

Kentucky Lepidopterist

Newsletter of the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists

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THE SOCIETY OF KENTUCKY LEPIDOPTERISTS

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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

29th ANNUAL MEETING IN LOUISVILLE 14 & 15 NOVEMBER

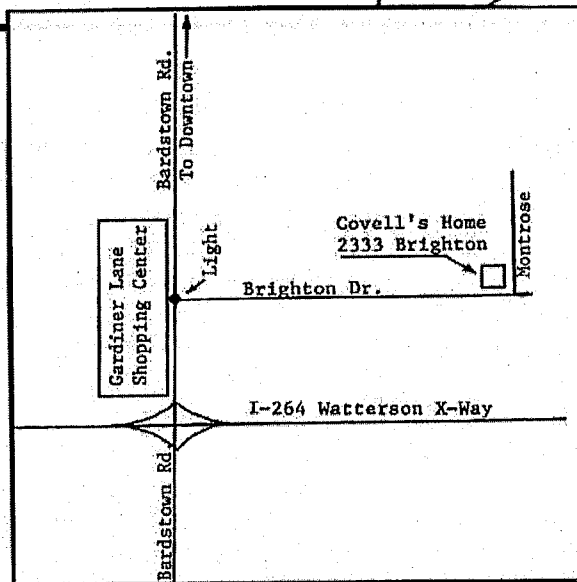
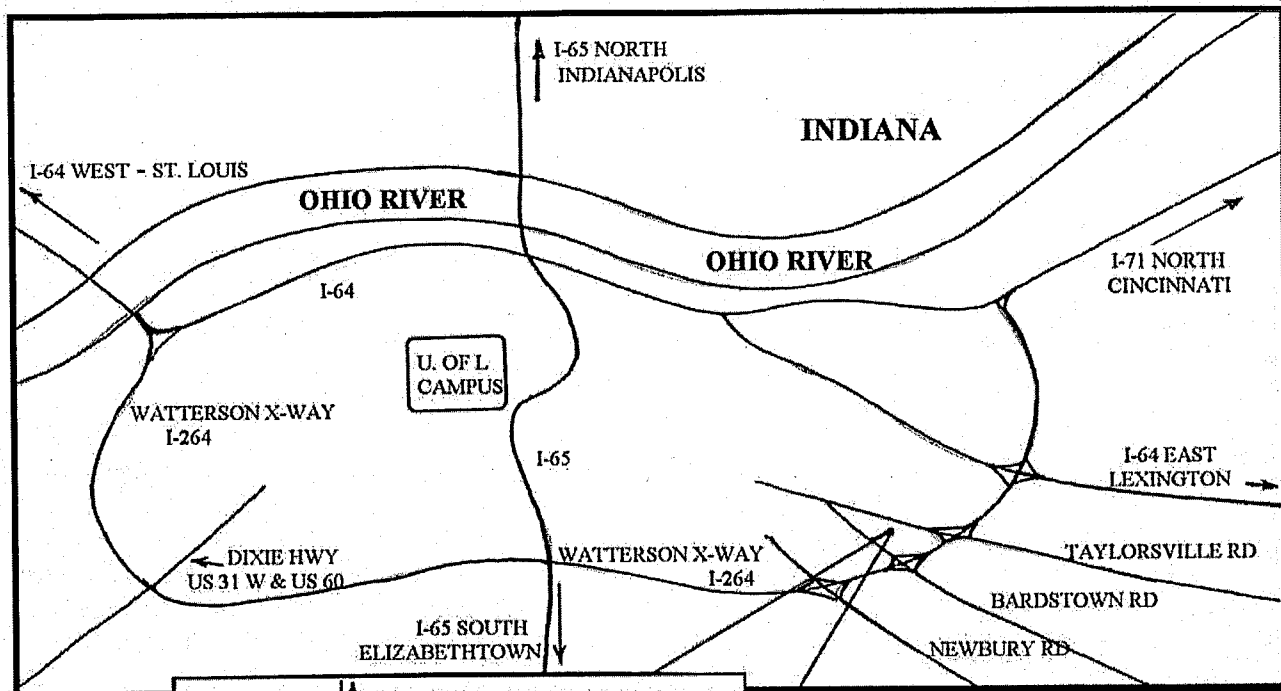
The 29th Annual Meeting of the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists will begin Friday afternoon, 14 November, at 1:00PM, in Room 321 of the Life Science Building at the University of Louisville. Dr. Charles Covell and others will be present to help identify specimens and record data. You are encouraged to bring your UFO's and specimens of interest. Specimens of interest are those that are poorly none or unreported from the state.

