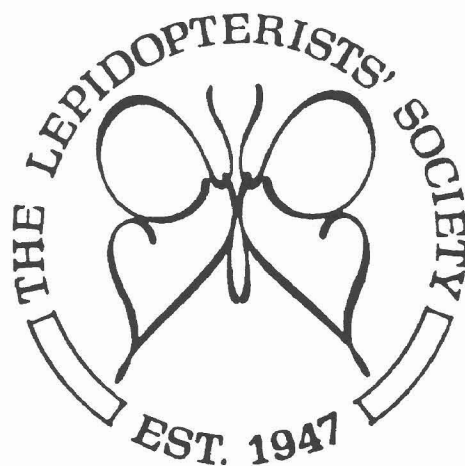


# NEWS OF THE LEPIDOPTERISTS' SOCIETY



Volume 43, Number 2 Summer 2001



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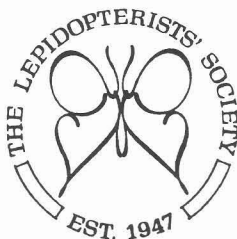
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# NEWS OF THE LEPIDOPTERISTS' SOCIETY

Volume 43, No. 2 Summer 2001



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The Lepidopterists' Society is a non-profit educational and scientific organization. The object of the Society, which was formed in May 1947 and formally constituted in December 1950, is "to promote internationally the science of lepidopterology in all its branches; to further the scientifically sound and progressive study of Lepidoptera, to issue periodicals and other publications on Lepidoptera; to facilitate the exchange of specimens and ideas by both the professional worker and the amateur in the field; to compile and distribute information to other organizations and individuals for purposes of education and conservation and appreciation of Lepidoptera; and to secure cooperation in all measures" directed towards these aims. (Article II, Constitution of The Lepidopterists' Society.)

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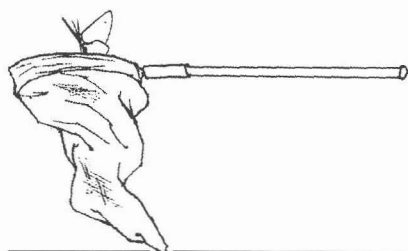
### Meeting Reminder:

The 2001, 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Lepidopterists' Society will be held at Oregon State University in Corvallis, OR from July 25<sup>th</sup> through July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2001.

Remember to check the meeting web site [www.ent.orst.edu/meeting/](http://www.ent.orst.edu/meeting/) for updates on events and schedules, particularly as the date of the meeting get closer.

For more information, contact meeting organizers Andy Brower, Paul Hammond, Dave McCorkle and Andy Warren at the Department of Entomology, OSU. 541-737-5531, [browera@bcc.orst.edu](mailto:browera@bcc.orst.edu)

**Cover:** Monarch activity in an Oyamel Fir roost. The cold storms of March littered the ground up to 18 cm deep with dead butterflies. See the story by K. Johnson and R. DeCandido on pp. 44 of this issue. Photo by R. DeCandido.



# Mailbag...

## Credit Where Credit Due...

Dear Editor,

In the Spring issue of the 2000 **News of the Lepidopterists' Society** I asked for assistance with collecting emerald moths in the genus *Nemoria* (News 42(1), pp. 28-29). I wrote that "I stumbled" on the caterpillars of *Nemoria arizonaria*, and I need to correct this. Noel McFarland was the first to rear (in 1981-1982) and describe the larvae of *Nemoria arizonaria*, and describe the catkin-mimicking winter-spring form and the twig-mimicking summer form of the caterpillars (McFarland, 1988, page 308). He also showed that the spring and summer forms of the adult moths, that had been classified as *N. arizonaria* and *N. aemularia* respectively, are the same species. This work provided the justification for Ferguson's 1985 revision, in which he grouped *N. arizonaria* and *N. aemularia* into *N. arizonaria*.

All the credit for the original discovery and description of seasonal variation in the morphology of the caterpillars and moths belongs entirely to Noel McFarland. Mr. McFarland shared this information with me. Some of my subsequent research focused on the environmental cues that trigger these developmental differences, but this research was possible because of Mr. McFarland's pioneering work. I have not properly acknowledged Mr. McFarland's work and given him the credit he deserves. I apologize for this. I urge readers to read his book "Portraits of South Australian Geometrid Moths," which sets the gold standard for the careful documentation

of the life histories, development, behavior, and ecology of lepidoptera.

