



Kentucky Lepidopterist

Newsletter of the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists

Volume 40 Number 3 & 4, 1 February 2015

40TH ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

BY

GERALD BURNETT

Thank you to all who attended The Society's 40th Anniversary Celebration and Annual Meeting in November! I can't help but think that I was only 6 years old when Charlie Covell and Richard Henderson made the first plans that led to our society's foundation! I'm sure that no one at that time knew how many warm memories and lifelong friendships would be forged over the next 40 years.

Our weekend started on Friday before lunch as members trickled into the meeting place to visit with old and new friends, view our collection, and exchange stories (some suspect) among other activities. The Board met shortly after lunch to discuss items of old and new business. This was the first time that we've met on Friday instead of Saturday as a trial balloon to see how it was received and to leave more time for visiting uninterrupted with each other on Saturday.



THE CAKE: 40TH ANNIVERSARY

The next day started again with the collection being open for viewing while we spent the morning reminiscing about past adventures and looking forward to new ones. With the Board Meeting out of the way we were all able to spend the morning together without interruption. Shortly after lunch we conducted our business meeting where most of the "lively" discussion centered around the formation of our Conservation Committee which is detailed in the "meeting minutes". We were also able to see Tony Merkle's beautiful work on the Society brochures and posters that he presented to the membership. Great work, Tony!

We took time after the business meeting to recognize Charlie Covell and Richard Henderson for their foresight to found and organize the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists with a presentation of beautiful framed certificates. Thanks again, Charlie and Richard! We were then treated, after a short break, to our featured guest speakers' presentation. Doctor Charlie Covell led us all down memory lane with photos and recollections from The Society's storied past. Thanks again, Charlie, for everything you've done over the past 40 years! Another presentation was made following Charlie's talk by Bill Black. He presented Charlie with a collage of photographs depicting the known documented Hybrids of the closely related Red-spotted Purple (*Limenitis arthemis*) and Viceroy (*Limenitis archippus*) butterflies. Thanks, Bill for all the work that you did to help make this meeting a success and to Craig Segebarth for taking those pictures without Charlie finding out! Thanks, Bill for all the work that you did to help make this meeting a success and to Craig Segebarth for taking those pictures without Charlie finding out!

**THE SOCIETY
OF
KENTUCKY
LEPIDOPTERISTS**

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Richard Henderson - 2014*
Don Tangren - 2016*
* 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: \$15.00. Dues sent to the Treasurer: Les Ferge, 7119 Hubbard Avenue, Middleton, WI 53562

We had two more individuals that presented for The Society before we adjourned for our traditional door prize drawing. James Adams gave a brief but always interesting talk about an introduced moth whose specific name eludes me now but which belongs in the family Erebidae. The moth's host plant is Silk Tree(Albizia julibrissin) and the moth appears to be "coming to a blacklight near you" wherever this plant is found. I think we'll all be looking for this insect when it warms up next year. Our wrap-up speaker for the day was Kyle Johnson who awakened a desire in all of us to take a collecting and photographic road trip to Alaska via Canada (I suppose the only way this road trip would be possible) with his detailed account of the trip including his harrowing bear encounter. Thanks James and Kyle!

Our last item of business before leaving for our evening meal was the traditional door prize drawing. It was good to have Charlie back leading those proceedings! Thanks to all who brought door prizes-there were enough so that all members walked away with something! The crowd then migrated to a local O'Charlie's Restaurant where we all shared a piece of Anniversary Cake after our meal. Again, thanks to all who attended and helped to make this meeting a special one! Happy New Year and Sweet Lepidoptera Dreams to everyone!

**SOCIETY OF KENTUCKY LEPIDOPTERISTS
BOARD MEETING MINUTES 2014
BY
TONY MERKLE**

The meeting was brought to order by President Gerald Burnett. Others in attendance were: Charlie Covell, Board Member Ex Officio; Les Ferge, Treasurer; Loran Gibson, Member At-Large; Richard Henderson, Member At-Large; Leroy Koehn, Newsletter Editor; Ellis Lauder milk, Society Member; Tony Merkle, Secretary; Don Tangren, Member At-Large and Charles Wright, Field Trip Coordinator.

