# Kentucky Lepidopterist

Newsletter of the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists

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## THE GREAT *PAPAIPEMA* CHASE 2006

**By Bill Black**

By the end of October 2006, twelve members of the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists had collected specimens of the Noctuid genus *Papaipema* to report to Loran Gibson. His "Aggregated Data" totaled (175) specimens, representing (22) different species. Collectors included Richard Henderson, Loran Gibson, Dr. Jeffrey Marcus, Kevin, Craig, and Ian Segebarth, Mo Neilsen, Gerald Burnett, Dr. Jonathan Smith, Ellis Laudermilk, John and Ruth Ann Peacock, and Bill Black.

Collectors set UV light traps at concentrations of larval food plants during the flying season to catch the adult *Papaipema* moths. If larval and pupal behavior of a species is well-enough known, collectors can intercept moths in these immature stages. Richard Henderson has updated Sid Hessel's classic 1954 "Guide to Collecting the Plant-Boring Larvae of the Genus *Papaipema (Noctuidae)*". Henderson has also produced a helpful tool for identifying adult moths of the genus by assembling a beautiful array of life-scale digital photos of some (45) species from his collection of reference specimens.

In recording food plant sites for *Papaipema* moths, Bill Black has found it useful to consider the intensity of collecting. His unit of measurement is the "trap night", defined as the operation of one UV light trap for one night. For example, if a collector sets one light trap in a site for one night, his collecting intensity would be indicated as (1) "trap night". (2) "trap nights" could represent either two traps set for one night, or one trap set for two nights. Measuring intensity of collecting effort, approximate though it may be, can enable a comparison of sites, dates, seasons, or even moth species that share a food plant.

During the Kentucky Lepidopterists' Spring Field Trip (21-23 APR 06) host Richard Henderson led an exploration for Columbine, the larval food plant of *P. leucostigma.* He knew locations where Columbine existed along several rocky bluffs in Otter Creek Park, on the Ohio River in Meade County. Maps were marked, notes were taken, and *Papaipema* hunters took heart. They hoped to find *P. leucostigma* there later during its flight season (mid AUG to early OCT). Two old records (12, 18 AUG) are listed for Otter Creek Park by Dr. Charlie Covell in the Butterflies and Moths (Lepidoptera) of Kentucky, an Annotated Checklist, 1999. He also notes records for Menifee Co. (1, 6 SEP) and Jefferson Co. (15 SEP, 8 OCT) and considers the species "uncommon" in Kentucky. Henderson hosted Gibson, the Segebarths, Black, Laudermilk, and the Peacocks on 18, 19 AUG 06. Despite a collective two night effort totaling some (14) trap nights, no one found *P. leucostigma.* Nevertheless, Henderson captured the first *Papaipema* of the 2006 season with two *P. arctivirens* on 18 AUG.

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During the 8-10 SEP 06 KY LEP Field Trip to the Paducah area, members Henderson and Gibson managed to come up with several nice *Papaipemas*, which can be found in The Aggregated Data by scanning for the date 9 SEP 06. *(Editor's note: "Aggregated Data" for GPC 2006 is available from Loran Gibson. Email him at kymothman@fuse.net).*

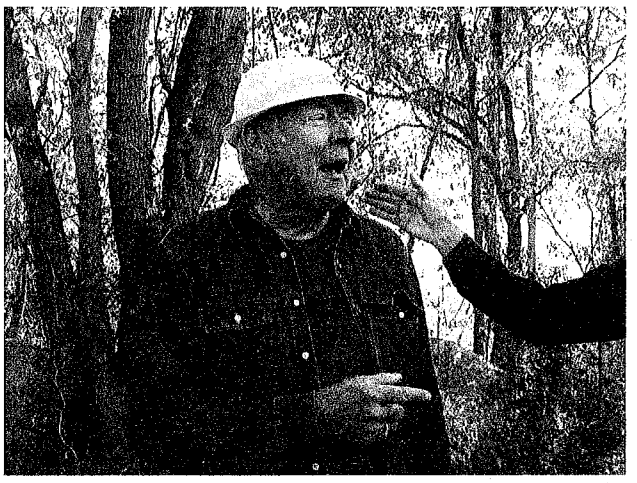
Two weeks later (21 SEP 06) Henderson, Gibson, and Black met at Otter Creek Park, Meade Co., for another attempt at finding *P. leucostigma* among the scattered sites of its larval food plant, Columbine. Again, to no avail, despite the wide coverage of setting (10) traps in one night. Nevertheless, there were consolation prizes: (12) *P. polymniae*, (2) *P. inquaesita*, (3) *P. nebris*, and (3) *P. marginidens.*

Gibson, Henderson, and Black rendezvoused on 1 OCT 06 in Laurel Co. KY, to trap for *P. speciosissima* in several flowing seeps with abundant Royal and Cinnamon Ferns. Together they logged (9) trap nights of effort, in just one night, but no trap had the target species. Gibson did collect (1) *P. cerussata*, and at Turtlehead (2) *P. nepheleptena.*

Operating in teams intensifies the coverage of an area in the search for *Papaipemas*, and the camaraderie invigorates all who gather. Still, there are logistical limits, and there is the issue of collector endurance. Aggregated Data keeping by Loran Gibson allows all efforts, whether lone or in groups, to be assembled into one Great *Papaipema* Chase for the season. In the Aggregated Data, dates and places outside the various rendezvous usually represent an individual's lone effort. Everyone made individual contributions. Two Kentucky Lepidopterists, collecting alone, made especially noteworthy contributions to the season's *Papaipema* data. Dr. Jonathan Smith (A. J. Smith, Jr.) reported collecting *Papaipemas* from Rowan Co., in northeastern Kentucky, on (13) different dates, in some (5) different sites, accounting for (34) specimens, representing (11) species. Gerald Burnett reported collecting from Ballard Co. and Carlisle Co, in far western Kentucky, on (7) different dates, in (3) different sites, accounting for (11) specimens, representing (6) species.

