

# Kentucky Lepidopterist

Newsletter of the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists

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## THE SOCIETY OF KENTUCKY LEPIDOPTERISTS

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George Balogh - 2002\*  
Dr. James K. Adams - 2003\*  
\* term expires

#### The Society of Kentucky

Lepidopterists is open to anyone with an interest in the Lepidoptera of the State of Kentucky. Membership dues are annual: \$10.00. Dues sent to the Treasurer: Les Berge, 7119 Hubbard Avenue, Middleton, WI 53562

## SPRING FIELD MEETING IN THE RED RIVER GORGE

HOSTED BY LEROY C. KOEHN

The week end of April 21 & 22, the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists will hold a spring field meeting in the Red River Gorge area of the Daniel Boone National Forest. It has been a number of years since we have visited the Red River Gorge and past visits have been memorable. We will be seeking the early spring treasures: Erynnis lucilius, E. martialis, Hesperia metea, Amblyscirtes hegon, Pieris virginianensis, Incisalia augustus, I. Nippon, Parrhastus m-album, Erora laeta, Celastrina nigra (ebenina), and Glaucoopsyche lygdamus.

We will meet Saturday morning at 9AM in the parking area of the Shell Gas Station at the Slade Exit #33 of the Mountain Parkway. The Shell Gas Station is on the north side of the parkway. (See map below on Page #2) We will travel into the Gorge and visit several localities. If you can not join us at the meeting place at Slade, I will have my cell phone (502-803-5422) with me. During the scouting trips into the Gorge my cell phone received a signal. Please call me for directions, or follow the directions on the map below. There are several areas east of Slade along the Mountain Parkway that look very promising for Incisalia nippon. I. nippon is a seldom encountered species, however, it can be quite common when found. To the west of Slade and to the south of Stanton on SR213, Erynnis lucilius has been recorded. I scouted the area in late March and found several areas with columbine, the host plant of E. lucilius. We will also visit a locality where Erora laeta has been found. I scouted this area several times in February and March. This area was clear cut 10 to 15 years ago and the majority of the trees are under 20 feet tall. This area is very similar to other areas where has been found E. laeta. Depending on the weather, we will light for moths in the Gorge Saturday night. We will also set out light traps in various habitats

We will also attempt to locate large cane brakes in the Gorge. We plan to set out bait traps in these cane brakes during the summer and into late fall to find Enodia creola, Enodia portlandia, and Satyrodes appalachia. We will also light trap the cane brakes from late summer into late fall for the cane feeding Papaiperna moths.

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SASE

We will meet again on Sunday at the Shell Gas Station at the Slade Exit #33 of the Mountain Parkway and visit an area of Daniel Boone National Forest to the south of Slade in Lee County. This area should produce all of the species found in Red River Gorge and the possibility of Euchloe olympia and Erynnis martialis. There are also extensive areas with stands of Red Cedar which may contain populations of Mitoura grynea.

The weather in the spring can be very un-cooperative, if you plan to attend, contact Leroy C. Koehn at: 502-570-9123, on Thursday, 19 April 2001 for a weather up-date. If the meeting is canceled due to the weather, it will be rescheduled to the following weekend, 28 & 29 April.

**SIDE TRIP ON FRIDAY, 20 APRIL**

For those who are interested and have the time, there will be a side trip to Black Mountain and several areas in Harlan County on Friday prior to the field meeting. We will be looking for Erora laeta and Incisalia irus. We will also be looking for Incisalia nippon, a seldom encountered species in Kentucky. If you would like to join us, please contact Leroy C. Koehn at: 502-570-9123, before Wednesday, 18 April 2001. This trip is going to be enjoyable.

