

Kentucky Lepidopterist

Newsletter of the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists

Volume 28 Number 23 August 2002

**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: \$12.00. Dues sent to the Treasurer: Les Ferge, 7119 Hubbard Avenue, Middleton, WI 53562

FALL FIELD MEETING TO WESTERN KENTUCKY SEPTEMBER 6-8

The Fall Field Meeting is scheduled for the weekend of September 6, 7, & 8 in western Kentucky. Bill Black will once again host the annual event. Bill has planned a full weekend with visits to some new locations as well as some familiar locations. The meeting has been planned to take advantage of the dark of the moon and as a result there will be night moth collecting, so bring your light traps and bait traps.

Bill has suggested that those attending the field meeting should make arrangements for lodging at the Days Inn which is in close proximity to Bill's home (See map below). When calling to make your reservation, let then know that you are with the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists and you will get the special rate of \$40.00 per night. For reservations call: 1-270-442-7500.

MEETING SCHEDULE:

Friday, September 6 - 4:00 PM & 7:00PM CDT

Meet at Bill Black's at 4:00PM to set out light traps and bait traps for moths at a nearby location. If you plan to join us, please contact Bill Black before the meeting at 270-442-9587. The site we choose to set out traps for moths must be able to accommodate the people who wish to participate. We will meet again at Bill's home at 201 Friedman Avenue for Stroh's Beer and a social get together at 7:00PM CDT.

Saturday, September 7 - 9:00AM CDT

We will meet at the Days Inn (See map and directions below) at 9:00AM for breakfast at the meeting room in the motel. Following breakfast we will visit the Zip-Track Site and Massac Creek in McCracken County. Bill will also take us to the Euphyes dukesii site in Paducah that he discovered after last years fall field meeting.

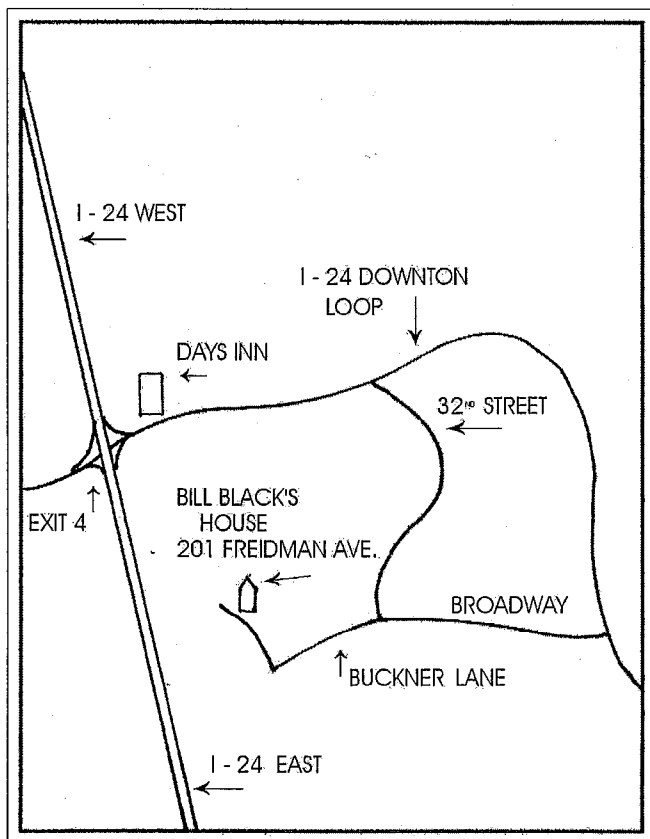
For dinner, Chef Koehn will host a hot dog cook out while we light for moths in the field. A site will be selected based on the number of participants and the number of light set-ups available. Light traps for moths will also be set out at various locations in western Kentucky.

Sunday. September 8 - 9:00AM CDT

We will meet again at the Days Inn meeting room at 9:00AM for breakfast. Following breakfast we will return to sites visited on Saturday and then journey to the Hickman site along the Mississippi River in Fulton County. After lunch many will begin the journey home and others may choose to remain. Those who choose to remain will be on their own.

For more information about Paducah, contact the Visitor's Bureau of Paducah at: 1-800-PADUCAH.

**MAP AND DIRECTIONS
TO
BILL BLACK'S HOME**



From I-24, Exit 4, turn east onto I-24 Downtown Loop, turn right on 32nd Street, drive to the end of 32nd Street and turn right onto Buckner Lane, go two blocks and turn right onto Friedman Avenue. Bill's house is on the right as the street bends to the left. The address is 201 Friedman Avenue. A Society Logo sign in the yard will identify the house.