## References

- McFarland, N. 1988. **Portraits of South Australian Geometrid Moths**. Allen Press, Lawrence, Kansas.  
 D. C. Ferguson. 1985. **The Moths of America North of Mexico (Including Greenland)**. Fascicle 18.1 Geometroidea: Geometridae (Part). The Wedge Entomological Research Foundation, Washington, D. C."

*Erick Greene*

*Division of Biological Sciences,  
 The University of Montana,  
 Missoula, MT 59812-1002*



## Compliments & Concerns...

Dear Editor,

I must compliment you on yet another great edition of the "News"! Keep up the good work.

I couldn't agree more with our new president's, Robert K. Robbins', hope that "the real objective of members will be to share their Lepidoptera passions with others, particularly youngsters."

Too bad Jim Taylor's column, "Out of the Net..." was about as passionless as they come. He as much as said that if the Monarch goes extinct, 'so be it.'

*Mike Quinn*

*Invertebrate Biologist,  
 Wildlife Diversity Branch,  
 Texas Parks & Wildlife  
 3000 IH 35 South, Suite 100,  
 Austin, Texas 78704*

## Controversy and the Society...

Dear Editor,

I was surprised and disappointed by the content and tone of the "Out of the Net" column in the Spring issue of the **News**. In the past, controversy in our society consisted largely of taxonomic disputes, and exchanges in print could be pointed, but were usually polite and scholarly. Sadly, in recent years the synergy of divisive politics and environmental crises has brewed up an often-bitter debate that has found its way even into our newsletter. Until now these remarks were appropriately confined to a "letters to the editor" forum.

Jim Taylor has served the Society well in his column, and yet his very personal remarks in this issue seem out of place in a newsletter of a Society devoted to the study and conservation of Lepidoptera. While decrying hyperbole in the environmental movement, he goes on to deny the existence of global warming, proposes that monarch larvae should merely brush off Bt contaminated pollen, and that local Mexicans in monarch overwintering sites have every right to destroy these forested areas to promote agriculture. Indeed, the demise of the monarch is seen as an inevitable and acceptable cost of human population expansion. These extreme views are justified because 1) catastrophic changes have been going on for billions of years, and 2) God invented Darwin to show us that nature's rule is adapt or die!

If human intelligence is indeed a divine invention, then so too must be the majesty of biotic diversity, as so mag-

*Continued on pp. 52...*



Classic Collecting Campaigns:

# Madera Canyon

Kelly Richers

9417 Carvalho Court, Bakersfield, CA 93311

Of all the well known arthropod collecting sites in the western United States, the name "Madera Canyon" is possibly the best known among moth and beetle collectors, and not coincidentally, hummingbird watchers. Situated 30 miles south of Tucson, Arizona, in the Santa Rita mountain range, Madera Canyon is a long canyon opening northward and climbing in elevation in a south-southeast direction. It has the advantages of a paved road, an elevation rise from 4200 feet to at least 6400 feet, (at least the part that is accessible by trail) crossing several vegetation zones and receiving more rain than the surrounding area.

Known to ornithologists as one of the best locations in the country to observe different species of hummingbirds and transient bird species that occur more commonly in Mexico, Madera Canyon possesses unique characteristics that set it, and the next two canyons to the north of it, Florida and Box Canyons, apart. Due to its unique features, usage of Madera Canyon has polarized feelings and caused regulations about collecting that are not seen in other canyons around it.

The canyon has a stream. While this might not seem important to those who live on the east coast, in southeast Arizona this is a significant feature. The stream flow is

slightly more reliable than many other canyon streams in the area. Madera has the advantage of being shielded on the south by Mount Wrightson, the highest peak around, which causes more rain from the Chubasco winds to hit the canyon directly. These winds, which bring rains from Mexico up through all of the north-south mountain ranges in southeast Arizona, appear with surprising regularity around the last week in July and several weeks into August. The increase in more reliable moisture apparently causes a more varied and longer blooming flora than the other canyons. While Box Canyon is decidedly dry and Florida Canyon less accessible in the upper reaches, Madera Canyon has the largest and most varied gatherings of butterflies and moths that breed and feed on these plants.

