



Kentucky Lepidopterist

Newsletter of the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists

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THE SOCIETY OF KENTUCKY LEPIDOPTERISTS

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Richard Henderson - 2011*
James Adams - 2012*
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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. Dues sent to the Treasurer: Les Ferge, 7119 Hubbard Avenue, Middleton, WI 53562

SPRING FIELD MEETING TO BLACK MOUNTAIN LEROY C. KOEHN, FIELD MEETING LEADER

The 2011 Spring Field Meeting will be Friday, Saturday & Sunday, 29 & 30 April and 1 May at Black Mountain, Harlan County, Kentucky. For those arriving Friday morning, we will meet on the top of Black Mountain at the "Welcome to Virginia" sign on Route 160 and Black Mountain Ridge Road at 10AM. Our target species will be *Erora laeta*, the early hairstreak. Although *Erora laeta* has been recorded numerous times in July and August on Black Mountain, the spring brood has only been reported twice. Once in 1971 and then again in 1977. We will spend part of the morning on top of Black Mountain before descending down the Mountain on Route 160 towards Appalachia, Virginia. There are several small trails and access roads as we descend and we will check these areas for butterflies and possibly sites for Light Traps. We will also explore the Morris Gap area where Route 38 crosses the Kentucky/Virginia State Lines. Descending down Route 38 into Kentucky from Morris Gap, the road follows along an abandoned rail road right-of-way and the Clover Fork of the Cumberland River. We will return to the Black Mountain area Friday evening to set out Light Traps.

Saturday morning will meet again on the top of Black Mountain at the "Welcome to Virginia" sign on Route 160 and Black Mountain Ridge Road at 9AM. We will spend most of the day on top of Black Mountain searching for *Erora laeta*. We can also search the Morris gap area or the trails and access roads as we descend Black Mountain towards Cumberland, KY. We will determine Light Traps locations based on areas we explore during the day.

Sunday, 1 May, you will be on your own to explore or collect on the mountain top and surrounding areas.

Lodging: There are only two Hotels/Inns in the Cumberland, Kentucky area. In Cumberland is the American Inn on US 119 just a ½ mile west of Cumberland. Room Rates are from \$59.00 to \$78.00 per night: For Reservations: 606-589-2646 or 606-589-5812.

(Cont. from Front Page) Benham School House Inn, Benham, Kentucky is on Route 160 in the town of Benham south of Cumberland, Kentucky. Your Editor has stayed at this Inn several times and it was clean and quiet. Room rates are \$60.00. To obtain the \$60.00 rate, identify that you are with the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists. Telephone: 606-848-3000.

Just a reminder: If you have not visited Black Mountain, there is absolutely nothing on the mountain other than a FAA Radar Site. You must bring with you whatever you intend to eat and drink.

If you need additional information, please feel free to contact me at: 502-542-7091.

SPIDERS, ANTS & A COCOON. BY LEROY C. KOEHN

Since I have retired my wife Betty and I take long walks in the forests in Scott County, Kentucky. Monday 22, 2010 was a gorgeous day and with the temperature near 60 degrees we went to the Kleber WMA and walked along a stretch of Elkhorn Creek. I found several cocoons of both Polyphemus and Cecropia. One of the Cecropia appeared to be from 2008, however, it was heavy and I assumed that it may have been a hold over. I took it home.

It sat on my desk top all day Tuesday and Wednesday. I placed it in a plastic cylinder to see if it would emerge. However, Thursday after noon I could hear a rattling/scratching noise coming from the cocoon and then it moved! I was mounting some moths and the thing continued to rock and make a very faint scratching sound. This went on for two+ hours and I said enough. Out came the scissors and I cut it open. To my surprise, several large black ants came out.

And were they in a hurry. Almost immediately behind the ants came a small (Twice the size of the ants) tan spider, followed by more ants. I scooped up the entire lot and dumped them into a Cyanide jar.

I waited another hour and dumped the contents onto a sheet of white paper. I cut away more of the outer skin of the cocoon and found 18 ants and the broken remains consisting of heads and legs of another 10 ants. At the very

back of the inside shell was a silken web and with another dead tan spider, although smaller than the first spider.

I then cut the inner shell open and this contained a dead and shriveled pupa with the last instar larval skin. As I removed the contents of the outer shell I found black specs which I assume to be frass.

The photographs below is the entire contents of the cocoon that I placed into the killing jar. The spiders, ants, the remains of the ants, the silk web, and the frass were all in the outer shell. The inner part of the cocoon only contained the Pupa and larval skin.

Having never encountered anything similar, I assumed that the spider caught the ants and somehow sealed them with a web inside the cocoon shell as a food source through the winter. Considering the remains of dead ants, that would appear to be the answer.