Last year Bill Black and Ian Segebarth collected (9) specimens of *P. speciosissima* in Calloway Co., KY (15, 20 OCT 05). Their effort represented (4) trap nights, among *Osmunda* Ferns at the Blood River seeps. Kentucky Lepidopterists felt optimistic about finding additional colonies. Prior to the 2006 season the Segebarths found a vast stand of *Osmunda* Ferns at seeps in Caldwell Co., near Dawson Springs, about fifty miles NE of the Blood River seeps. Though conditions were excellent on 18 OCT 06, and two other *Papaipema* species were collected, no *P. speciosissima* were found. Black had found a series of four more stands of *Osmunda* Ferns in Mayfield Creek seeps, McCracken Co. They extend west 1.3 miles from the stand he had found 31 OCT 05. These sites lie about forty miles NW of the Blood River seeps. Black trapped at his four new sites on 8 & 15 OCT 06, setting three traps each night without finding any *P. speciosissima.* With negative data in both directions, the Blood River seeps colony of *P. speciosissima* is beginning to look more isolated then expected.

On 18 OCT 06 Bill Black, Loran Gibson, Richard Henderson, and Mo Nielsen rendezvoused at the Kentucky Dam Exit of I-24. (Eighty year old Nielsen had driven alone from Lansing, MI, to make this rendezvous. The Lepidopterists' Society lists him as one of its ten living charter members. He wrote Michigan Butterflies and Skippers, A Field Guide and Reference, which was published in 1999. He has long been recognized as an expert in the genus *Papaipema.* His remarkable hardiness in the field enables him to keep up with collectors one and two generations younger than himself. Some will come to a field trip, motivated primarily by the opportunity to collect with him. Mo Nielsen has been a mentor to many, and an inspiration to all.)



Mo Nielson

The team hurried south in a four-vehicle caravan to Blood River at the Kentucky – Tennessee line. The collectors set four traps at cane in Henry Co. TN; and four traps (three at cane, one in an open, wet, timbered field) in Calloway Co., KY. This proved the most bountiful night for the two un-described cane feeders, *P. n.s. #4* and *P. n.s. #5.* Nielsen collected (3) large, pristine male *P. n.s. #5's*, (2) *P. n.s. #4's*, and (1) *P. marginidens.* Gibson also took (3) large, pristine male *P. n.s. #5's*; and (2) small *P. n.s. #4's.* Black caught (3)

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male *P. n.s. #5's* (one pristine, one not quite, and one blemished – perhaps the price of trapping live). He also caught (2) *P. n.s. #4's* (both worn in similar patterns, with wing tips missing). Besides (1) *P. eupatorii*, Henderson collected (1) male *P. n.s. #5* outside his trap, and (1) large female inside. If only their positions had been reversed! He had decreased the usual dose of ethyl acetate when setting the trap, in hope of only stunning his specimens, thereby sparing any female for ovipositing. The female could not be revived, however, even with several hours of Henderson's expert attention. This was the first female *P. n.s.# 5* collected in the Great *Papaipema* Chase since the 2001 season.

GPC 2006 at cane site #P3, Blood River, Henry Co., TN. 19 Oct. '06. L-R: Ian Segebarth, Craig Segebarth, and Richard Henderson with Henderson's homemade collapsible UV light trap with which he collected (1) *P. n.s. #5* male, (1) *P. n.s. #5* female, and (1) *P. eupatorii.*

One trap at cane in a KY site suffered a failed battery. Another had fallen leaves clogging its funnel. The only viable trap at cane in a KY site was Henderson's, which yielded (1) *P. n.s. #4.* Adjusting for two traps at cane not working, and one trap set at a site without cane, the intensity of collecting for cane feeders should be considered at (5) trap nights. The total catch for the night was (5) *P n.s._#4*, and (11) *P. n.s. #5.* By mid afternoon on 19 OCT, it was raining and cold. Considering the misery factor, the collecting party forsook re-setting traps, and headed to Black's house in Paducah to warm up and rest for the night.

On Friday, 20 OCT 06, the last day of team collecting, the three Segebarths (father Kevin with sons Craig and Ian) joined the four collectors who had assembled on 18 OCT 06. With seven collectors working together, it was possible to survey general areas; and the caravan headed to Carlisle Co., one of Kentucky's four Mississippi River counties. Here a 200' loess bluff drops down to the mile-wide alluvial flood plain of the river. Natural and abetted erosion have formed two notable canyons, each drained by a wet-weather, sand-bottomed creek. On specimen labels these locations are noted as "Sandy Branch", and three miles to the south. "unnamed creek at Burkley". Time has filled the canyons with trees and wondrous plants, such as horsetail and cane. The cane on the shoulders of both creeks has hosted *P._n.s. #4* and *P. n.s. #5*, but both locations have suffered recent trauma. Sandy Branch was timbered two years ago. On 30 SEP 06, both creeks suffered major flash floods, after some nine inches of rain fell on Carlisle Co. in two days. The raging flood waters scoured out leaf debris from the forest floor in some places, and deposited new flat sand terraces in other places.

UV light trap (25W, blue, live catch) at cane site #5, unnamed creek at Burkley, Carlisle Co., KY. 10 Oct '06 (1) *P. nebris*, (1) *P. impecuniosa.* Note flash flood damage to cane from 30 Sep. '06. W. R. Black, Jr. collector.

