

# *Kentucky Lepidopterist*

*Newsletter of the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists*

*Volume 29 Number 2 8 August 2003*

**THE SOCIETY  
OF  
KENTUCKY  
LEPIDOPTERISTS**

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**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  
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## **FALL FIELD MEETING TO WESTERN KENTUCKY SEPTEMBER 5-7**

The Fall Field Meeting is scheduled for the weekend of September 5, 6, & 7 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 moon as it nears the first quarter 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 the map and directions on page # 10). When calling to make your reservation, let them know that you are with the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists and you will get the special rate of \$45.00 per night. For reservations call: 1-270-442-7500.

### **MEETING SCHEDULE:**

#### **Friday, September 5 - 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 sites 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 6 - 9:00AM CDT**

We will meet at the Days Inn (See map and directions on page # 10) at 9:00AM for breakfast at the motel. Following breakfast we will visit the Zip-Track Site and Massac Creek in McCracken County, and the Littleville site in Paducah for Euphyes dukesii that Bill discovered in the fall of 2001.

A night of moth collecting is planned at the Westvaco Wildlife Management Area southwest of Paducah in Carlisle County. Gerald Burnett has found many interesting species of moths at this location. There is ample room for a number of UV light setups. Light traps for moths will also be set out at various locations in western Kentucky.

**Sunday. September 7 - 9:00AM CDT**

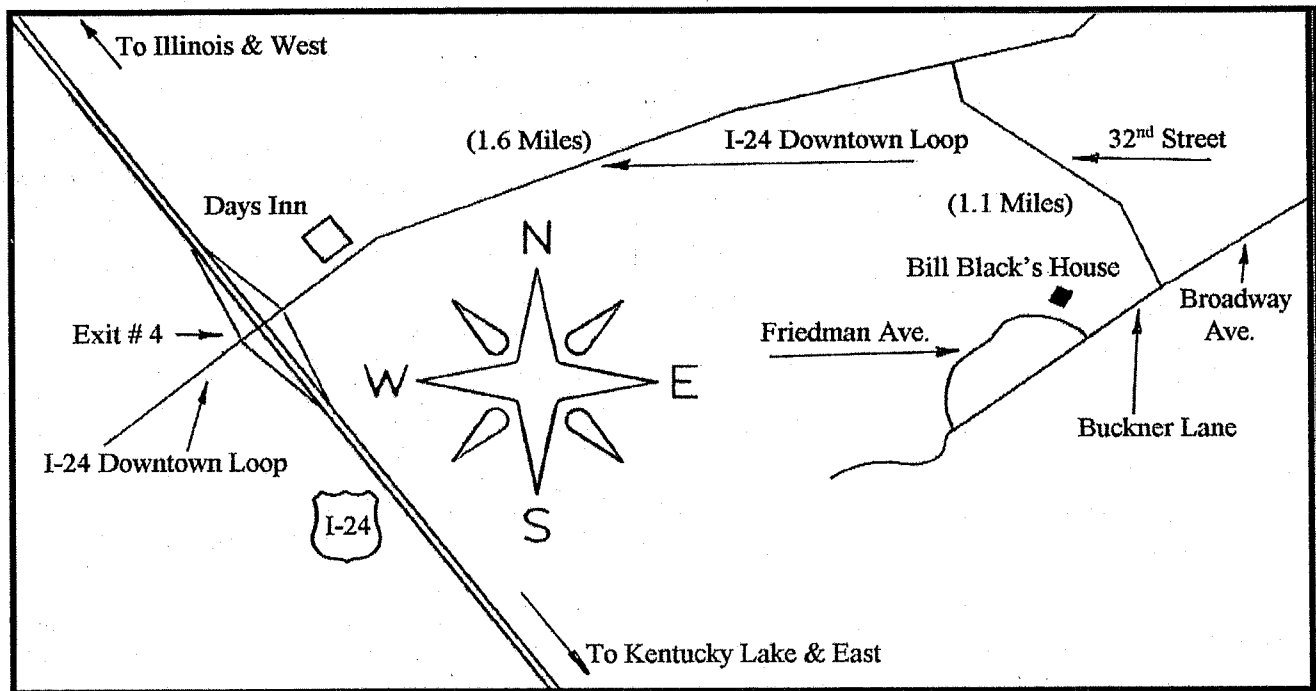
We will meet again at the Days Inn at 9:00AM for breakfast. Following breakfast we will return to sites visited on Saturday and then journey to the Hickman site along the Mississippi River in Fulton County. After lunch many will begin the journey home and others may choose to remain. Those who choose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

