

# Kentucky Lepidopterist

Newsletter of the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists

Volume 30 Number 2 1 August 2004

## THE SOCIETY OF KENTUCKY LEPIDOPTERISTS

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Kevin Segebarth - 2004\*  
Gerald Burnett - 2006\*  
\* 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 10, 11, & 12

The fall field meeting is scheduled for the Kentucky Lepidopterists for the weekend of September 10, 11, & 12 in the Jackson Purchase region of Kentucky. We will operate out of Paducah, with Bill Black hosting the annual far west expedition. Bring light traps, bait traps, and whatever butterfly collecting gear you wish.

Bill recommends lodging at the Days Inn at Exit 4 from I-24 which is less than three miles from Bill's house (see map). When calling to make reservations, let them know 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 10 - 4:00 PM & 7:00 PM CDT

Meet at Bill Black's at 4:00 PM CDT to set out light traps and bait traps for moths at a near-by location. Contact Bill Black before the meeting if you plan to participate. We will meet again at Bill's house at 201 Friedman Avenue for a social get together at 7:00 PM CDT. (See map and directions below) You are invited to bring slides to show. A projector and screen will be provided.

#### Saturday, September 11, 9:00 AM CDT

We will meet at the Days Inn at 9:00 AM for breakfast at the motel. Following breakfast, we will visit the Zip Track Site and the Littleville Site in Paducah. In past years, we have found Euphyes dukesii, Atlides halesus, and less-frequent wonderful things at these two neighboring sites.

About mid day our caravan will head West to the Loess Bluffs that overlook the Mississippi River. These steep wooded bluffs have been timbered over the years, but generally not plowed. Eric Metzler spoke to the Kentucky Lepidopterists last November about surveying remnant prairies for Lepidoptera. One of his slides depicted the map of an ancient interglacial prairie that extended to the eastern side of the Mississippi River. Perhaps we might find a remnant plant hosting a remnant micromoth! We will set light traps Saturday evening at Axe Lake Bluff in Ballard County and at Chaulk Bluff in Hickman County.

Sunday, September 12 - 9:00 AM CDT

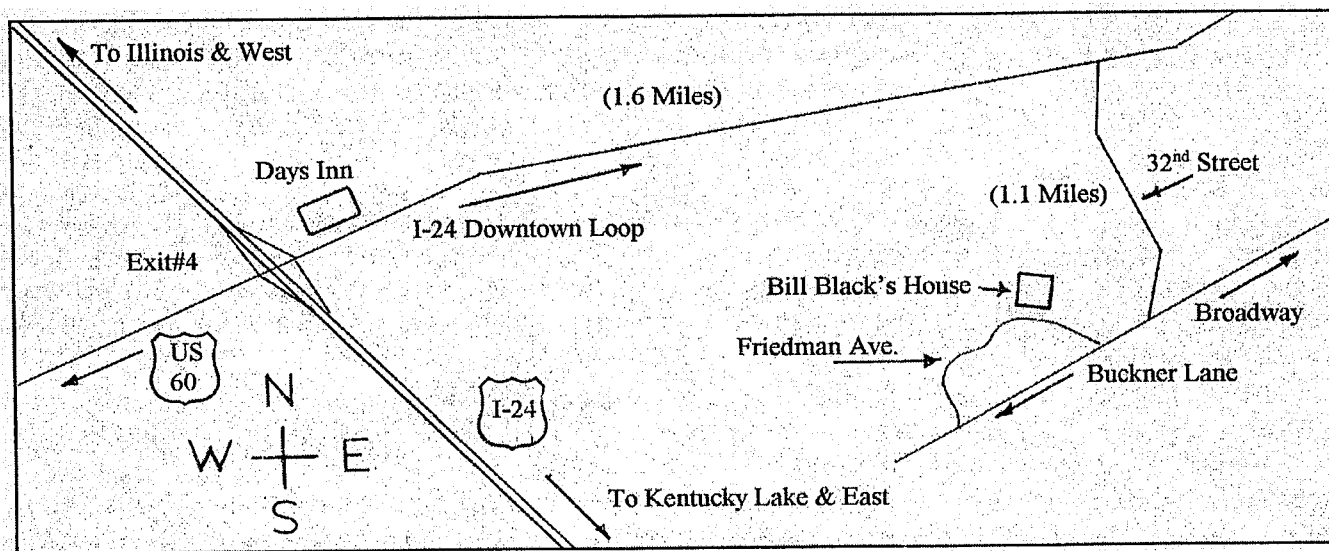
We will meet again at the Days Inn at 9:00 AM for breakfast. We will return to the Mississippi River bluff sites to collect our light traps, and browse for butterflies. We will rendezvous along Chaulk Bluff Road in Hickman County, to reassemble our caravan. From there we will make a nostalgic journey to the Bunge Corp. site on the Mississippi River, below the city of Hickman in Fulton County. Over the past 23 years, this Kentucky Lepidopterists' expedition has collected three Limenitis