**SUMMER FIELD MEETING  
TO BIG BLACK MOUNTAIN  
7 & 8 JULY 2001  
FIELD TRIP HOST: LEROY C. KOEHN**

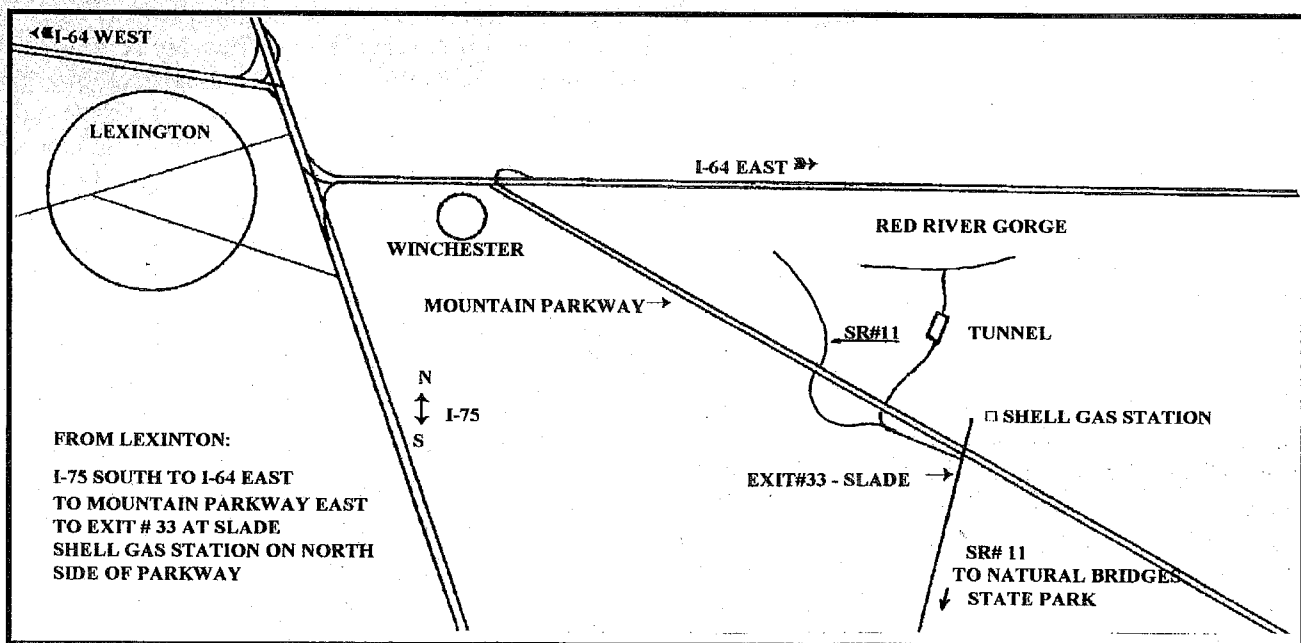
The week end of 7 & 8 July 2001, there will be a summer field meeting to Big Black Mountain in Harlan County. This area is home to some of Kentucky's seldom encountered species; Speyeria diana, Erora laeta and Calephelis borealis. We plan to operate UV lights an top of the top of Black Mountain Saturday Night. This will be an exciting and enjoyable field meeting. There will be more information in the next newsletter.

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**FALL FIELD MEETING IN  
WESTERN KENTUCKY  
7,8 & 9 SEPTEMBER  
FIELD TRIP HOST: BILL BLACK**

Bill Black will once again host the fall field meeting in western Kentucky on 7,8&9 September 2001. This meeting is the season finally and it is always a great meeting. Mark your calendar and plan to attend now. There will be additional information in the next newsletter.

**DIRECTIONS TO RED RIVER GORGE**



## YOUR NEW EDITOR LEROY C. KOEHN

I was born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio and began collecting insects at a young age. Living in the city limited my collecting opportunities to vacant lots and along the New York Central Railroad right-of-way, an occasional trip to relatives who lived in the country, and family summer vacations. As a teenager my interest in Lepidoptera grew as well as my collection. After I married I stopped my collecting activities for a short period of time, then began to collect again in 1970, only this time with a passion.



Your Editor sorting a bait trap.

I have lived in northern Ohio, in the mountains of Virginia, south Florida, the delta country of Mississippi and now central Kentucky, and have collected over much of the eastern United States. I have been known to drive a mile or so to visit a choice collecting spot. I am a charter member of the Southern Lepidopterists' and served as Zone Coordinator for the state of Virginia and twice as newsletter editor. I also serve as President of the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists. I am married and have two grown sons, we enjoy fishing, steam locomotives and sports, unfortunately, neither have any interest in Lepidoptera.

I maintain a collection of North American Butterflies, Skippers and selective families of moths. I design, manufacture and market traps and lighting systems for collecting insects. I enjoy baiting for Lepidoptera, a subject I find entertaining to say the least.

Each issue of the newsletter will contain information on the activities of the Society, a calendar of events, field reports, and publication announcements. Send articles, field reports, announcements and items of interest for inclusion in the newsletter to the Editor:

Leroy C. Koehn  
202 Redding Road  
Georgetown, KY 40324-2622  
Tele.: 502-570-9123  
E-mail: Leptraps@aol.com

I look forward to serving as your Editor and will try hard to make the newsletter interesting and informative. However, I need your participation. After all, it's your newsletter!

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT BY DR. CHARLES V. COVELL, JR.

