

Kentucky Lepidopterist

Newsletter of the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists

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THE SOCIETY
OF
KENTUCKY
LEPIDOPTERISTS

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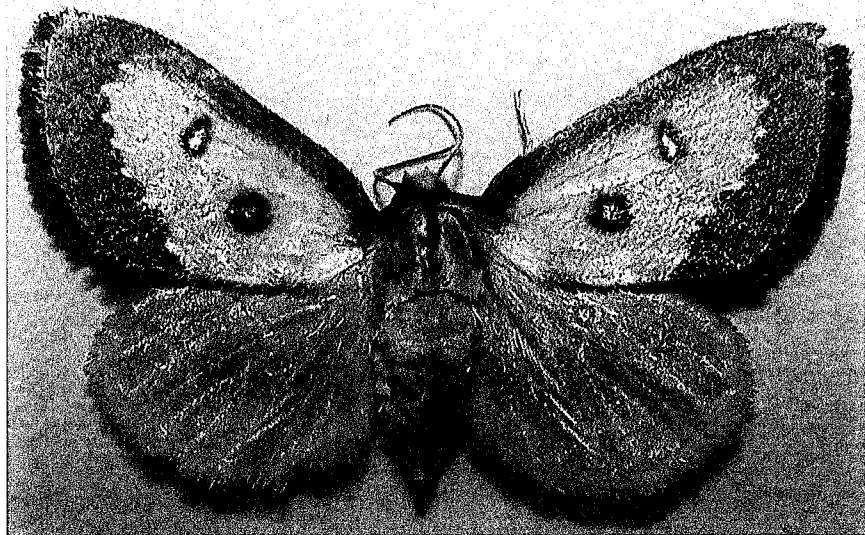
At-Large Members

Gerald Burnett - 2009*
Loran Gibson - 2008*
Richard Henderson - 2008*
* 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, and can be sent to the
Treasurer: Les Ferge, (see above).

New State Record

Derrima stellata



Derrima stellata.

Hart County, KY. July 8, 2007. Wingspan 26 mm

Photos by Richard Healy



Two specimens of *Derrima stellata* were collected by Richard Healy this summer at a light on his back deck: the first on July 8, and the second on July 18, 2007. Dr. Charles Covell, in congratulating Richard, commented that "...not only is this a new (Kentucky) record but I think it is about the prettiest moth we have in Kentucky."

Report on the Lapland Field Trip

24-26 August 2007

by Loran Gibson

Lapland is a large property of several hundred acres in Meade County, KY owned by Kimball International, Inc. These are the folks that make Kimball organs and other furniture products in Jasper, Indiana. Lapland is located just south of the sharp curve in the Ohio river that juts up into south central Indiana. The property has a diversity of habitats including dry, upland, deciduous forest; glade openings with prairie grasses and many uncommon herbaceous plants; deep ravines with plants that are more common in cooler, Appalachian areas.

Lapland is drained by Dry Creek and several small tributaries which run through the heart of the property. Alluvial openings along Dry Creek support populations of Tall Thistle, *Cirsium altissimum*, Swamp Thistle, *Cirsium muticum*, and several species of yellow composite flowers including Black-eyed Susans, *Rudbeckia hirta*, Brown-eyed Susans, *Rudbeckia triloba*, Tick-seed Sunflower, *Bidens aristosa*, Woodland Sunflower, *Helianthus divaricatus* and many other prairie plants. This habitat with its constituent plant communities also supports the last known Kentucky colony of the Swamp metalmark butterfly, *Calephelis muticum*.

Several members of the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists met in the Lapland area on 24-26 August 2007. Goals of the meeting were to observe the Swamp metalmark colony; count individuals present; take photographs; and for those who had not encountered this rarity previously, become familiar with the habitat so that other colonies might be discovered.

Gerald Burnett, Loran Gibson, Tony Merkle, and Charles Wright met at Battletown, KY on Friday afternoon, 24 August. Bill Black arrived a little later. We searched the area for good locations for moth lights and kept a list of the large numbers of butterflies present along the roads in the area. Pearl Crescents, Red Spotted Purples, and Spicebush Swallowtails were



Lapland field trip participants

especially common. Mud puddle clubs of these and others were numerous.

