

Kentucky Lepidopterist

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Mammoth Cave National Park Summer Field Trip Report

7 - 9 July 2006

By Jeff Marcus

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, and can be sent to the Treasurer: Les Ferge, (see above).

The Summer Field trip began on July 7 in the early afternoon as members of the Kentucky Lepidopterists began to gather at the Maple Springs Research Center in Mammoth Cave National Park (MCNP), Edmonson County. Even though the directions to get to Maple Springs were variously described as "difficult", "confusing", "misleading", and "awful", people eventually found their way to the right place. They knew they were in the right place because a butterfly net was prominently attached to one of the columns of the front porch, but the buildings were all locked and trip leader Jeff Marcus was nowhere to be found. Eventually, Loran Gibson, Darrell Baker, Bill Black, Charles Wright, Richard Henderson, Gerald Burnett, Kevin and Ian Segebarth, new society members John and Ali Walden, and even Jeff's wife, Joanne Seiff, were all gathered, but still no Jeff. Getting worried, they tried to call Jeff on his cell phone repeatedly, but with no success.

Suddenly, at about 5:45 pm, 15 minutes ahead of the official meeting time, a very sweaty Jeff Marcus drove up, fresh from setting up a series of banana and beer bait traps along the River Styx Trail. Because he had been deep in the Green River Valley, his cell phone did not receive any of the calls. He leapt out of the car, opened up the doors to Maple Springs, and in less than 20 minutes had food cooking on the grill. The assembled Lepidopterists were joined for dinner by MCNP Officials from the Division of Research and Resource Management, Mark Depoy and Rick Olson. The group was provided with a briefing on safety and protocol for doing research in the park

As the evening grew darker, some participants went out to set traps in the National Park and on the North side of the nearby Upper Green River Biological Preserve in Hart County. Jeff Marcus, Bill Black, and the Waldens went back to the River Styx Trail to add one of Bill's battery powered fluorescent live traps (or "Con-traptions") to the string of bait traps that Jeff had set along the trail earlier in the day. Still others set up sheets near the Maple Springs Research Center. As things began to fly into the sheets, society member Richard Healy drove in from Bonnieville, in Hart County, to join the group for the evening. He brought with him some of the material he had caught from his home, but had not yet been able to identify. Richard says that he gets more species at his house, coming to a regular incandescent bulb on his back porch, than we were getting coming to the mercury vapor lamps that night in the National Park. He says that anyone interested in acquiring more Hart County material is welcome to visit him, just call first to tell him that you're coming.

(Continued on pg. 2)

While there was not a lot of activity at the sheet, Saturniid silk moths were very well represented. Among the species observed from this family were *Automeris io* (io moth), *Anisota stigma* (spiny oakworm), *Actias luna* (luna moth), *Citheronia regalis* (royal walnut moth), and *Callosamia angulifera* (tulip tree silk moth). Jeff collected live examples of each of these species, as well as examples of the great leopard moth, *Hypercompe scribonia*, the leopard moth, *Zeuzera pyrina*, and the clymene moth, *Haploa clymene* in a mesh bag to show National Park visitors the next day. The group retired for the evening to the bedrooms and bunkhouse attached to the Maple Springs Facility.

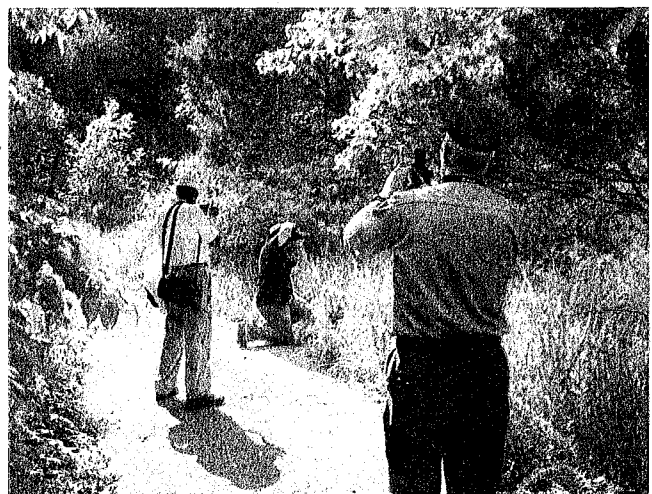
The next morning, after breakfast, Jeff Marcus, Bill Black, the Waldens, and Darrell Baker went to the River Styx trail to lead a butterfly walk for National Park Visitors. They were joined there by co-leader of the walk, cave cricket expert Kurt Helf of the MCNP Division of Research and Resource Management. A total of 25 National Park Visitors, including Kurt's children (plus some extra ones he borrowed for the day), Yvonne Petkus (WKU Art Professor) and family, Bradley Smith and Brian Payne (WKU Biology Students), Heidi Peters (MCNP employee), Kevin and Tobiaire Utt, Mike, Lorena, Lauren, and Caroline Myers and many others including a reporter from the Glasgow Times. While there were very few butterflies observed on the walk (two Gemmed Satyrs, *Cyllopsis gemma* were the only butterflies observed during the entire event), the visitors enjoyed the hike, seeing the moths in Bill Black's live catch trap (especially the *Antheraea polyphemus*), and looking at the moths Jeff had captured at the sheet the night before. Even the bait traps that Jeff had invested so much time setting up the day before were largely a failure—the only insect captured was a cave cricket, *Hadenocerus subterraneus*, with its belly full of banana. That at least gave Kurt Helf the opportunity to talk about these amazing organisms with the walk participants.