We had a wonderful season last year, with the second La Nina summer after the second straight warm winter. Butterflies normally not seen in early season numbers, such as Euptoieta claudia and Eurema nicippe were recorded commonly, with Mike Flynn reporting a large number of the former (65?) at the Lexington July 4th Count. The Dusted Skipper, Lerema accius, was more common than I had ever seen it - anywhere; and I made the last sighting in early October. Butterfly numbers later on, however, did not seem so high. In our fall field trip to Paducah and Jackson Purchase areas the Cloudless Sulphurs, Phoebus sennae eubule were not really as abundant as I had expected. And we found no Atlides halesus, Parhassius m-album, or Euphyes dukesi in places we had seen them in 1999 and, sparsely, in 2000. It was definitely a strange year, though, with Gulf Fritillaries popping up all over the state.

The first supplement to Butterflies and Moths (Lepidoptera) of Kentucky has been published by Loran Gibson, Don Wright and me. Free copies are available if you will send me a SASE.

## FIELD REPORTS

I would like to make field reports a regular section in the newsletter. Collecting records, sighting information, field trips, and any observations will be included in this section of newsletter. Records are extremely important and may used extensively by future workers in taxonomy and distribution research. Even records of common species can be important. Let us know where you have been and what you have found. Send your reports to the Editor: Leroy C. Koehn, 202 Redding Road, Georgetown, KY 40324-2622, Tele.: 502-570-9123; E-mail: Leptraps@aol.com

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### PAPAPEMA MOTHS COLLECTED IN WESTERN KENTUCKY

BILL BLACK, JR.

I last reported the collection of (2) Papaipema new species #5 males collected in a Leroy Koehn manufactured light trap at cane site #26, Mayfield Creek, McCracken County, KY, on 16 Oct 2000. I had gone several days after that without catching any, and I had figured the season was probably over. However, because the weather was continuing to be unusually warm, I kept the four light traps going. On the weekends I took them to my more far-flung cane sites, but on the week nights I could not manage to take them farther than Mayfield Creek.

I kept one trap at cane site #26 for a standard, while moving the other three traps among the other (now) 36 cane sites in that 1 1/2 lineal mile complex. I collected two more Papaipema new species #5's: (1) male at cane site #26 on 22 Oct 2000, and (1) female at the same site on 23 Oct 2000. I continued collecting at the Mayfield Creek complex through 31 Oct 2000. Then I collected at several of the Southern Illinois sites through 3 Nov 2000.

Interestingly, it appears that they have a one-week flight period. Last year's specimens came from 12-19 Oct. This year we had nearly a week-long cold snap that did not really lift until the 14th or so. The cold snap included four straight nights of frost at around 30 degrees F. Several of these low night-time temperatures broke 100 year records. Perhaps that accounts for the flight period being four days later this year, 16-23 Oct. Then two weeks of record warmth ensued. Finally, now, it's chilly and raining, as one could expect in early Nov.

So, (4) Papaipema new species #5's all from cane site #26, and none from any other site. What appears special about cane site #26? Nothing, certainly not the cane! It is a small site (10'x 25') under some modest deciduous trees on the west shoulder of a dredged ditch that drains South into the Mayfield Creek.

The cane itself is small, the largest having half-inch diameters and being no taller than 10'. Most of it had three-eighths inch and quarter inch diameters. Richard Henderson and I had gone back to the Mayfield Creek Bottoms at 10:00 PM on 16 Oct 00, after I had attended a school board meeting, to set my last two traps. By 11:00 I decided to curtail my ambitions in deference to exhaustion, and settle for just getting all the traps in somewhere. I was even ready to settle for cane site #26 - at least it was close to the gravel road, I was familiar with it, and earlier in the season there had been some interesting moths there. You might say we sort of inadvertently fell with our trap into cane site #26, which didn't seem like a red-hot prospective site.

A final note on the female. Richard had prevailed upon me, as he was heading back to Louisville, to try to catch a live female for eggs. So I slacked off of my usual heavy dosage of Ethyl Acetate I was putting in the traps (Mo Neilsen and Terry Herig had marveled at my heavy dosage). Then, for several days I was dealing with trays of collected specimens reviving and fluttering around in Ziploc bags before I could get them home to our freezer. Finally, on 22 Oct 00 a third male Papaipema new species #5 appeared, nice except for a nick out of a wing. I said, "Oh, the Hell with it. I'm only getting males, and they're tearing themselves up. I'm going to stoke up my Ethyl Acetate." And I did. Then on 23 Oct 00 I got a perfect female - dead as a door nail! (Just to be sure I tried to revive her, leaving her overnight in a Ziplock bag with a freshly-cut section of cane with leaf sheath and leaves. But she was dead.)

I haven't mounted anything since the first week in Oct. I have kept the specimens in pretty good order, filling up our basement freezer entirely, except for the space taken up by my son's wildcat.

