

# Kentucky Lepidopterist

Newsletter of the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists

Volume 25, Number 1 January 1999

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## 1998 Field Trip Review

by Charles V. Covell

The first field trip was to Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest, Bullitt Co., on April 11, where 11 of us including Sean Lube, Zack Dembo, Eric Belcher and his family, and Yin-rei Hicks accompanied me.

Usual spring species such as *Battus philenor*, *Pterourus glaucus*, *P. troilus*, *Pieris virginiensis*, and *Callophrys grynea* and *C. henrici*. Dave Ahrenholz visited there on April 16, and added *E. marcellus* and *Anthocharis midea* to the year's Bernheim list.

I visited Campbellsville, Taylor Co., to give a talk at Campbellsville College on April 24. We had a field trip at Clay Hill Memorial Forest, and recorded the three swallowtails listed above, plus *Pieris virginiensis*, *A. midea*, and *Cyllopsis gemma* to the Kentucky county lists.

On June 13, I led a group trip to Pine Creek Barrens Nature Preserve under the auspices of Margaret Shea of The Nature Conservancy. Loran Gibson, Tony Merkle and the Belchers were there, along with some folks from The Nature Conservancy. We took lots of pictures of butterflies on purple coneflowers, including *Pompeius verna*, *Atrytone logan*, *Eurytides marcellus*, *Heraclides crespontes*, *Harkenclenus titus*, *Satyrium edwardsii*, *S. calanus falacer*, *E. claudia*, *Chlosyne nycteis*, and several others - 29 species in all.

On June 23, I went to Mammoth Cave National Park to establish plans for a survey of insects in grassland habitats. Of the 15 butterfly species seen, the most notable was the Common Wood Nymph (*Cercyonis pegala*). Paul Florence and I returned on the 26th for the first mothing night, and made our first inventory light collections and field sweeps. Only eight common butterfly species were recorded.

Our 14th July 4 Butterfly Count at Horner Wildlife Sanctuary at Brownsboro, Oldham Co., was held on July 5. Members Charles Wright and Eric Belcher and a friend, Jon Irons, were among those helping.

We recorded 673 butterflies in 30 species.