The first order of business was the treasurer's report. Treasurer Les Ferge began by distributing copies of the previous year's cash flow statement. He followed-up by summarizing the situation regarding the organization's finances. The key point of the summary was that the organization's income and expenses were even for the year excluding \$2,000 in donations given for website construction/repair. A comment was made regarding slowly declining membership. A figure of ninety four was given comprising a drop of five from 2013. Nine individuals were reported as having not paid their dues during the year. Twenty eight people were reported as being recipients of the electronic newsletter only. The overall financial situation was characterized as being pretty good. Some questions were asked regarding the financial aspects of the website repairs and donations given toward having them done as well as about the status of the repairs. After clarifications were given regarding those matters, a motion was made to accept the report. The motion was seconded and carried.

The second order of business was organization outreach through the development of brochures and posters for distribution/placement. A brief explanation and demonstration of items that had been developed was given by Tony Merkle. Options for distribution and/or placement of the materials were discussed. The cost associated with printing the materials was also considered. Leroy Koehn indicated that he would include the brochure(s) in the next newsletter. It was decided that the subject would be presented to the general membership with a cost estimate at the business meeting for consideration.

The third order of business discussed related to a sensitive species initiative/protocol. Ellis Lauder milk presented an overview of what was proposed, why it had been proposed and what such an initiative might entail. A first draft copy of guidelines that he had developed was distributed to all in attendance. The primary focus of the initiative was presented as being precautionary in nature especially regarding information that is released or made available by our organization that might ultimately lead to negative impacts upon sensitive or imperiled species in our state. A recommendation was made to have a conservation committee appointed to implement and carry-out the duties of the initiative. Questions regarding how the committee would be set-up and how many would be involved were raised and discussed briefly. A motion was made to set-up a conservation committee to address the issue. The motion was seconded and passed. After some discussion took place regarding the make-up of the committee, another motion was made to have Ellis Lauder milk named as its chairman. No further action took place on the motion due to continued discussion that took place about the nature of the committee including the duties of its members, the designation of a chairman and its structure. A motion was then made to have a three member committee comprised of a chairman, one board member and one general member. As a result of the discussions that took place and the subsequent motion that had been made, the motion to have Ellis Lauder milk named as the committee's chairman was then withdrawn and the motion for a three member committee comprised of a chairman, a board member and a general member was seconded and passed. After more discussion of the matter, another motion was made to appoint Ellis Lauder milk as chairman of the committee having the responsibility for appointing the other members. The motion was seconded but was not put to a vote. Instead, more discussion took place regarding procedural aspects of the committee including concerns about whether or not the chairman should be responsible for making

appointments to it. It was decided that the committee's duties would be posted on the organization's website and that the president should be responsible for appointments to it. A motion was then made to amend the initial motion that had been presented and passed such that the committee would be comprised of a chairman's position that would be held by Ellis Lauder milk, a board member and a general member each of which would be appointed by the Society's president. The motion was seconded and passed. The amended motion was then presented, seconded and passed.

The fourth item of business was organization outreach through social media. Charles Wright gave a brief summary of his efforts to establish a Facebook page and indicated that he was unable to establish one with which he was satisfied. The primary issue mentioned was an inability to make a copy of the organization's logo that could be incorporated on the page. Charles indicated that he would probably need to secure one in a pdf format from Leroy Koehn in order to move forward with the construction of the page. Leroy indicated that he would send one to Charles. Continued effort regarding the matter was suggested. No actions were taken on the issue.

The fifth item of business was related to the Board of Directors to serve for the upcoming year. It was mentioned that Richard Henderson's term was expiring. Richard agreed to serve for another term. No actions were taken on this. A brief discussion took place regarding the make-up of the Board. Procedures for electing officers were also discussed. It was agreed that the matter needed to be researched to determine exactly what positions were required. A decision was made to have the issue brought-up and discussed at the business meeting.

The sixth item of business was Garden Club of Kentucky membership. A short discussion on this resulted in a recommendation to have the matter presented at the Business meeting.

The seventh item of business was organization decals/stickers. Leroy Koehn presented information regarding the cost of having them printed. A figure of \$650 for 200 was given. Suggestions were made to do a poll of the membership in order to determine how many would be needed or to sell those that we still have on hand in order to raise money and determine interest prior to purchasing more. It was generally agreed that more research needed to be done on the matter. No actions were taken.