At the same time, the rest of the Lepidopterists met up with Mark Depoy and Rick Olson to travel to Eagle Prairie in the far Northwestern part of MCNP in Edmonson County. Eagle Prairie is adjacent to the Great Onyx Job Corps site, and has a recently restored prairie plant community. The group was there for several hours and was able to find 18 species of butterflies (see Table page 4) while they were there, including two species not previously documented in MCNP, the least skipper, *Ancyloxypha numitor*, and Peck's skipper, *Polites peckius*. After the butterfly walk ended, Jeff Marcus, Bill Black, and Kurt Helf met up with the rest of the group at Eagle Prairie.



Eagle Prairie

From there, the group moved to Wondering Woods in Barren County in the Southeastern part of MCNP. Wondering Woods is the site of a former roadside attraction—originally an ersatz country village, which has been purchased by the Park Service and is slowly being restored to natural conditions. The group identified 15 butterfly species from this site, including four species previously undocumented in MCNP: the Delaware skipper (*Anatrytone logan*), black swallowtail (*Papilio polyxenes asterius*), coral hairstreak (*Satyrium titus mopsus*), and the American snout (*Libytheana carinata*). The total butterfly count for the weekend was 25 species, and there is a cumulative total of 48 butterfly species documented from MCNP to date.



A photo op in Wondering Woods

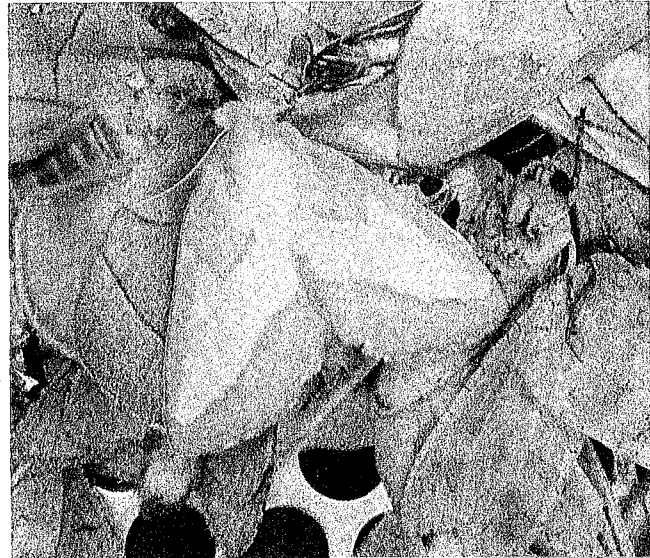
(Continued on pg. 3)

Mammoth Cave...continued from pg. 2

The group met for dinner at the Bel Aire Restaurant in Cave City, Kentucky, then returned to Maple Springs to sheet for moths again. Visitors to Mammoth Cave National Park were invited to visit the sheets, and again about 25 people came to the event. Among them were the Myers family, Heidi Peters, and the Utts who attended the butterfly walk in the morning, as well as John and Jay Nelson, Jerrod Nelms, Gary, Mary, and Marie Meszaros, and many others. The species observed were similar to those seen the night before, so a number of Kentucky Lepidopterists decided to head home that evening, but the visiting members of the public seemed to have a great time. Darrell Baker, Charles Wright, Bill Black, and Richard Henderson all did a wonderful job helping Jeff Marcus talk to the assembled about the species that were flying into the sheets. The visitors all left by about 9:45 pm so that they could cross the Green River Ferry before it closed, after which it became much quieter. The remaining lepidopterists spent the evening discussing the events of the day and reminiscing about previous field trips. The next morning was spent cleaning up Maple Springs and collecting traps before everyone headed home. A total of about 40 people participated in one part or another of the weekend's programs, and we gained several new members from that pool of participants. Reports of the field trip appeared in several area newspapers, and the press offices of both WKU and MCNP were busy publicizing our work. Not too shabby!



