

# Kentucky Lepidopterist

Newsletter of the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists

Volume 24, Number 2 April 1998

## officers & chairmen

### President

**Les Ferge**

7119 Hubbard Avenue  
Middleton, WI, 53562

Home Phone: 1-608-836-9438

e-mail: LesFerge@juno.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

e-mail:

black@pad-uky.campus.mci.net

### 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** Phone: 606-384-0083

**Reed Watkins**

**Eric Metzler**

## President's Message

As this is being written (in mid-March), it seems like winter is having one last fling before yielding to warmer spring weather and the start of the Lepidoptera season. In my neck of the woods, January and February were in mildest on record, with high temperatures getting well above 50 degrees F. toward the end of February. Had it not been so rainy, I surely would have been out doing one of my favorite things, baiting for adult-overwintering Noctuid moths.

I thought spring had arrived for sure on March 1, when I found an unusually early Spring Cankerworm moth (*Palecrista vernata*) under the porch light. However, March can be a cruel month in Wisconsin, and this one certainly lived up to its reputation, by dumping almost a foot of heavy, wet snow on the 7th, and then turning sharply colder, with low temperatures hovering just above zero. The prospects of an early season don't seem too good at this point, but anything can happen with this unusual weather.

As you may have surmised by now, I'm eager to get out into the field. One of the attractions of studying moths is that the field season can be two or three months longer than that for butterflies. The extremely early and late parts of the season are poorly documented in many areas, and a number of interesting and infrequently encountered moth species may be found in otherwise well-known areas. Also, early spring or late fall are very pleasant times to be outdoors, free of mosquitoes, blackflies and other pesky critters.

The genera *Lithophane* and *Eupsilia* belong to the *Noctuid* sub-family *Cucullinae*, in which a large portion of the species emerge in late fall and spend the winter as adults, laying their eggs in early spring. They are best attracted to sugar bait, and generally become active when the temperature is at or above 50 degrees F.

*Eupsilia* species are particularly cold-hardy. I have found them to be active even before all the snow has melted. The most extreme experience I've had with these moths was on 25 January 1981 near Madison, WI. Ordinarily, this is the coldest part of winter, but it had been abnormally warm for a couple of days, so I decided to see if any moths could be active. I had to wade through a nearly knee-deep snow drift to get to the bait trail, and as I was applying the bait, the temperature was already dropping the mid-40s. Amazingly, several specimens of *Eupsilia vinulenta* and *E. morrisoni* did manage to find my bait.

By going out when these unusual winter thaws occur, I've been able to document moth activity in my area in every month of the year. Incidentally, these moths can become somewhat of a nuisance in maple syrup producing areas like

Wisconsin, as they are attracted to the sap buckets on the tapped trees, and sometimes become stuck inside them. Fortunately, I've never heard of anyone having a drowned moth show up in their pancake syrup.

Les Ferge, President

## New Members

Elizabeth E. Boyd, 8502 Shelbyville Road, Louisville, KY 40222; Phone 502-425-0442 (w), 394-0179 (h). She is interested in butterfly gardening and watching; conservation and preservation of habitat are her major interests.

Keith Summerville, 319 North Elm Street, Oxford, OH 45056; Phone 1-5130529-5811 (w), 524-8996 (h). "I like to collect insects from a variety of groups. My favorite Lepidoptera groups are butterflies, skippers in the genus *Erynnis*, and noctuid moths (especially genus *Papaipema*."

### Correction of Address

Les Ferge, 7119 Hubbard Avenue, Middleton, WI 53562, e-mail: lesferge@juno.com Please note the highlighted street address and e-mail area correction. The Editor typo'ed.

### Change of Address

Loran and Pat Gibson, 2727 Running Creek Drive, Florence, KY 41042; Phone 1-606-382-0083

## Book Review

### ***Caterpillars of Eastern Forests***

by David L. Wagner, Valerie Giles, Richard C. Reardon, and Michael L. McManus, USDA-Forest Service, FHTET-96-34, Nov. 1997.

The Forest Health Technology Environment Team publication has 113 pages and paper cover. The color figures are superb, representing 210 of the 245 moth and butterfly species treated in the work are illustrated. Sections on the importance, collecting, rearing, preserving, photographing, etc. of Lepidoptera caterpillars are included.