Later, Kevin and Ian Segebarth arrived. Light traps and bait traps were set out. We set up a mercury vapor light / black light and sheet along the main road near the western boundary of the property. The Segebarths baited some trees along one of the side roads. We were all a bit concerned about being out at night in an area where Timber rattlesnakes are said to be common. Regretably, or possibly for the good of us all, not one was seen during our entire stay. The only snake sighting reported was of a Black Racer.

Nothing was marginal on Friday evening, so most of us made our way to our overnight accommodations at the Super 8 Motel in Corydon, IN before midnight. Charles stayed with his wife's family in Meade County.

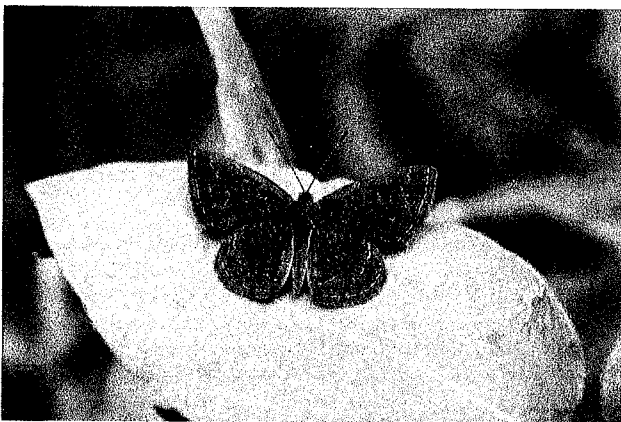
On Saturday morning we met back at Lapland again around 10:00 am EDST. Jeff Marcus and Richard Henderson joined the group at this point. The road leading down to the Swamp metalmark habitat was in good enough condition that we were able to drive our vehicles most of the way. This saved our bodies from a one mile walk in very hot weather. Just before we arrived in the "bottoms" the first Swamp metalmark was located near a substantial stand of the Tall thistle host plant, along the road. The individual was in good shape and several photos were taken of this first sighting of our target species. We wandered through the area along the creek where,
(Continued on page 3)

historically, most sightings had been made. Few individuals were observed there even though much of the intruding woody vegetation had been removed. More were



seen along the perimeter of the openings where good stands of Tall thistle (left) could be found farther west. The western end of the large opening had been planted in Sorghum or a similar crop, apparently to attract deer for the hunt club hunters. This area was

useless for the Swamp metalmark except that the perimeter of this field still had several good stands of Tall thistle and several metalmarks were observed there, mostly on yellow composites. At this point in our count we had already observed 22 individuals! A few of us then moved to the north side of Dry Creek. Several additional Swamp metalmarks were observed there along a road, which led north from the creek, and along the trail that parallels the creek. When we decided to stop for lunch we had counted 34 individuals! Our hopes that this colony would be healthy and thriving were realized!



Calephelus muticum

(photo by Ian Segebarth)

After lunch, a rainstorm came up quickly. Vehicles that were still down along the dirt road had to be brought out promptly or their owners would have faced the prospects of being stuck in the mud. Loran, Charles, Gerald, and Bill all got

their vehicles out, but Gerald and Jeff, who were riding in the back of Bill's truck, got a good soaking as they rode down to retrieve Gerald's car.

After the rain had dried out a bit, light traps and bait traps were once again set out for moths. Jeff had returned home in the afternoon, but those remaining drove into Brandenburg, KY for dinner at Little Dave's on the River. We feasted on fish and Bar-B-Que in the non-smoking dining room while the locals sang Karaoke in the bar area...how entertaining!

On Sunday morning we were on-our-own. The Segebarths retrieved their traps early and departed for Paducah. Gerald was not far behind them. Tony, Richard, and Loran met Gerald as he was leaving Lapland and we said our good-byes. Tony and Loran met Bill coming in as we were departing. Tony and Loran spent some time searching for more Swamp metalmark habitat before leaving. Several areas with the right plants were found but no additional *muticum* were observed.

The better moths collected on Friday and Saturday included *Parapamea buffaloensis*, *Papaipema arctivorens*, *P. araliae*, *Meropleon ambifusca*, and *Stiria ruggfrons*. *Catocala* were not common. A few species were found in traps. These included: *C. piatrix*, *C. ilia*, and *C. neogama*. The Segebarths found a couple of other species on baited trees including: *C. vidua* and *C. resecta*.

