeting here in North Georgia mountains.

The SLS's second annual North Georgia spring field meeting will be the weekend of May 14-17, 1998. Lodging is abundantly available in the Dalton area (where I live), and if you wish to make advance reservations you may contact me (see below) for more information.

Black lighting will be available both Thursday and Friday nights, May 14 & 15. Assuming the weather cooperates, and I am available on the afternoon of May 15, as well.

The meeting will officially begin 9:00 a.m., Saturday. Participants are asked to meet at the Waffle House restaurant east of Exit 137 off I-75. Daytime collecting is planned for both Saturday and Sunday, with blacklighting on Saturday as well. For geometrid enthusiasts, the rare *Lytrosis permagnaria* should be on the wing at this time.

For more information contact me:

James K. Adams, 1702 Crow Valley Road, Apt. 704,
Dalton, GA 30720.

Home phone: 706-278-6255

Please feel free to arrive before the 14th of May, or stay until after the 17th. Although I may not be available to lead you into the field every day, I can suggest areas that may be fruitful for collecting, photography, etc.

Editor's note:

Your articles, comments, events, etc. are greatly appreciated by the Editor and members. The deadline for submitting articles, etc. for the April issue is March 15; July-June 15; October-August 15.

Pictures can be scanned and will be returned if you need them back.

e-mail: gardener@sunsix.infi.net

The 24th Annual Meeting of The Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists

By John J Enz, Secretary
Biology Department, University of Louisville
Louisville, KY USA 40292
E-mail: jjenz001@ulkyvm.louisville.edu

The 24th Annual Meeting of the Kentucky Lepidopterists took place at the University of Louisville on November 7-8, 1997. Forty-seven people were recorded as attending the two day event.

The meeting began Friday night as people gathered at Dr. Charles Covell's residence for delicious snacks, desserts and stimulating conversation.

Saturday morning, the group then reconvened in the Entomology Laboratory at the University of Louisville. Members viewed the U of L lepidopteran collection, viewed member's collections, obtained some long sought after identifications and even traded specimens.

The **Annual Board Meeting** was called to order by President Jim Taylor at 10:20 am. After approval of last years meeting minutes, Carolyn Roof reminded us to submit our January newsletter items by December 15.

Unfinished Business

There was no Unfinished business.

New Business

MOTION I: President Jim Taylor moved to accept the new Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists' constitution as published in the June newsletter. Motion seconded and was unanimously accepted. (Copies of this constitution were available and given to all members at the meeting.)

Roger Zebold, Nominating Committee Chairman, announced the nominations for new officers to be voted on during the business meeting.

Dr. Covell gave a treasurer's report and money was approved to reimburse expenses for meeting items and the Fourth of July Butterfly count. Dr. Covell also announced that Society decals were now available for \$1.50 each.

Possible speakers for next year's meeting was then discussed. We welcome any suggestions from you. The meeting was adjourned at 11:07 am.

After lunch, the **Annual Meeting** was called to order by President Jim Taylor at 1:04 pm. After approval of last year's minutes, announcements were given. Everyone was invited to attend the Winter meeting of the Ohio Lepidopterist Society on January 17 at Ohio State University.

Bill Black gave a summary of the fall field trip to Fulton County, KY. Twenty-nine people participated in the event and recorded a total of 35 butterfly species among the several field trip sites. Barry Nichols (field trip coordinator) reported that with the exception of Bill Black, he had no luck in finding volunteers to lead field trips to other parts of the state.

(If you would like to lead a field trip to your favorite site this year, please contact this year's field trip coordinator, Bill Black at 201 Friedman Ave., Paducah, KY 42001.)

The treasurer's report by Dr. Covell revealed a dangerously low balance of \$286.00. Everyone was then asked to please pay their dues on time so as to not delay the publication of next year's newsletter. Several new members were introduced and it was suggested that we publish an updated membership list with the second newsletter for 1998.