At unnamed creek at Burkley the group set (4) traps: (3) at cane, (1) at *Polymnia.* The September flash flood had altered this setting somewhat. Cane site #5 (Jeff Slotten's famous site) revealed bare dirt where

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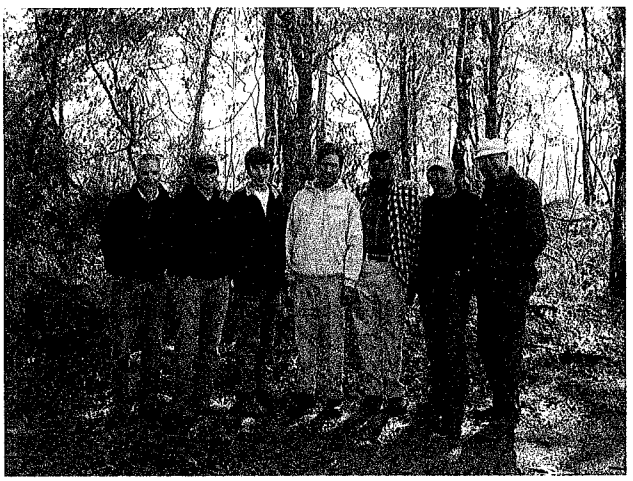
leaf litter once covered the ground. White sand was piled up on tree trunks and cane roots, while cane stalks leaned in unison downstream.

At Sandy Branch the Ky Leps set (6) UV light traps: (4) in cane, (2) at sites of opportunity along the old RR bed (now the gravel road) south of Sandy Branch. Here the cane has existed under a forest canopy, and many stalks measure 1" in diameter and 16' tall. Under the canopy the cane had spread "branches" and its leaves were spaced out. Now, the leaves are denser, and new shoots are evident. While the cane has been punished by the timbering around it, it now seems to be thriving. So is the horsetail.

Totaling the effort at both creeks, this was a (10) trap night. But not one single *Papaipema* was collected! The Chase was ending with a whimper. The next day (21 OCT 06), Nielsen, Gibson, and Henderson left Paducah to begin their long drives home. Black rested around the house, but a Great *Papaipema* Chase is hard to quit. He got out his traps and headed across the Ohio River to Massac Co., IL. Here he tried three new cane sites he had spotted during the Spring, catching (4) *P. n.s. #4* – but still no *P. n.s. #5* for Illinois. A final foray into cane on the shoulders of Seven Mile Creek, Massac Co., IL (30 OCT 06) yielded (1) *P. n.s. #4* and (1) *P. impecuniosa.* Now it was cold and windy, and even Black had to admit the Great *Papaipema* Chase 2006 had ended.



Great *Papaipema* Chasers 2006 beside unnamed creek at Burkley, Carlisle Co., KY. 20 Oct. '06. L-R: Kevin Segebarth, Craig Segebarth, Ian Segebarth, Bill Black, Richard Henderson, Loran Gibson, and Mo Nielsen.

## Message from the President January 2007

For the past year, it has been my tradition in my messages to the membership to thank people for their contributions to the Society. I will begin this time by thanking everyone who attended the Annual Meeting in Lexington, and in particular everyone who presented at the meeting. Dr. Andy Brower of Middle Tennessee State University not only gave a terrific keynote address on "Phylogenetic relationships of satyrine butterflies", but also expressed an interest in participating in our Society's events in the future. I'm sure that everyone is happy to welcome him to our organization.

I'm very proud that we had a total of six speakers at the Annual Meeting, representing four universities from three states and I'm particularly pleased that two of the speakers were students, one graduate (Ray Fisher) and one undergraduate (Tim Shehan). As time progresses, I hope that increasing numbers of young people participate in our Society's activities, and in particular at our Annual Meeting. I also hope that more "non-professional" members of the Society choose to make presentations at the meeting—you may not be paid for your interest in the Lepidoptera, but your knowledge and experiences are worth sharing with the rest of us! That is not to say I don't appreciate the Pros: thank you to Dr. Charlie Covell and Dr. James Adams for traveling very long distances to Lexington to address the Society.

During the winter holidays, I had an extensive email exchange with Dave Roemer and Jackie Elmore concerning the photography section of the Society Web Site (http://www.kylepidopterists.org). As a result of those discussions, that part of the web site has been overhauled. Many new species have been added (thanks to the excellent photography skills of Dave and Jackie), the sizes of the image files have been decreased to facilitate downloads over dial-up connections, and links from each species page to the range maps on Kentucky Butterfly Net (http://www.kybutterfly.net) have been included on the page. While most species of butterflies known from Kentucky are represented by photographs now, there are still quite a few that are not. If you have images that you would like to share, please let me know. Over the next few months, I hope to add more moth images to the project, starting with the collection of photos of live moths given to me by Steve Hahus, of the Davies County Audubon Society.

The Kentucky Butterfly Net database project continues to progress. My students are almost caught

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up on data entry from back-issues of the newsletter (special thanks to Katrease Hale and Ashley Wint!), and several people have entered records on their own (among them Jonathan Smith and Charlie Covell). I invite all of you to enter what you consider your most important records into the database so that the rest of us can learn from your efforts. My records for the Upper Green River Biological Preserve are now in the database, and one of my projects for the spring will be to enter all of the records I have for Mammoth Cave National Park. Those of you who have specimens from Mammoth Cave surveys—I will be transferring all specimens back to the National Park before the end of 2007, and if you want your specimens to be included in that transfer, please get them to me (pinned or unpinned, with or without identification).

While Kevin Segebarth has been in training as editor for the past several months (under the tutelage of his son Craig), with this issue, he officially becomes our new newsletter editor. Kevin, thank you for taking on this post, but I should note that Craig, who did an excellent job, is a tough act to follow. Please keep Kevin supplied with material—it is his job to publish the newsletter, not to write it! Because the printing and mailing of the newsletter, which is still printed and assembled manually, is an expensive and time consuming task, we are going to do an experiment in electronic delivery. Anyone who would like to receive the newsletter in electronic form (as a web link to a full color text-searchable PDF file) instead of or in addition to receiving the paper version should email me (at jeffrey.marcus@wku.edu) from the address to which you want the newsletter sent. In your email, please provide your full name, and whether you want the electronic form in addition to the paper form or instead of the paper form. If I don't hear from you, you will continue to receive just the traditional paper newsletter. If this experiment is successful and enough people prefer the electronic version, we may be able to cut our newsletter production costs substantially, and those funds can be reallocated for other Society projects.

