

Kentucky Lepidopterist

Newsletter of the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists

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**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 Ferge,

SUMMER FIELD MEETING AT BIG BLACK MOUNTAIN THE WEEKEND OF JULY 6, 7 & 8

A summer field meeting is planned for the weekend of July 6,7&8 in the Black Mountain area of Harlan County. It has been a over ten years since we last visited the area. We will be looking for two species in particular, Polygonia faunus smythii and Polygonia progne. There are only a few records of Polygonia progne from the state and P. faunus smithii has not been recorded from the state. We will also be looking for Eroria laeta and Speyeria diana. In the 1970's, Eroria laeta was reported on numerous occasions and in the years of 1977, 1978 and 1979, it was almost common.

The meeting will begin late Friday afternoon. We will meet at the summit of Black Mountain at 6:30PM and will operate a UV light system for moths along the access road on the summit. We will also set out a number of light traps on Black Mountain and at Kingdom Come State Park. We will have a number of bait traps set out for the targeted Polygonia species. The Society has obtained a collecting permit for Kingdom Come State Park. Please note that all specimens collected in the park must be deposited in the University of Louisville collection.

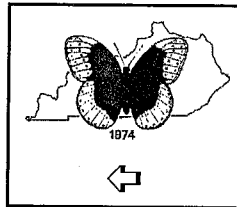
At the time of this writing, access to Black Mountain remains in question. However, we expect to work out the problem and have access to the mountain top by the time of the meeting.

We will meet again on Saturday morning at 9:00AM in the picnic area of Kingdom Come State Park. There will be signs with the Society logo to direct you to the picnic area. We will explore the top of Black Mountain for Eroria laeta and the base of the Virginia side of the mountain for Speyeria diana. We will also seek out new areas to the west of the Town of Cumberland and access to the top of Black Mountain at Morris Gap. We will return to the top of Black Mountain around 4:00PM to search again for Eroria laeta.

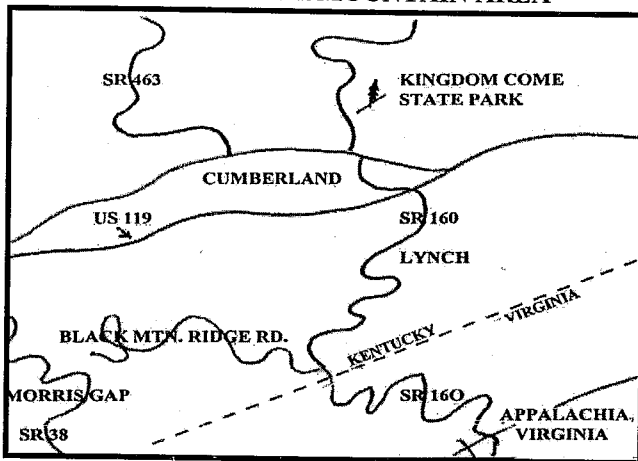
We will again set out light traps on Saturday night and operating several UV light systems in the Black Mountain area. The beautiful green sphingid, Darapsa versicolor can be found on Black Mountain. (Cont. on Pg.#8)

We will make plans for Sunday during the day on Saturday. However, we will meet again at 9:00AM at the picnic area in Kingdom Come State Park.

Please remember to follow the signs with the logo of Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists. This should be a great field meeting. Plan to attend.



MAP OF BLACK MOUNTAIN AREA



DIRECTIONS TO BLACK MOUNTAIN AREA

From Lexington/Louisville: Follow I-75 south to Exit 38. Turn left and follow the signs to the Daniel Boone Parkway. Travel across the Daniel Boone Parkway to Hazard. Turn right on Route 15. Follow Route 15 approximately 10 miles to Route 7. Turn right on Route 7 and travel approximately 10 miles to Route 699. Turn right on Route 699 and travel approximately 8 miles to Route 463. Turn Left and Follow Route 463 into Cumberland. From Cumberland, follow Route 160 to the top of Black Mountain. Or, to Kingdom Come State Park, east on US 119 and then follow the signs to the park. Look for the Society of Kentucky Lep. Logo signs.