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

**SIDE TRIP TO WESTERN KENTUCKY**

For those who are interested and have an extra day or two, Bill Black and Leroy Koehn plan to visit the Pennyriple State Forest in Christian County and the Blood River area in Calloway County prior to the planned field meeting. Leroy Koehn will arrive at the Pennyriple State Forest late Wednesday afternoon. He will set out light traps, bait traps and pheromone traps. He will also operate his UV/MV light setup Wednesday night. (Cont. on Pg# 11)

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



**DIRECTIONS TO THE DAYS INN AND BILL BLACK'S HOME**

From I-24, exit #4, turn east onto the Downtown Loop, the Days Inn is on the Northeast corner on the exit. Travel 1.6 miles from the exit on the Downtown Loop to 32nd Street, turn right on 32nd Street and travel 1.1 miles 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. Should you get lost, call 270-442-9587 and help is on the way.

(Side Trip: Cont. from Pg# 10) We will meet Thursday morning for breakfast at 7:30AM at the restaurant of the lodge at Pennyrile State Park and Resort. Following breakfast will explore forest and surrounding areas for Amblyscrites bellii, Autocton cellus and Enodia creola. We will depart Pennyrile forest in mid-afternoon and travel to Elbow Slough in Fulton County to light for moths. The target species will be Schinia florida. Friday we will visit the Blood River area of Calloway County to collect butterflies. There are few records from Calloway County and this will be a great opportunity to increase the knowledge of the Lepidoptera of Kentucky. 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 or Leroy Koehn at 502-570-9123 before 2 September 2003.

**ACCOMMODATIONS: Pennyrile State Forest:** Camping is available at Pennyrile Forest State Park on a first-come-first-served basis. Fee is approximately \$12.00 / night, \$3.00 per additional person. We will stay at the Pennyrile Lodge in the State Park. Make reservations early if you expect to stay in the Lodge or Cabins. Lodge rooms are \$59.95-\$69.95 per night. Cabins rent for \$97.95 per night for a one bedroom, \$117.95 for a two bedroom. The toll-free reservations: 800-325-1711.

**Blood River Area:** We will overnight in Paducah Thursday night. We suggest you use the Days Inn which will be the gathering point for the weekend activities.

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## 2003 ANNUAL MEETING NOVEMBER 14 & 15

The annual meeting will be held November 14 and 15 in room 321 of the Life Sciences Bldg. at the University of Louisville. The meeting will begin at 1:30PM on Friday November 14 with an ID/conversation/help day. This will be followed by the Friday night get together at the Covell's. The featured speakers on Saturday will be Drs. Phil De Vries and Carla Penz, both of the Milwaukee Museum of Natural History. They will speak on fascinating topics concerning life history, habits, and mutualistic relationships between tropical American butterflies and ants and other organisms. They will provide an exceptionally good program. There will also be a business meeting and election of officers for the upcoming year and much more.

Plan now to attend. This will be a great meeting. There will be more information in the next newsletter.

## MCCREARY COUNTY SPRING FIELD MEETING REPORT

The spring field meeting in McCreary County began on Friday, April. Kevin, Ian and Craig Segebarth, Jack Dempwolf, and Bill Black met Leroy Koehn in Georgetown to begin collecting there way to McCreary County. As they traveled south on I-75, the sky was clear and the sun was bright, the temperature was only in the mid-40's. The first stop was in Renfro Valley in Rockcastle County. Although they found some ideal habitat, the cool temperature kept the butterflies from taking to the wing. Erynnis brizo, E. junvenalis, Colias eurytheme, and Incisalia henrici were the only species to be found.

As they traveled through Laurel County along the Cumberland River, they stopped at several localities and found very little on the wing. Several light traps were set out in the area and the journey to McCreary County then completed.

Early Friday evening found a crowd on members at the Parkand Motel in Stearns. Those in attendance were: Jack Dempwolf, John Hyatt, Loran Gibson, Ellis Lauder milk, Gerald Burnett, Dr. Charles V. Covell, Charles Watson, Bill Black, Ian Segebarth, Craig Segebarth, Kevin Segebarth, Ruth Ann and John Peacock, Leroy C. Koehn, Tony Merkle, Brent and John Worthem. A sumptuous dinner at the Blue Heron Restaurant that evening was followed with conversation and specimens at the meeting room of the motel.