**SIDE TRIP TO THE WESTERN
TIP OF KENTUCKY**

For those who are interested and have an extra day, Bill Black and Leroy Koehn plan to Journey out to Kentucky Bend, the western most tip of the state, on Thursday afternoon, 5 September 2002. They will explore this little known area for moths with light traps on Thursday night, and return here on Friday morning to recover light traps and search for butterflies. If you are interested in joining Bill and Leroy for what could be an extremely interesting time in the field, contact Bill Black at 270-442-9587 before 4 September 2002.

**2002 ANNUAL MEETING
AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF
LOUISVILLE
ON
FRIDAY AND SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 1ST & 2ND**

2002 Annual Meeting will once again be held at the University of Louisville on Saturday November 2nd. There will be a Friday night "Let's Get Among Them" party at the Covell's on November 1st. Our guest speaker on Saturday will be Dr. Mark Scriber of Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan. Dr. Scriber has studied Pterourus troilus and the Pterourus glaucus complex. He has visited numerous butterfly houses in the United State and overseas.

A collection work day is being planned on the Friday 1 November 2002 prior to the Annual Meeting. Dr. Covell will determine the needs and what we as members can to help him curate the collection at the University of Louisville. Mounting the backlog of specimens, sorting and putting specimens into the collection, and entering data will be some of the tasks. Please consider joining us and contributing your time.

There will be more information and meeting details in the next issue of the Kentucky Lepidopterists. This will be an informative and enjoyable meeting. Mark your calendar and plan now to attend the Annual Meeting.

A GREAT SUMMER FIELD MEETING ON BLACK MOUNTAIN

The Summer Field meeting began Friday evening at 6:30PM on Black Mountain. Leroy Koehn and Bill Black had arrived earlier that afternoon and set out light traps, bait traps, and pheromone traps along Black Mountain Ridge Road on the top of Black Mountain. Once the traps were out, Leroy and Bill set up the light rig at the edge of a drop off over looking Virginia along Route 160 and fired up the grill. They were soon joined by Dr. Charles Covell, Charles Wright, John Hyatt, Steve and Amy Somner and their two children Hanna and Robert. Leroy had the Hot Dogs, Baked Beans simmering on the grill, Chips, Brownies, Death by Chocolate Cake and assorted cookies laid out on the tail gate of his van and were ready for all as dusk approached. While the collection of collectors filled their plates, Leroy visited a patch of Milkweed that was in full bloom to look for sphingids. This was the same Milkweed patch that he collected a male Sphinx eremitus during the 2001 field meeting, and to no ones surprise, he collected another. By the time it was dark, he had taken two more specimens, however, while Leroy was collecting the sphingids, all the Hot Dogs were consumed. Leroy's only comment was that he had his priorities in the right order (Anyone who has traveled on a collecting trip with Leroy knows that food is optional).

Moths were plentiful at the sheet. The absolutely beautiful sphinx Darapsa versicolor was abundant. Eumorpha pandorus, Paonias astylus, and Ceratonia amyntor were also taken. Several individuals of Citheronia regalis, Eacles imperialis and Callosamia angulifera came to the sheet. Numerous Catocala moths were taken including: Catocala mycronympha, C. judth, C.insolabilis, and C.andromedae. Acronicta superans, A. funeralis, A. morula, A. ovata, and A. longa were just a few of the species of daggers moths that were found. By 2AM most of the moth collectors had returned to Cumberland for the night. At 3AM Leroy and Bill called it a night as well.

Saturday morning found Leroy Koehn, Bill Black, and Charles Wright back on the summit of Black Mountain to recover their light traps and began sorting them out under the shade of trees near the FAA Radar Station. John Beck of Chester, Illinois arrived to join in the trap sorting effort.

By 9:30AM, the Sommers family, Dr. Covell and John Hyatt had arrived. Charlie had set out several light traps near the apple orchard. The morning sun was bright and warm in a cloudless sky. There was an abundance of flowers, but very few butterflies. Neither Polygonia progne or P. faunus were found. Leroy had set out 12 bait traps on the mountain in hopes of locating these species. Bait traps were not very productive due to the wet conditions in the mountains of eastern Kentucky. Other targeted species: Erora laeta was not found, Speyeria diana was present, several were seen on the summit of Black Mountain; Speyeria aphrodite was present only on the summit, males were generally worn, females were just appearing. Below (Fig. # 1) is the list of butterflies present during the field meeting.