Order your FREE copy by writing:

Allen T. Bullard, Director, FHTET Morgantown, 190 Canfield St., Morgantown, WV 26505, or phone 1-304-285-1563, or FAX 1-304-285-1505.

(ed. note: Charlie Covell sent the above and before including it, I thought it wise to FAX for it to check the FAX number, how FREE it was, and what the turn around time was. It is all that it is advertised to be, plus. It is a wonderful 8 1/2" x 11" book of magnificent color. Caterpillars for the most part were hand raised and are show in appropriate leaves. And Charlie was one of the advisers on the book.)

## Spring Field Trip

The Spring Field Trip will be held in Laurel County, southeastern Kentucky on the weekend of April 17-19, under the leadership of Loran Gibson.

Saturday, April 18, Loran said that we will spend the day searching for spring butterflies in the Laurel Lake area. Anyone interested in locating larvae of small moths, especially *Olethreutes* species is welcome to accompany Loran on his wanderings.

Butterflies which should be present include the Swallowtails, *Erynnis* skippers, *Hesperia metea*, Elfins (*I. henrici*, *I. augustus*). West Virginia whites and Gemmed Satyrs are usually common in this area. There is always the possibility of seeing a White M Hairstreak.

Loran advised. "Photograph all you want, but collectors, as always, should be conservative!"

Blacklighting for moths will be available for anyone interested on Saturday evening. Join Loran at one of several of his all-time favorite collecting sites. Details for blacklighting and for the following day's activities will be made on Saturday.

**If you are planning on going**, Loran would like to hear from you and will send a map. **Call**, after 5:00 pm Eastern time) at 606-384-0083, **or e-mail** at: kymothman@juno.com.

**When:** Saturday, April 18, 9:00-10:00am Eastern time, gather.

**Where:** Bald Rock Picnic Area, KY Route 192, Daniel Boone National Forest. Exit I-75, exit 38, west on Ky Route 192 for approximately 11 miles. The picnic area is at the site of the old Bald Rock Fire Tower (on the right).

**Food:** Lunch will be in the field, so bring what you need. A couple of small country stores are located in the immediate area, but little else.

**Lodging:** There are many locations from which to choose.

#### **Motels:**

Best Western, I-75 & KY Rte. 80, exit 41, 1-800-528-1234  
\$51-single; \$70-double  
Hampton Inn, I-75 & KY Rte. 192, exit 38, 1-800-HAMPTON  
\$60-king/1 person; \$70 -king/2 persons; \$72 2 doubles  
Days Inn, I-75 & KY Rte. 192, exit 38, 1-800-DAYS-INN  
\$50 single; \$61 double  
Budget, I-75 & KY Rte. 80, exit 41, 1-800-283-4678  
\$37 single; \$44 double  
(This is Loran's choice and he added that it was clean, good value and to CALL EARLY!)

#### **Camping:**

Holly Day Rec. Area (USDA-Forest Service)...very nice!  
Tent per night - \$7: Full hook-up per night - \$14  
Call 1-800-280-CAMP for reservations and information