Group photo at Eagle Prairie



Hyparpax aurora taken in a black light trap at the Upper Green River Biological Preserve - North Side, 8 July, 2006.

September Field Trip in Paducah

Kentucky Lepidopterists will gather at Bill and Nancy Black's house Friday, 8 September '06, at 7:00 PM CDT, for refreshments and fun. Bring slides if you have any you want to share with the group. The Blacks live at 201 Friedman Avenue (across from Clark School). Anyone who would like to set traps Friday night should contact Bill before the weekend and plan to arrive earlier on Friday.

Saturday, 9 September '06, at 8:30 AM CDT, the group will rendezvous at Day's Inn (I-24 Exit 4, US 60). The expedition will collect butterflies at a series of sites during the day, culminating with setting out moth traps in the late afternoon and early evening.

Sunday, 10 September '06, at 8:30 AM CDT, the group will rendezvous again at Day's Inn. After retrieving the previous night's moth traps, the KY Leps will finish the day collecting butterflies in the area of Hickman, Fulton County, KY.

Day's Inn again offers special rates to KY Leps: \$50.00/night. Call 270-442-7500 for reservations.

Contact Bill Black to let him know you intend to come: 270-442-9587, or black8808@bellsouth.net.

Table of Butterfly Species Documented from Mammoth Cave National Park

Species documented from the National Park for the first time on the July field trip are highlighted in orange (N=6)