At this time a discussion took place regarding outlets for collecting materials. Some possible avenues for purchasing these were given. No board action was taken.

A discussion regarding nine individuals who had not paid dues was then initiated by Les Ferge. He requested input regarding what should be done in each individual case. Names were given and recommendations made by various members. No board action was taken.

The last item of business was the field trip schedule for 2015. Charles Wright distributed a paper listing some potential sites/areas to consider. Others presented suggestions verbally. The proposals given were for Otter Creek Wildlife Management Area in Meade County in mid-August, Horner Wildlife Sanctuary in Oldham County on 11 July (tentative) for the 4th of July Butterfly Count, Big Rivers Wildlife Management Area in Union and Crittenden Counties in late May or early June (tentatively for 1st weekend in June), western Kentucky (particularly Land between the Lakes) in the spring, Pike County in the fall and the Red Bird Ranger District of the Daniel Boone National Forest in Leslie County in the summer (1st weekend in August). No action was taken on this.

**SOCIETY OF KENTUCKY
LEPIDOPTERISTS
BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
2014
BY
TONY MERKLE**

The meeting was brought to order by President Gerald Burnett. The first order of business was the treasurer’s report. It was presented by Society Treasurer Les Ferge. He indicated that the organization had essentially broken even for the fiscal year which for practical purposes was considered from one annual meeting to the following one. For the previous fiscal year the organization was about \$20.00 shy of breaking even. Total cash disbursements were \$1,653.43. Receipts totaled \$1,635.00 not counting \$2,000.00 of contributions earmarked for website repair. The amount of money in the bank was given as \$5,690.56. It was mentioned that membership numbers were slowly slipping, the total number for the year 2014 being five less than for 2013. The number of members was reported to be ninety four, ninety of which were paid

memberships. Nine memberships were reported as unpaid with about six of those to be dropped. It was also reported that twenty eight members were receiving the newsletter electronically and that notifications for dues payments would go out in January. A motion was then made to accept the treasurer’s report. The motion was seconded and carried.

The second order of business was sensitive species protocol. A brief overview of the concerns and a proposal for addressing them was given by Ellis Laudermilk. The primary concern given involved the establishment of internal organizational control of information that is released related to certain species that are imperiled in the state. The proposal was for appointment of a committee to establish guidelines related to conservation issues especially regarding sensitive species and the release of information about them. A motion was made to have a committee established with Ellis Laudermilk as its chair and others to be appointed later. Clarifications of the role of the committee were given and adoption of a policy statement was suggested. The motion was seconded and passed.

The third order of business was organization outreach through dissemination of brochures and/or posters that had been developed for the purpose. Examples of the items were presented to the membership along with proposals for possible distribution of them. Pros and cons associated with the use of both items were discussed including aspects related to cost. The exact cost was not given. An estimate of about \$50.00 was given. A motion was made to have Leroy Koehn print a trial run of some of the brochures and posters for distribution to help to determine their effectiveness. The motion was seconded and passed.

The fourth item of business was organization logo stickers/decals. A brief discussion took place regarding possible means for securing these. It was decided that more research needed to be done in order to determine what avenue(s) would be most cost effective for getting this done. No action was taken regarding this.

The fifth item of business was organization membership in the Garden Club of Kentucky. It was mentioned that the trial membership that had been initiated a year earlier had expired or would soon expire. Bill Black indicated that he believed it was a worthwhile partnership in which to be involved and recommended that we renew the membership. A motion was made to renew it for one year with Bill as the contact. The motion was seconded and passed.

The sixth item of business was organization outreach through social media. Aspects related to establishing a Facebook page were discussed. Charles Wright agreed to continue working on this. No action was taken.