1998 Members	KY leps	Revised 4-1-98						
First Name	Last Name	Dues	Address	City, State, Zip	Home Phone	Work Phone	E-mail address	
Keith.	Summerville,	pd98,	319 North Elm St.,	Oxford OH 45056.	H-(513)524-8996.	W-(513)529-5811.		
James A.	Taylor,	pd98,	4 Tangle Tree Lane,	Savannah GA 31411.				
Jay.	Timberlake,	pd98,	5780 Adams Rd. NW,	DeFauw IN 47115.	H-(812)347-3327.	W-(812)738-8075.		
Edward D.	Triner,	pd97,	5100 US Hwy 42 #741,	Louisville KY 40241.	H-(502)327-6441.			
Reed A.	Watkins,	pd98,	9238 Cyo Rd.,	Dayton OH 45458.	H-(937)885-2301.			
Charles N.	Watson Jr.,	pd97,	300 Royal Oak Blvd. #207,	Franklin TN 37067.	H-(615)791-6469.			
Wendy.	Weger-Tietlen,	pd97,	3728 Frankfort Rd.,	Shelbyville KY 40065.	H-(502)647-0493.	W-(502)452-8113.		
James R.	Wilker,	pd97,	212 Railroad St.,	Athens IL 62613.				
Charles.	Wright,	pd98,	65 Springhill Road,	Frankfort KY 40601-9211.	H-(502)223-4523.	W-(502)564-2356.		
Donald J.	Wright,	pd98,	3349 Morrison Ave.,	Cincinnati OH 45220.				
Roger A.	Zebold,	pd98,	675 B Sprague Rd.,	Wilmington OH 45177.				
J. Benjamin.	Ziegler,	pd98,	64 Canoe Brook Parkway,	Summit NJ 07901-1434.	H-(908)273-2288.			
Harry.	Zirlin,	pd97,	39-60 54th St., #10E,	Woodside NY 11377.				
Acquisitions.	Section,	pd95,	Dept. of Library Services, Natural History Museum, Cromwell Rd	London SW7 5BD England.				
BIOSIS.	U.K.,	EX,	Garforth House, 54 Micklegate, York,	North Yorkshire YO1 1LF England.				
Library.	Acquisitions,	pd98,	Smithsonian Institution, 10th & Constitution Ave.,	Washington DC 20560.				
Xerces.	Society,	EX,	4828 SE Hawthorne Blvd.,	Portland OR 97215-3252.				
Sociedad.	Mexicana,	EX,	de Entomologia, Apartado Postal 63, 91000 Xalapa,	Veracruz MEXICO.				
		EX,	Allyn Museum of Entomology, 3621 Bay Shore Road,	Sarasota FL 34234.				
PLEASE SEND CORRECTIONS TO JOHN ENZ ABOVE								

Kentucky Society of Lepidopterists  
 Dr. Charles Covell, Treasurer  
 Dept. of Biology  
 University of Louisville  
 Louisville, KY USA 40292-0001

I value my membership in The Kentucky Society of Lepidopterists and want to continue as a member in good standing. I am enclosing my membership dues of \$10.00, which are payable November of each year.π

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_

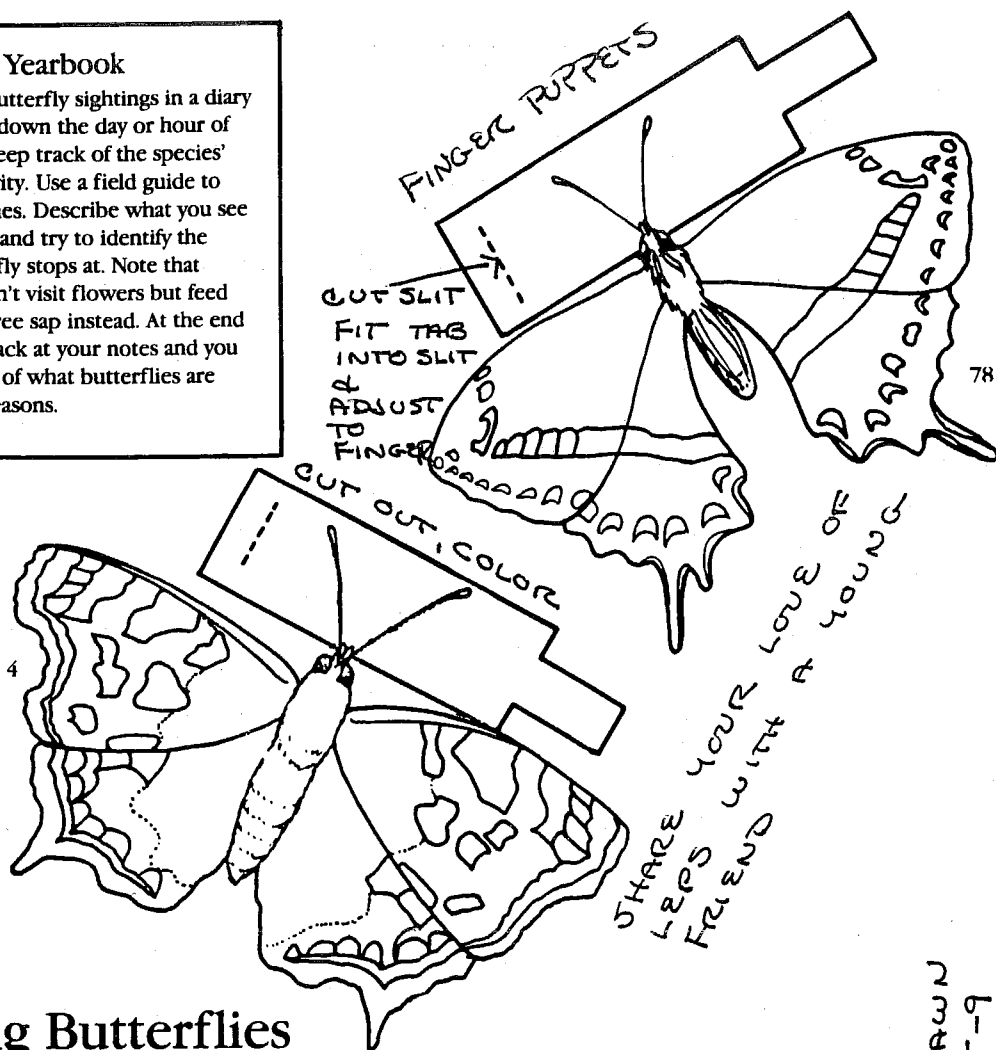
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