Very briefly, however, it should be mentioned that nothing is a guarantee

in collecting, and Box Canyon frequently has more species of sphinx moths, and Box and Florida Canyon frequently have more species of butterflies patrolling the canyon areas than Madera does. So, it pays to get a topographical map of the area and explore them all if you are in the area. Regardless of which area you explore, the species in Madera and the surrounding areas—in the first two weeks of August—are varied and more frequently found in Mexico, with the occasional very rare prize always a possibility.

In Madera itself, an interesting situation exists. Madera is, as stated, of some importance to ornithologist, and though there should not be a conflict, many of them banded together and determined that the collecting of Lepidoptera in the canyon was detrimental to the observation of birds.

This may have been brought about by commercial ultra-violet and mercury vapor collecting traps for beetles, which at one time were set frequently and obnoxiously all over the canyon, running all night. Regulations have been set that prohibit the commercial collecting of species in the canyon—both Lepidoptera and beetles—but there are currently no restrictions on personal collecting. Ken Davenport verified this in



*Approaching Madera Canyon from the north with the August showers that attract the Lepidoptera. Photo by Kelly Richers.*



October with the ranger station in Nogales, and I am in possession of a paper from the rangers stating that there are no restrictions for personal collecting.

A couple of interesting collecting spot at the lower end of the canyon are the abandoned missile silo site area and the parking lot at the right of the road as you go up the canyon. The abandoned missile silo site is also on the south side of the road up a short unpaved road. Many butterflies use the blooming bushes at the fringe of the site and beetles abound in the area. It is also quite scenic, as the entire valley is in view. The habitat is definitely desert, but runoff has concentrated water to the bushes used by butterflies for feeding. Many migratory butterflies visit these bushes, when the winds aren't prohibitive. A strong southeast wind generally blows up the slope. The blooming bushes, agave and yucca all attract species, so patience is needed, and wandering around is advantageous.

At the parking lot, set up a blacklight on the right (south) side overlooking the main streambed if possible. There is a fall-off toward the streambed, so you might be able to get a long "shoot" through the trees and attract moths from as far as your light may reach through the darkness. A virtual cornucopia of moths fly here, and the variety of unusual species exceeds what you might see in virtually any other spot outside Arizona. I have tried spreading bait of molasses and beer for *Catocala* moths, but without significant success. The mixture may not have been attractive enough, but a few non-*Catocala* species showed up.

Driving up the canyon itself in daylight, look for small streams or shallow gullies leading off to the left, or northeast. A walking trip up one of these side streambeds, which may have water in pools in various places, is a great way to wander alone and see species not always flying in the main canyon, especially if they are territorial. Part way up the canyon on the right hand side are the famous cabins of the

Santa Rita Lodge, in which moth collectors stayed during years past, until the restaurant reportedly burned down and fell into disuse. Personally, I do not even know if the cabins are still rented out, but much collecting was done here from the cabins (look at the elevations in the MONA fascicles and you can spot the moths caught from the cabins. They all say 4880').

The deeper into the canyon one drives, the higher the elevation and the greener the canyon becomes. At the upper end of the road into the canyon there is a large parking lot at close to 5500' elevation. Walking from the large parking lot to the right will bring a person to the stream, with flitting butterflies and idyllic scenery. Crossing the stream and traversing small offshoot canyons from the streambed can be difficult because of the height of the rock walls, but is definitely a worthwhile pursuit for the hardy.

Since regulations have changed so much over the years, I have never collected moths from the upper parking lot. Ron Leuschner has, however, and says the moths are significantly different from those in the lower parking lot. Under the new regulations, unless there are signs still up that say "no parking after dark," this would be a good blacklighting area. Others have successfully collected here in the past, but regulations or rumors of regulations have left me too uneasy about setting up here in the recent past.

Imagine a collecting paradise where you could collect butterflies and day flying moths all day, go fifteen miles for a great meal and motel accommodations, in Green Valley, and return for incredible sheet collecting and moth trapping the same evening, and you begin to understand the attraction of Madera Canyon. To catch unusual and possibly unique specimens in an historic Arizona canyon where it may rain, stop, have sunshine and rain again all in one hour, while seeing unusual birds, as well as other unusual fauna—tarantulas, scorpions, deer, huge centipedes, and beetles, visit Madera Canyon.