Has anybody ever encountered spiders in wild collected cocoons?

As a young teenager, I would find cocoons with bird seed and kernels of corns stuffed into the exit hole. I also watched a Chickadee stuff seeds into a Cecropia cocoon in a Silver Maple tree in our yard.

I took the spiders to the University of Kentucky Entomology Department to have them identified. Because I failed to properly preserve the spider it could not be identified. The ant was identified as Formica fusca. A common ant of boreal forests.



Cocoon cut open with Spiders and Ants

SEGEBARTH FAMILY UP-DATE

Your Editor received an up-date on the Segebarth Family from Eileen Segebarth, the matriarch of the Segebarth Family.

Leroy,

I thought I should update you on what everyone is doing these days.

Craig finished his Associate's degree in December of 2009, and then moved to Gainesville. He is living with Ian and working at the McQuire Center in the Collections. He works with Keith Wilmott, and does a variety of jobs. I think he is much speedier now at mounting specimens, and he has learned a great deal in the process of sorting various collections that have come into the museum. I know he sees Charlie Covell occasionally, too.

Ian is a Junior at the University of Florida, majoring in Environmental Science, and works part-time at the McQuire Center. He continues to pursue photography as well: www.isegebarthphotography.com

Eventually he will have photos available for purchase. Both Craig and Ian are now scuba diving certified, and are enjoying diving most weekends there in Florida. I'm glad they have had this time together. In the Fall, Craig is planning on returning to Kentucky to finish his degree at Western Kentucky University.

Our dear Annie is 16 (incredible!) and we are in the process of making plans for her summer. Hopefully, she will be going to Florida for a few weeks and will get scuba diving certified, and will volunteer at the Museum. I don't see her following the boys in their passion for Lepidoptera, but there is interest, and we hope they all have plenty in common to enjoy together as adults.

Kevin is busy with work at Dippin Dots. He is also working hard to complete some of the remodeling jobs here at the house, that we postponed while the boys were in high school. We realized back then that we would only have a limited time with the boys at home, and so now he is completing some of those projects. We have a beautiful new main bathroom!

I am taxi driver, head cook, house manager, and communications director.

Well, this may be more than you wanted to know! But even though the Segebarth clan is currently unavailable for KY Lepidoptera Society activities, I don't think it will be forever. All the best to you and to our friends with KY Leps. So many have encouraged our family along the way, and for that we are very thankful.

Eileen Segebarth

Editor's Note: Please take a minute and visit Ian Segebarth's Web Site. Ian's work with a camera is absolutely fabulous

<http://www.isegebarthphotography.com>

SOCIETY OF KENTUCKY LEPIDOPTERISTS ACTIVITIES MARK YOUR CALENDAR

17, 18, & 19 June 2011 - Early Summer Field Trip to Yellow Banks WMA Breckenridge County. Trip leader Leroy Koehn. Very little field work has been conducted in this part of the State of Kentucky. Calephelis mutica occurs in Indiana directly across the Ohio River from Yellow Banks WMA. This should prove to be a very interesting meeting.

9 July 2011- Annual 4th of July Butterfly Count to Oldham County. Trip leader Charlie Covell

9 & 10 September 2011 - Late Summer Field Trip to Far Western Kentucky. Trip leader Gerald Burnett

11 & 12 November 2011 - Annual Meeting in Lexington, Ky. Organizer: Leroy Koehn.

The date is an away game for Football. The University of Kentucky's football scheduled is now confirmed. There will be meeting activities all day on Friday 11 November. Including a Friday night "Get Together".

There will be more information about these activities in future newsletters.

THE OUTERNET PROJECT

The following announcement was posted on Insectnet.com Forum by John Shuey, President of the Lepidopterists Society.

Hey Everyone,

I'd like to post a link to a new Lepidopterists' Society Program designed to get kids collecting insects at an early age. The idea is to get kids excited about insects, provide them with real equipment, and expose them to the Lepidopterists' Society and our publications for \$20 US. Sadly – because of shipping costs, this offer can be extended only to kids in Canada and the US. We have funding to offer this to about 200 kids annually – and we are hoping to run the program for 5-10 years. While the Society losses about \$25 per kid that enrolls, we are hoping to help reverse the general decline of interest in natural history. We think that some of these children will eventually become amateur and professional lepidopterists – and will join our ranks as colleges and friends.

Here is the text I just pulled off our Face Book page:

The Outernet Project connects kids with nature by providing discounted butterfly nets and supplies.