MONA	Genus	Species	Common name	Date Added to MACA list	Eagle Prairie, Edmonson Co.	Wondering Woods, Barren Co.
3870	<i>Epargyreus</i>	<i>clarus</i>	Silver-Spotted Skipper	2006	X	
3947	<i>Erynnis</i>	<i>juvenalis</i>	Juvenal's Duskywing	2005		
3959	<i>Erynnis</i>	<i>baptisiae</i>	Wild Indigo Duskywing	1998		X
4004	<i>Ancyloxypha</i>	<i>numitor</i>	Least Skipper	2006	X	
4027	<i>Hesperia</i>	<i>metea</i>	Cobweb Skipper	2005		
4036	<i>Polltes</i>	<i>peckilus</i>	Peck's Skipper	2006	X	
4042	<i>Polltes</i>	<i>origenes</i>	Crossline Skipper	1998		
4046	<i>Wallengrenia</i>	<i>otho</i>	Southern Broken-Dash	2005		
4049	<i>Atalopedes</i>	<i>campestris</i>	Sachem	2006	X	X
4051	<i>Anatrytone</i>	<i>logan</i>	Delaware Skipper	2006		X
4060	<i>Poanes</i>	<i>zabulon</i>	Zabulon Skipper	1998		
4157	<i>Battus</i>	<i>philenor</i>	Pipevine Swallowtail	2005	X	X
4159	<i>Papilio</i>	<i>polyxenes asterius</i>	Black Swallowtail	2006		X (larva)
4176	<i>Pterourus</i>	<i>glaucus</i>	Tiger Swallowtail	1998	X	X
4181	<i>Pterourus</i>	<i>trollus</i>	Spicebush Swallowtail	1998	X	X
4184	<i>Eurytides</i>	<i>marcellus</i>	Zebra Swallowtail	2005		
4196	<i>Pteris</i>	<i>virginianensis</i>	West Virginia White	2005		
4197	<i>Pteris</i>	<i>rapae</i>	Cabbage White	2005	X	
4202	<i>Euchloe</i>	<i>olympia</i>	Olympia marble	2005		
4207	<i>Anthocharis</i>	<i>midia</i>	Falcate Orange tip	2005		
4209	<i>Colias</i>	<i>philodice</i>	Clouded sulfur	2005		
4210	<i>Colias</i>	<i>eurytheme</i>	Orange Sulfur	1998	X	
4228	<i>Phoebis</i>	<i>sennae</i>	Cloudless Sulfur	1998	X	
4275	<i>Satyrjum</i>	<i>titus mopsus</i>	Coral Hairstreak	2006		X
4318	<i>Callophrys</i>	<i>gryneus</i>	Olive Juniper Hairstreak	2005		
4322	<i>Incisalla</i>	<i>augustus</i>	Brown Elf	2005		
4335	<i>Parrhasius</i>	<i>m-album</i>	White-M Hairstreak	2005		
4336	<i>Strymon</i>	<i>melinus</i>	Grey Hairstreak	2005		
4361	<i>Everes</i>	<i>comyntas</i>	Eastern Tailed Blue	1998	X	X
4363	<i>Celastrina</i>	<i>ladon</i>	Spring Azure	2005		
4363.1	<i>Celastrina</i>	<i>neglecta</i>	Summer Azure	2005		X
4410	<i>Libytheana</i>	<i>carinata</i>	American Snout	2006		X
4420	<i>Polygonia</i>	<i>interrogationis</i>	Question Mark	1998	X	X
4421	<i>Polygonia</i>	<i>comma</i>	Comma	1998	X	X
4433	<i>Nymphalls</i>	<i>antiopa</i>	Mourning Cloak	2006		
4434	<i>Vanessa</i>	<i>virginianensis</i>	American Lady	2005	X	
4437	<i>Vanessa</i>	<i>atalanta</i>	Red Admiral	1998		
4450	<i>Speyeria</i>	<i>cybele</i>	Great Spangled Fritillary	1998	X	
4481	<i>Phyciodes</i>	<i>tharos</i>	Pearl Crescent	1998	X	X
4522	<i>Limnitis</i>	<i>arthemis astyanax</i>	Red-Spotted Purple	1998		
4554	<i>Anaea</i>	<i>andria</i>	Goatweed Leafwing	2006		
4557	<i>Asterocampa</i>	<i>celtis</i>	Hackberry Emperor	1998		
4568.1	<i>Enodla</i>	<i>anthonon</i>	Northern Pearly-eye	2005		
4573	<i>Cylopsis</i>	<i>gemma</i>	Gemmed Satyr	2005		X
4575	<i>Hermeuptychia</i>	<i>sosyblus</i>	Carolina Satyr	2005		
4578	<i>Megisto</i>	<i>cymela</i>	Little Wood Satyr	1998	X	
4587	<i>Cercyonis</i>	<i>pegala</i>	Common Wood Nymph	1998		
4614	<i>Danaus</i>	<i>plexippus</i>	Monarch	2006	X	
			Total Butterfly Species known from MACA = 48		July Field Trip Total for Eagle Prairie = 18	July Field Trip Total for Wondering Woods = 15

Regarding Harry Zirlin's Advice Regarding Encounters with Law Enforcement Personnel

by John Masters

Harry Zirlin presented advice for dealing with Law Enforcement Personnel in the last issue of **Kentucky Lepidopterist**. Harry should know. He seems to have the innate ability to create these encounters and gain this experience.

Harry's latest encounter is a real classic and needs to be reported. Harry flew to Fairbanks, Alaska on 24 June and expected to spend the next week collecting butterflies on the Dalton Highway, north of the Arctic Circle. However, after arriving in the Fairbanks airport, he felt a pain in his side that necessitated his being taken to the Fairbanks hospital by ambulance. They didn't wait long in the hospital, as soon after he was admitted he was taken to an operating room and had his appendix removed. Thus Harry was stuck in the hospital for the next few days while his three companions drove on up to Wiseman for some arctic collecting.

A couple of days later his doctor suggested that he needed to get up and get some exercise. Of course the doctor intended that Harry should walk around a bit in the hospital corridors. However, Harry took full advantage of this suggestion. He took his walk outside for some butterfly collecting. Now just imagine Harry walking around the streets of Fairbanks, wearing a hospital gown, holding an IV bag in one hand and a butterfly net in the other.

Very soon law enforcement showed up. It seems that somebody had reported a lunatic about exhibiting suspicious behavior. Apparently Harry did talk his way out of this situation, but he was reprimanded back to the hospital. In spite of the intervention by law enforcement personnel, Harry was able to collect quite a few interesting leps on his stroll. The weather was quite a bit better in Fairbanks than it was on the tundra north of the Arctic Circle where his intended companions were collecting.