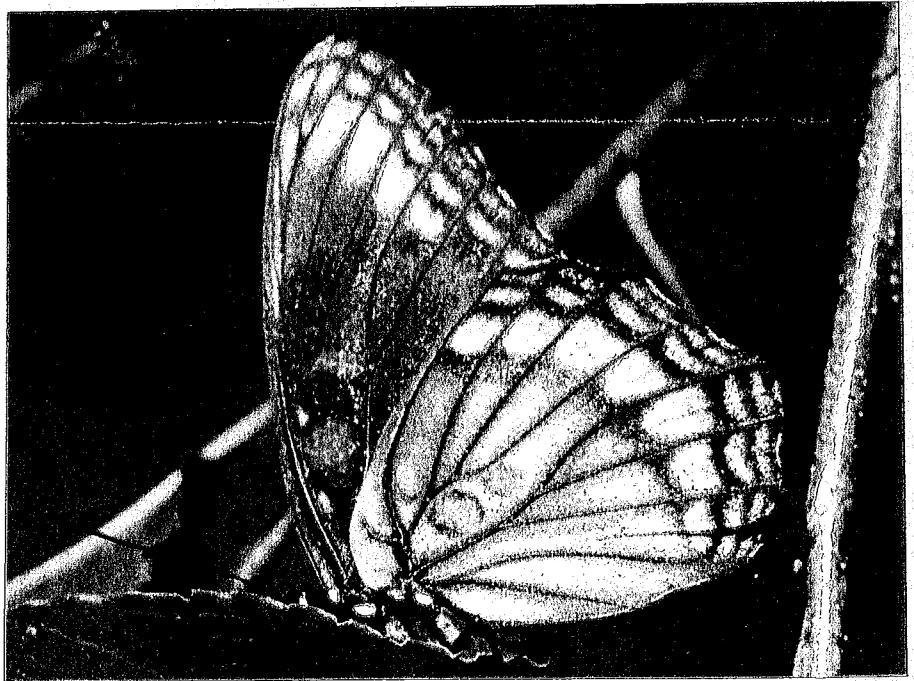
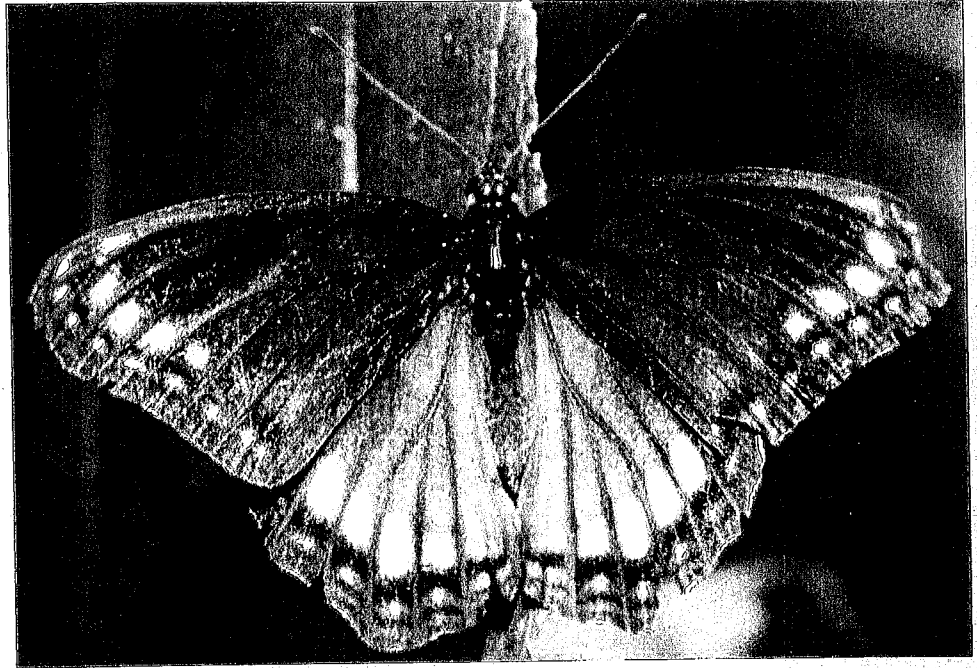
Numbers seemed down a little, but we counted 209 Pearl Crescents (*Phyciodes tharos*) and found the Eastern Tailed Blue (*Everes comyntas*), second (96) and Little Wood Satyr (*Megisto cymela*) third at 92 individuals. Especially good sightings included *Pompeius verna*, *Satyrium edwardsii*, *Callophrys grynea*, the Northern Metalmark (*Calephalis borealis*) (seen for the first time nectaring on white sweetclover blossoms), Snout Butterfly (*Libytheana carminenta bachmanii*), and the Meadow Fritillary (*Boloria bellona*).

cont. on page 3

Bill Black has a knack of finding the unique in Western Kentucky. The Annual Field Trip to that part of the state in September proved to no less exciting for us. The Find in the Massac Creek Bottoms was this butterfly. Bill describes it as follows: "Limenitis hybrid collected by Bill Black during the Kentucky Lepidopterists' Field Trip, 13 Sept 98; at the Streetman Site, Massac Creek at Hinkleville Rd. (old U. S. Hwy 60); Paducah, McCracken Co, KY." What Bill does not say is that he has been scouting this area for some time and that it is one of the few remaining canebrakes in the area. Nor did he mention that as we approached the field of shoulder high grasses, Queen Anne's lace, sunflowers, and other wildflowers which led to the cane break, the owner came riding out on his tractor to warn us that a cougar had been spotted in that area.

Compare this hybrid with Bob Gregg's 1993 Hickman "rubidus" in Charlie Covell's paper on hybrid mating, published in the *Journal of the Lepidopterists' Society* 48(3), 1994, 199-204.

Photos by Charlie Covell



# September Field Trip Find

Cont. from page 1

As late summer came on, it was more and more evident that southern butterflies were more common than usual. Sean Lube reported a Gulf Fritillary (*Agraulis vanillae*) ovipositing on passionvine in his yard in Woodford Co. (new county record), and another adult was reported from Bowling Green, information relayed from Brainard Palmer-Ball.

Our field trip to Paducah on September 11-13, was the best ever, with record numbers of the Cloudless Sulfur, (*Phoebis sennae eubule*), recorded along the interstates from Louisville westward. Loran Gibson and I stopped at Pennyrile Forest State Park on the way out and saw several species including the Carolina Satyr, (*Hermeuptychia sosybius*), and several other common species (but no Leonard's Skipper nor Swamp Metalmarks).