Butterflies and Skippers observed included: *Epargyreus clarus*, *Erynnis boratius*, *Erynnis baptisia*, *Philosora catullus* one or two, *Nastra lberminier* a few, *Ancyloxypha numitor* several, *Hesperia leonardus* at least two, *Polites peckius* one, *Polites origines* two, *Wallengrenia egeremet* a few, *Atalopedes campestris* common, *Anatrytone logan* two, *Poanes zabulon* a few females, *Amblyscirtes belli* a few, *Battus philenor* several, *Papilio polyxenes asterius* a few, *Heraclides crespontes* a few, *Pterourus glaucus* fairly common, *P. troilus* abundant, *Eurytides marcellus* one, *Pieris rapae* a few near Battletown, *Colias philodice* a few along roads, *C. eurytheme* a few along roads, *Phoebis sennae* fairly common, *Eurema lisa* common, *E. nicippe* common, *Calycopis cecrops* a few, *Parrhasius m-album* one, *Strymon melinus* a few, *Everes comyntas* very common, *Celastrina neglecta* several, *Calephelus muticum* 34 observed, *Speyeria cybele* several females, (Continued on page 4)

Polygonia interrogationis common, *P. comma* several, *Vanessa virginiensis* fairly common, *V. cardui* one, *V. atalanta* a few, *Junonia coenia* a few, *Phyciodes tharos* abundant, *Chlosyne nycteis* a few, *Limenitis arthemis astyanax* abundant, *L. archippus* a few, *Anaea andria* two, *Asterocampa celtis* several, *A. clyton* fairly common, *Enodia anthedon* common in woods, *Cyllopsis gemma* fairly common in woods, *Hermeuptychia sosybius* abundant in woods, *Danaus plexippus* fairly common.

This was an interesting field trip to one of Kentucky's last great natural areas. Although the property is privately owned, Lepidoptera populations seem to be doing well, especially the Swamp metalmark. We hope that Kimball International, Inc. will continue to manage the property in a manner that will allow the flora and fauna to thrive.

Letter From the President

I hope this letter finds everyone well. Things here in Bowling Green are finally greening up again after what has been the driest summer that anyone can remember. At the end of August, it was possible to walk across parts of the Barren River, the source of our municipal water supply, without getting your feet wet. In the last week, we've had a few rainstorms, which hopefully means that the city will be able to lift water restrictions some time soon.

In spite of all that, we've had reasonable late summer flights of many species of butterflies, with great spangled fritillaries (*Speyeria cybele*), pipevine swallowtails (*Battus philenor*), red-spotted purples (*Limenitis arthemis astyanax*), and sachems (*Atalopedes campestris*) being particularly abundant. I haven't had a chance to do much nothing lately, but my informal surveys at the light on my back porch suggest that numbers are down substantially this summer.

Progress on the Kentucky Butterfly Net (<http://www.kybutterfly.net>) database continues. The latest addition are thumbnail photographs of each species that are now included in the distribution reports. The web apparatus for rendering all of the photographs has been

finished, but it is taking me some time to add all of the links. Thus far, I've been working my way through the micro-moths. Butterflies and macro-moths should start appearing soon. Several people have generously given me access to their photo libraries to make this possible: Jim Vargo and Robert Patterson of the Moth Photographers Group and Todd Gilligan of Tortricid.net. Also, Roseanna Denton of Pulaski County and Melody Rose of Marshall County have been providing me with many new photo-based county records of Lepidoptera from their parts of the state. Dave Roemer has continued to make similar contributions to the database from all over the state and has helped to fill in some of the missing photos in the on-line Field Guide to Kentucky Butterflies (available at <http://www.kylepidopterists.org>). Thank you all! These projects greatly increase our visibility to the general public, both in Kentucky and beyond, and have resulted in our recruiting several new members.

Finally, I wanted share my plans with all of you. I plan to offer to serve as President of this organization for one additional year (provided that you elect to have me again, of course). However, Joanne and I anticipate some changes in our work and home lives that will likely prevent me from serving additional terms beyond Fall 2008. I plan to continue to be an active member and to work on the web site and database, but I will be looking for someone else to serve as President. Being the President of the Kentucky Lepidopterists is not an especially demanding or time-consuming task—the formal duties involve serving as Society spokesperson, writing a short letter for each newsletter, proposing slates of officers, and running the annual meeting. So, if you've always longed to be called "Mr. President" (or "Madam President!"), here's your chance. Please let me know if you might be interested, so we can use the intervening year to teach you what you need to know.

I hope to see all of you in November at the annual meeting.