Harry Zirlin adds:

"Indeed, while I was talking to the police officer and the security guard from the hospital, a nice *cerambycid* (possibly in the genus *Saperda*, but I have not keyed it out yet) landed on the small sapling that I was examining for larvae at the time they

approached. I told them 'Wait a minute...this is what I'm here for' and nonchalantly took a small collecting jar from my hospital gown's chest pocket and bottled up the beast. As John mentioned, although I was hospitalized for 4.5 days, I still managed to get some nice specimens after my release by collecting on the outskirts of Fairbanks, including Western White, *P. occidentalis*, Giant Sulphur, *C. gigantea*, Cranberry Blue, *V. optilete*, Dorcas Copper, *L. dorcas*, Kodiak Ringlet, *C. tullia kodiak*, some form of Greenish Blue that's up there that seems to be lumped with the Rocky Mountain subspecies, as well as some very interesting geometridae, noctuidae and insects in other orders as well."

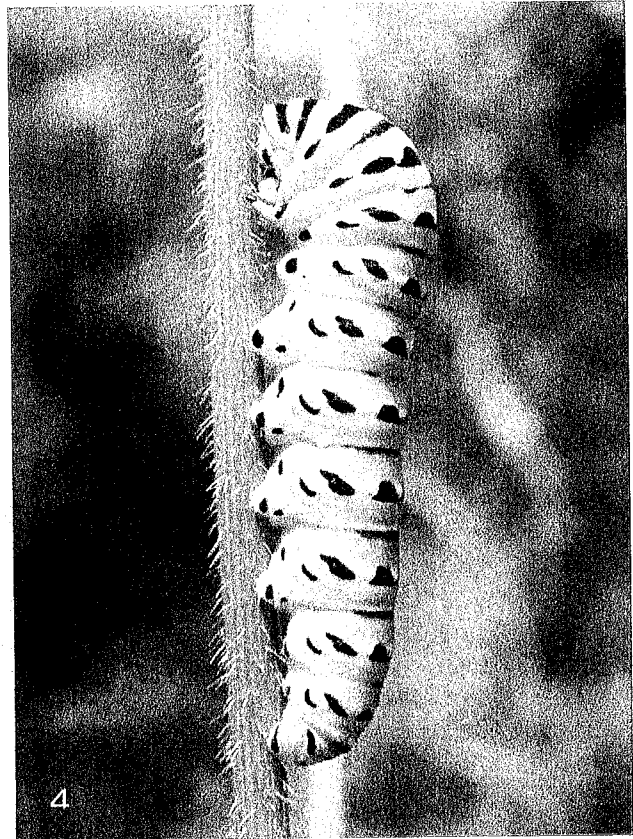
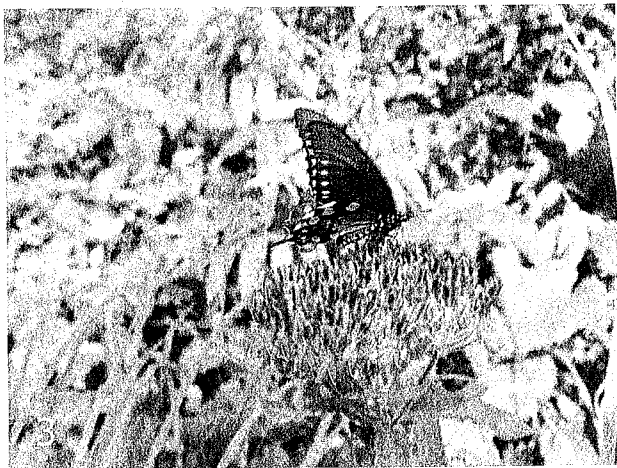
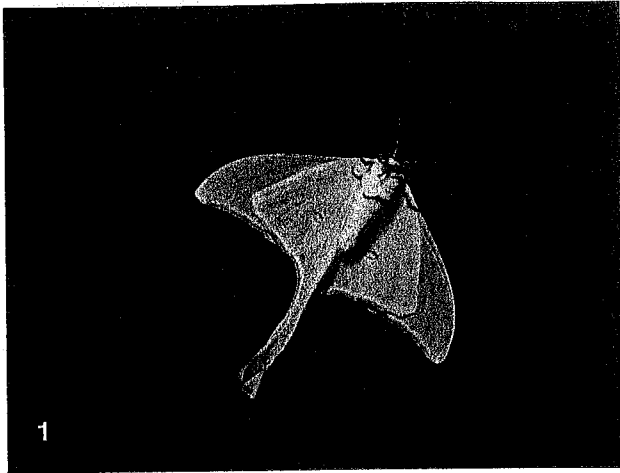
Message from the President