Friday night open house at the Covells', 7-11PM. For directions to Dr. Covell's home, see map on Page # 18.

Saturday morning at 9AM, the insect collection and entomology lab will be open at the Life Science Building, Room 321, at the University of Louisville. The remainder of the morning for visiting, identifying specimens, buy-sell-trade, etc. There will be a board meeting at 11AM in Dr. Covells office. The business meeting will begin at 1PM. There will be an election of officer. Due to other commitments, John Peacock cannot serve as President in 2004. We should begin to think of candidates for this very important position. There are several topics that will be open for discussion. 1.) Field meeting dates and locations for 2004. 2.) A better system to report collection records during the year. 3.) A Website for the Society. and 4.) The financial status of the Society. These topics need your in put. As the Society determines its objectives, it is extremely important to have the in put of the membership. If you are unable to attend and would like to express you ideas and suggestions on these or other topics, please write or e-mail Dr. Charles V. Covell, Jr., Dept. of Biology, University of Louisville, Louisville, KY 40292-0001; E-mail: covell@louisville.edu.

Our key note speaker this year will be Eric Metzler. Eric is currently the Newsletter Editor of the Ohio Lepidopterists and one of its founding fathers. Eric will speak about his work on prairie Lepidoptera. He will present some background on setting up a butterfly monitoring (Pollard) system for Kentucky. There will be additional contributed papers, slide series, equipment and specimen displays, etc. I you want to present a paper or talk, please contact Dr. Charles V. Covell, Jr., Dept. of Biology, University of Louisville, Louisville, KY 40292-0001; Telephone: 502-852-5942; E-mail: covell@louisville.edu. Dr. Covell can then provide time for your presentation.

MAP & DIRECTIONS TO COVELL RESIDENCE



DIRECTIONS TO COVELL RESIDENCE

Take the north exit of I-264 Watterson Expressway onto Bardstown Rd. You will see the Gardiner Lane Shopping Center on your left as you travel north on Bardstown Rd. Turn right at the traffic light onto Brighton Dr. Three blocks to 2333 Brighton on the left. Park in front, along the side on Montrose or in the Driveway. For additional information contact Dr. Covell; Office: 502-852-5942; Home: 502-456-6122, or E-mail: cvcove01@athena.louisville.edu

Please bring a door prize. Anything related to Lepidoptera or Lepidopterists are welcome. Dr. Covell will conduct the door prize drawing, one of the most enjoyable part of the meeting.

Dinner together follows at 6:00 PM at the University Club near the Life Science Building.

Plan now to attend. It should be another great meeting.

Please note:

We encourage all members to bring specimens and or list of species that have been collected to the meeting were the the information can be recorded in the data base. You may have a new county records, or even a state record. If you are a photographer, please bring for photographs. Aside from the information, we all like to look are great photographs.

WESTERN KENTUCKY FALL FIELD TRIP REPORT

BY IAN AND CRAIG SEGEBARTH

The fall field trip started Wednesday night, 3 September, in Pennyriple State Forest (for those who came early) with Bill Black, Leroy Koehn, Denny Curritt, Jack Dempwolf, Kevin, Craig, and Ian Segebarth, and Charles Wright. Leroy's U.V. light rig was set up on the Loop Rd. around Pennyriple, and several light traps were set as well. Collecting at the sheet was not as good as it could have been due to the waxing moon and cool temperature, but Apentesis oithona and Schinia arcigera were among the species taken. Everyone stayed at the Lodge in Pennyriple State Park for the night so the light traps could be retrieved early the next morning.