If you have bait traps and light traps, please bring them with you. If you need bait for your bait traps, or additional information on the meeting, contact Leroy C. Koehn at: 502-570-9123. We will have fruit and flesh baits for the target Polygonia species. Also, if you have Sesiid moth pheromone traps, we encourage you to bring them. We could possibly take several state records.

There are numerous motels and restaurants in the Cumberland area.

17TH ANNUAL JULY 4TH BUTTERFLY COUNT

Join us for a day at Horner Bird and Wildlife Sanctuary in Oldham Co., KY on Sat. June 30 for the 17th annual July 4th Butterfly Count. This program was begun by the Xerces Society and later came under the auspices of NABA (North American Butterfly Association). As in the past the field trip will be led by Charlie Covell. If interested call him at: 502-852-5942, or email: covell@louisville.edu. No experience is necessary, just an interest in butterflies. It is a good opportunity to learn to identify many common species. For those who want to use them, nets will be provided. If you want to be named in the report, please provide \$3.00. We will meet at 9:30 AM at the "General Store" at Brownsboro, KY. That is now a restaurant, and the only public business there. To reach the meeting site, get of Rt. I-71 at Exit 14 and drive north less than a mile to the parking lot on your right. If it is rainy on Saturday, we will have the count on Sunday, July 1, weather permitting.

**LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY
4TH OF JULY
BUTTERFLY COUNT
SATURDAY, JULY 14, 2001**

Join us for the Lexington, Kentucky butterfly count on Saturday, July 14 as part of the 27th annual July 4th Butterfly Count. This program was begun by the Xerces Society and later came under the auspices of NABA (North American Butterfly Association). This butterfly count has been held since 1997. The county leader will be Mike Flynn. We will meet at the University of Kentucky Arboretum Parking Lot by KIOSK at 9:00AM. For additional information and directions, contact Mike Flynn at 502-277-2707. No experience is necessary, just an interest in butterflies. It is a good opportunity to learn to identify many common species. Kindly note; our policy is to field identify butterflies, we net sparingly to identify, releasing unharmed.

A fee of \$3.00 will be collected from each count participant to defray printing cost of forms and program costs. Those under 12 and garden watchers do not pay the fee. Garden watchers may telephone their reports to Mike Flynn at: 502-277-2707

EASY TO USE SESIID TRAPS

by

LEROY C. KOEHN

Collecting Sesiid moths has never be an easy task, even after the introduction of pheromones. I tried several times to collect them with rather poor results. I faithfully pinned a pheromone strip to my net and hat before venturing out in the field to collect. This did help me see a few of these bugs, however, by the time I recognized one as a Sesiid, it would almost vanish instantly. In 1982, Dave Baggett introduced me to a sticky trap for Sesiids. Its principles were similar to a sticky trap for flies and just as effective. (See Southern Lep. News Vol. 8 # 2) I really got stuck on and with Sesiids. I became rather frustrated in my attempts to remove delicate sesiid moths intact from the stickum material on the trap. Even once removed the moths had to be cleaned in a solvent and immediately mounted. Some how after all that, they lost some of their looks and in the end my patience.

While attending the field meeting of the Southern Lepidopterists Society in 1988, the late Hermann Flaschka introduced me to a new and easy to use Sesiid trap that is inexpensive and readily available from a supplier. This is a kill type trap that leaves the specimens in excellent condition. The traps are made of durable plastic that will last for many years (See Fig. #1,2 &3). I started using these traps in my yard in Coral Springs, Florida and collected 11 species, and Coral Springs was an asphalt and concrete city. I have been using these traps ever since. Even when I travel on business, I put several traps in my suitcase and place them around the hotel were I would stay. I would always take several species.