Election of new officers were then held. Results of the election were:

President - Leslie Ferge
Secretary - John Enz
Treasurer - Dr. Charles Covell
Newsletter Editor - Carolyn Roof
Field Trip Coordinator - Bill Black
Member at Large - Loran Gibson
Member at Large - Reed Watkins

Barry Nichols was presented with an Outstanding Service Award his 6 faithful years of service as Newsletter Editor.

This year's invited speaker was Mr. Ron Boender, founder of Butterfly World, America's premier butterfly park in Coconut Creek, FL. He gave us insight into his reasons for opening this center and the hard times he endured during the first few years of operation. Butterfly World has now become a great success and encourages and supports many areas of Lepidopteran research. Mr. Boender shared some of his ongoing research with us and divulged some of his secrets of butterfly rearing. I encourage everyone who gets a chance to visit this spectacular place, to do so.

Other presentations included:

James Adams, "Moth Collecting in West Texas";
Bill Black, "Great purple Hairstreak in Paducah";
Leroy Koehn, "History of Light and Bait Traps";
and Charles Covell, "Lepidoptera, Year in Review".

The annual door prize drawing concluded the meeting which was adjourned at 6:00 pm. Dinner at Masterson's restaurant followed adjournment.

FYI

The original James Bond was the author of "Birds of the West Indies" Fleming named his character after the ornithologist because the name sounded dull and ordinary.

Neat butterfly web page: oehlke@montagueint.edu.pe.ca

NEW MEMBERS

John A. (Tony) Merkle, 1501 Stephenson Road, Walton, KY 41094: Phone (h) 1-606-358-8897, (o) 1-606-341-4151

"I collect on a limited basis by sometimes rearing specimens from larvae to adults. I am very much interested in photography of Lepidoptera as well as nature and scenic subjects in general. I enjoy nature study in general especially where natural interactions or natural history aspects are involved."

Albert Jonathan Smith, Jr., 531 Whippoorwill Drive, Morehead, KY, 40351; Phone: (h) 1-606-784-7342, (w) 1-606-783-6641, ext. 278.

Jessica Luebshaw, 1204 Catherine St., Metropolis, IL 62960. - Jessica is eight years.

Marcelle Gianelloni, 1405 rosewood Ave., Louisville, KY 40204. Phone: (h) 1-502-454-3886, (w) 1-502-459-2181, ext. 328. - Marcelle is Education Director at the Louisville Zoo and is interested in butterfly gardening and live exhibits.

Steven and Valerie Passoa, ISDA/APHIS/PPQ, Museum of Biological Diversity, 1315 Kennear Road, Columbus, OH 43212 - Steven advises the USDA regarding transport of live Leiodoptera from one part of the USA to another, and related matters.

Don Reuter, 274 Westview Ave., Columbus, OH 43214. Phone: (h)1-614-436-5608, (w) 1-614-424-7214 - "I collect all Lepidoptera and Coleoptera, interested also in photography and gardening."

Ann Baird Speer, 2198 Becks Knob Road., SW, Lancaster, OH 43130-9204. Phone: (h) 1-614-653-9878 - Ann lives close to a nature preserve, and is interested in butterfly photography, gardening, watching, and art.

Jay Timberlake, 5780 Adams Road NW, DePauw, IN 47115. Phone: (h) 1-812-347-3327, (w) 1-812-738-8075. - A high school student interested in collecting butterflies and moths and drummer in his Coyrdon, IN church youth group.

Thomson and Taylor Paris, 1542 Wrights Lane, Gallatin, TN 37066-7918

Ellis Lauder milk, Ky St Nature Preserves Comm., 801 Schenkel Rd, Frankfort, KY 40601-1403. 1-502-573-2886

Bryan Lewis, 105 Westwood Dr., Elizabethtown, KY 42701. Phone: (h)1-502-769-5287, (w) 1-502-583-3577 - Bryan is naturalist at Otter Creek Park, where they now are developing a butterfly garden and improving their nature center.