LIST OF BUTTERFLIES RECORDED DURING THE BLACK MOUNTAIN MEETING

<u>Eparyreus clarus</u>	<u>Speyeria diana</u>
<u>Ancyloxipha numitor</u>	<u>Speyeria cybele</u>
<u>Polites coras</u>	<u>Speyeria aphrodite</u>
<u>Pompeius verna</u>	<u>Boloria bellona</u>
<u>Battues philenor</u>	<u>Phyciodes tharos</u>
<u>Pterourus glaucus</u>	<u>Polygonia comma</u>
<u>Pterourus troilus</u>	<u>Vanessa atlanta</u>
<u>Eurytides marcellus</u>	<u>Limenitis astyanax</u>
<u>Pieris rapae</u>	<u>Limenitis archippus</u>
<u>Colias philodice</u>	<u>Enodia anthedon</u>
<u>Colias eurytheme</u>	<u>Cyllopsis gemma</u>
<u>Everes comyntas</u>	<u>Cercyonis pegala alope</u>
<u>Celastrina neglecta</u>	<u>Danaus plexippus</u>

Fig.#1

At 12PM we found Dr. Covell sitting in the shade sorting his light trap catch. Dr. Covell was very excited about several moths that he had taken, especially the gorgeous noctuid, Pseudeva purpurigera. Charles Wright set up a malaise trap in the meadow in the apple orchard. Charles collected several very nice beetle (Nice to a Coleopterists we presume) that made him smile. For many in attendance, this was the first time they had actually seen a malaise trap in use. (See Fig.# 2 on Pg.#30)

At 2PM, Charles Wright, Dr. Covell, John Hyatt, and Bill Black visited a ridge on Pine Mountain north west of Cumberland to search for butterflies. There was no abundance of butterflies at this location, although both Speyeria diana and S. aphrodite were found.

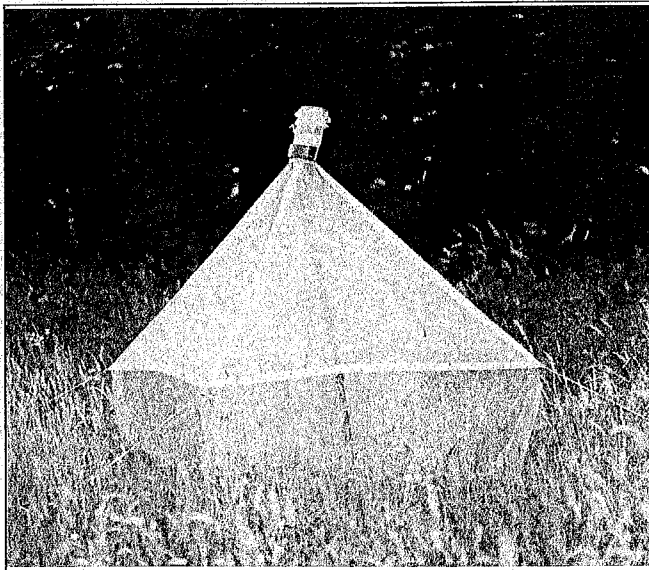


Fig.#2 Malaise Trap in operation on Black Mountain

After a tasty meal at a local Pizza joint in Cumberland, everyone returned to the summit to set out light traps and then help Leroy set up his lights on the north facing slope of the mountain at a power line right of way on an old coal mine access road. John Beck provide the Bratwurst and bake beans, Leroy fired up the grill, and once again all enjoyed a meal around the sheet. Occasionally someone would find a crunchy something in the food, but we all know that bugs are mostly low cal and pure protein and will not effect our weight loss diets.

Steve Sommer and his family were busy around the sheet, many of the species that came to the lights were new to Steve. He will be mounting these moths all winter.

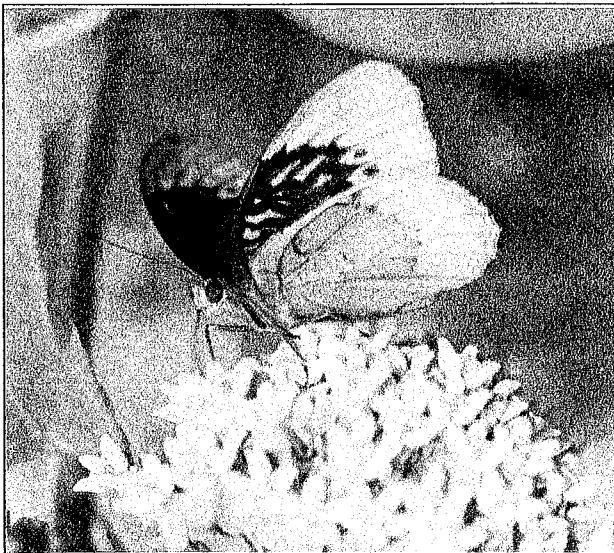


Fig.#2 Speyeria diana visiting common Milkweed

By 2AM, the lights were out and the mothing was over.