The seventh item of business was the Board of Directors. It was mentioned that all of the currently serving members had agreed to serve another year including Richard Henderson whose term was expiring. A discussion was initiated regarding the number of individuals that were required for the Board. Some concern about whether we were operating with the correct number of officers was expressed. A question arose as to whether someone should be appointed to check into the situation. Continued discussion regarding the number that should be serving and provisions for amending the constitution took place with reference made to a copy of it dated 1994 that was on hand. A segment of it addressing the make-up of the Board of Directors was read aloud. A motion was made to amend the constitution to increase the number of Member-at-large positions from two (2) to four (4) with the language indicating "up to four". The motion was seconded with a provision that the language regarding the Secretary/ Treasurer position also be changed to show that they are separate positions. The motion was not put up for a vote due to a discussion that then took place regarding concerns about whether the constitution referenced from 1994 was the most recent version and whether we should be making amendments to it given there was uncertainty about it. A motion was then made to have someone appointed to determine how the most recently amended constitution is worded regarding officers and publish it in the newsletter. The motion was seconded and carried. Another motion was then made to allow the Board make-up to remain the same for 2015 as it had been for the previous year. The motion was seconded and passed. At this time Society President Gerald Burnett asked member Blaine Early if he would be willing to research the organization's most recently amended constitution to determine its requirements relating to officer positions. Blaine agreed to do so and was appointed by President Burnett for the task. The slate of officers to serve for the upcoming year was then presented as follows:

Gerald Burnett, President
 Les Ferge, Treasurer
 Leroy Koehn, Editor
 Charles Wright, Field Trip Coordinator
 Tony Merkle, Secretary
 Loran Gibson, Member-at-large
 Richard Henderson, Member-at-large
 Don Tangren, Member-at-large

Mention was also made of the Webmaster position occupied by Jeff Marcus. No other nominees were presented. A motion was made to close nominations. The motion was seconded and passed.

The last order of business was the field trip schedule for 2015. A tentative schedule comprised of trips to Land between the Lakes in western Kentucky in April, Big Rivers Wildlife Management Area in Crittenden and Union Counties on June 5th & 6th and the Red Bird Ranger District in the Daniel Boone National Forest in Leslie County on August 7th & 8th was given. The 4th of July Butterfly Count at Horner Wildlife Sanctuary in Oldham County was presented as being tentatively scheduled for July 11.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and carried.

A THANK YOU NOTE FROM DR. CHARLES COVELL

Dear fellow Kentucky Lepidopterists:

I want you to know how much I enjoyed the annual meeting in November, and how glad I was to meet several new members as well as catch up with those of you I have known for up to 40 years. It was a most enjoyable occasion for me, and I feel great about the SKL thriving for so long. We still have much to do in surveying and monitoring Kentucky's Lepidoptera fauna, and there are many new collecting spots to visit. Your interest and dedication have made it possible to record over 2,500 species over the years, with more to discover.

I would like to see more young people in our Society. I'm proud that we have been part of the growing-up of several who have included Lepidoptera interests in their life's pursuits. I'm thinking especially of Jessica Hutti, Thomson and Taylor Paris, Megan McCarty, Craig and Ian Segebarth, Roman Anderson and others. I'm especially grateful to Leroy for serving as Editor of *The Kentucky Lepidopterist* so faithfully, and also for his curatorial watch over the Lepidoptera collection at the University of Kentucky. Bill Black and Gerald Burnett have done fine and devoted jobs as presidents. And Les Ferge has kept up his steady hand on our purse strings for many years. Tony Merkle for recording the society's meeting and for his outstanding work on the Membership Brochure and Poster.

Many of you have continued helping with the July 4 Butterfly Count, and others like Don Wright and Loran Gibson have published important works on moths from KY and neighboring states. So many of you have contributed to our surveys over these years. And Ellis Lauder milk has kept the need for habitat and species protection ever before our consciousness, too.

I fear I have omitted important names here, like those of our wives who have often sacrificed to let us enjoy this great combination of hobby and important science. Thanks to you all for your recognition of Richard and me at the meeting, and for your continued support and interest.

Cheers, Charlie



Board Meeting: Les Ferge: Treasurere, Charles Wright; Field Trip Coordinator, Richard Henderson, Loran Gibson, Members- at - Large, Gerald Burnett (Only a portion visible), Dr. Charles Covell, Tony Merkle; Secretary, Don Tangren (Hidden from view behind Tony Merkle) Member - at - Large.



Dr. Covell with collage of photographs of Limenitis astyanax/archippus hybrids



Gerald Burnett conducts Business Meeting.