Margaret Fonda and George Herbener, 1235 Voelker Dr., Corydon, IL 47112 Phone: 1-812-952-3823, e-mail: mlfond01@ulkyvm.louisville.edu and ghherb01@ulkyvm.louisville.edu

Charles Wright, 65 Springhill Road, Frankfort, KY 40601

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Jim Wiker, 212 Railroad St, Athens, IL 62613

BOOK REVIEW

The Butterflies of West Virginia and Their Caterpillars

The Butterflies of West Virginia and Their Caterpillars includes chapters on butterfly gardening and studying butterflies, as well as a key to families and subfamilies. The in depth species accounts, each with a species distribution map within the state, contains information on range, habitats, life history, including descriptions of larvae and adults, nectar sources, and host plants.

This 388 page book contains 50 color plates depicting 128 species of butterflies (30 plts), their caterpillars (13 plts) and many pupae (7 plts).

Published by University of Pittsburgh Press, it is available through the WV Division of Natural Resources, Box 67, Ward Road, Elkins, WV, 26241, \$20, soft cover ppd, and \$30 hard cover ppd. Prices are US sales and shipping. For more information: Jiseli@mail.DNR.State.WV.US

Florida's Fabulous Butterflies, by Thomas C. Emmel and Brian Kenney, World Publications, 1997, \$14.95. Some moths are included in the 96pp (large format), color illustrated (very vivid colors).

Wildflowers of Mammoth Cave National Park, by Randy Seymour, University Press of Kentucky, 1997, 254 pp., color illustrated. Useful for most of Kentucky, Indiana, and Tennessee. Durable soft cover.

Butterflies of Houston and Southeast Texas, by John and Gloria Tveten, University of Texas Press, 1996, 292 pp., color illustrated (live butterflies and caterpillars).

Pine Creek Barrens Field Trip

The Nature Conservancy, Kentucky Chapter, is sponsoring a nature walk at Pine Creek Barrens Nature Preserve, near Shelbyville, Bullitt Co., on Saturday, June 13 from 9-12. Prairie plants and butterflies will be the focus of the tour. Leaders will be Margaret Shea of The Nature Conservancy and Charlie Covell.

Please call Margaret at (606) 259-9655, or e-mail: margaret@MIS.Net for further information.

Journey North 1998 - An Invitation to Participate

From: "Donald A. Davis" <donald.davis@utoronto.ca>
LEPS-L@lists.yale.edu.n

Journey North is an excellent K-12 Internet-based science program that engages students in a global study of wildlife migration and seasonal change. It is a great way to improve science teaching and student understanding of interdependent, global ecological systems.

Now in its fifth season, the program begins on February 2nd. One of the favorite species monitored as it repopulates North America is the monarch butterfly. Students follow the monarch migration by reports of first sightings sent into the Journey North headquarters. Maps illustrating these sightings are posted.

Other species monitored by first sightings reports or by satellite tracking include bald eagle, ruby-throated hummingbird, common loon, Baltimore oriole, American Robin, whooping crane, manatee, caribou, humpback whales, right whales, gray whales.

You are invited to receive Journey North Reports and to share your "first sightings". However, you must register to receive postings and report your observations. The program is free, and there are no fees. The program is fully funded by PBS/Annenburg.

To register, go to: <http://www/learner.org/jnorth>, and click on "Register Now".

Your support of this program will assist the 5000 classrooms across Canada, the United States, and abroad that make use of this outstanding education opportunity.

I will forward your first sighting of a Monarch to Elizabeth Donnelly at Journey North. Please see the report form at the Journey North Site for the kinds of information to report (ie. date, name of observer, place, latitude-longitude if available, condition of the monarch, activity of the monarch, etc).

A LEPIDOPTERIST'S REVIEW OF 1998 continued

non there, and we have also collected 2 hybrids which indicate successful mating on other dates.

We ended the year with a fine Annual Meeting in November with Ron Boender talking about Butterfly World and his transport and rearing techniques for tropical butterflies.

The manuscript for "The Butterflies and Moths of Kentucky" was sent in to the publishing organization, the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission, at year's end, and we expect to see it with its 2,380 recorded species during 1998.

Here's wishing a happy year of butterflying and mothing to you all.