## With Apologies to our Charter Members

A sharp-eyed Charter Member of the Society (one who joined in 1947) observed that the names of Charter Members were not printed in capital letters in the 2000 Membership Directory. This is no way to treat our founding members, who have been supporting the Society for 54 years.

I am not able to explain why this happened, since the Membership Directory is formatted automatically by the computer. So I guess I can blame it on the computer (sometimes they don't do what they're supposed to), or maybe the new printer we used to prepare the camera-ready copy—or maybe it was the cable that connected the two computers used to compile the Directory? Between now and 2002 I will try to find and fix the problem.

In the meantime, however, I am pleased to list our 15 Charter Members who are still members (as of November 2000).

**Allbright, Ray**  
**Bauer, David L.**  
**Cook, Carl**  
**Ehrlich, Paul R.**  
**Ferguson, Douglas C.**  
**Franclemont, John G.**  
**Freeman, H.A.**  
**Mather, Bryant**  
**Munroe, E.G.**  
**Nielsen, Mogens C.**  
**Nicolay, S.S.**  
**Remington, Charles L.**  
**Rindge, Frederick H.**  
**Voss, Edward G.**  
**Wilson, Kent H.**

If I have omitted anyone, please let me know.

*Julian Donahue*  
*(Lepidopterists' Society Data Czar).*

*Presidential Commentary*

# Quo Vadis?

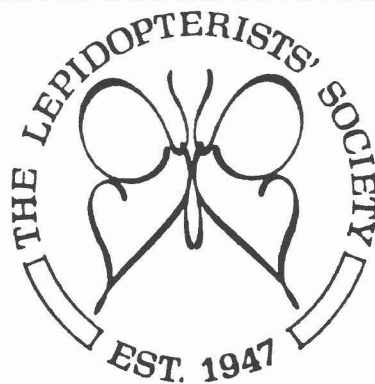
*Robert K. Robbins, President*

When I was a kid, my dad bought a book called *Quo Vadis?*, which he roughly translated as "Where are you going?" Even though the book now sits unread by me on a shelf somewhere at home, the thought-provoking title made such an impression that it stuck in my mind all these years. In this 3<sup>rd</sup> and final commentary as President, I would like to reflect on where the Lepidopterists' Society is going. To put it in biological terms, what niche should our Society occupy in a world with professional entomological organizations on one side, and butterfly enthusiast organizations on the other? Should we narrow our niche, with the advantage of putting all resources into a specialized goal, or should we broaden our scope, with the potential advantage of increased size and influence? The Executive Council of the Lepidopterists' Society will probably discuss (or has already discussed) this issue in Corvallis at the Annual Meeting, but we are not looking for simple resolution. Rather, the goal is an "airing" of the many complex ramifications of the issue.

I suppose that it is fair to say that the Lepidopterists' Society has a near monopoly (in North America at least) on the scientific aspects of lepidopterology, on collecting for the purpose of documenting distributions, and on moth taxonomy and field biology. We have especially excelled at scientific collaborations between professionals and serious amateurs and at documenting the North American lepidopteran fauna. If we were to focus, it would probably be on these areas of traditional strength. We would put more resources into the Journal and the Season Summary, and publish more technical articles and more information on moth distributions. The Society

would be an organization primarily for professionals and serious amateurs. Because many members do not share an avid interest in these areas, we would lose membership, but would be a more focused organization, probably with a more solid financial foundation.

A different option is to greatly increase support for butterfly gardening, Lepidoptera conservation and education, photography of lepidopterans in nature, and other non-collecting aspects of lepidopterology. Our Society has moved into these non-specialized areas over the last decade.



For example, Dave Winter's superb Memoir on lepidopteran techniques covers all areas of "enjoying" butterflies and moths. The disadvantages of this generalist approach are that our goals are more diffuse and that it requires expertise in areas new to the Society.