Finally, based on my discussions with Bill Black, Field Trip Coordinator, it appears that we will have an exciting set of field trip destinations this year, including some new locations for the Society. In a break with tradition, our first trip of the season will probably be to the Jackson Purchase in Western Kentucky (instead of in the late Summer, when we usually visit). I hope that I will be able to see many of you there.

My sincere New Year's Greetings to everyone.

**- Jeff Marcus**

## Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists Annual Business Meeting Minutes December 2, 2006

### By Tony Merkle

The meeting was called to order by President Jeff Marcus. He asked for introductions from everyone present including their name and a little bit about themselves. One-by-one everyone in the room did as requested. Election of officers then took place. Jeff announced that: Gerald Burnett whose term was due to expire had agreed to stay on as an at-large member, Craig Segebarth would be stepping down as editor in order to concentrate on scholastic matters, Kevin Segebarth agreed to take Craig's position which left the secretary position open and Tony Merkle agreed to fill the newly vacated secretary position. The slate of officers presented for the upcoming year thus became: President – Dr. Jeffrey Marcus; Treasurer – Les Ferge; Field Trip Coordinator – Bill Black; Editor – Kevin Segebarth; Secretary – Tony Merkle; Members at Large – Gerald Burnett, Loran Gibson and Richard Henderson. Additional nominations were then solicited by Jeff from the membership on hand. None were presented. Jack Dempwolf made the motion to close nominations. The motion was seconded and passed with no dissentions. Next, a motion was made by Jeff to accept the slate of candidates. The motion was seconded and passed with no dissentions. The treasurer's report was then given by Les Ferge. He reported that the organizations finances were basically in good standing. At this time Jeff Marcus addressed those in attendance. He mentioned plans for a pilot effort to distribute the newsletter through e-mail to members interested in receiving it that way. Those who wished to receive hard copies could still do so. Options on this were briefly discussed. The floor was then turned over to Bill Black to discuss potential field trips for the coming year. Bill presented the following proposals for the schedule: Spring – Western Kentucky Purchase region targeting certain species that might be present there at that time of the year; Summer – Michigan, at Mo Neilson's invitation; Summer/Fall – Lapland area, Meade County. An alternate trip to the Upper Green River Preserve in Hart County was also mentioned, as was the Fourth of July Butterfly Count at the Horner Wildlife Sanctuary in Oldham County. Various possibilities and events related to field trip activities were discussed. Following Bill's discussion of potential field trip activities, Jeff opened the floor for new business.

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Charlie Covell made a motion formally and expressly thanking Craig Segebarth for his able work on editing the newsletter. The motion was seconded and passed with none dissenting. The business meeting was concluded following a brief discussion clarifying dinner plans for the evening.

Friday night dinner at a local restaurant before the reception at the E.S. Goodbarn. Pictured l to r: Dr. Charles Covell, Pat Gibson, Loran Gibson, Kevin Segebarth, Gerald Burnett, Dr. Jeff Marcus, Dr. James Adams, Nancy Black, Bill Black.

Dr. Andy Brower of Middle Tennessee State University gives the keynote address: "Phylogenetic relationships of satyrine butterflies"

## "If You Grow It They Will Come"

This altered version of the main theme of the baseball dream film, "Field of Dreams," has often been applied to Lepidoptera, and is no better illustrated than by my experience on May 27, 2004, just before Betty, Robert, and I migrated to Gainesville, Florida. In 2003 I had begun to cultivate passionvine (*Passiflora*) in my back yard garden at 2333 Brighton Drive, Louisville. It got pretty big that year; and in 2004 it got off to a great start and began to grow up over other plants – even my butterfly bushes (*Buddleia davidi*) in the garden – which I knew I would have to abandon before long. It formed an impressive mat, and I kept my eye on it hoping to see a Gulf Fritillary (*Agraulis vanillae*) attracted to it.

On May 27, 2004, it happened! I was checking out the garden and there was a female Gulf Fritillary browsing around among the blossoms. I went inside for my camera (and net), but alas the butterfly had moved on by the time I returned. Why it did not stay at this obvious paradise for the species is beyond me.

It was not a new Jefferson County record, but in 40 years in Jefferson County I had not seen one. All previous records of this species in Jefferson County were those by Burt Monroe in August and November during his youth in the forties and early fifties. While I had become used to seeing this gorgeous butterfly in McCracken County ever since Bill Black discovered a breeding colony near the Tennessee River in 1989, it was a thrill to add this elusive species to my list for the Covell address in Louisville. I plan to tally up a list of all butterfly species identified there over the years. Some other "stars" included *Urbanus proteus*, *Panoquina ocola*, and *Parhassius m-album*. I would say that the diversity seen in our Louisville back yard exceeds the average in our new yard in Gainesville. I'll keep looking and listing as we head into the new season.

**- Charlie Covell**

## Annual July 4th Butterfly Count

### 30 June 2007

The annual July 4th Butterfly Count in Oldham County will be held at the Horner Wildlife Sanctuary, Brownsboro, KY, on Saturday, June 30, 2007. We will meet in the parking lot of the small restaurant in Brownsboro at 9:30 AM and will be counting from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Alternate date in case of heavy rain or overcast will be the next day, July 1, at the same time.

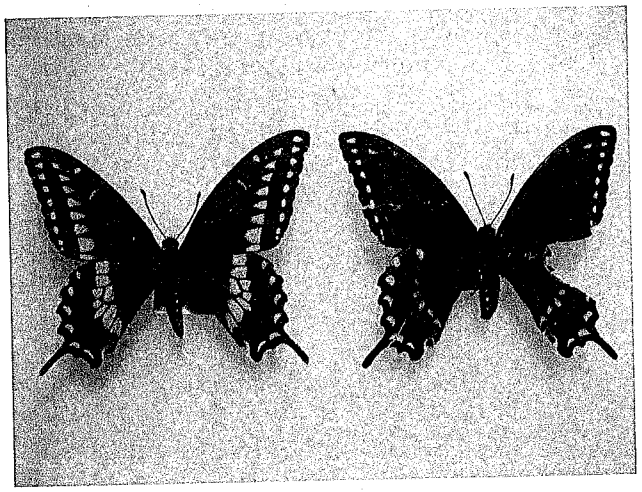
Brownsboro is less than a mile from Exit 14 on Interstate 71. Go left from the bottom of the ramp off northbound I-71. All are welcome and nets will be provided. Join us for all or part of the day. Dr. Charles Covell will again be leading the event.