Bill Black, Leroy Koehn and the Segebarth's arose early Saturday morning to recover their light traps. The overnight temperature was near freezing. Their light traps along the Cumberland River had no moths and some ice. Yes, ice. During the night air temperature in the hollows along the river was well below freezing.

Following breakfast at the Blue Heron Restaurant, a caravan of Lepidopterists headed into the Daniel Boone National Forest in McCreary County. The sky was clear and the sun bright, and by late morning, butterflies became abundant. At White Oak Jct. Glaucopsyche lygdamus was the target species and was found in numbers. Along Hickory Knob Church Road we also found the target species, Hesperia metea. At a tall Red Cedar Tree extension nets were employed and a fair number of Incisalia niphon, I. augustus, and Mitoura gryneus were taken.

Further south on the road, Amblyscirtes vialis and A. hegon were taken. Damp spots along the road produced some puddle clubs. By the end of the day, everyone had found the species they were looking for, or knew where to look on Sunday. Once all the light traps were set out for moths along Hickory Knob Church Road, everyone returned to Stearn's for another fine dinner at the Blue Heron Restaurant.

Sunday morning was considerably warmer and by 9AM, butterflies were abundant. The light traps contained a number of Ferlia comstocki and F. jocosa. A good number of Hesperia metea were taken in power line cuts along with Incisalia augustus. By 1PM, most began to head for home.

#### LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED

Erynnis brizo	Feniseca tarquinius
Erynnis icelus	Mitoura gryneus
Erynnis juvenalis	Incisalia augustus
Hesperia metea	Incisalia niphon
Amblyscirtes hegon	Incisalia henrici
Amblyscirtes vialis	Strymon melinus
Battus philenor	Celastrina ladon
Pterourus glaucus	Glaucopteryx lydamus
Pterourus troilus	Everes comyntas
Graphium marcellus	Phyciodes tharos
Pieris virginensis	Nymphalis antiopa
Pieris rapae	Polygonia interrogationis
Anthocharis midea	Vanessa atalanta
Colias eurytheme	Cylopsis gemma

It was a great meeting, with seventeen attendees, with lodging and food that were exceptional considering the remote location, it was the best spring field meeting in many a year.



Group photograph of meeting participants.

## PENNYRILE STATE FOREST FIELD MEETING REPORT

The summer field meeting was held at Pennyrile State Forest in Christian County the weekend of 30 May - 1 June 2003. The weather was perfect. The meeting began Friday night with moth collecting deep within the forest. Leroy Koehn, Charles Wright, Ian, Craig and Kevin Segebarth set up a free standing UV light set-up and enjoyed a good night of nothing.

However, the best of the moths came from several light traps, Catocala duciola, C. clintoni, C. minuta, and Pink Prominent, Hyarpax aurora were the most notable.

The overnight accommodation at Pennyrile State Resort were excellent. Following breakfast at the lodge restaurant, Loran Gibson led a group consisting of Charles Wright, Leroy Koehn, Kevin, Craig, & Ian Segebarth, Mike & Todd Gilligan, Charlie Covell, Ellis Lauder milk, Tony Merkle, and Gerald Burnett to several locations north east of the forest in Christian and Hopkins counties. Two of the target species were found, Eurystrymon ontario and Amblyscirtes belli. Another species of interest was Amblyscirtes hegon. This was evidently the second brood. Most Amblyscirtes species are double brooded, the second brood of A. hegon has been little reported or noted. It was found throughout the forest during the meeting. Also found was Enodia creola. Although several specimens were collected in association with cane, several bait traps within the forest where cane was growing sparingly along water courses contained as well. Sunday activities were in the Pennyrile Forest. Amblyscirtes hegon was very abundant. Enodia creola, and Autochton cellus were also found.