There are two styles of traps available, Multi-Pher#1 and Universal Moth Trap. Both are funnel type traps. The Multi-Pher #1 (Fig.#1 & 2) is designed specifically for Sesiid moths (Clearwing borers), the trap is green and white in color and can be easily hung from a small limb or branch. The Universal Moth Traps (Fig.#3) are also excellent for Sesiids. The trap is available in a number of colors, however, the all green trap is easy to conceal and rather difficult for unwanted eyes to find. When I first began trapping Sesiids in 1989, there were only three pheromone lures available.

Today there are over a dozen. The traps and pheromones are available from Great Lakes IPM, 10220 Church Road NE, Vestaburg, MI 48891. Website: www.glipm.com, the Website has picture of the traps and lists of pheromones and other supplies for Sesiid traps. E-mail address is: glipm@nethawk.com. Or write to the above address for a free catalog.

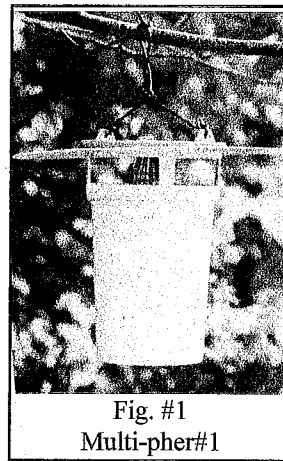


Fig. #1
Multi-pher#1

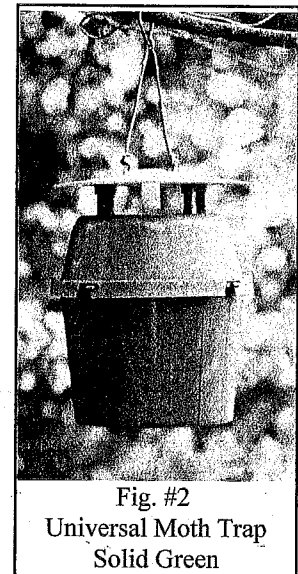
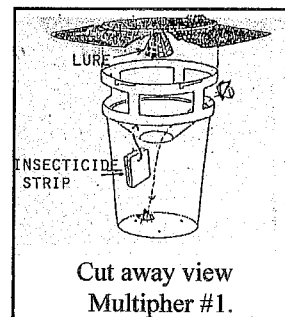


Fig. #2
Universal Moth Trap
Solid Green



Cut away view
Multipher #1.

The Sesiid moths of Kentucky are poorly recorded. You could greatly increase our knowledge of the secretive moths just by using these traps and pheromones.

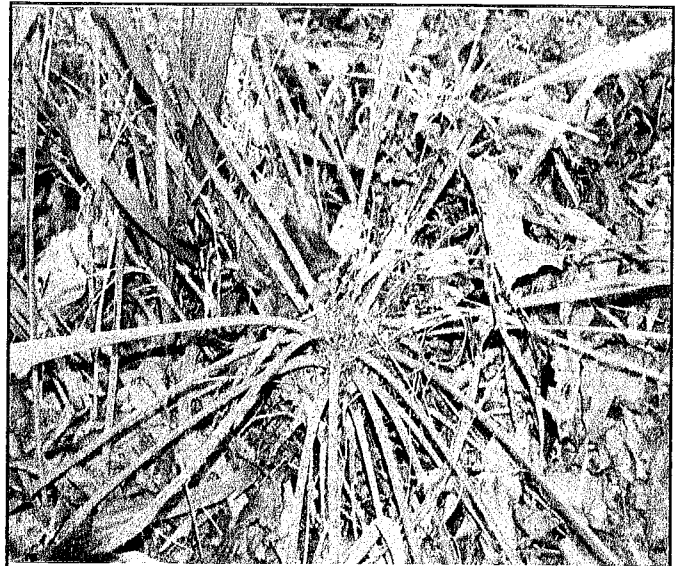
The following species of Sesiid moths are known from Kentucky (Covell, 1999). Parathrene asilipennis, P. dolli, P.simulans, Vitacea polistiformis, V. scepiformis, Euhagena emphytiformis, Nelittia cucurbitae, Synanthron acerrubri, S. scitula, S. pictipes, S. rileyana, S. acerni, S. dominicki, S.pyri, S.arkensasensis, S.exitiosa, Podosesia aureocincta, P. syringae, Carmenta bassiformis, C. corni, C. ithicae, C. pyralidiformis, and Alcathoe caudata. There are more than a dozen species that should occur in Kentucky and have yet not yet been reported.