1998 Members	KY Ieps	Revised 4-1-98							
First Name	Last Name	Dues	Address	City, State, Zip	Home Phone	Work Phone	E-mail address		
Andrew.	Klusesener,	pd98,	2956 Harrison Ave. # 4,	Cincinnati OH 45211.					
Neil D.	Koditruwakku,	pd97,	2825 Lexington Rd., Box 80209,	Louisville KY 40280	H-(502)897-4226.				
Leroy C.	Koehn,	pd98,	207 Quail Trail,	Greenwood MS 38930-7315.	H-(601)455-5498.				
Gerardo.	Lamas M.,	pd 98,	Museum de Historia Natural, Javier Prado Avenida, Arenales 124	Lima 14 Peru.					
Laudermilk.	Ellis,	pd97,	KY State Nat Pres Comm, 801 Schenkel Road,	Frankfort KY 40601-1403.					
Bryan.	Lewis,	pd97,	105 Westwood Dr.,	Elizabethton KY 42701.	H-(502)769-5287.				
Jessica.	Leubshaw,	pd98,	1204 Catherine St.,	Metropolis IL 62960.	H-(618)524-3665.				
Deborah & Michael	McInnis,	pd98,	3620 Eagles Trail,	Floyds Knobs IN 47119.					
Stephanie.	McKown,	pd97,	6245 W. Kuna Road,	Kuna ID 83634.					
Bryant	Mather,	pd97,	213 Mt. Salus Dr.,	Clinton MS 39056-5007.	H-(601)924-6360.	W-(601)634-3264	matherb@exl.wes.army.mil		
John A.	Merkle,	pd98,	1501 Stephenson Rd.,	Walton KY 41094	H-(606)356-8897.				
Eric H.	Meitler,	pd98,	1241 Kildale Square N.,	Columbus OH 43229-1306.					
Carlos G.C.	Melike,	EX,	Rua Pa. Oswaldo Gomes 646,81500 Curitiba.	Parana, Brasil.					
Olaf H.H.	Melke,	EX,	Depto. do. Zoologia, Univ. Federal do Parana, Caixa Postal 190281531 Curitiba, Parana, Brasil.	SF-00100 Helsinki, Finland.					
Kauri.	Mikkola,	EX,	Depto. of Zoology, Univ. of Helsinki, P. Rautatiekatu 13,						
Mark.	Miles,	pd98,	1326 Marview Dr.,	Westlake OH 44145.	H-(216)871-9461.				
Paul F.	Miller,	pd97,	272 Snye Drive,	Pisgah Forest NC 28768.	H-(704)877-5953.				
Mark S.	Monroe,	pd98,	P.O. Box 23447,	Anchorage KY 40223.					
Stanley S.	Nicolay,	pd97,	1500 Wakelield Dr.,	Virginia Beach VA 23455.					
Barry S.	Nichols,	pd97,	7004 Ethan Allen Way,	Louisville KY 40272.	H-(517)321-2192.		W-(502)852-6771 bmn@iglou.com		
Mogens C.	Nielsen,	pd97,	3415 Overlea Dr.,	Lansing MI 48917-2255.	H-(307)742-8668.				
John S.	Nordin,	pd97,	2217 Sky View Lane,	Laramie WY 82070.					
Giovanni.	Onore,	EX,	Dept. de Biologia, Pontificia Univ. Catolica del Ecuador, Aptido,	Quito Ecuador.					
Brianard Jr.	Palmer-Ball,	pd97,	8207 Old Westport Rd.,	Louisville KY 40222.					