Cheers, Charlie

A LEPIDOPTERIST'S REVIEW OF 1997

by Charles V. Covell Jr.

The year 1997 was one of the most memorable among the 47, I have spent as a lepidopterist. Here in Kentucky, we got off to a wet early spring, with over 11 inches of rainfall in Louisville on March 1. Falcate Orangetips were seen on March 23, and at the Louisville Nature Center (where I am running a long-term Lepidoptera inventory) on April 6 - a new species for that preserve.

On April 25, grad student Craig Stoops and I joined British biologist Jeremy Fraser in the Daniel Boone National Forest to continue survey work supported by Jeff Hohman of the Eastern Kentucky Power Cooperatives. We were building a list of butterflies and moths occurring in powerline corridors through the DBNF. That day I was surprised to find *Amblyscirtes hegon* and *A.vialis*, *Hesperia metea*, *Mitoura augustus*, and *Calycopis cecrops* all fairly common. These were seen at several sites in Whitley and Laurel counties.

After a memorable class trip to Costa Rica, the next event was the 13th Annual July 4th Butterfly Count at the Horner Wildlife Refuge in Oldham Co., KY, on June 28. We recorded 391 individuals representing 36 species, the most notable ones being the Northern Metalmark (*Calephalis borealis*) and a Northern Pearlyeye (*Enodia anthedon*).

Next was a Lepidoptera week at the Nature Place, Florissant, CO, July 1-6. I enjoyed teaching lepidopterology with Tom Emmei and Boyce Drummond to a fine group half of which were Ron Boender's 14 family members (he is founder of Butterfly World in Florida).

The big event of the year was the 50th Anniversary meeting of the Lepidopterists' Society at Peabody Museum of Natural History, Yale University. Over 200 members attended, some from abroad (such as Olaf Mielke and Mirna Casagrande from Brazil, E.W. Classey from England, and Gerardo Lamas from Peru). It was a wonderful celebration, with workshops, sales tables, and Dr. Ron Hodges just retired from his USDA taxonomist position at the Smithsonian Institution receiving the Karl Jordan Medal for his fine publications.

After another fruitful field trip to survey the DBNF powerlines (Diana Fritillaries were visiting Joe-pye Weed blossoms), we had our fall field meeting at Paducah, Sept. 5-7. Bill Black hosted our collecting trips to Massack Bottoms and an old railroad yard in Paducah. We added Dion Skipper (*Euphyes dion*), and Yehl Skipper (*Poanes yehl*) to the McCracken Co. records, and also found the Southern Pearlyeye (*Enodia portlandia missarkae*) in the canebreaks.

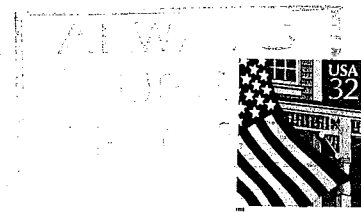
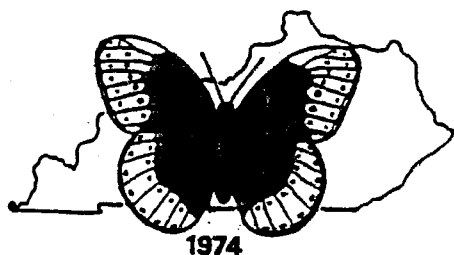
We visited our old haunt at Willingham Bottoms in Fulton Co. only briefly, then finished the Saturday on the banks of the Mississippi River in Hickman, KY. There we observed a male Red-spotted Purple mating with a female Viceroy - again! That is two different observations of this phenome-

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.

Check your mailing label to check on current membership status.

All members who have dues paid through 1997 are entitled to a free Society decal. To obtain yours, please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Charlie Covell, Dept. of Biology, University of Louisville, Louisville, KY 40292-0001. Additional decals are \$3 each. The Organization is open to all interested in Lepidoptera.

The Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists is open to all interested in lepidoptera.



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2015 Lone Oak Road, Paducah, KY 42003-5310

Loran D. Gibson
8496 Pheasant Drive
Florence KY 41042.

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