## A *Papilio polyxenes* Gynandromorph from Kentucky?

**By Mike McInnis**

During the Kentucky Lepidopterist's field trip to Otter Creek Park (Meade County, Kentucky) on April 22, 2006, I collected what I thought to be a pair (male and female) of *Papilio polyxenes asterias* Stoll, 1775. The swallowtails were captured while hilltopping at Camp Sky Hi in the park. When I examined the genitalia, I was surprised to discover that both specimens were males with characteristic claspers.

As stated on a web page prepared by "Kentucky Leps" member, Dr. James K. Adams, (http://www.daltonstate.edu/galeps/Gynandromorphs.htm) the term "gynandromorph" literally means part female (gyn-) and part male (andro-). The picture below shows the dorsal view of the two *P. polyxenes* captured at Otter Creek Park.



As previously stated, both individuals have male genitalia. The specimen on the left side of the picture conforms to the normal spring wing pattern of a male *P. polyxenes*. However, the specimen on the right demonstrates a "normal" female wing pattern.

Dr. Adam's web page provides an excellent review of the process/mechanism of gynandromorph formation. Based on that discussion, if the individual with male genitalia and female wing pattern is a gynandromorph, it is a complex or mosaic rather than a bilateral gynandromorph. If the individual is not a gynandromorph, then it is a male that exhibits a striking melanic aberration that does not impact the marginal spot band of either the forewing or hindwing.

## *Phyciodes incognitus* Gatrelle Discovered in Kentucky

**By Loran Gibson and Mike McInnis**

In 2004, Ron Gatrelle described a new cryptic species of *Phyciodes* (*Nymphalidae:Melitaeinae*) from the southern Appalachian Mountains in western North Carolina. This species, *Phyciodes incognitus*, was described in The Taxonomic Report of the International Lepidoptera Survey, Volume 4, Number 8 (25 September 2004). The description can be accessed and downloaded from the internet at http://www.tils-ttr.org/. Click on Taxonomic Report; then Volume 4, and finally Number 8.

Gatrelle differentiated *P. incognitus* from *Phyciodes tharos* (Drury, 1773) on the basis of character traits that involve biology (adult flight habits), morphology (physical characters and size), phenology (adult emergences and flight periods), and for limited purposes mtDNA. Gatrelle's description of *P. incognitus* has not been universally accepted and various taxonomists continue to debate the number of species that comprise the *P. tharos* complex. The most salient physical characters that can be used to differentiate *P. incognitus* from *P. tharos* are size (*P. incognitus* is larger) and the color of the antennal clubs. In *P. tharos*, the antennal club is black in males and black or black with slight amounts of yellow-orange in females (see figures A through E on page 3 of the species description). In *P. incognitus*, the antennal clubs of both males and females are orange. In North Carolina, *P. tharos* and *P. incognitus* are sympatric.

Subsequent to the description of *P. incognitus*, McInnis sampled *Phyciodes* populations on the crest and northern slopes of Black Mountain in Harlan County, Kentucky. Unfortunately, these samples yielded males with black antennal clubs and females with only a slight amount of yellow-orange on their antennal clubs. Meanwhile, Gibson noticed and captured several *Phyciodes* on Clack Mountain (Rowan County, Kentucky) that had orange antennal clubs during May 2005.

On May 20, 2006, Gibson and McInnis returned to Clack Mountain and found significant numbers of *Phyciodes* (both sexes) on the wing. These *Phyciodes* included examples of both *tharos* (40%) and *incognitus* (60%). Consistent with Gatrelle's description, the *incognitus* were larger and flew in a more purposeful manner. Further, the *incognitus* were only found along forest margins while *tharos* occurred both along forest margins and in flowered meadows.