We are not going to explicitly choose one extreme option or the other, but reasoned dialog on where the Lepidopterists' Society should be going will likely affect where we end up. Over the years, numerous local societies and clubs have formed in different parts of the United States and Canada. Some are flourishing. Attending the annual meeting of the Ohio Lepidopterists (which has more than 300 active and

enthusiastic members) this past January were professional entomologists from Ohio State, professional conservationists working to restore prairie habitats (John Shuey), leaders of the Ohio Survey of Lepidoptera (including Dave Parshall and Eric Metzler), which collaborates with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, and Jim Davidson, who led discussions of butterfly a,b,c's for a room full of beginning lepidopterists. At the Virginia Butterfly Society (about 200 members), president Stan Nicolay, a serious amateur and collaborator of mine, is part of an organization whose main butterfly interests are gardening, programs with local schools, preservation of habitat, rearing, and identification. Perhaps the common thread of these two successful, but very different, organizations is the diversity of interests that they serve. While the successes of these local clubs cannot be directly "translated" to an international organization such as ours, we should be able to learn significant lessons from them.

Since beginning to write this commentary, I found my dad's copy of *Quo Vadis?* Polish Nobel laureate Henryk Sienkiewicz wrote the novel in 1896. It takes place in ancient Rome during the reign of Nero. Even though I have no special fascination for ancient Rome or Polish literature, I am now determined to read the book. The title alone was instructive. Perhaps other valuable lessons will be contained within. And isn't that part of the pleasure and excitement of exploring, of venturing out beyond the boundaries of the past? Maybe this is why I feel that the Lepidopterists' Society should likewise continue to "venture out" and to offer members as wide a diversity of useful services as it possibly can.

# Brainy Butterflies

Gary Noel Ross

6095 Stratford Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70808

In general, insects (including butterflies, of course) are not considered to be the brainiest of Nature's creations. After all, the main nerve center of a typical "bug" can by only the greatest stretch of the definition be labeled a brain at all; the structure in reality is a collection of nerve nuclei called a ganglion. Yet insects carry out an amazing number of seemingly complex behaviors, making them probably the most successful of all life-forms on Planet Earth.

Entomologists often relegate most insect behavior to genetically programmed and inherited responses to stimuli in the environment; in other words, instinct. However, there is good suggestive evidence that at least some species of insects do indeed process information from their environment in ways that certainly hint at reasoning. Brain or no brain, apparently some insects *do* learn and therefore can be labeled, at least marginally so, as "intelligent." Let's face it, some insects are downright smart!

Within the butterfly world, the heliconians—sometimes referred to as longwinged butterflies or passionflower butterflies—have proven to be the undisputed "wise guys." Heliconians constitute a rather homogeneous group of about 80 species that are found mainly in and around the borders of the American tropics. Within the United States, three species are resident: Gulf Fritillary (*Agraulis vanillae*), Zebra (*Heliconius charithonia*), and Julia (*Dryas julia*, several other species, however, have been recorded as accidentals—particularly in southern Texas).

Longwings share several distinctive traits. They, of course, have elongated wings. However, they also have

exceptionally long lives (up to 6-9 months), are usually strikingly colored; are endowed with abdominal scent glands that produce chemical compounds to deter predators, frequently feed on pollen as a supplement to their sugary diets, and utilize plants within the passionvine family (Passifloraceae), almost exclusively, for reproduction. This relationship between heliconian butterflies and their passionflower hosts is often cited in textbooks as a classic example of animal-plant interrelationships or coevolution.

But to me, the most curious trait of these butterflies is their ability to learn the exact locations of their food and host plants. In fact, empirical data indicate that shortly after its emergence and mating, a female longwing butterfly scouts for suitable plants (both host and food). Then, based on landmarks, the butterfly establishes a daily routine of visitation in much the same manner as a human trapper repeatedly inspects his traps set to snare game. Incidentally, this facility for learning physical features makes longwings ideal subjects for butterfly conservatories since once introduced into the artificial environments, the butterflies quickly learn to maneuver freely within the confines of the buildings, avoiding glass walls and entrances and exits.

For illustration, I would like to present several anecdotes from my personal butterfly garden in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The first involves the bright orange Gulf Fritillary that is the most common summer visitor to my butterfly garden—located as an entrance garden to my home. Since I have a massive planting of the Louisiana native passionvine, *Passiflora incarnata*,

commonly called maypop, Gulf Fritillaries feed, mate, reproduce, and sleep on site. They are my summer guests! Furthermore, when the butterflies do wander off—I suppose to scout out other suitable locales—they usually return within a few hours.