Thomson & Taylor	Paris,	pd98,	1542 Wrights Lane,	Gallatin TN 37066-7918.	H-(615)452-5428.				
David K.	Parshall,	pd98,	4424 Rosemary,	Columbus OH 43214.	H-(614)262-0038.				
Steven & Valerie.	Passoa,	pd98,	ISDA/APHIS/FPQ, Museum of Biological Diversity, 1315 Kinneal	Columbus OH 43212.					
Harry.	Pavulaan,	pd97,	494 Fillmore St.,	Herron VA 22070.	H-(301)713-2829.				
John W.	Peacock,	pd98,	185 Benzler Lust Rd.,	Marion OH 43302.	H-(614)889-4886.				
Paul F.	Pfenninger,	pd97,	4085 Floral Drive,	Boynton Beach FL 33436.					
Dr. Austin P.	Platt,	pd98,	Dept. Biology, Univ. of Maryland, 1000 Hilltop Circle,	Catonsville MD 21250.			W-(410)455-2241.		
James J.	Popeika,	pd97,	48 Winding Way,	Morris Plains NJ 07950.	H-(718)303-0734.				
Don.	Reuter,	pd98,	274 Westview Ave.,	Columbus OH 43214.	H-(614)436-5608.				
Roy W.	Rings,	pd97,	1840 Christmas Run Blvd.,	Wooster OH 44691.	H-(330)264-0961.		W-(614)424-7214.		
Carolyn.	Roof,	pd94,	2015 Lone Oak Rd.,	Paducah KY 42003-5310.	H-(502)554-4466.				
Federick B.	Ruggles,	pd98,	5529 Corkhill Dr.,	Dayton OH 45424.	H-(937)233-6715.				
William H.	Russell,	pd97,	772 Yorkshire Rd. NE,	Atlanta GA 30306.	H-(404)876-3655.				
Mark.	Rzeszolanski,	pd98,	12811 Viricnt Dr.,	Chesterland OH 44026.					
Michael.	Sabourin,	pd97,	23476 Johnson Rd.,	Grantsburg WI 54840-8359.	H-(715)463-3324.				
Elizabeth G.	Schlater,	pd97,	1242 S. Brook St., Apt. # 2,	Louisville KY 40203.	H-(502)634-3995.				
Brian.	Scholten's,	pd98,	Biology Dept., Univ. of Charleston,	Charleston SC 29424.	H-(803)856-0186.		W-(803)953-5451 scholten@coic.edu		
Robert W.	Schraunmfeffer,	pd98,	417 E. State St.,	Olean NY 14760.					
John A.	Shuey,	pd98,	1131 S. Hanson,	Shelbyville IN 46176.					
Phil.	Sisto,	pd99,	170 Skyark Drive,	Paducah KY 42001.					
Suzette.	Slocumb,	pd98,	219 W 68th St.,	Kansas City MO 64113.	H-(816)523-2948.				
Albert J.	Smith Jr.,	pd98,	531 Whippoorwill Dr.,	Morehead KY 40351.	H-(606)764-7342.		W-(606)783-6641.		
Larry E.	Smith,	pd98,	1950 South Main St.,	Manfield OH 44907.	H-(419)756-4110.				
Ann Baird.	Speer,	pd98,	2193 Becks Knob Rd. SW,	Lancaster OH 44330-9204.	H-(614)653-9878.				
Craig A.	Stoops,	pd97,	2412 Ashwood Drive,	Louisville KY 40205.	H-(502)454-5660.				