-- Jeff Marcus

Early Start for GPC 2007 with *Papaipema nelita*

The following report from Loran Gibson was received via email on July 31, 2007:

Dear KY Lep. members,

The Great Papaipema Chase, 2007 has begun! Since Bill Black originated the GPC no records of *Papaipema nelita* have been reported. Charlie's Annotated Checklist included only five KY records for the species, three of them from Menifee County, mostly in late August. This year, I stumbled into a good population in Menifee County on 12 July. On the same night, I found several more in a black light trap that was located along Red River in Powell County, KY. Over the years, I had searched for *nelita* several times in Red River Gorge, but usually during late August-early September. My only specimen had been captured on 31 August 1984. When The Segebarths reported collecting a Tennessee *nelita* in July during the Great Smoky Mtns. Bio Blitz, I wondered if we were searching too late here in KY. It appears that we were! Last night, (30 July) Richard and I returned to the two Red River Gorge localities. We set out five light traps and collected at a sheet near where we were camped. We found 24 *nelita* in our traps (every trap had some) and one came to the sheet (the full moon didn't seem to matter). The sheet and our campsite also produced three Copperheads; but, that is another story! It looks as if the species is very common in the right habitat during mid to late July! Now that we know when to search, I feel confident that we will find it in other localities around the state.

Richard also captured a *P. arctivorens* in one of his traps... If you know a good spot where *Rudbeckia laciniata* occurs along a sandy stream, I suspect that you might have a colony of *P. nelita* there. Try putting a light trap among the plants sometime soon. It will be interesting to see if we can find additional colonies of elusive *nelita*.

Happy hunting,

Loran

July 4th Butterfly Count in Oldham County, 2007

By Charlie Covell

The 25th annual July 4th butterfly count was held at the Horner Sanctuary in Oldham Co., KY on Saturday, June 30. The high temperature was 85, the low was 72. It was cloudy and hazy, with only short periods of full sun. Wind was from the west at 0 - 5 MPH. There were about 38 people present. Teams were led by Richard Henderson, Kevin Segebarth, Loran Gibson, and Charlie Covell, with Bruce Rule Charlie's "score-keeper."



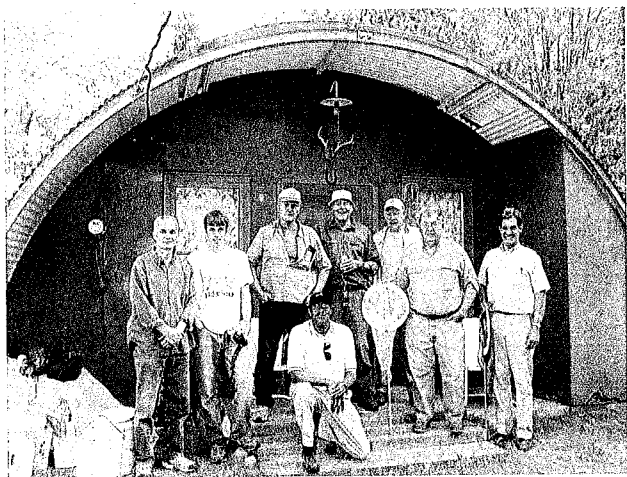
People present included Richard Henderson and family/friends (Brittany Lee, Liz Mason, Whitney Mason and Briana Lee), Loran Gibson, Kevin Segebarth, Mike Flynn, Dave Svetich, Marie Sutton, Martin and Jane Williams, Thomas Davis, Marcia and Jim Jumblatt, Charles Wright, Varley Wiedeman, Jennifer Mansfield-Jones, Margarette Perkins, Jim Mangus, Alyssa Roby, Bill Pearson, Phyllis Doac, Anne Noe, Marsha Noe Biven, Christy and Simon Noe, Amy Baxter (with Brian and Alayna), Deborah White, Mary Carol Cooper, Larry Grannis, Hannah Helm, Bob and Nancy Trabue with Nikki and Grant, and a mother and child from Holland.

A total of 39 species of butterflies was tallied this year - one more than last year, which was on a prettier day. The total individuals was lower: 1,103 compared to 1,264 in 2006. Last year the "star" species was *Everes comyntas* (500), contrasted to 159 this year. In 2007 *Megisto cymela* was most
(Continued on page 6)

common (301), contrasted with 66 in 2006.