Thursday morning found Leroy, Denny, Charles, and the Segebarths sorting light traps along the loop road. Apentesis oithona, Cisthene packardii, and Schinia nundina were taken. We then returned to the lodge where we met Bill Black and Jack Dempwolf for breakfast. Following breakfast, we visited a site along the Tradewater River in Hopkins County where there were some large stands of cane. Papaipema arctivorens, Cisthene packardii, and C. ketuckiensis were found in some light traps that Bill had set out the night before. After sorting the traps we collected a power line cut where we found a large stand of thistle in bloom that was attracting many butterflies. Hesperia leonardus, Anatrytone logan, and Speyeria cybele were taken.

Leroy and Denny returned to the loop road to look for Amblyscirtes belli around 1PM, and the Segebarths went to S.F.R. 30 to set out a light trap. While setting out the trap the Segebarths observed several Hesperia leonardus. We all met back at the power line cut in Hopkins county where Leroy set out two light traps, one was his new 25 watt trap, the other his new 40 watt that is powered by one HEAVY battery. Bill, Jack, and Charles headed for Blood River in Calloway County to set out some light traps, while Leroy, Denny, and the Segebarths went to exit 56 on I-24. Schinia chrysellae has been collected at the lights of the gas station at the exit a number of time in previous years.

One light trap was set out in a field of wild flowers. Elbow Slough, in Fulton County was our next destination where we set up Leroy's light rig. By 9:00PM the lights were running and the moths were being dispatched. Despite the cool temperature and bright moon a few good moths were taken including Schinia bifascia, Spodoptera dolichos, and Philtraea monillata. By 11:30PM the lights were down and we made the trip back to Paducah.

Friday morning, the Segebarths recovered their light trap and headed to Hopkins County where we met Leroy and Denny to sort traps. Papaipema arctivorens, Apantesis oithona, and Hypoprepia miniata were taken. Meanwhile, Bill Black, Jack Dempwolf, and Charles Wright went to Blood River to recover their light traps that they had set the day before, and to look for butterflies. After sorting their traps, Leroy, Denny and the Segebarths went over to exit 56 and found Apantesis oithona but no Schinia chrysellae were in the light trap. Then it was on to Blood River. We arrived at Blood River around 1:00PM and found Bill, Jack, and Charles already searching for bugs. Callycopis cecrops and Poanes yehl were taken amongst the hordes of Junonia coenia and Phyciodes tharos. Atlides Halesus was collected by Ian Segebarth, and was a new record for Calloway County. This was the first individual of Atlides Halesus reported from Western Kentucky since 2001. Late in the afternoon we split up to set out light traps. Two traps were set out in Westvaco W.M.A. near Burkley in Carlisle County and a few were set out at various location around Paducah.

Friday night was "conversation and Strohs at Bill Black's", and once again Bill and Nancy were the most excellent hosts. Craig and Ian Segebarth brought a box of Catocala moths to be identified. Loran Gibson, Tony Merkle, and Dr. Covell each showed a series of slides. Bill gave an overview of Saturday's activities, and an enjoyable time was had by all.

Saturday, began with breakfast at the Days Inn. with a total of nineteen participants. Following breakfast we went to Streetman's Massac Creek around 9:30 AM.. The two light traps that were set out contained Luperina trigona, and a Papaipema nebris. Butterflies that were observed and/or collected included Poanes yehl, Amblyscirtes aesculapius, Lyceana plaeas, Callycopis cecrops, Enodia portlandia missarkae, E. anthedon, E. creola, Hermeuptychia sosybius, and Cyllopsis gemma.

After a couple of hours in the field, Bill Black led the way to the Littleville site in Paducah, which is known for the abundant numbers of Euphyes dukesi. Other species observed were Satyrodes appalachia, Agraulis vanillae, and several Schinia bifascia that were nectaring on flowers. The next site was the Zip Track where Atlides halesus has been taken in previous years. This year no A. halesus were but a single specimen of Parrhasius m-album taken. Pyrgus communis and Agraulis vanillae were among others observed. Around 4:30 pm. everyone who wanted to, drove to Burkley and enjoyed the local fish fry, then joined Leroy at his light rig on a bluff overlooking the Mississippi River. Nothing was not good due to the chilly temperature and the bright moon, but the conversation and fellowship around the sheet were great. Despite the conditions a Darapsa versicolor and an Apentesis oithona were taken. Several light traps were set in the surrounding area. The sheet was down by 11:00p.m., and everyone traveled back to Paducah for the night. A total of nineteen members and friends participated on Saturday.