Kyle Johnson, Loran Gibson, Tony Merkle & Tony Evans identifying specimens.



Tony Merkle presenting the new Society Membership Posters & Brochures.



Dr. Charles V. Covell & Richard Henderson
with Certificate of Recognition.

A NOTE FROM GERALD BURNETT

I just wanted to take an opportunity to apologize to all of my fellow Kentucky Lepidopterists who attended our 40th Anniversary annual meeting. Jeff Marcus, one of our past presidents and our current webmaster submitted the following letter for me to read at our meeting and I just forgot amidst everything else going on. I submit my deepest apologies again for this oversight.

Gerald Burnett
President

A LETTER FROM JEFF MARCUS

Dear Friends and Fellow Kentucky Lepidopterists,

It has been just over 5 years since I moved from Kentucky to take a new job in Canada. While in many ways, it was the right decision for me and my family, which now includes twin 3-year-old boys, one of the things that I've really missed is the camaraderie shared by the Kentucky Lepidopterists. Whether it was:

- Charlie Covell's taxonomic knowledge and mentorship.
- Bill Black's uncanny ability to negotiate access to private property.
- Leroy Koehn's mechanical aptitude to build exceptional equipment.
- Loran Gibson's botanical knowledge.

Tony Merkle's beautiful photography.

Richard Henderson's perpetual reservoir of stories (the guy remembers everything!).

Gerald Burnett's unflappable good humor, or the special gifts that each and every one of you bring to this organization to make it what it is.

There have been many occasions where I missed your company in the field or your help understanding habitats and identifying the Lepidoptera there. I am a better scientist because of the time we shared together. There is no equivalent organization up here in Manitoba, and sometimes a person doesn't know what he's giving up until it's gone. Every so often, I experience a tinge of remorse when I am unable to join you for a field trip or the annual meeting, but it is with real regret that some family health concerns have conspired so that I am not able to join you for this anniversary year.

Thank you for everything that you've taught me, and congratulations on 40 years of extraordinary contributions to understanding the natural history of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. It is because of your collective work that Kentucky has among the best described Lepidopteran faunas of anywhere in North America. It is a testament to how well you all get along that for the most part, it didn't really seem like work at all, did it?

No matter where I roam, at heart I'll always be a Kentucky Lepidopterist.

With sincere best regards,
Jeffrey Marcus
Associate Professor, Department of Biological Sciences
University of Manitoba



World's Coolest Licences Plate!
Loran Gibson is the owner!!



Group Photograph of Meeting Attendees.



Bill Black: He is trying to remember if he has that species in his freezer? Eric Smith looks on.



Friday Night Gathering of Lepidopterist Betty Koehn monitors the Chow Line



Les Ferge, Treasurer



Meeting attendees during a break



The Lady's: Suzzett Slocomb, Nancy Black & Betty Koehn.



The Gentleman: Bill Black, Tony Merkle, Dr. Charles Covell, Don Tangren, Gerald Burnett, Ellis Laudermilk, Loran Gibson, Richard Henderson & Les Ferge.



John & Ruth Ann Peacock
Tom & Robyn Carr.



Meeting Attendees during a break.

MEETING & EVENT SCHEDULE FOR 2015

Spring Field Meeting:

Land Between the Lakes in western Kentucky, 10, 11, & 12 April 2015. Bill Black will lead the trip. There will be a complete announcement in the next Newsletter.

Summer Field Meeting:

Big Rivers Wildlife Management Area in Crittenden and Union Counties, 5 & 6 June 2015. Charles Wright will be the trip leader. A complete announcement will appear in the next Newsletter.