Reference

The Butterflies and Moths (Lepidoptera) of Kentucky, Covell, Jr. C.V. , Kentucky State Nature Preserve Commission Scientific & Technical Series, No.#6.



Megathymus yuccae
Calloway County, Kentucky



Tent of Megathymus yuccae in Yucca Plant
Tishomingo County, Mississippi



Charles Wright waits to take a look in the Light Trap.



Leroy Koehn & Bill Black sort through a Light Trap.

SPRING FIELD MEETING REPORT

The spring field meeting to the Red River Gorge on April 21 & 22 began Saturday morning with over cast skies and light rain. As we waited in the rain for others to arrive, the clouds broke, the sun came out, and we were off to the Gorge. We explored the Indian Creek area and found many of the early spring fliers in abundance. Mud Puddle clubs abounded as the air temperature warmed up. (Continued on Pg.# 12)



Group photo of the Sunday meeting attendees.

**PLAN NOW
TO ATTEND THE
SOCIETY'S 27TH ANNUAL
MEETING
NOV. 16-17
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY**

The 27th Annual Meeting of the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists will be held in the usual places on Friday, November 16 and Saturday, November 17, 2001. Friday night: Open house at the Covells', 7-11 PM. Saturday morning, insect collection and entomology lab open at Life Sciences Bldg. room 321, University of Louisville. Rest of morning for visiting, identifying specimens, buy-sell-trade, etc. The annual business meeting will begin at 1:00 PM in that room, after which we will have the invited speaker (not yet decided; suggestions welcome!) plus contributed papers, slide series, equipment and specimen displays, etc. Dinner together follows at 6:00 PM at the University Club near the Life Sciences Building. Ideas invited for ways to improve these meetings! Let me know.

**LATE SUMMER
FIELD MEETING
TO
WESTERN KENTUCKY**

A late summer field meeting is planned for the weekend of September 7, 8 & 9. The fall field meeting to western Kentucky is becoming an annual tradition. Hosted by Bill Black, we will visit some of our favorite spots and search for Atlides halesus, Poanes yehi, Euphyes dion, Euphyes dukesii, and the cane feeding Papapiema moths. Mark your calendars and plan on joining us in Paducah in early September.

There will be more information in the next issue of the newsletter.

**PRESIDENT'S LETTER
CHARLES V. COVELL, JR.**

Summer is here, and butterflies are abundant in the right places. At Bernheim Forest I visited the Big Meadow the other day and found a huge patch of dogbane with dozens of Great Spangled Fritillaries, American Painted Ladies, and lesser numbers of about 25 other species. Thistles, though unwanted by ecologists, are great attractors, and Delaware Skippers were seen on them. One Painted Lady was seen - the first since 1999 there. Hoary edge was another skipper which was out in modest numbers. I had fun with my camera.

The big news is the discovery in southern Calloway County, Kentucky of a colony of Megathymus yuccae, the Yucca Giant Skipper, which extends to the north the known range of this species at the western edge of its range. It was found by Brainard Palmer-Ball, one of our long-time members who works at the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Comm. in Frankfort, and is primarily an ornithologist. He took the photos featured in this issue, (See Page # 10 for photographs of adult & larval tent) and found several of the skippers on April 18. Bill Black and Loran Gibson visited the site a couple of days later and verified the find. Congratulations to Brainard for an exciting discovery! I urge that we be careful about this colony, because of the limited number of Yucca plants in the colony, and the tubular "Tents" the larvae make could lead to the eradication of the colony if collectors take too many specimens - especially as pupae in late winter. Other colonies in similar habitat should also be sought.

An interesting coincidence: my teenage collecting pal, Bob Butler, visited us for the first time ever in Louisville with his wife over Derby weekend. Bob and I discovered Megathymus yuccae in North Carolina in 1956 and published our first paper on that subject in 1958 in the old LEPIDOPTERISTS' NEWS.