Species recorded are as follows: *Epargyreus clarus*, 2; *Erynnis boratius*, 13; *Erynnis baptisiae*, 16; *unknown Erynnis sp.*, 19; *Pyrgus communis*, 2; *Pompeius verna*, 1; *Polites themistocles*, 1; *Polites peckius*, 1; *Anatrytone logan*, 2; *Ancyloxipha numitor*, 6; *Atalopedes campestris*, 1; *Euphyes ruricola metacomet*, 1; *Battus philenor*, 9; *Papilio polyxenes asterius*, 7; *Papilio glaucus*, 11; *Papilio troilus*, 35; *Eurytides marcellus*, 6; *Pieris rapae*, 81; *Colias eurytheme*, 122; *Colias philodice*, 92; *Phoebis sennae*, 17; *Eurema nicippe*, 2; *Callophrys grynea*, 1; *Calycopis cecrops*, 1; *Satyrium calanus falacer*, 1; *Everes comyntas*, 159; *Speyeria cybele*, 15; *Phyciodes tharos*, 73; *Polygonia interrogationis*, 3; *Polygonia comma*, 1; *Vanessa atalanta*, 1; *Junonia coenia*, 1; *Limenitis arthemis astyanax*, 1; *Asterocampa clyton*, 1; *Enodia anhedon*, 2; *Cercyonis pegala*, 89; *Megisto cymela*, 301; *Hermeuptychia sosybius*, 3; *Cyllopsis gemma*, 2; *Danaus plexippus*, 1.

Also seen: moths *Haploa chymene* (Arctiidae) and *Melilla xanthometata* (Geometridae).



A Trip to Mo's Hut

By Richard Henderson

After receiving a gracious invitation from Mo Nielsen, with minimal planning and communication, some of the KY Lep local collectors and a few MI Lep regulars made the trip to Mo Nielsen's hut in Ostego County, MI, renowned for years for great butterfly and moth collecting.

Bill Black and I were the first to arrive on the night of August 16th after driving through heat and rain. Mo Nielsen, Ted Herig and the others (Loran Gibson, Kevin Segebarth, Ian Segebarth, Glenn Belyea, Dwayne Badgero, and Bob Kriegel) arrived on the 17th through 18th. Kevin and Ian spent the night of the 16th in the Upper Peninsula where they light trapped two nice *Papaipema* specimens (*P. unimoda* ??). Bob arrived on the 18th after collecting specimens of the mineral type - dolomite - in the U.P.

The weather was, as I had informed the KY collectors, just the opposite extreme of what we were having at home. Record 104 degrees daytime and 80's at night at home, and at Mo's hut, 60 to 70 degrees daytime and 48, 38, 38, & 50 degrees respectively on the four nights we were there. The unseasonable dryness made for a scarce numbers and species of lepidoptera.

Our stay was most pleasant, as I can attest, having been here on many previous trips. Mo is a magnificent host and collector. Over the years I've enjoyed informative conversations on life and collecting experiences with Mo. Ted and Mo fed us well, and the camaraderie of the other collectors, made for a memorable time at Mo's hut . . . not to mention Mo's daughter's chocolate chip cookies, and Loran's wife's cranberry cookies, pecan cookies and chocolate cake for snacks and dessert.

I for one can't say that the trip was without incident. As the saying goes, "sometimes you get the bear and sometimes the bear gets you". On the night of the 18th, Dwayne and I teamed up and went to a site, where Mo, Ted, Dwayne, Kyle Johnson and I had enjoyed great success in August of 2005. This evening, as I was baiting the trail, I kept thinking that something didn't feel right. When I returned to the starting point, Dwayne was sitting in his car with the engine running. He said, "Come on Rich, lets go, I just saw a bear!" At first I thought he might be joking, but then it dawned on me that he was in the car. I hurried to the tree where I had left the lid to the bait jar while he drove over to pick me up, and then we left to put out light and bait traps elsewhere. He told me as he was setting up a trap he heard rustling in the brush, looked up and saw the bear standing on his hind legs looking at him.

(Continued on page 7)

He yelled at the bear and the bear left. We later returned and ran a MV light in the clearing and checked the bait, being very watchful all the time for that 200 lb. bear. The next night, after hearing about the *Catocalas* we saw and collected at the "bear site", Bill and Loran accompanied me there. We felt that the three of us might be too much for that 'ole bear to handle or eat at one time (ha, ha). All went well that night as collecting was a little better.

All of us put forth great effort each day and night till the morning of August 20th, when we woke up to raindrops falling. We quickly pulled in our light and bait traps, packed up, and headed for home. Everyone enjoyed collecting and socializing at Mo's hut.