Summer Field Meeting:

Red Bird WMA in Daniel Boone National Forest in Leslie County, 7 & 8 August 2015. Charles Wright will be the trip leader. A complete announcement will appear in a future Newsletter

Oak Grove Butterfly Festival: Saturday 26 September 2015 in Oak Grove, Kentucky. The Festival is a one day, 10 hour event. The Society has been invited to return this year and bring a display of butterflies and moths. Gerald Burnett, Bill Black and Leroy Koehn will organize the event for the Society. If you are interested in participating, mark your calendar for 26 September 2015. There will be more information in future newsletters.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

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Reed A. Watkins
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ANNUAL BUTTERFLY COUNT JULY 11, 2015 LED BY DR. CHARLES V. COVELL

The 38th Annual July 4th Butterfly Count at Horner Wildlife Sanctuary in Oldham County, Kentucky, will be held Saturday, 11 July 2015. It will be led by Charlie Covell and other members of the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists. We will meet at 9:30AM at the Brownsboro General Store & Restaurant (the only business building) in Brownsboro, one mile east of Exit 14 of I-71. After briefing and assignment of teams, we will count butterflies from 10AM to 3PM. If it is a completely rainy day, we will hold the count on Sunday 12 July 2015 at the same time.

Please wear boots, long pants, long sleeve shirts and a hat. Bring repellent for ticks, chiggers and mosquitoes. We will have some nets to loan. You are free to leave whenever you wish.

For additional information, contact Charlie Covell at 352-336-0127 (evenings and weekends) for further information, or Email: covell@louisville.edu.

We will need some identification help from Society members. Please contact Charlie Covell if you would like to help.

Beginners and children are encouraged to attend.

NEWSLETTER UP DATE

There has been a long effort to complete this issue of the News. I have combined Volume 41 No. 3 & 4 into one. This will reduce cost and allow your Editor to produce all four issues of Volume 42 in 2015. This 12 full pages.

Enclosed is a copy of the new Brochure of Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists. If you would like more brochures, please contact your Editor. Tony Merkle designed and created the Brochure. The beautiful photographs were all taken by Tony.

Volume 42 No. 1 will contain a List of Members with contact information. Please check the mailing label on this Newsletter. If your address is not correct or it has changed, please send your correct address and contact information to Treasurer, Les Ferge.

Three Field Meetings are planned for 2015. All three are to new locations for Field Meetings. Having checked our data base, there are very few records from

either Critterden or Union counties. We may even find a state record or two.

Although several members have visited The Land Between the Lakes, it is a National recreation Area. (As a young boy on a family vacation, I collected butterflies in the area before there was a Barkely Lake in 1959. I still have two specimens in my collection from Lyon County). Our trip Leader, Bill Black has obtained permission for us to collect in the Barkely Lake NRA.

The late summer field meeting will be held at the Red Bird WMA in the Daniel Boone NF in Leslie County. The 2014 Spring Field Trip was held at Red Bird WMA. This is a remote location and could prove to be very interesting.

Complete information on all of the field trips will appear in future Newsletter.

The 41st Annual Meeting will be held at the University of Kentucky in Lexington, Kentucky. The date will be determined when the Football schedule is set.

We look forward to seeing you at one or all of the planned meetings.

The Society will once again participate in the Oak Grove Butterfly Festival. This is a one day 6 hour event. Over 7000 people attended the 2014 festival and almost all of them visited our booth. This is a great time to interact with people who have a very limited knowledge of butterflies and moths. Please plan on participating this year. For more information about the event and accommodations, please email or telephone your Editor: Email: Leptraps@aol.com. Telephone: 502-542-7091.

MEMBERSHIP DUES NOTICE

Your 2015 Membership Dues Notice was mailed in January. Please continue to support the Society. The cost of the Newsletter continues to increase, especially with all of the color photographs. An additional donation to the Society will help to defray some of the cost and would be greatly appreciated.

If you have not paid your 2014 dues, this will be your final newsletter.

Do you have an article or some photographs you would like to share. Send them to your Editor.



Pterourus glaucus: female
Photograph by Tony Merkle



Catocala amatatrix: Sweetheart Underwing
A very cryptic look
Photograph by Tony Merkle

The Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists Newsletter is published four times annually. Membership dues are as follows:

- Regular Membership (Paper copy of Newsletter)\$15.00 per year
- Regular Membership (Email copy of Newsletter only)\$15.00 per year
- Sustaining Membership (Paper copy of Newsletter)\$25.00 per year
- Sustaining Membership (Email copy of Newsletter only)\$25.00 per year

The organization is open to anyone with an interest in the Lepidoptera of the State of Kentucky. Information about the Society may be obtained from and dues sent to: Les Ferge, Treasurer, 7119 Hubbard Ave., Middleton, WI 53562-3231



Leroy C. Koehn
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