Butterflies encountered included: Epargyreus clarus, Thorybes pylades, Polites origines, Wallengrenia egeremet, Pompeius verna, Atrytone logan, Poanes hobomok, P. zabulon, Amblyscirtes belli, A. vialis, A. hegon, Battus philenor, Pterourus glaucus, P. troilus, Eurytides marcellus, Colias philodice, C. eurytheme, Satyrium calanus falacer, S. liparops, Fixenia favonius ontario, Everes comyntas, Celastrina neglecta, Speyeria cybele, Polygonia interrogationis, P. comma, Nymphalis antiopa, Vanessa virginiensis, V. cardui, V. atalanta, Charidryas nycteis, Asterocampa clyton, A. celtis, Enodia portlandia missarkae, E. anhedon, E. creola, Hermeuptychia sosybius, and Megisto cymela.

It was an excellent field meeting with great weather and an outstanding group of attendees.

## KENTUCKY ACTIVITIES

BY

DR. CHARLES V. COVELL

The July 4th Butterfly Count at Horner Bird and Wildlife Sanctuary in Oldham County, Kentucky, was held July 5. Richard Henderson, Mike Flynn, and I led the three identifying groups, and there were about 16 people total. Only 919 butterflies in 31 species were counted this year. For the first time in some years we missed seeing the Northern Metalmark, Calephelis borealis. An earlier report from Nelson County in mid-June makes me think it was early and it was gone on July 5. Also, it was very hot, humid and cloudy - not the best weather for good butterflying. The greatest number was 222, Everes comyntas and 178, Megisto cymela. Hairstreaks were notably absent: we found only one individual of Satyrium edwardsi and no others. The rarest thing we recorded was a single Sleepy Orange, Eurema nicippe. July 4th Butterfly Counts were initiated by the Xerces Society in 1975, and the first one at this site was the next year, 1976. On the following Saturday, July 12, Mike Flynn led his group in the Lexington, Kentucky area, and the weather was much nicer - sunny, but not too humid. I recall 40 species were recorded, but did not get the result on numbers. A fine crew of people attended, including Dr. Wayne Davis, well-known biologist (emeritus) at the University of Kentucky.

At this year's Lepidopterists' Society annual meeting in Olds, Alberta, Canada, I gave a talk on 15 of the "4th counts," in which a total of 15,442 butterflies were counted, representing 77 of the 138 butterfly species in Kentucky. Other talks at the meeting were excellent, including 11 by students. It was heartening to see so many young lepidopterists at the meeting. Larry Gall officiated as President this year. Other Kentucky Lepidopterists attending included the Baloghs, the Ferges, the Peacocks, James Adams and family, Eleanor Adams, Akito Kawahara (now a graduate student at University of Maryland), John Masters (spoke on Dalton Highway, AK), Floyd and June Preston, Bill Russell, Brian Scholtens, John Shuey, Suzette Slocomb, and Reed Watkins. The atmosphere at the meeting was both inspiring and humorous, with more excellent talks than I recall hearing in quite a while. The 2004 meeting will be at the University of Maryland on July 14-18. Plan now to attend!

Jeremy Bennett, who just finished an MS with me, is working both at Bernheim Forest and at a new nature preserve in Harrison County called "Griffith Woods Nature Preserve."

There are small grants to support this work, and a Lepidoptera survey is the main objective at Griffith Woods. It is managed through an arrangement between the University of Kentucky and the Kentucky Chapter of The Nature Conservancy.

A final note: I have recorded 21 species of butterflies in my garden so far this year. Last year I found a record 38 by the end of October.

I hope this finds you well and enjoying your summer pursuits!

Cheers, Charlie

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## DID YOU EVER WONDER.....

BY

JOHN HYATT

Dr. H. G. Higley, Dept. of Entomology, University of Nebraska at Lincoln, is the source for the following: "Just as people can't agree on the metric system, decimal coinage, or anything to do with religion or politics, so it is that entomologists have never settled on a common insect storage drawer size. The USNM and Cornell drawers are two sizes commonly used in museum collections, but there are others also. When I was an undergrad at Cornell, where the great J. H. Comstock was a professor in the late 1800s, my introductory entomology professor George Eickwort had refinished Comstock's original desk and noticed that the pull-out writing board in that desk had the same dimensions as the Cornell Drawer. So maybe the dimensions of the Cornell drawer are based on what was convenient for Comstock to use at his desk!"

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## NEWS LETTER UP-DATE

To date, we have held two field meetings this year. The spring field meeting was in McCreary County and the early summer field meeting was in Pennyryle State Forest. Both were well attended with great accommodations. The fall field meeting to western Kentucky has become an annual event. Bill and Nancy Black have hosted this event for as long as I can remember. Nancy Black, better known as the host of Paducah, makes the weekend one to remember. Arriving at her home at 3AM after a night of moth collecting, she is still charming and gracious the next morning. If you have not made the journey out to Paducah, you must plan to come this year.