Some of the moths and butterflies taken were:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>Papaipema appasionata</i> | <i>Limenitis arthemis arthemis</i> |
| <i>Papaipema pterisii</i> | <i>Limenitis arthemis astyanax</i> |
| <i>Catocala relictata</i> | <i>Lycaena phlaeas americana</i> |
| <i>Catocala coelebs</i> | <i>Lycaena dorcas</i> |
| <i>Catocala antinympha</i> | <i>Lycaena belloides</i> |
| <i>Catocala ilia</i> | <i>Speyeria aphrodite</i> |
| <i>Catocala cerogama</i> | <i>Speyeria atlantis</i> |
| <i>Catocala palaeogama</i> | <i>Colias interior</i> |
| <i>Catocala briseis</i> | <i>Colias eurytheme</i> |
| <i>Catocala semirelictata</i> | <i>Danaus plexippus</i> |
| <i>Catocala concumbens</i> | <i>Ceryonis pegala nephele</i> |
| <i>Catocala ultronia</i> | <i>Boloria selene atrocotalis</i> |
| <i>Catocala cara</i> | <i>Hesperia leonardus</i> |
| <i>Catocala praeclara</i> | <i>Pieris rapae</i> |
| <i>Catocala sordida</i> | <i>Junonia coenia</i> |
| <i>Sphinx poecila</i> | |



Pitcher plants were abundant in the bog.



Discussing the previous night's catch.



Checking out the bog with Mo.



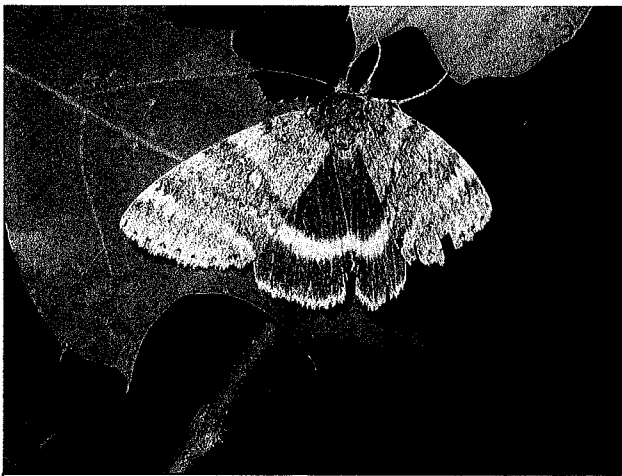
Glenn, Ian, and Loran head out in search of butterflies.



Dwayne Badgero and Mo Nielsen.



Catocala cerogama on the bait trail.

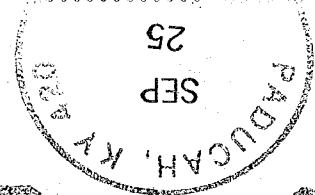
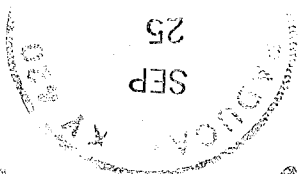
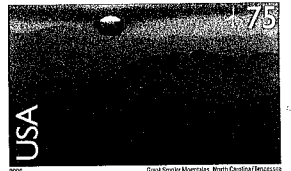


This *C. relictata*, flushed from a baited tree, did not go far.



Bill Black in the bog on our last trap night.

The Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists
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2007 Annual Meeting at the University of Kentucky

The 2007 Annual Meeting of the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists, hosted once again by Dr. Michael Sharkey, will take place **November 2-3**, on the campus of the University of Kentucky. Following is a brief outline of the weekend's agenda along with additional pertinent information:

Friday 2 November

10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Identification Day

Entomology Dept., Agriculture Science Center North Bldg.

The collection will be open for viewing and identification. Please bring specimens of special interest, UFOs to be identified, and any records to be added to the database.

7:00 PM

Reception

E.S. Good Barn

This will be an informal gathering hosted by Dr. Sharkey. A slide projector will be available and time set aside for the sharing of photos and/or stories from the field. Please consider bringing snacks or desserts to share.

Saturday 3 November

Entomology Department, Agriculture Science Center North Building

9:00 AM to Noon

Collection open for viewing

Coffee, donuts, and fellowship

1:00 PM to 2:00 PM

Business Meeting

2:00 PM to 5:00 PM

Featured Speaker: At press time arrangements for a featured speaker were still in progress. Check the web site (<http://www.kylepidopterists.org>) for additional information. It will be posted there as soon as it is available.