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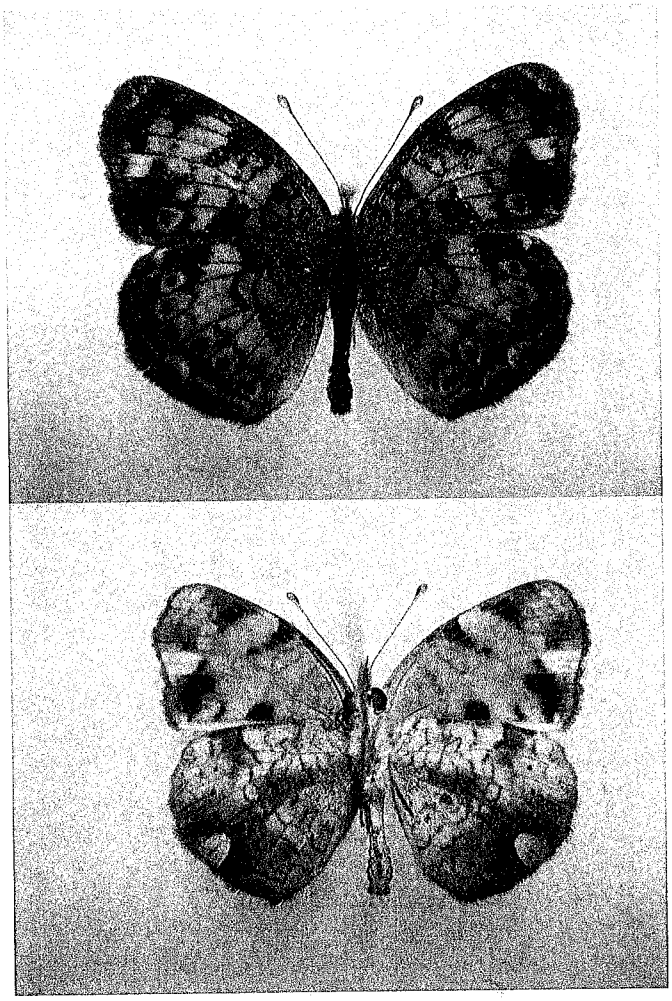
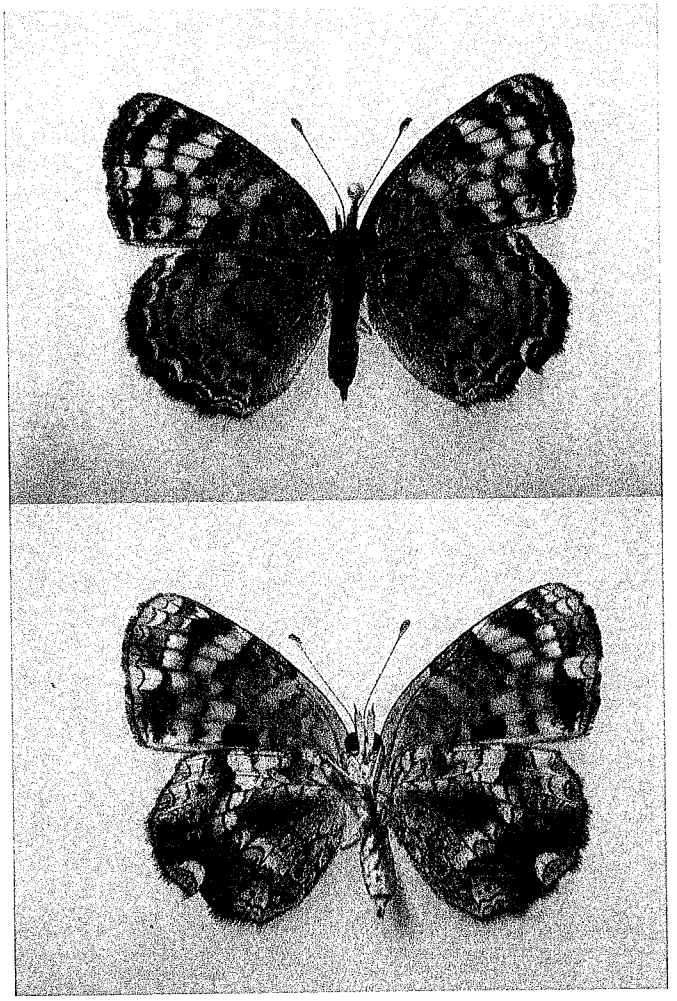
Photographs of a representative *P. incognitus* male and female from Rowan County, Kentucky are provided below. The authors do not have a strong opinion regarding the validity of *P. incognitus*, as a species separate from *P. tharos*. However, there is little question in our minds that the Rowan County specimens are referable to *P. incognitus*, as described by Gatrelle.



Male *P. incognitus* (dorsal and ventral views)



Female *P. incognitus* (dorsal and ventral views)

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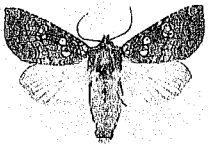
## Membership List

The last issue of *Kentucky Lepidopterist* included a membership list containing address, phone number(s), email, and specific lepidoptera interests of each member. We have been made aware by some of you that there were some errors in this list. Please review your information and let us know what corrections need to be made. You may email us at lepboys@bellsouth.net.



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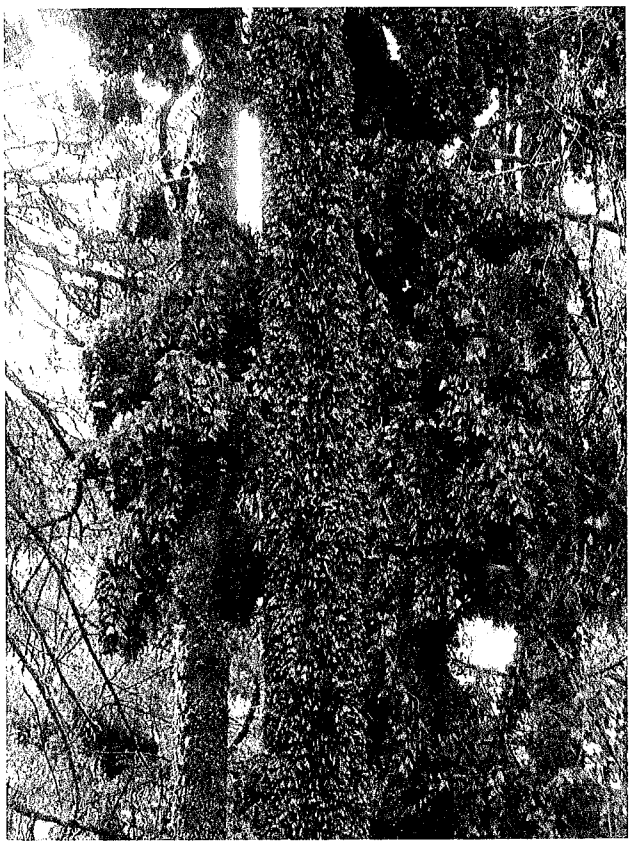
# Monarchs of Mexico
# Sierra Chinqua and El Rosario
# January 2007