On Sunday morning Bill Black led the remain participants to Bunge Corp. in Hickman, Kentucky along the bank of the Mississippi River to look for hybrid Limenitis archippus/astyanax. Several bait traps had been set here earlier in the week, and were full of

Limenitis arthemis astyanax and L. archippus, but no hybrids. Several species of Catocala were in the traps, Catocala amatrix, C. cara, C. piatrix, C. robinsoni, and C. vidua were recorded.

The Segebarths met up with everyone at Bunge location around 11:00 a.m., after sorting a light trap they had set over near Burkley in Hickman Coounty the night before. Among the moths they recorded were Apentesis oithona, Catocala nebulosa, and an unidentified Papaipema. Butterflies collected/observed at Bunge location were Pyrgus communis, Pholisora catullas, Pontia protodice, Pieris rapae, Zerene cesonia, Eurema lisa, E. nicippe, Nathalis iole, and Enodia anthedon. At 1:30 p.m. some members began leaving for home, while those who remained went to Willingham bottoms to search along the road for Poanes yehl. It was found as well as Anatrytone logan, Enodia portlandia missarkae, E. creola, and Satyrodes appalachia. By 3:30p.m. everyone had departed and another field trip was at an end.

The weather had been good to us, the butterflies were spectacular and everyone had a great time!



Group photo of meeting attendees

MONARCHS ROOSTING IN WARREN COUNTY

BY
DAVID ROEMER

On 26 September 2003, I was in the Chaney Lake area of Warren County looking for photographic opportunities. Chaney Lake is a transient lake in southern Warren County which forms during wet seasons. The site consists of an open weedy area as well as tracts of mature timber. The surrounding area is comprised primarily of cultivated fields.

There is a dirt lane leading to the lake that is approximately 3/10ths of a mile long. The Monarchs were in groups scattered the entire length of the lane clinging to the lower tree branches and weeds.

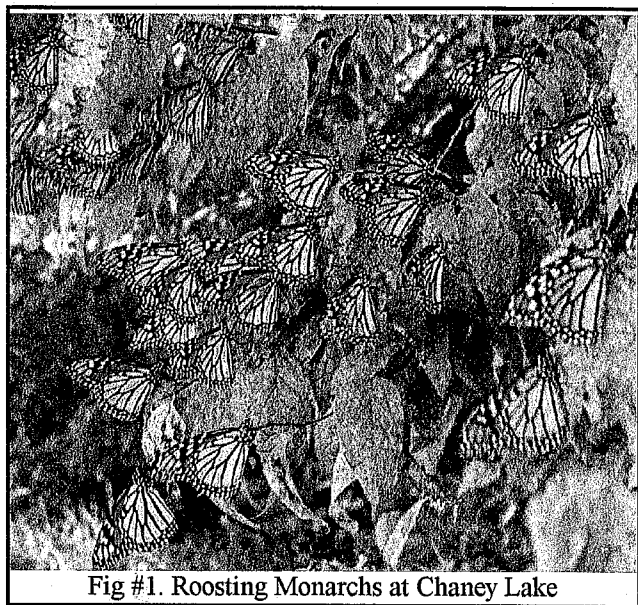


Fig #1. Roosting Monarchs at Chaney Lake

The day was mostly clear with a southerly wind of approximately 15 mph, and I was there at 1600-1700 hrs. The Monarchs were roosting on the north/northeastern side of the fence row, the leeward side, and were facing into the wind. It's possible that many of them would have received early morning sun, and I believe they were also using the fence row as a wind break.

When I first entered the lane I began flushing groups of them, but was totally amazed that there were group after group as I progressed. I finally stopped and photographed a cluster (See Fig.#1&2). I attempted a rough count of the individuals as I returned down the lane .

There were a few groups that had well over 100 individuals and a couple that may have had 200 individuals in them.

Most groups probably had 20-40, and I believe there were easily 1000 total along the lane. I've never seen anywhere near this many in one area and thought it may be unusual.