Starting April 10, 2011, children can become members of The Lepidopterists' Society for a discounted price of \$20 and get a free Outernet Kit; which includes a butterfly net, mounting board, pins, and other items. To find out what specifically everything that is included in this kit, please go to:

http://www.lepsoc.org/mydocuments/outernet_kit_face_book.pdf

Description The Lepidopterists' Society has partnered with Bioquip Products to design this discounted butterfly collecting kit to excite children about butterflies and nature. To participate in the Outernet Project, go to: http://www.lepsoc.org/mydocuments/download.php?f=outernet_application.doc

The Outernet Project Team of The Lepidopterists' Society consists of 2011 President, John Shuey, Outernet Project Manager, Todd Stout, Education Chair, Michelle Dacosta, Membership Chair, Dave Wikle, and Web and Technology Chair, John Snyder. Special thanks to Bioquip Products for their partnership in this project.

Mission As conceived by Robert Michael Pyle and termed 'The Outernet Project' by Martha Weiss, this initiative places butterfly nets into the hands of kids to give them the same connection with nature many of us have had.

Special Thanks and Recognition goes to Bryant Mather's enormous contribution to The Lepidopterists Society making this project possible.

Website: <http://www.lepsoc.org/education/php>

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome New Members:

Betty Hall
224 Leawood Dr.
Lexington KY 40502
Email: bettyhall@qx.net
Tel: (859) 278-7537
Interest: Photography

Connie May
680 Mount Vernon Rd.
Frankfort KY 40601-9452
Tel: (502) 682-8279
Interest: Natural landscaping

Donald R. Tangren
5892 Cane Ridge Rd.
Cane Ridge, TN 37013-3907
Email: turtledon@hotmail.com
Tel: (615) 941-3152
Cell: (615) 268-6415
Interests: Noctuidae

DUES REMINDER

Please check your dues status, the year following you name on the address label indicates the last year for which dues were paid. Send payment to Les Ferge whose address is listed on the front cover. Those in arrears after 1 July 2011 will no longer receive the Newsletter.

RICHARD HEALY COLLECTION OF LEPIDOPTERA TO THE UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

In December of 2010, Richard Henderson and Leroy Koehn traveled to Richard Healy's home in Bonnieville, Kentucky to pick up Richard Healy's collection of Lepidoptera that he has donated to the University of Kentucky.

Once the collection was at the University of Kentucky, the collection was fumigated for several weeks due to some noticeable Dermestid damage. The collection contained approximately 2800 specimens of Lepidoptera of which the vast majority are moths. On April 2, 2011, Loran Gibson, Bill Black, Richard Henderson and Leroy Koehn volunteered their time and traveled to the University of Kentucky in Lexington, Kentucky to begin the process to incorporate the Healy collection into the insect collect at the University of Kentucky. It work began very slowly as a process to confirm identifications and record the collection information for the Kentucky Data Base was determined.

As we worked through the specimens we were amazed that the majority of the collection came from one location, Richard Healy's home in Bonnieville, Kentucky. This includes several state records and many seldom encountered species.

At the end of the day we recorded 363 specimens into a data file. With the season upon us, we knew that the next opportunity to continue this project would not occur until after the end of October. Please consider volunteering some time during the winter months when you see the next scheduled work day announcement in this newsletter.



Richard Healy and Leroy Koehn preparing collection to take the collection to the University of Kentucky



A Morning Dove was discovered trapped inside the Animal Pathology Bldg. A Butterfly Net was located and the Dove was captured. Loran Gibson holds the Dove. The smile will tell you who caught the Dove!!

NEWSLETTER UP-DATE

You will receive this Newsletter via to different modes. By Email and Snail Mail. Every member who provided an email address will receive an electronic copy. Every member will also receive a hard copy via Snail Mail. Should you only get this via Email, your postal address in our records may not be correct. If you only receive this via Snail Mail, either we do not have your email address or the one we do have may not be correct. To solve all problems send your contact information to the Secretary: Les Ferge, 7119 Hubbard Ave., Middleton, WI 53562-3231: Email: lesferge@gmail.com

Your Editor has set up an Email address for sending out the newsletter. SKLNewsLetter@aol.com. The number of address in each list were set at 15 to avoid the spam issue. Please remember this address as some IP's may even consider 15 as Spam. **PLEASE DO NOT SEND EMAIL'S TO THIS ADDRESS.** Those members who are to receive an Electronic copy of the Newsletter only are on a separate list and will receive a hard copy via Snail Mail to confirm addresses.

The deadline for the next issue of the Newsletter is 21 May 2011. This newsletter is rather small. If you want more, Your Editor needs more. Do you have any photographs of butterflies and moths. Short articles or notes, or good humor. Send it to the Editor.