**Photos by Craig and Ian Segebarth**

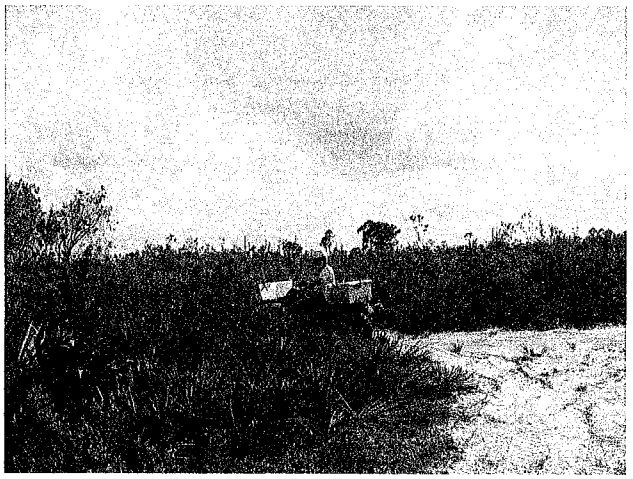


# Summer Adventures - Part I

## By Ian Segebarth

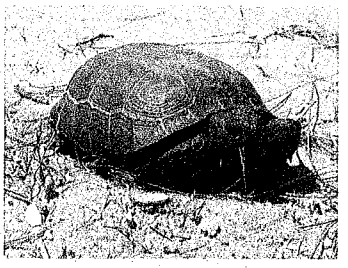
My travels this summer began at the 2006 LepSoc meeting in Gainesville, Florida. On 13 June, Gerald Burnett and I drove down to Gainesville from Kentucky. The next day we attended a field trip to the Osceola National Forest. We spent the day collecting butterflies along the forest roads in habitat that was made up primarily of pines and palmettos. Unfortunately, there were very few butterflies to be found due to the drought they had been having in the area. The evening consisted of a reception at the McGuire Center for Lepidoptera and Biodiversity, which allowed us a chance to look at their facilities and tour the butterfly rainforest, followed by a "slidefest" at the Hilton Hotel. The next few days were spent listening to the contributed papers. Sunday afternoon, 18 June, after the meeting concluded, Gerald departed for KY and I went with Paul Hebert and Jean-François Landry to the cottage they had rented and helped them field-pin some moths they had collected for DNA bar-coding. Paul Hebert is from the University of Guelph in Ontario, and is heading up the Lepidoptera section of the Barcode of Life project. My father, Kevin, arrived late Sunday night.

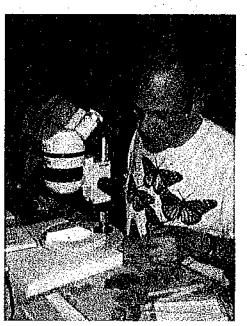
The next morning Dad and I, and the Barcode of Life group headed south to the Archbold Biological Station near Lake Placid, FL, where we were to spend the next week collecting. The Archbold Biological Station is a privately owned reserve of nearly twenty thousand acres of pristine oak scrub and pine/palmetto habitat.

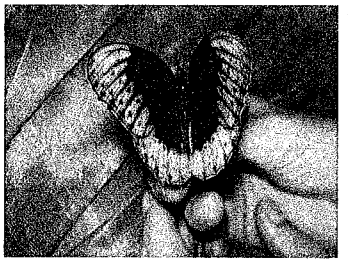


Archbold Biological Station, Lake Placid FL. Exploring the maze of sand trails via four-wheeler.

Our base of operations was a house that we rented from the Station. As you can imagine, the six of us soon had the place well cluttered with gear! The moth collecting was very good, though we had to fight the thousands of beetles that were also attracted to the lights. We discovered the first night that traps were best set in thick brush; traps set out in the open would be filled with beetles. Some of the interesting moths we got were *Schinia gaurae*, *Cosmosoma myradora*, and *Papaipema speciosissima*. Once again, there were very few butterflies due to the dry conditions. We did find *Ascia monuste*, *Eurema daira*, *Hemiargus ceraunus*, *Danaus gilippus*, and *Anartia jatrophae*. The Station has several ATV's that they let researchers use, and we were able to get two of them. Dad and I drove around on them looking for butterflies. That is the ultimate way to collect! We also saw other interesting animals such as Sandhill Cranes, Swallow-Tailed Kites, Scrub Jays, Gopher Tortoises (above), and of course the ever-present Armadillo. Jean-François (left) spent most of his days spreading micro-moths. In the five days that we were there he spread more than eight hundred micros! On 23 June, Paul Hebert's group headed back to Canada and Dad and I drove up to Gainesville, where we stayed the night, then headed north to the Blue Ridge Mountains of Georgia. We arrived at Brasstown Bald (the tallest mountain in Georgia) in the early afternoon. The habitat looked pretty good on the road up the mountain, so we set a light trap there then went to look for some butterflies and a place to camp. We ended up on a forest road that wound along under towering Hemlock trees next to a clear, fast-moving creek. After following the road for a few miles we came upon an open, sunny spot in the road and glimpsed a flash of black and orange. As soon as the car stopped I sprang forth, net in hand, and sure enough it was a fresh male *Speyeria diana*!