(hybrid form "rubidus" Strecker), and observed two interspecific matings ( ♀ L. archippus x ♂ L. arthemis astyanax), at the Bunge site. Here the field trip will adjourn, with lingering allowed.

This will be another great meeting. Mark your calendars and plan now to attend.

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

### MAP TO DAYS INN AND BILL BLACKS 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 to 32<sup>nd</sup> Street. Turn right on 32<sup>nd</sup> Street and travel 1.1 miles to the end of 32<sup>nd</sup> Street and turn right onto Bruckner Lanr, 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!

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### 2004 ANNUAL MEETING

The 2004 Annual Meeting will be held at the University of Kentucky in Lexington, Kentucky on Friday and Saturday, 29 & 30 October 2004. The Entomology Department of the University of Kentucky will host the meeting. There will be an identification day on Friday, 29 October and a party Friday night. The meeting will beheld in the Entomology Department on Saturday, 30 October, the collection will be open for viewing and use,

there will be a business meeting, speakers, the presentation of the portrait of Dr. Covell that will remain with the collection, door prizes and will end with a banquet at a local restaurant. This is an opportunity to get specimens identified, report records for the data base and exchange information. There will be a detailed meeting announcement with accommodations, directions and a meeting agenda in the next issue of the Newsletter. Plan now to attend.

## HART COUNTY SPRING FIELD MEETING REPORT

The spring field meeting in Hart County began on Friday, April 23 when 12 members of the Society converged on the Cave Research Foundation (CRF) in the late afternoon and early evening. The weather was initially cool and breezy, so there were few things flying when the first arrivals: Ian, Craig, and Kevin Segebarth, Gerald Burnett, Jack Dempwolf, and Jeff Marcus reached the site. After moving the provisions indoors, most of the group traveled to the nearby Upper Green River Biological Preserve (UGRBP) to set out three black light traps for the night, while Jack and Jeff set out food and waited for additional participants to arrive. They soon were joined by Charles Wright, Charles Watson, Richard Henderson, Ellis Lauder milk, Loran Gibson, and Tony Merkle. Upon return of those setting out traps, everyone enjoyed the delicious dinner at the CRF prepared in large part by Jeff's wife, Joanne Seiff.

Using Loran Gibson's black lighting rig, the first evening was spent black-lighting at the CRF. A total of 44 species of moths were collected during that first night of collecting including two specimens of Comachara cadburyi, on which Dr. David Wagner of the University of Connecticut had recently put a bounty of \$20.00 per female brought back alive. The Comachara cadburyi were carefully collected in a pickle jar by Ian and Craig Segebarth to be shipped later to Dr. Wagner.

Saturday morning was breezy and looked like it might rain, but after a quick breakfast of bread and cereal at the CRF, the group headed out to the UGRBP in spite of the less than promising weather. The light traps that had been set out the previous evening were not especially productive, yielding several Grammia figurata and a single Callosamia promethea. The morning's work with nets was also sparse, yielding Srymon melinus, Papilio polyxenes, Pterourus glaucus, Pterourus troilus, and many specimens of the deceptively colored Anthocharis midea which greatly resembled the target species Eucloe olympia. Around mid-day, sandwiches kindly supplied by the Department of Biology at Western Kentucky University were distributed, and the participants started to debate whether to give up on collecting in the preserve for a while and travel to Mammoth Cave National Park to see if people could at least spot and photograph Eucloe olympia at a location where it had been recorded previously. At that moment, Charlie Covell arrived from Louisville, and with him, the sun.