How exciting it is for me each day to be able to count on seeing these colorful friends! And what an opportunity they present for teaching neighbors and other human visitors about butterfly intelligence or just butterflies in general! To cite an example, one crisp October morning when the sun had just cleared the horizon of trees, a female jogger paused in front of my garden and called out to me as I was about to reenter my house, "What are all the orange flowers in your garden?" Looking about, I realized that my visitor was referring not to flowers but to the 20-30 Gulf Fritillaries that were



A freshly eclosed Gulf Fritillary, *Agraulis vanillae*, basks in the early morning sun. Photo by Phil Schappert.

awakening and beginning to bask with outstretched wings, revealing their bright orange color. Of course, I seized the moment to instruct that what was being perceived as flowers were in reality "dancing flowers" or, more commonly, butterflies, that had

*Continued on pp. 47...*

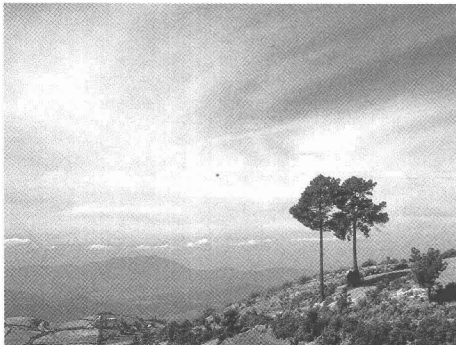


# Devastating March for Monarchs in Mexico

Kurt Johnson and Robert De Candido

American Ethical Union, New York and Urban Park Rangers, New York City Department of Parks & Recreation.

Spring 2001 was perhaps the most devastating season, and certainly among the most controversial, for Monarch butterflies fighting to survive in their over-wintering grounds located in Michoacan State, central Mexico. A massive die-off, reported to have left dead Monarchs up to 20 cm. deep on the forest floor, was widely reported in the international conservation and public news media. Although no one doubted the veracity of the massive die-off, a controversy did arise involving the exact cause of the tragedy.



*Emphasizing how tenuous the Monarch's survival in Mexico has become, this photo shows two isolated Oyamel Fir trees surrounded by a vast area of former Oyamel forest now completely denuded by agricultural use. Photo by R. DeCandido.*

The first report of the March die-off came from the Reuters new agency. On March 6, 2001, the agency published a report by the Group of 100 (Grupo de los Cien), a coalition of writers, artists, and other environmentally aware Latin Americans. The report alleged that large-scale Mexican loggers, already well known for illegally removing timber from the Monarch preserves, were believed to have sprayed the pesticide DDT onto the over-wintering Monarchs. Presumably this action was a "pre-emptive strike" against the new conservation policies for the Monarch Sanctuaries announced last fall by the Mexican government and the World

Wildlife Fund (see *News of the Lepidopterists' Society*, Winter 2000). According to Homero Aridjis of the Group of 100, in the Reuter's report, "There has been a massive slaughter of the butterflies in two sanctuaries". Beginning March 7, a number of Mexican newspapers picked up the story, further spreading the report of a pesticide strike (specifically at the San Andrés and San Isidro Las Palomas overwintering sites) by loggers aggravated at the expanded conservation policies.

On March 8, the World Wildlife Fund, speaking through its Mexican Monarch conservation coordinator Monica Missrie and Monarch expert Dr. Lincoln P. Brower, issued a statement cautioning the public about being too quick to believe the account reported by Reuters. Although reinforcing the concern all conservationists share concerning ongoing illegal logging in the Monarchs' protected areas, WWF suspected that erroneous eye-witness reports coupled with widespread Monarch deaths due to several early March ice-storms might generated the "pesticide attack" story. Brower and Missrie noted that the dead Monarch's "greasy" appearance—cited by the Group of 100 as evidence of a pesticide attack—was quite similar to the appearance of Monarch killed by ice storms, when fat residues from their bodies eventually bleed out onto their wings. They noted that extensive research over the past twenty years at several overwintering Monarch sites indicated that large numbers of Monarchs were being killed by winter storms. This was due, the research indicated, to the long-term impact of forest thinning resulting in an open forest canopy that increased evaporative cooling at night, overwhelming the

temperature tolerance of the butterflies. As a result, clusters of thousands of monarchs simply froze to death. The WWF spokespersons also pointed out that early March of this year a series of particularly fierce ice and snowstorms had moved through the Monarch preserve regions.