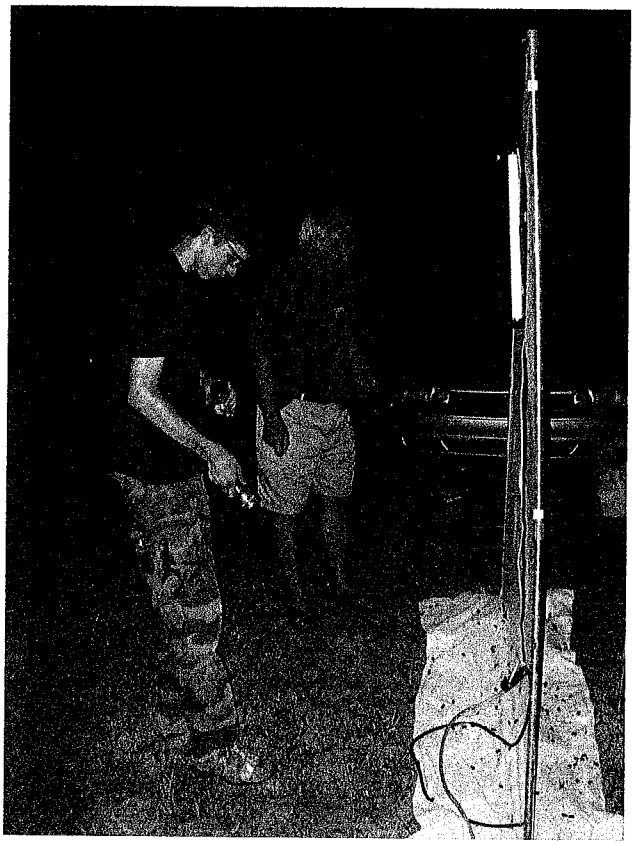




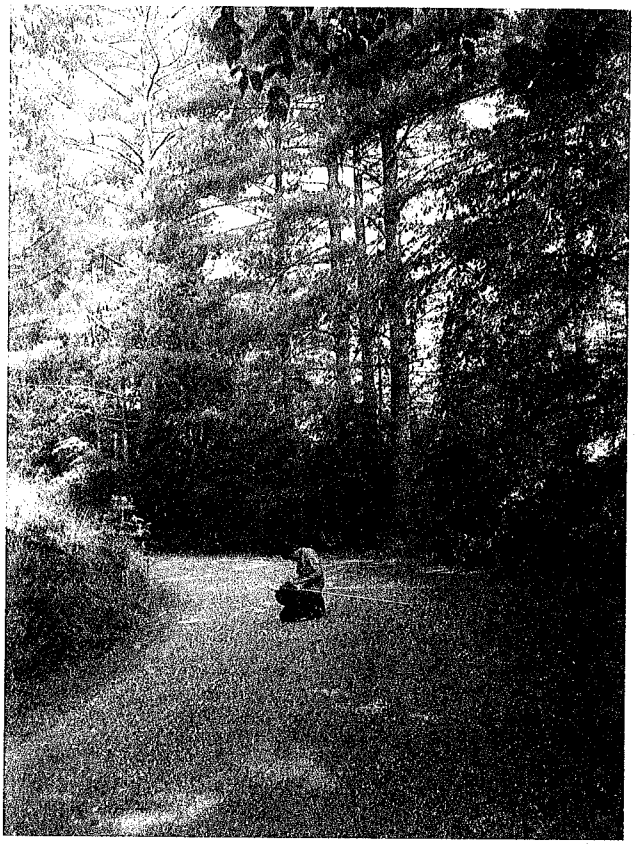
*(Continued on page 11)*

We began walking along the road and it was not long before another male *S. diana* was spotted. The moth *Haploa lecontei* was also common on the roadside weeds. By this point the sun was beginning to set, and it was time for us to find a campsite before it got dark. We found a site a short ways down the road where we set up camp and put out another light trap. During the night a torrential downpour began. It rained so hard for so long that we thought we would be washed away! In the morning we discovered that the deluge had been a bit too much for the rain drains of the traps, and the many moths inside had gotten pretty wet. Despite this, we found numerous interesting specimens. After sorting the moths we began the journey back to Paducah.

*(To be continued next issue)*



Ian Segebarth with Paul Hebert at the sheet. Archbold Biological Station. June 2006.



Collecting in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Georgia.

## From the Editor:

Many thanks to all of the contributers to this issue of *Kentucky Lepidopterist.* I certainly am in agreement with the sentiment that Craig's editorship will be a tough act to follow. At least (it appears at this point) I'll still have him around for a while longer to help me out when I can't seem to make the computer do what I need it to. As evidenced by this issue, I like using photos...so please send them. An "article" is not the only way to contribute to the newsletter. An interesting photograph with an explanatory caption will be most welcome as well.

## Dues Reminder

An envelope for payment of 2007 membership dues is included with this newsletter for your convenience. The year that dues are paid through appears after your name on the address label. Your prompt attention will be most appreciated.

- Les Ferge, Treasurer

# KY Lep Field Trips 2007

4, 5, 6 MAY 07 – SPRING MOTHS AND BUTTERFLIES - PADUCAH

DAYS INN at I-24 Exit 4 again offers Kentucky Lepidopterists a special rate of $40.00. For reservations at Days Inn, call 270-442-7500.

**Schedule:**

**Fri. – 4 MAY 07** – 3:00 PM – Arrive early to set out light traps. Let Bill Black know if you intend to set traps Friday. 7:00 PM - Social gathering at Blacks' House, 201 Friedman Ave.

**Sat. – 5 MAY 07** – 8:30 AM – Rendezvous at Days Inn. Caravan will head to Livingston Co. and the LBL to collect butterflies. Set light traps in the afternoon.

**Sun – 6 MAY 07** – 8:30 AM – Rendezvous at Days Inn. Caravan will head out to retrieve moth traps and collect butterflies. Afternoon - split up and head home from field.

FOURTH OF JULY BUTTERFLY COUNT

(See details on page 6.)

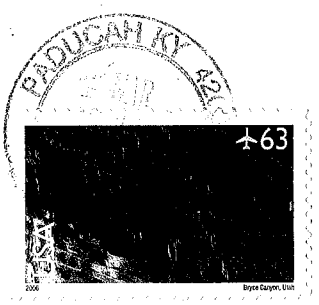
24, 25, 26 AUG 07 – LAPLAND WMA, MEADE CO.

Search for Swamp Metalmark colony. Ellis Laudermilk and Loran Gibson, leaders.

The warden requires that everyone sign a Hold Harmless Agreement. Each individual must agree not to collect any Swamp Metalmark specimens because the population is very small. Participants will learn search images of butterflies and habitat for exploration of other areas of the state for this rarity. More detail will follow in a later newsletter.

AUGUST – OCTOBER 2007 – THE GREAT PAPAIPEMA CHASE 2007

Loran Gibson has agreed to be the keeper of Aggregated Data again. All are encouraged to find new sites of known or suspected larval food plants, set light traps during the flight season, and participate in the virtual field trip by reporting data to Gibson.

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