The luck of the group changed completely at that point. As they were talking and eating with Charlie, a small white butterfly flew in front of Jack Dempwolf and Richard Henderson. Richard netted it and found the first of four Eucloe olympia netted that day—a new species record for Hart County. Also observed (by Charlie Covell, Jeff Marcus, Jack Dempwolf, and Richard Henderson), but not netted was at least one Agraulis vanillae, another new species record, and entirely unexpected so early in the season. Jeff Marcus is planning additional trips back to the site to try to obtain a specimen. Also of note were several Phoebis sennae eubule, another member of the late summer/fall fauna and a specimen of this species was obtained. There was much speculation about the role of a mild winter and global warming in allowing these individuals to overwinter. Along W. Walters Road at the edge of the UGRBP there was a relict barrens habitat that yielded a number of species that were not observed in other parts of the preserve, including tantalizing glimpses of what might have been Callophrys niphon (but we weren't sure, so it isn't included in our list). A total of 32 species of butterflies were netted at the UGRBP.

Charlie Covell was not able to stay longer, but the rest of the group retired to the CRF for a dinner of barbecued hot dogs and hamburgers, before heading back to the UGRBP for another night of black lighting with Loran's black lighting rig, this time powered by a generator. A spot was chosen above the pond in the Southeastern part of the preserve. In spite of tornado warnings, it was an extremely productive evening. An additional C. cadburyi was collected live for Dr. Wagner, as well as several Lactura pupula, another first record for Hart County. The Segebarths also set out two black light traps on the evening of April 24, setting one at the power cut on the ridgetop in the Southwestern part of the preserve, and the other in the barrens habitat near W. Walters Road. Their luck this second night was much better, collecting Zale horrida, Z. lunata, Z. aeruginosa, Hydria prunivorata, Phylodesma americana, as well as a big handful of other species. In all, 57 species of moths were collected at UGRBP during the trip.

On the last morning, most of the group left early to head for home, but Richard Harrison, Jeff Marcus, and the Segebarths stayed just long enough to spot Celastrina argiolus ssp. ladon, Pterourus troilus, and Pterourus glaucus, the only three butterfly species observed at CRF. Overall, 32 species of butterflies and 83 species of moths were recorded over the course of the weekend.

Unfortunately, the Segebarths neglected to take the C. cadburyi home with them so that they could be sent to Dave Wagner. So, thanks to the cooperation of the Segebarths (including Eileen), Jeff Marcus, Joanne Seiff, Dave Wagner, and Pat Kambesis of the Cave Research Foundation, arrangements were made to get the moths to Connecticut in good time and safety. Upon their arrival Dave Wagner tried to collect eggs from the animals. He describes his experience: "They arrived. I huffed and I puffed and I danced....no eggs. I coddled and showed blue movies and played soft music....no eggs. Then I did the unthinkable. I checked the sexes of the moths--males!!!! Ouch."

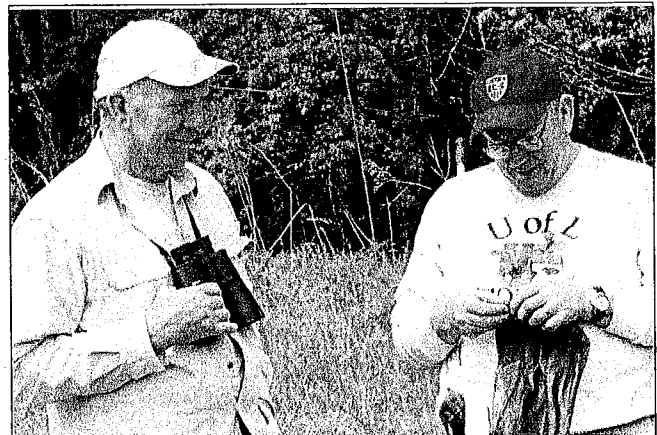
At least we all tried. Thanks to everyone who contributed to the otherwise uniform success of the weekend, in particular Joanne Seiff, Pat Kambesis and the Cave Research Foundation, the Upper Green River Biological Preserve, the Department of Biology at Western Kentucky University, and the trip participants.