Just a quick note in the first person in this issue because I've written a longer field trip report (in the third person) for this issue. I just wanted to let everyone know that I've made some progress developing the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists web site: <http://asm.wku.edu/faculty/Marcus/KYLeps.html>

In particular, the photography section now has images for 80 different species of butterflies native to Kentucky, making it a decent field guide to the Kentucky Fauna for the curious public. I have had quite a few inquiries about the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists after people happened to come across this part of our web page. THANK YOU VERY MUCH to Tony Merkle who has been incredibly generous with his image collection to make this possible. There are still quite a few common species that are still unrepresented by images on the web site, as well as many scarce ones. We have also posted a few moth images—more are welcome! If you have photographs that you are proud of, please consider sharing them with me.

I have also done some work digitizing the archive of back-issues of the Kentucky Lepidopterist Newsletter. As of this writing, the archive goes back to 1995, but we are adding new back-issues almost every day, so expect it to go back farther the next time you check out the site. This will allow us to conserve our history as the number of active founding members declines (which is only to be expected after 32 years!) and allow us to distribute copies of old newsletters to anyone who wants one quickly and easily. It will also allow new members to immerse themselves in society history, and allow everyone to easily get a copy of that one issue that somehow got lost. SPECIAL THANKS to Loran Gibson who shared his collection of back-issues

(continued on page 8)



Photography of Rick Olson

1. *Actias luna* from Spring 2005 Lep Blitz at Mammoth Cave National Park, 2. *Atalopedes campestris* on purple coneflower (*Echinacea* sp.), 3. *Battus philenor* on orange butterfly weed (*Asclepias* sp.) 4. *Papilio polyxenes* caterpillar, 5. *Papilio glaucus*

July 4th Butterfly Count - 2006

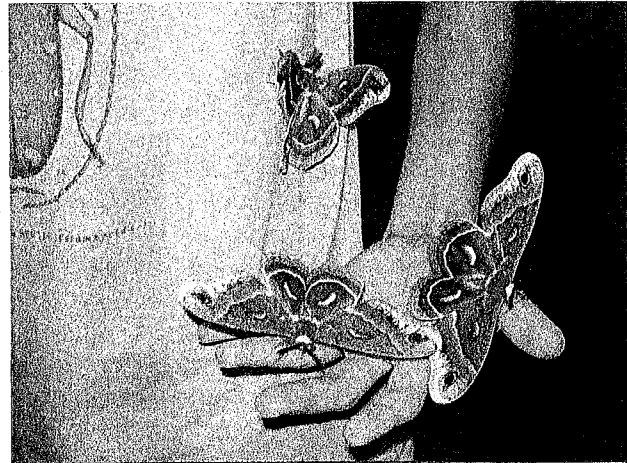
By Charlie Covell

July 1. We held the 24th annual July 4th Butterfly Count at Horner farm and Horner Wildlife Sanctuary in Oldham Co., KY. High temperature that day was 91, low 66. The following people attended: Kevin and Ian Segebarth, Rich Henderson, Valdi Galt, Marcia Jumblatt, Bruce Rule (who drove me and was my "scribe"), Rob and Nancy Trabue, Nikki Bockhorst and sons Grant and Clay, Margaret D'Silva, Neil Rao, Darrell Baker, Marten and Jane Williams, Allison Crosby, Varley Wiedeman, Jennifer Mansfield-Jone, Jeff Marcus, Natalie Paquema, John Abbott, Weston Abbott, Christopher Yee, and Arv Pani. Oh, and me. Wind was from the west at 15 mph, partly cloudy and humid, high 91, low 68. Moths seen included *Melilla xanthometata*, *Scopula limboundata* and *Alypia octomaculata*. Butterflies counted were: *Epargyreus clarus*, 2; *Erynnis baptisiae*, 54; *Erynnis horatius*, 1; *Erynnis sp.*, 9; *Thorybes pylades*, 1; *Pompeius verna*, 2; *Polites themistocles*, 4; *Anatrytone logan*, 1; *Ancyloxipha numitor*, 1; *Battus philenor*, 17; *Papilio polyxenes asterius*, 52; *Papilio glaucus*, 10; *Papilio troilus*, 10; *Heraclides crespontes*, 1; *Eurytides marcellus*, 2; *Pieris rapae*, 99; *Colias eurytheme*, 76; *Colias philodice*, 51; *Phoebus sennae eubule*, 13; *Eurema nicippe*, 14; *Satyrium edwardsii*, 2; *Satyrium titus*, 1; *Callophrys grynea*, 1; *Strymon melinus*, 1; *Everes comyntas*, 500; *Celastrina neglecta*, 2; *Libytheana carinenta*, 3; *Boloria bellona*, 1; *Speyeria cybele*, 76; *Phyciodes tharos*, 72; *Polygonia interrogationis*, 5; *Limenitis arthemis astyanax*, 1; *Asterocampa celtis*, 2; *Asterocampa clyton*, 5; *Enodia anhedon*, 2; *Cercyonis pegala*, 151; *Megisto cymela*, 66; *Cyllopsis gemma*, 20; *Danaus plexippus*, 1. **Totals: 38 species; 1,264 individual butterflies.**