### How to Keep a Yearbook

Record all of your butterfly sightings in a diary or notebook. Write down the day or hour of each observation. Keep track of the species' identity and its activity. Use a field guide to identify the butterflies. Describe what you see in your own words, and try to identify the flowers each butterfly stops at. Note that some butterflies don't visit flowers but feed on rotting fruit or tree sap instead. At the end of each year, look back at your notes and you will get a good idea of what butterflies are found at different seasons.



### Watching Butterflies

Butterflies can be enjoyed and studied by watching or photography. For watching find a productive spot and quietly approach a butterfly or stand back and use a pair of light-weight binoculars or opera glasses. If you approach too closely the butterfly's natural behavior will be disturbed; netting is sometimes needed for identification but also disrupts the butterfly's behavior. A 35-mm single lense reflex camera with close-up lens is necessary to obtain suitable images of butterflies. You may use either print or slide film. Photography adds to the challenge of watching butterflies, and the photographs provide you a record of your important sightings. You should also maintain a notebook of your observations.

Butterflies can be found in most areas from April through September. Butterflies may be found in southern Florida and South Texas throughout the year, and in northern Canada the butterfly season doesn't begin until late May. Each kind of butterfly has its own flight time and habitat. During the day most butterflies may be found from 9 AM to about 4 PM.

To find all of the butterflies near where you live you will have to visit each of the different kinds of habitats at different times of spring, summer, and early fall. You will be rewarded by finding almost all of the local species. Use the knowledge learned near your home to more easily find butterflies when you travel around the U.S. and Canada.

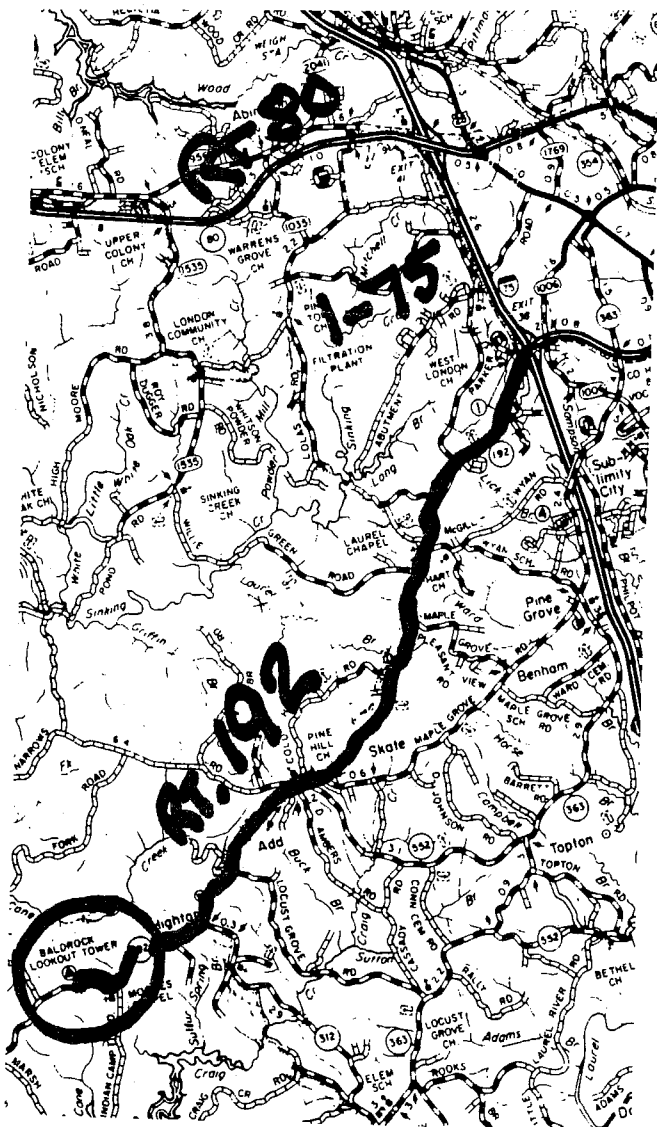
FROM  
 BUTTERFLIES EAST & WEST  
 A BOOK TO COLOR  
 TEXT BY PAUL A. OPLER  
 ARTWORK BY SUSAN STRAWN  
 ISBN 1-879373-45-9

# Its Coming, really

Charlie Covell assured me that *The Butterflies and Moths (Lepidoptera) of Kentucky* is nearing preparation, after some editing and manuscript preparation by Ellis Lauder mild, at the Kentucky State Preserves Commission. This is a work that has been in the works for many, many years and will be well worth the few extra months.