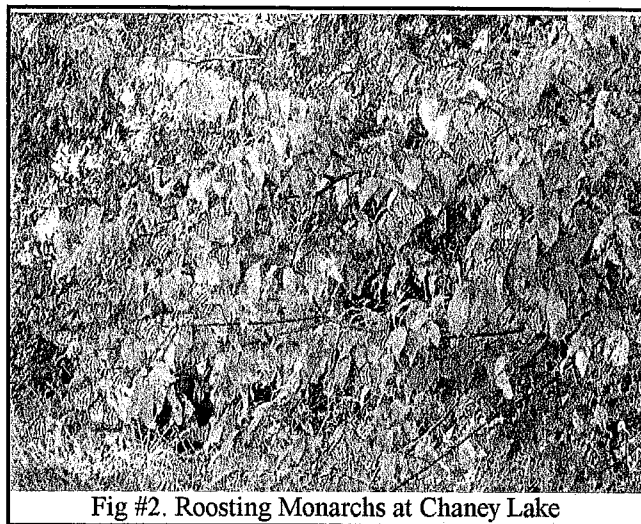


Fig #2. Roosting Monarchs at Chaney Lake

BLACK WITCH, ASCALAPHA ODORATA IN CALLAWAY COUNTY

Former University of Louisville student Susan Wilburn Hart, who has a copy of the Field Guide to the Moths of Eastern North America, contacted the author to say she had a clear view of a male Black Witch, Ascalapha odorata, near her back door on a farm near Murray, Calloway County, KY. She used the book to identify the large black moth. This observation was on July 8, 2003. This is the sixth county in Kentucky from which the Black Witch has been recorded.

REPORTS OF THE SPANISH MOTH, XANTHOPASTIS TIMAIS FROM KENTUCKY

Richard Healy reports the capture of the Spanish Moth in Hart County on August 10, 2003. This supports a report of larvae of this species found on spider lilies on May 31 by Brainard Palmer-Ball and John MacGregor at Mammoth Cave National Park.

CHARLIE COVELL ON SABBATICAL LEAVE.

Charlie is not teaching this fall semester of his 40th year at the University of Louisville. Instead he is working on a fascicle of MOTHS OF AMERICA NORTH OF MEXICO covering the geometrid moth subfamily Sterrhinae - a project he began after finishing his revision of the genus Scopula in 1965. He was in England from Sept. 10-25 to study types in the British Museum (Natural History). While there he visited former field colleague on the Daniel Boone National Forest power line corridor insects project, Jeremy Fraser, who showed him some ecological sites near Nottingham, including Sherwood Forest, where there is a huge oak tree about 800 years old. We also visited leading British "moth-er," Paul Waring, who writes updates on British moths and has just published a fine field guide in which moths are shown both in their living postures and "dead and spread." Another weekend was spent with Edward and Janis Sadler at Andover. From there they visited Stonehenge, and Worldwide Butterflies, where Robert Gooden has kept a butterfly house and silkworm industry going for some years. Neat to see 8 cocoons unraveled and spun into a silken thread, some of which was used for Princess Di's wedding gown (that's a while back!).

MEMBERSHIP UP-DATE

NEW MEMBERS:

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Victoria F. Warner, 10206 Keys Ferry Rd., Fairdale KY 40118; HM: (502) 366-7219; E-mail: victoria@nectarhill.com

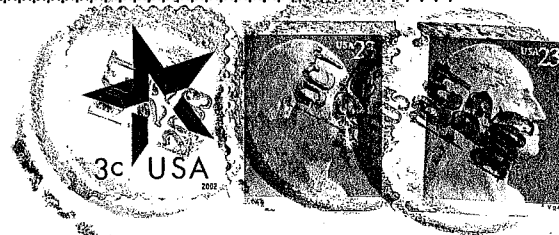
NEWSLETTER UP-DATE

We have had three great field meetings this year. The spring field meeting was in McCreary County and the early summer field meeting was in Pennyrile State Forest in Christain and Hopkins counties. And the annual Western Kentucky field meeting was absolutely great. Bill and Nancy Black were great hosts. All three meetings were well attended with great accommodations.

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 you Editor.

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

THE SOCIETY OF KENTUCKY LEPIDOPTERISTS
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