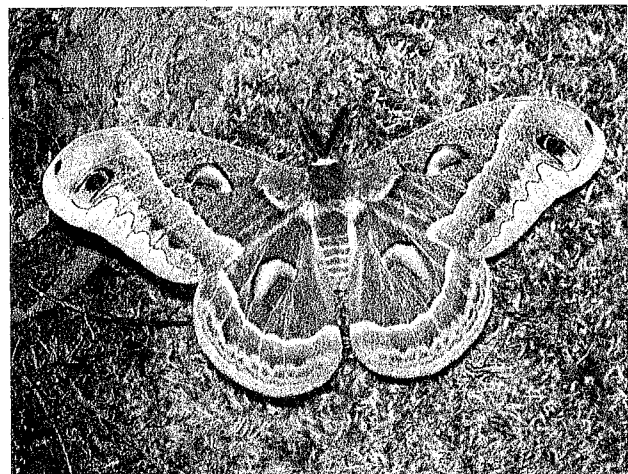


Chatting with Charlie during a short break

Hyalophora cecropia



Three of thirty *H. cecropia* reared by the Segebarth family. Pupated late summer 2005. Began emerging late May, 2006.



An Appeal from the Editors

To all who are reading these words, we would make an appeal to consider sending us something for the **Kentucky Lepidopterist**. We know most of you are actively involved in lepidopteran pursuits throughout the year, and believe strongly that the rest of the membership would very much enjoy hearing of them. Anything: photo(s), a paragraph or two about what you've been up to, a funny story, or a full-fledged serious article are welcome. The next issue is due out in early November. Please let us hear from you. Email to lepboys@bellsouth.net.

President...continued from page 5

with me for the archive project. However, Loran's collection is not 100% complete. Issues that are missing are listed in black on the web site and do not have a web link. If you have one of the missing issues in your collection, please get in touch with me so that I can arrange to borrow it.

I am continuing to make progress on the database, even though it is not apparent on the web site. The programmer and I are still building web-based tools to allow visitors to query the database and get reports on collection data from Kentucky. We are building a function that builds range maps on a county-by-county basis dynamically from the records in the database. Thus, the range maps will update themselves automatically as new data is entered into the database. The original records will also be pulled up by these queries. This is taking somewhat more time to implement than I had anticipated, but it is coming along. Unfortunately, until the programmer and I are certain that the queries are working properly, the database will not be searchable from the web. I will make an announcement when everything is up and running. Until then, please feel free to continue entering data into the database—the data is not disappearing into oblivion—it is being recorded so that when the

queries come on line (probably later this year), it can be included in the search results. The database will only ever be as good as the data that we choose to put in it, so please include your records. The username and password needed to get into the database are the genus and species names of our society mascot.

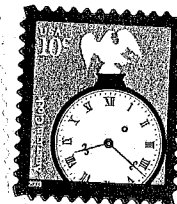
I hope that you are all enjoying the summer and having a productive Lepidoptera season. I hope to see you soon.

Best regards,
Jeff Marcus

**Annual Meeting in Lexington, KY
December 2-3, 2006**

Please make plans to attend the 2006 Annual Meeting of the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists which will be held, once again, at the Entomology Department of the University of Kentucky. Further details will be forth-coming in the next issue of the **Kentucky Lepidopterist**.

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