Contributed Talks and Papers

Please advise Dr. Jeffrey Marcus 270-745-2043 (Office) or 270-303-2639 (Cell), jeffrey.marcus@wku.edu if you have something that you would like to present.

As has been our tradition, we will end the meeting with a door prize drawing. Please consider bringing Lepidoptera-related items to contribute to the drawing.

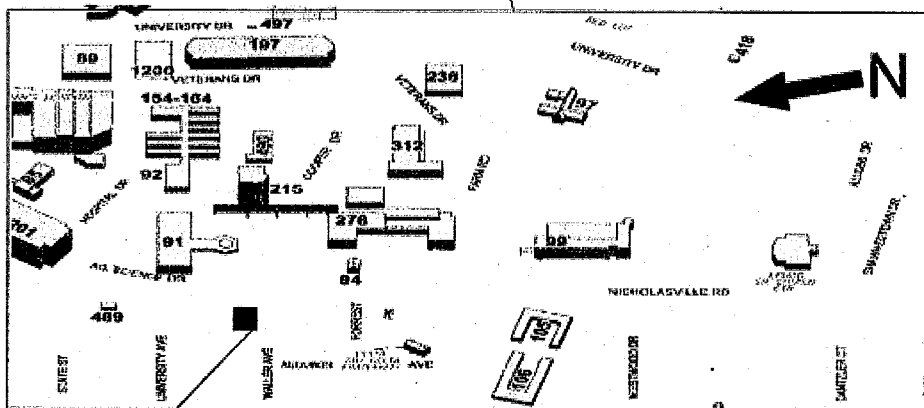
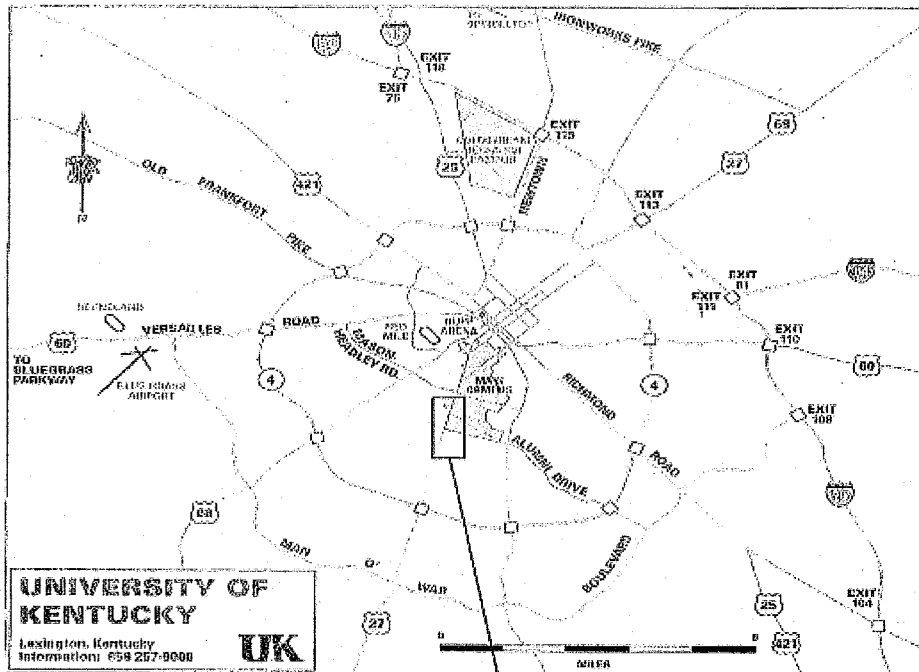
EVENING

Dinner at a local restaurant.

2007 Annual Meeting - Additional Information:

PARKING: Those staying at the University Inn may park there and walk across the street to the meeting. There is a parking lot directly behind the Ag. Science Center North Building and a parking garage at the corner of Cooper Dr. and University Dr. Parking permits will be required for Friday only and may be obtained from Dr. Sharkey upon arrival. You may park in front of the building for 15 minutes while securing your permit. If there are any problems, contact Dr. Sharkey @ 859-257-9364.

DIRECTIONS: Maps showing the University Inn and meeting locations are included below.



KEY:

University Inn
91 Agriculture Science Center North Building
490 Parking Lot

97 G.S. Goodbarn
197 Parking Garage