WWF suggested that, although any and all worldwide attention to the Monarch's plight was urgently welcome, there was a danger in "crying wolf" for the wrong reason. The WWF scientists reminded the media that the major ongoing destructive force facing the Monarch Butterfly in Mexico is long-term habitat deterioration. Forests are being continually logged (even after legal protocols to protect the reserves have been established). The resulting canopy gaps allow an increasingly frequent penetration of cold temperatures into the colonies of butterflies and killing them outright.



*Only meters from the El Rosario sanctuary, scattered farmhouses dot completely cleared adjacent areas. Wood cutting in the Oyamel forests persists as a common way to obtain inexpensive fuel and building materials (a problem the new WWF plan addresses by offering alternatives). Photo by R. DeCandido.*

On March 13, *The New York Times*, *Science Times* (which had published last September a report on scientists' concerns over the deteriorating Mexican Monarch preserves [see *News*,



*Monarch activity in and around an Oyamel Fir roost. Contrasting these thriving roosts, March's cold storms penetrated thinned forest and littered the ground 18 cm deep with dead butterflies. Photo by R. DeCandido.*

Winter 2000] addressed the more current Monarch malaise in Mexico with an article emphasizing the ongoing deterioration at the sites. Presenting a more balanced view than Reuters and the Group of 100, the *Times* reviewed the history of the deteriorating Mexican Monarch sanctuaries and emphasized that a number of factors were combining in the ongoing habitat destruction. The *Times* report paid special attention to the illegal loggers, emphasizing scope and political muscle of their ongoing operations. A color photo in the article pictured a logging truck, apparently with armed guards, hauling away illegal timber from one of the preserves. The article did not mention the erroneous account of the illegal use of DDT originally reported by Reuters.

The views of *The New York Times* report were echoed several others on site in Mexico such as Roberto Solis, director of at the San Andres Monarch reserve. His comments, along with those of other responsible scientists were eventually part a new release by Reuters and a lead article featured by CNN on March 29. Solis said he believed poor weather conditions on the

mountains were to blame for the deaths. "They did not die from pesticides, nor did the cold alone kill them" he said. "A set of climatic conditions including destruction of the forest in that area killed them." He went on to note that a wildfire three years ago had left much of San Andres area almost bare. Solis said that scientists who monitor and count all the butterfly colonies every year, inside and outside the reserve, estimated the San Andres colony at about 1 million after it was established in November 2000, out of a total of some 35 million Monarchs that hibernated in Michoacan this past season. He said the monitoring program in early January, 2001, showed that some 300,000 Monarchs died in San Andres, most likely because of exposure to the elements after habitat destruction. Solis noted that the logging and fire coupled with the recent spring ice storms suggest that the San Andres forest is now perhaps inadequate for continued use by the Monarchs. He said he suspected that some butterflies from this preserve have been exploring elsewhere for suitable forest. Solis emphasized that studies done in all of the Mexican preserves indicate the death of approximately a third of the colony could be considered within "normal parameters" for butterfly deaths from natural causes. However, he was very concerned about how many more of these multi-faceted onslaughts the Monarchs of Mexico could endure.

As was noted by Dr. Brower, in *The New York Times* story of last September, some scientists speculate that short of a major conservation initiative, Monarchs might be extinct in the Mexican preserves by the early decades of this millenium. Brower and Missrie, speaking for WWF noted that the new conservation strategy they had announced last winter was being implemented and still represents the best chance for the Monarch preserves to survive there. They noted that the initial seed money donated by the Packard Foundation for the new "Monarch Fund" (in Spanish

"Fideicomiso Monarca") was already being used to involve local residents in the new conservation strategy but that the estimated \$30 million needed for the overall effort was still the urgent priority. In the meantime, other organizations that work on the ground in Mexico, like the Monarch Butterfly Sanctuary Fund and Michoacan Reforestation Fund were working in concert with WWF to effectuate protection and enhancement of the sanctuaries. Recently, Monarch Watch joined these groups in Mexico in a winter program aimed at rallying local support for the new conservation strategy.