On Saturday, a good-sized crowd (including Rich Henderson, Loran Gibson, Sean Lube, Zack Dembo, Phil Sisto, Carolyn Roof, Todd Wiley, Dabney Haugh and Charles Wright) joined us at Denny's Restaurant in Paducah and followed Bill Black to Massac Creek Bottoms where we recorded such treasures as: *Amblyscirtes aesculapius*, *Poanes yehl*, *Lerema accius*, and the Southern Pearlyeye, (*Enodia portlandia missarkae*).

Then we went to the Paducah & Louisville RR yard where we saw at least a dozen Gulf Fritillaries, some mating, and some larvae and eggs. Also there we added the Southern Dogface (*Zerene cesonia*), Sleepy Orange (*Eurema nicippe*), and Little Sulfur (*Eurema lisa*) to our list. We got some very good photo opportunities.

Another spot was a big field near a railroad cutoff called the "Zip Track" where *Eupatorium* and white asters were abundant. There we made history, seeing multiple individuals of the Duke's Skipper, (*Euphyes dukesi*), Great Purple Hairstreak (*Atlides halesus*) and White M Hairstreak, (*Parhassius m-album*) on the blossoms. *A. vanillae* and *L. carminenta* were there, too, the latter abundantly.

On Sunday morning, September 13, we returned to the Massac Creek Bottoms site, where the prize was yet another hybrid Viceroy x Red-spotted Purple collected by Bill Black. We then drove to the vicinity of Wickliffe, Ballard Co., 25 miles west of Paducah, and recorded 23 species, including *L. accius*, *Heraclides crespontes*, *Z. cesonia*, *E. nicippe*, *E. lisa*, the Wanderer (*Fenistica tarquinius*) and others. Then we were lured back to the "Zip Track" site in Paducah, where we enjoyed more of the same butterflies recorded the day before. Total number of species I recorded, with help of others present, was 52.

All during the season at home I had been watching flowers and later bait trap to record the butterflies. My final count was 30 species, the prize being a Long-tailed Skipper, (*Urbanus proteus*), on butterfly bush blossoms on Oct. 11.

My last addition was on October 13 - a Variegated Fritillary (*Euptoieta claudia*).

These are highlights.

It was a fantastic year, although the Monarch was in low numbers throughout the season. Those seeking Diana Fritillary (*Speyeria diana*), in eastern counties mostly came up empty, and the Great-spangled Fritillary (*Speyeria cybele*) was not as common as usual. This coming year let's look for rarities: The Regal Fritillary (*Speyeria idalia*), should turn up if we look for it carefully.

And there are many other places to explore in the wilds of Old Kentucky.

## New Members and Changes

### New:

Clay Black, 7377 Tarrytown Drive, Spring Hill, FL 34606.  
Work phone: (352) 796-7211.

Marvin Taylor, 2409 Topeka Rd., Lexington, KY 40503.  
Home phone: (606)277-2589.

"I began studying butterflies 2 years ago and I love it. It is such fun. This year, I was appointed in charge of the butterfly garden at the Arboretum on the University of Kentucky campus. The monarch is my favorite. I feel honored to become a member of this society."

### Changes:

All Kentucky residents who currently have a 502 area code and live west of Louisville (some exceptions) will have that changed to 270 effective November 1. Starting April 1, you may dial either number until November.

Andrew Kluesenen's new address is 2905 Linwood Ave. #38, Cincinnati, OH 45208

Young Entomologists' Society, Inc., new address is 6907 West Grand River Ave., Lansing, MI 48906-9131,  
FX 517-886-0630, e-mail YESnetwk@aol.com

## Member News

March 14, Charlie Covell will give a slide-illustrated public lecture at the Louisville Main Library, 301 York St., Louisville, at 7:30 PM. The topic, of course, is "The World of Butterflies and Moths."

It is free and open to the public.

## Butterfly News

### Viceroy License Plate

Kentucky will add a third "Nature's Finest" option to the two already in use as fund raisers for conservation programs - the Cardinal and Kentucky Coffee Tree; and Kentucky Warbler and tulip poplar. The former is selected two to one over the latter. One of the four choices the public may vote for is our state insect - Viceroy, which is competing with the bobcat, bass, and deer.