At least 2,381 species in 65 families will be included. Charlies says to stay tuned for information on the release date and how you can obtain a copy.

## Laurel County & Bald Rock Site



# Other Trips

## Bernheim Forest

The Spring Butterfly Walk at Bernheim Forest on Saturday, April 11 (Easter Saturday)). Charlie Covell will lead a walk with effort on learning to identify butterflies without collecting them as long as there are people interested in attending.

Please contact trip leader Charlie Covell, Dept. of Biology, University of Louisville, Louisville, KY 40292; Phone1-502-852-6771; e-mail: cvcover01@ulkyvm.louisville.edu.

## July Fourth Butterfly Count

The 15th Annual July 4th Butterfly Count will be conducted at the Horner Wildlife Sanctuary, July 4, 1998, 10:00 am-3:00pm eastern time.

Anyone wishing to participate - either as counter, recorders, or learners - please contact trip leader Charlie Covell, Dept. of Biology, University of Louisville, Louisville, KY 40292; Phone1-502-852-6771; e-mail: cvcover01@ulkyvm.louisville.edu.

Charlie said that we will meet at the General Store in Brownsboro, one mile north of I-71, exit 14, at 9:30 am.

## Mammoth Cave Survey

The Kentucky Chapter-The Nature Conservancy is sponsoring a Lepidopter survey at Mammoth Cave National Park this year in cooperation with the National Park Service.

The survey will attempt to list the species of Lepidoptera in above-ground sites in the Park that are prairie remnants worthy of management by TNC. Involved are Margaret Shea of TNC, Charles V. Covell, Jr., and University of Louisville Ph.D. student Paul Florence.

## Pine Creek Nature Preserve

The Kentucky Chapter-The Nature Conservancy is sponsoring a Lepidoptera Field Trip to Pine Creek Nature Preserve, Bullitt County, June 13, 9:00 am-12:00 pm.

Contact trip leader Charlie Covell at the above numbers.

## Fall Field Trip

Bill Black has planned, once again, a fall trip for us to the Hickman Bottoms, and other neat places, September 11-13. As always, we will meet at Pear Tree Inn, I-24, Exit 4, Paducah, KY. For more information call him at: 502-442-9587, or e-mail: black@pad-uky.campus.mci.net.

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.

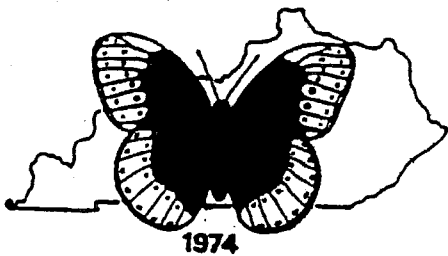
**Check your mailing label as to membership status - a butterfly indicates you are in good standing .**

## Calendar of Events

For more information see previous page. Send me your events to add to this new feature. Also your e-mail as well so that I can get late breaking news about trips and other things out to you with enough lead time to enable you to plan to go.

- |  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| April 11 - Bernheim Forest             | Contact Charlie Covell |
| April 17-19 - Bald Rock Fire Tower     | Loran Gibson           |
| June 13 - Pine Creek Nature Preserve   | Charlie Covell*        |
| July 4 - Homer Wildlife Sanctuary      | Charlie Covell*        |
| September 11-13 - Fall Field Trip      | Bill Black*            |
| November - Annual Meeting, Louisville* |                        |

\* More information in July and September newsletters



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KENTUCKY



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2015 Lone Oak Road, Paducah, KY 42003-5310

Loran & Pat  Gibson  
2727 Running Creek Dr.  
 Florence KY 41042.

pd98