Sunday morning was bright and hot. Leroy Koehn, Bill Black, and John Beck were all that remained. Having recovered and sorted all their traps, by 4PM, all began their journey home.

It was a great weekend, perfect weather, great moths and fabulous fellowship in the field. It was great.



Steve Sommer & son Robert check out the moths on the sheet



Left to Right: John Hyatt, Charles Wright, Dr. Charles Covell, Bill Black and John Beck.



Dr. Covell getting among them!

NEW MEMBERS

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Charles J. Dempwolf, 46 Junfield Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45218-1241; Tele: 513-851-2569

Nancy KupperSmith, 2404 Evergreen Rd., Louisville, KY 40223; Tele: 502-244-5401

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Amanda Roe, 8316 106th Street, Edmonton, Alberta Canada, T6E 4J1; Tele: 780-430-4218

Periodicals Dept. Univ. Libraries, Ekstrom Library University of Louisville, Louisville KY 40292-0001

NEWS AND NOTES

Dr. Charles Covell, Bill Black and Leroy Koehn participated in BioBlitz 2002 at Great Smoky Mountain National Park on 15, 16, 17, & 18 June. The actual Blitz day was a 24 hour period on 17 June. There were a total of 40 light traps that were used throughout the park. Dr. Covell, Leroy Koehn and Bill Black had a total of 14 traps between them. Leroy also brought 12 bait traps and 25 pheromone traps. Both butterflies and moths were collected. Over 800 species were recorded.

David Wagner and Brian Scholtens organized the event for the National Park Service. Specialist for many families of moths were present, these included, Dr. Richard Brown, Dr. Doug Ferguson, Dr. Ron Hodges, Dr. James Adams, Jerry Powell, and Bo Sullivan. It was an exciting event and an opportunity to visit one of our nations most beautiful parks.

The State of Kentucky introduced the new Nature License Plate at the State Fair in Louisville. The new Nature License Plate features the State Butterfly, the Viceroy. The display at the fair has live Viceroy Butterflies that were supplied by members of the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists, Bill Black, Graig and Ian Segebarth. About 30 live Viceroy's were delivered to the fair in Louisville. Ellis Laudermilk, a Biologist for the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission, and also a Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists member has been responsible for the display, has hand feed the butterflies a mixture of sugar water and egg whites to keep them alive.

Dr. Covell provided some posters and other material for the display.

NEWSLETTER UP DATE

The deadline for the next newsletter is 26 September 2002. All articles, news, and field reports must be in the hands of your Editor by 26 September to be included in the next Newsletter. As you know, we publish in color. Should you have any photographs of specimens, member activities, or any item related to Lepidoptera send it for inclusion in the next Newsletter.

The summer field meeting to Black Mountain was exciting. Although butterflies were not plentiful, the moths were incredible. The "cook out around the sheet" was enjoyed by all. The fall field meeting to western Kentucky will also be exciting. If you have not attended a field meeting, you should plan on joining us in western Kentucky in September.

The Annual Meeting is taking shape. Dr. Covell is making preparations for the collection work day on Friday prior to the Annual Meeting on Saturday. There will be more information in the next newsletter, including the type of help or assistance that Charlie will need. This is a great opportunity for you to help Dr. Covell maintain the collection. Make plans now. It should be a rewarding experience.

NEWS FROM THE FIELD

John Hyatt reported an early season sighting of Agralius vanillae in Kingsport, Sullivan Co., TN on Aug. 10. He thinks this is about 2-3 weeks earlier than his previous records in the mountains. On the other hand, the drought (or something) has Lepidoptera populations so low that maybe they are just easier among the zinnias!

Leroy Koehn visited Franklin County on 22 July reported finding Sphinx canadensis, Pachyshphinx modesta, Haploa reversa, Lycomorpha pholus and Catocala insolabilis. Leroy also reporting finding Enodia creola on 9 August and 15/16 August in McCreary and Whitley counties at a number of cane sites. He found the McCreary County cane sites while scouting out the area for the spring meeting. He also collected an Amblyscirtes aesculapius on 9 August in McCreary County.

Bill Black reported finding several new areas of cane in Carlisle County for potential Papaipema moth sites this fall.

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