Anyone with a valid Kentucky driver's license may vote by calling 1-800-858-1549 or voting by internet at [www.nr.stateky.us/nrepc/dnt/dnrhome2.htm](http://www.nr.stateky.us/nrepc/dnt/dnrhome2.htm).

Please take time to vote as soon as possible for the critter of your choice.

(ed. note -

The Viceroy was named as state insect at the urging {lobbying not allowed} of The Garden Club of Kentucky, Inc. Nellie Meadows, noted Kentucky watercolorist, painted the Viceroy on goldenrod to help promote the 'urging'. This has been made into a print and note cards. If you would like either, please e-mail, fax, phone, or write me - see page one for the needed information)

## The Lepidopterists' Society

### Annual Meeting

The annual meeting will be held at the Windermere Conference Center in Sierra Vista, AZ August 4-8. Registration is \$90 before May 1, \$105 after. Cookout is \$33 and banquet \$18.

For more information please see NEWS of the Lepidopterist Society, Vol. 40, no. 5, or contact Charlie Covell (see front page for address, phone, e-mail, etc. He will send the new membership brochure to you for free.

## Garden Club Programs, Workshops, etc.

The National Council of State Garden Clubs (the largest gardening organization in the world) will place emphasis on butterflies during the administration (June 1, 1999-May 31, 2001) of Deen Day Smith. The Day Butterfly House, Callaway Gardens was named in honor of her husband. KyLEPS members have been requested to offer their expertise, etc. to the local garden clubs. If you do not know your local garden club(s), contact - Carolyn Roof.

## Field Trip Announcements

### April 10 - Bernheim

April 10, a spring butterflying trip is planned again for Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest in Bullitt Co., KY near Clermont. I-65, Clermont Exit, follow signs.

We will meet at the main gate of Bernheim at 9:30 AM, and be out by about 3:30. In case of bad weather, it will be held the following Saturday at the same time.

For further information, and to be on the list to attend, contact Charlie Covell.

## June 25-27 Pike County Field Trip

Les Estep and Joan Carr will host an early Summer Field Trip at their home in Pike Co. - Kentucky's easternmost county. They invite collectors to bring black lights and light traps for moths. The Diana Fritillary exists there, and they will guide us to sites where they hope we can observe it. Because of its scarcity, they request that we refrain from collecting it in the sites they show us. Full details will be in the June issue, or contact: Joan Carr, 511 Happy Valley, S. Williamson, KY 41502, 1-606-237-1119

## July 3 Butterfly Count

The annual July 4th Count will be held July 3, Sat., Horner Wildlife Sanctuary, Brownsboro, KY, 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. EDT. For more information contact Charlie Covell.

## September 3-6 Fall Field Trip

The Labor Day Weekend has been chosen in hopes of finding the Duke's Skipper in its prime at the Zip Track Site in Paducah. The extra day will allow an expanded trip. We can seek Eric Quinter's latest new species of cane related moth at the Massac Creek Bottoms site. Bring your best light traps and best bait traps.

Some of you may wish to arrive Friday afternoon, Sept. 3. We will rendezvous at 8:30 a.m. CDT, Sep. 4 at Denny's for breakfast. You will be welcome to continue through into Monday Sept 6, if your itinerary will allow.

Paducah is easily reached by I-24. There are 11 motels at Exit 4; and four motels and an RV campground at Exit 3.

Spouses are invited to visit the Museum of American Quilters Society and historic downtown.

For more information contact Bill Black.

# November 1999 Annual Meeting



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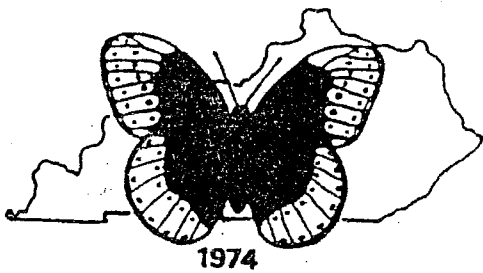
President Les Ferge

Business Meeting participants, and

Program Presenter Chip Taylor

at the Annual meeting held at the Life Sciences  
Building, University of Louisville

The Kentucky Lepidopterist Society 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.



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