We have been working hard to provide an informative and enjoyable newsletter. We publish four newsletters annually and they coincide with the four meetings, three field meetings and the annual meeting. To continue to publish an informative and interesting newsletter, we need your help. Articles, color photographs, field reports, collection and observation records, or anything that is related to Lepidoptera are needed for inclusion in the newsletter. Letters to the Editor, do I not have a critic or two out there somewhere? Most importantly, this newsletter is a vehicle for providing information to the membership. Take time and send your items to your Editor.

The Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists provides newsletter with a great deal of information, however, the Society can do more, however that requires money. The cost of membership is bargain at \$12.00. A small contribution to the Society however, would enable it to do more for the membership. Send your contributions to the Treasurer today.

The new standard issue Kentucky license plate is not....well, it is just plain loud and ugly to be polite. However, you do have a choice. The new Buttery Nature License Plate is now available. For an additional \$10.00 you can have State Butterfly, the Viceroy, presented in great detail, on your license plate. Your Editor got his in May. It should be the plate of choice of Lepidopterists in Kentucky.

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## CORNELL DRAWER KIT OPPORTUNITY

I have an opportunity to purchase Cornell Drawer Kits at a reduced price, based on quantity. These are not complete kits, but components which consist of the four sides, the bottom and the splines. The clamp, glue, and hardware will not be included. The cost will be determined the quantity that we order. The price will vary from \$16.00 each to \$11.00 each. The larger the order, the less they will cost. We will need to order 2500 to achieve the \$11.00 price. The minimum order quantity per individual will be 25 drawers. The drawers kits must be paid for in advance once the cost is determined. To futher reduce the cost, the kits will be shipped to Georgetown, Kentucky on one of my company transfer trucks at no cost. I will not ship the kits, they must be picked up in Georgetown or at a meeting that I attend during the year providing that I can transport them.

I did this a number of years ago and purchased 2500 drawers. The current catalog price is \$21.50 per drawer. I will order the drawers on January 5, 2004 for delivery in early February of 2004.

If you have purchased and assembled these kits in the past and you retained the clamp device, you can take advantage of this opportunity.

Contact Leroy C. Koehn at: Tele: 502-570-9123 or via E-mail at: [Leptraps@aol.com](mailto:Leptraps@aol.com).

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## PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE SPRING FIELD MEETING IN McCREARY COUNTY



Identifying moths at the Parkland Inn.



Dr. Charles Covell and Craig Segebarth sorting moths.

## MONARCHS SINK SHIP AT SEA?

BY  
CHIP TAYLOR

I was recently asked by one of my colleagues who's teaching a general entomology course to contribute accounts for a lecture about legends, myths and strange but true stories about insects. Here is one of my contributions. Is this account strange but true or a myth?

A few years ago after I had given a talk on monarchs to the Idalia Society in Kansas City, a local society devoted to the study of Lepidoptera in the Midwest, a gentleman came up to me and asked if I had ever heard of monarchs landing on ships. I told him I had and that there were many anecdotes about monarchs landing on ships offshore and boats and sailing craft on inland waters. "Well", he said, "I've got a story along those lines". His story was approximately as follows.

"A number of years ago we were in the salvage business along the Gulf Coast. We were searching for wrecks, ships lost in storms, from which we could harvest relics for sale. To find the approximate locations of these wrecks, we searched through old Naval and Coast Guard archives. We came across one first hand account that was amazing and hard to believe, but it was a first person account. The record concerned the fate of a sailing ship in the late 1800s. Apparently there was a strong shift in the wind in the afternoon and the seas became choppy. At about the same time, one of the crew noticed a dark cloud that seemed to be approaching the vessel. The cloud was unusual; it was large, but not like other clouds and it was low. The cloud turned out to be a mass of monarch butterflies that proceeded to land all over the ship, particularly the sails. The number of monarchs was enormous. What happened next was not clear but for some reason, perhaps due to the mass of monarchs on the sails and the swells, the crew lost control of the ship and it capsized and sank."