This brings me to the subject of seeking new habitats and records of species unrecorded from Kentucky. There are a few butterflies that we have never recorded in our state that should be here. One is the Whirlabout, Polites vibex, which works its way up the Mississippi Valley late in some summers. Others are "historical," in that there are no recent records. We need to look for the Regal Fritillary, Speyeria idalia, which I collected once in 1967. Is it still living in Kentucky? No verified records since. (Cont. on Pg. # 12)

(Continued from Pg.#11) Others species include Hesperia sassacus, Pyrgus centaurae wyandot, Chlosyne gorgone, Phyciodes batesi, and Satyrium acadica. New county records are solicited from all of you, so we can put them into the Kentucky Lepidoptera Database being keyed into a computer program developed .

NEW MEMBERS

Robert B. Butler, 14109 Robcaste Road, Phoenix, MD 21131. "General interest in Lepidoptera, esp. butterflies. Collect books about butterflies and has a collection of mostly butterflies."

Elizabeth Ann and Catherine Ann Hansen, 895 Millbrook Cr., Shepherdsville, KY 40165. Phone: (502) 543-2422.

Laura Myers, 1812 Harry Hughes Road, Charlestown, IN 42111. Home Phone: (812) 256-2266; Work Phone: (812) 256-6363. I do some photography and gardening, and wish to improve my identification skills.

Peggy Oates, 3315 Brownsboro Road, Louisville, KY 40207-1862 Phone : (502) 899-5239. Interested in birds and butterflies.

JoAnn Brown Schuler, 12005 E. Osage Rd., Anchorage, KY 40223. Home Phone: (502) 254 -3864.

(Continued from Pg. #10.) On Saturday we found: Erynnis brizo, E. juvenalis, E. baptisiae, Amblyscirtes hegon, Battus philenor, Graphium marcellus, Pterourus glaucus, Pterourus troilus, Papilio polyxenes, Colias philodice, C. eurhytheme, Pieris virginianensis, Pieris rapae, Anthrocharis midea, Feniseca tarquinius, Inscalia niphon, Everes comyntas, Celastrina ladon, C. nigra, Glaucopsyche lygdamus, Polygonia interrogantionis, P. comma, Nymphalis antiopa, Vanessa virginianensis, V. atalanta, Phyciodes tharos, and Cyllopsis gemma.

Bill Black, Charles Wright, Richard Henderson and Leroy Koehn teamed up with Lights and Light Traps to collect moths , both at the Indian Creek area and several localities in the Gorge. Some of the more interesting moths were: Feralia comstocki, F.jocosa, and Plusia contexta. We found the following moths mixed in with the butterflies at mud puddle clubs: Psychomorpha epimenis, Heliomata cycladata, and Thyris sepulchralis.

There will be more meeting reports in the next newsletter.

NEWSLETTER UP-DATE

I hope all of you are enjoying the newsletter. However, this is your newsletter and if we are to be successful and grow the organization and provide direction and purpose, we need the help of the membership. This includes you. We plan to hold three field meetings per year. We will visited and explore new areas and search for species that are poorly known or not previously reported from the state. We have the ability to print in color (See Pages 9 &10) and beginning with the next newsletter, we will print the entire newsletter in color. If you can write an article for the newsletter, include your color photographs. You can send articles, notes, book reviews, and field reports via the post office mail, e-mail with attachments, on a 3" diskette with photographs, or hand written or typed. Send in your information, we will see that it is published in the newsletter.

We would like to begin publishing field reports as a regular feature of the newsletter. Send your reports directly to the Editor. Please include the county, a locations and any other information pertaining to the record. Host plant records are extremely important, as are photographs of immature stages, and adults. We encourage you to report your field activities.

Included with this newsletter is a membership application. We encourage you to pass it on to a friend. Or, send names and addresses of potential members tp Les Ferge, Treasurer or your Editor, and we will send an application and a copy of a current newsletter.

Looking forward to seeing you at Black Mountain.