Group photograph of field meeting attendees.



Jack Dempwolf, Society President and Richard Henderson enjoy the sun and butterflies during the meeting.



Loran Gibson and Dr. Covell in the field

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## PENNYRILE STATE FOREST SUMMER FIELD TRIP REPORT

Although the meeting was to begin on Friday, 21 May 2004, The Segebarth's, Kevin, Ian and Craig, Bill Black and Leroy Koehn arrived late in the afternoon on Thursday, 20 May 2004. They set out a total of nine light traps, five bait traps and 12 pheromone traps in and around Pennyrile State Forest. Once the traps were out they returned to the Pennyrile State Resort Park for the night where Leroy had rented a cabin for the weekend.

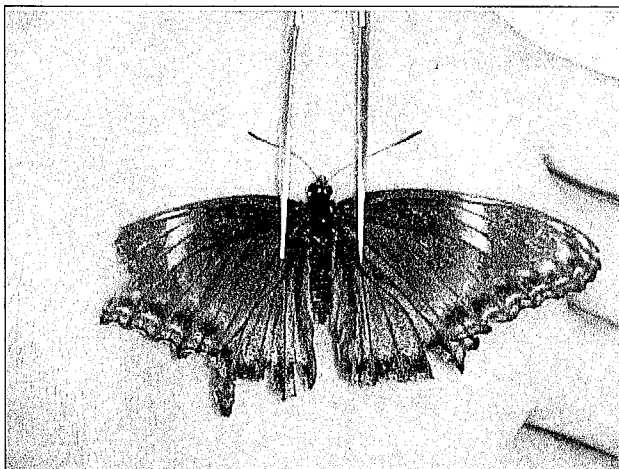
Friday morning they recovered all 9 light traps and returned the cabin. They spent almost 8 hours sorting through the nine traps. It was late afternoon before they were in the field on the Pennyrile Loop Road around the forest. There were few butterflies on the wing, however, a few Amblyscirtes belli were found. They returned to the lodge at Pennyrile State Resort Park for dinner where they found Loran Gibson, Ellis Lauder milk, and Gerald Burnett in lodge restaurant. After dinner, light traps were set out and Leroy's light set up was deployed. Although it was the dark of the moon, moths were not particularly abundant. At mid-night, the light set up was down.

Saturday morning they all met at the lodge and were joined by Richard Henderson. They collected the area at McKnight Road and the Trade Water River. Atrytonopsis hianna and Nastra lhermineri were found. The target species, Fixenia ontario was nowhere to be seen. The bait traps contained Enodia creola, Enodia portlandia missarkae and E. anthedon.

Ploygonia comma and P. interrogationis were extremely abundant in the area during the entire meeting. They visited a section of the Pennyrile Loop Road which became known as Amblyscirtes Alley during the 2003 meeting. Only a few Amblyscirtes belli and A. hegon were found. Other species of interest were Archalarus lyciades, Poanes hobomok and Nymphalis antiopa. A logging road near the old bridge on the south side of the forest was the next stop. Several Amblyscirtes belli were taken. Anaea andria, was also found. Bill Black and Gerald Burnett both headed for home that afternoon.

Friday night. Leroy and the Segebarth's set out their light traps in the forest and Loran Gibson set up his collecting lights. The first insect to come to the sheet was a Fixenia ontario, which Richard Henderson promptly popped into a jar.