The fate of the crew was not related to me, but evidently someone survived to tell the story. The storyteller didn't have additional details, since the ship and its cargo were of no great interest in terms of salvage. Is this a true story? I don't know. Elements of the story make sense, but others, such as the loss of control of the ship, are hard to accept without knowing more about the size and displacement of the ship and the weather conditions at the time of the incident.

Monarchs are known to land on sailing vessels using inland waters - sometimes in the thousands - during the migration in September. However, since monarchs are not known to fly together during the migration, it is hard to accept the "cloud of monarchs" observation, unless such "clouds" occur under special meteorological conditions or over water.

I've been reluctant to publicize this story. It may be another entomological myth. Yet, it could have happened. Perhaps someone searching naval archives will come across this account again and we can learn more about the circumstances about "the ship sunk by monarchs".

For additional information on Monarch Butterflies, visit this Website: [www.MonarchWatch.org](http://www.MonarchWatch.org).

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## RAIN, WASPS, AND RACOONS: THE TRIBULATIONS OF COLLECTING MOTHS IN EAST TENNESSEE

John Hyatt wrote in an E-mail:

Gosh it's tough trying to collect moths in east Tennessee these days. We were running 11" of rainfall above averages as of July 4, with a huge downpour one night in late June that floated my bucket trap right off the dirt path I'd left it on, and down, down, down the mountain. Pulled the clips off the battery, which stayed put.

My bait traps are filled every day - mostly with those nasty black and white bald-faced hornets. Two stings so far this season, one of them near an eye. Description in one word, unpleasant.

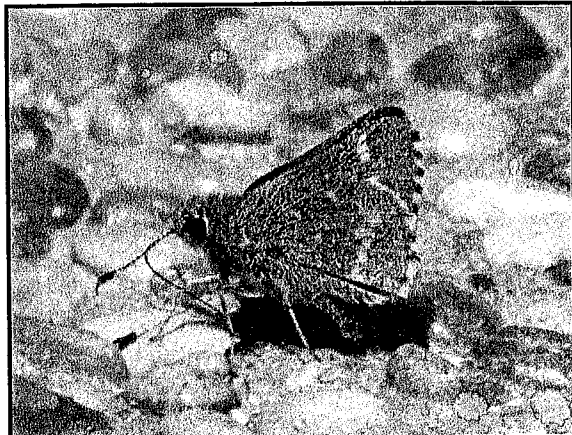
And to top it off, I hung up a sheet and lights on our back deck, facing the woods one night. Moths came in pretty well, and I decided to leave the lights on overnight and check it before dawn. Got up and peeked out at about 2 am only to see a racoon lapping up moths as fast as he (or she) could. It had cleaned off the ground and bottom foot of the sheet, and was tiptoeing up for a juicy sphingid when I ran it off. I suppose I should have taken note of whether the supposedly distasteful Arctiids were left behind, but I didn't.

(Editors note: Last year all John complained about was the drought and the lack of moths. Just can't seem to please John!)

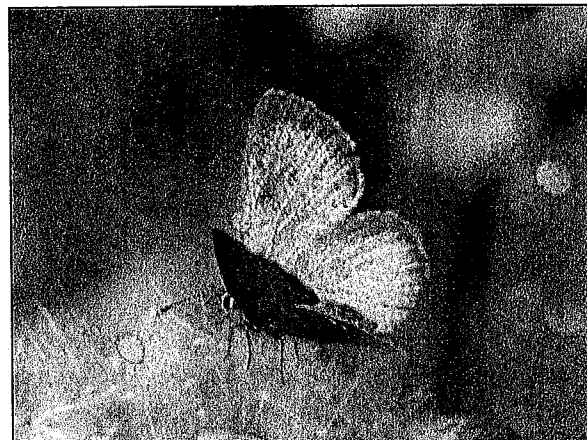


BUTTERFLY PHOTOGRAPHS

Dave Roemer of Bowling Green is an excellent photographer and has sent a number of photographs of butterflies. I have selected a several for this issue. I will include several more in each of the next issues.



Amblyscirtes hegon  
Mammoth Cave NP, Edmonson County



Glaucopsyche lygdamus  
Blue Licks Battlefield S.P., Robertson County

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The Kentucky Lepidopterists is published four times annually. Membership dues are \$12.00 annually. The organization is open to anyone with an interest in the Lepidoptera of the State of Kentucky. Information about the Society may be obtained from, and dues may be sent to: Treasurer, Les Ferge, 7119 Hubbard Avenue, Middletown, WI 53562

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