## COCOONS!

BY  
LEROY C. KOEHN

I spent many weekends since moving to Georgetown, Kentucky, scouting out areas for collecting and locations to operate Light Traps and set out Bait Traps. While driving along country roads, I began to notice cocoons of various silk moths hanging in trees. I would stop to determine the species and collect a few of each. The following is a list by species that I found and some observations.

**Hyalophora cecropia**: Boone, Bourbon, Clark, Fayette, Franklin, Laurel, Madison, Scott, and Whitley counties. The majority of the cocoons were found on Prunus (Apple/Cheery) or Acer (maple) trees. I found 18 cocoons on ornamental crab apple trees around in Waffle House Restaurant parking lot in Winchester, Clark County.

**Callosamia promethea**: Boone, Bourbon, Clark, Fayette, Franklin, Grant, Hart, Jackson, Kenton, Laurel, Madison, Nelson, Scott, Wayne, Whitley and Woodford counties. This was by far the most abundant species. Along a stretch of I-75 in Kenton County I saw hundreds in small Sassafras and wild cherry trees. The majority of C. promethea cocoons are wrapped tightly in a leaf, I found several in Wayne County that were large in loosely spun cocoons and wrapped in several leaves.

**Callosamia angulifera**: I found two cocoons of this species on a small tulip tree (Liriodendron tulipifera) in Whitley County. The cocoons of this species can be rather difficult to locate.

**Antheraea polyphemus**: Fayette, Franklin, Laurel, Madison, Scott, and Wayne counties. I found this species to be very common on Ornamental Birch (Betula pendula) in residential communities where it is planted in front yards. I found several dozen in a birch at the parking lot of the Fayette Mall in Lexington.

I have never found the cocoon of Actias luna. I have however, found the larvae on a number of occasions. The best time of year to search for cocoons in late January to early March when winter has removed the leaves from the trees. And you thought that winter ended field opportunities.

## BOOK ANNOUNCEMENT

### FIELD GUIDE TO BUTTERFLIES OF ILLINOIS BY JOHN K. BOUSEMAN & JAMES G. STERNBURG

A field guide to the butterflies of Illinois. The guide contains more than 300 color photographs of all the species known to occur in the State of Illinois. There is a description for each species which includes information on habitats, natural history, distribution, distribution map, and larval host plants.

To order Field Guide to Butterflies of Illinois, do any of the following: call 217-333-6880, on-line [rjohnson@mail.inhs.uiuc.edu](mailto:rjohnson@mail.inhs.uiuc.edu); or write to Illinois Natural History Survey, Distribution Office, 607 E. Peabody Drive, Champaign, IL 61820. Price.....\$19.95 Hardcover and includes shipping and handling. (Editor's note: I received a copy of the book's brochure and I found the following statement somewhat disturbing: "A field guide to aid biologist, land managers, law enforcement officials, and students in the identification of the butterflies found in Illinois". What purpose does this field guide serve to "law enforcement officers"? We would like to hear your comments!)

### THE BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS OF KENTUCKY (LEPIDOPTERA): AN ANNOTATED CHECKLIST CHARLES V. COVELL, JR.

This book is the result of over 20 years of study of Kentucky's butterflies and moths by the author. The book covers virtual every species know to occur in the State of Kentucky to date.

Copies are available at \$17.00 postpaid: Lepbook, Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission, 801 Schenkel Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601-1403.

Make checks payable to "Lepbook".

## 2001 DUES ARE PAYABLE NOW

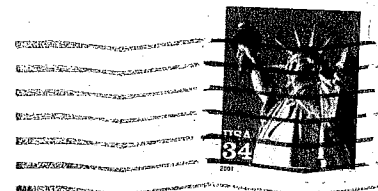
Enclosed in the last issue of the Kentucky Lepidopterists was a envelope for your 2001 dues. Check your mailing label on this newsletter, if the label does not have pd 2001 printed on it, your dues are past due. Anyone who has not paid their dues by 30 June 2001 will be removed from the membership and will no longer receive the newsletter.

Send your dues, along with a contribution (optional) to: Les Ferge, 7119 Hubbard Avenue, Middleton, WI 53562

### DATES TO REMEMBER:

*Dues*

- 21 & 22 April** - Spring Field Meeting to Red River Gorge  
Contact Leroy C. Koehn or Bill Black for more information. (See page one)
- 7 & 8 July** - Summer Field Meeting to Big Black Mountain  
There will be more information in the next newsletter.
- 8 & 9 Sept.** - Fall Field Meeting to Western Kentucky  
There will be more information in the next newsletter.
- November** Annual Meeting in Louisville



#### SOCIETY OF KENTUCKY LEPIDOPTERISTS

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