Sunday morning Leroy and the Segebarths recovered their light traps. Leroy found two specimens of Hypoparax aurora on vegetation next to his traps, none were in the traps. The pheromone traps contained Parathrene simulans, Synanthedon scitula, S. pictipes, S. exitiosa, and Podosesia syringae. Leroy and the Segebarths met at the logging road near the old bridge on the south side of the forest. They found Amblyscirtes belli and Anaea andria. The latter was found in abundance. Females were observed ovipositing on Goat Weed, Croton capitatum. At 1PM Leroy began his journey home. However, the Segebarth's took one final choice specimen of Basilarchia arthemis astyanax with a partial white band in the forewings.



Basilarchia arthemis astyanax with white banding in the forewings. Collected by Craig, & Ian Segebarth.

It was a great meeting. Plan on joining us at the fall field trip to western Kentucky in September. We look forward to seeing you there!

**LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED**

- |                            |                             |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Epargyreus clarus          | Inscalis niphon             |
| Aschalarus lyciades        | Strymon melinus             |
| Thorybes bathyllus         | Everes comyntas             |
| Erynnis juvenalis          | Celastrina ladon violacea   |
| Erynnis baptisiae          | Lubythaena bachmanii        |
| Nastra lherminier          | Euptoieta claudia           |
| Ancyloxipha numitor        | Speyeria cybele             |
| Polites origenes           | Phyciodes tharos            |
| Wallengrenia egeremet      | Charidryas nycties          |
| Pompeius verna             | Polygonia interrogationis   |
| Poanes hobomok             | Polygonia comma             |
| Poanes zabulon             | Nymphalis antiopa           |
| Euphyes riricola metacomet | Vanessa virginiensis        |
| Atrytonopsis hianna        | Vanessa atalanta            |
| Amblyscirtes hegon         | Vanessa caerulea            |
| Amblyscirtes belli         | Limenitis arthemis astyanax |
| Battus philenor            | Limenitis archippus         |
| Pterourus glacus           | Anaea andria                |
| Pterourus troilus          | Asterocampa celtis          |
| Eurytides marcellus        | Asterocampa clyton          |
| Pieris rapae               | Enodia portlandia missarkar |
| Colias philodice           | Enodia creola               |
| Colias eurytheme           | Enodia anthedon             |
| Phoebis sennae             | Megisto cymela              |
| Satryium calanus falacer   | Cyllopsis gemma             |
| Fixenia ontario            | Hermeuptychia sosybius      |
| Calycopis cecrops          | Danaus plexippus            |



Bill Black finds a moth of interest at the sheet

### NEWSLETTER UP DATE

On July 21, 2004, Dr. Charles V. Covell, Jr., departed Kentucky and began his journey to his new home in Florida. He will, without a doubt be missed. However, it is not the end of the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterist. We intend to continue the work that Dr. Covell began over 30 years ago. The officers of the Society are committed to move the Society forward. The fall field meeting to western Kentucky and hosted by Bill Black is always exciting and enjoyable. Something new is always found along with new and interesting places to explore.

The annual meeting will be held at the University of Kentucky in Lexington the weekend of October 29 & 30. Dr. Mike Sharkey will host the meeting. The meeting will begin Friday morning at the Entomology Department of the University of Kentucky where the collection of Lepidoptera from the University of Louisville is now housed. The collection will be open for viewing and identification of specimens. My wife Betty and I invite you to attend the Friday night get together at our home in Georgetown.

The formal meeting will begin Saturday at the Entomology Department of the University of Kentucky. Dr. Charles Covell will be in attendance. The Society will present the Entomology Department of the University of Kentucky with a portrait of Dr. Covell that was painted by Yin-lie Hicks. The portrait will remain with the collection that Dr. Covell amassed during his forty plus years at the University of Louisville.

Plan to attend the annual meeting. The staff of the Entomology Department of the University of Kentucky want to establish a relationship with the Society and to have the members utilize the collection. Dr. Mike Sharkey and members of the Entomology Department are looking forward to the annual meeting with great expectations.

Field meetings are always enjoyable and provide members with an opportunity to visit new areas and find interesting species as well as new records. A number of field trip locations will be presented and discussed at the annual meeting. Should you have an area that you would like the Society to plan a field meeting, please contact Bill Black, Field Trip Coordinator, Tel: 270-442-9587

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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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