*Large-scale illegal logging is the greatest threat to Mexico's Oyamel forests but locals also remove a significant amount of timber for building purposes and home-heating. Photo by R. DeCandido.*

To briefly sum up, the recent "March massacre" of Monarchs in Mexico, whether at the proximate result of natural factors or primarily the result of illegal logging activity, only further emphasizes the need for the continued vigilance of Lepidopterists the world over. Please review the *News* Winter 2000 issue to see how you can support the ongoing Monarch conservation efforts on behalf of this irreplaceable species whose annual migration is certainly one of the natural wonders of the world.





# The Lepidopterists' Bookshelf

P. J. DeVries, Editor

## The Lepidopterists' Bookshelf will return next issue...

Anyone knowing of the publication of new titles of books, video, or audio tapes of interest to lepidopterists, and especially of books published outside the United States, are requested to send full particulars to the Book Review Editor, The Lepidopterists' Society, both for announcement in this column and to allow for timely review in the **Journal** or **News** of The Lepidopterists' Society.

Publishers are invited to send review copies directly to the Book Review Editor for consideration for review in the **News** or **Journal**. Members interested in reviewing books for the **News** or the **Journal** should send their requests or interests to:

Dr. P. J. DeVries,  
Director, Center  
for Biodiversity  
Studies, Milwaukee  
Public Museum,  
800 West Wells St.,  
Milwaukee, WI  
53233, U.S.A.  
Tel: (414) 278-6939  
Fax: (414) 278-6100

E-mail:  
[pjd@mpm.edu](mailto:pjd@mpm.edu)

### Correction...

### Book Review

S. Nicolay's review of "The Strephonina, a new infratribe of the Eumaeni with description of fourteen new genera (Lycaenidae)" in **Revista de Theclinae Colombianos**, etc, in *Journal of the Lepidopterists' Society* 54(2): 76. In the 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph the following text: "The only genus listed as containing more than a single species is *Strephonota*, which contains 4 species." should have read: "The only genus listed as containing more than a single species is *Strephonota*, which contains 9 species."

Alma Solis,

Book Review Editor

### Announcement:

### Allyn Museum Receives NSF Award

The Allyn Museum collections, Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida was awarded a National Science Foundation grant for improvements to the research collections. AME/FLMNH collections are international in scope and currently are comprised in excess of 1.1 million Lepidoptera with more than

760,000 processed, identified, and curated specimens incorporated into a phylogenetic arrangement. The grant focuses on the increase in compactor storage facilities and the recuration and integration of specimens into the main collection, especially in the Nymphalidae (Ithomiinae, Satyrinae, Nymphalinae), Riodinidae, and Saturniidae. During this three year grant, a backlog of processed specimens, including recent acquisitions, such as the collections of Dale W. and Joanne Jenkins, Fernando Gonzalez, and some biodiversity studies were integrated. This award, supplemented by funds from the University of Florida, provides increased archival storage for the collections and will facilitate scientific access to these research resources.

For further information, please contact Drs. Lee or Jacqueline Miller, Allyn Museum of Entomology, Florida Museum of Natural History, 3621 Bay Shore Road, Sarasota, FL 34234 (941-355-8475; [jmiller@virtu.sar.usf.edu](mailto:jmiller@virtu.sar.usf.edu)).

### Announcement:

### Pt. Pelee Natural History News

The Friends of Point Pelee, a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting and en-

hancing the programs of Point Pelee National Park, Ontario, Canada, announce the publication of the first issue of their newsletter, Point Pelee Natural History News.

The publication focuses on the natural history of the Park and nearby areas. Contents include feature articles and notes, with photographs, seasonal and annual summaries, miscellaneous reports, letters to the editor, listings of upcoming natural history events at and near Point Pelee, and more.

The Spring 2001 issue, Vol. 1(1), contains a number of articles of interest to lepidopterists, including "The 2000 Invasion of Zebra Swallowtails at Point Pelee" by Henrietta T. O'Neill and "Point Pelee Butterflies: Annual Summary for 2000" by Alan Wormington. Further notes of interest include an Early Luna Moth at Kingsville, the Giant Leopard-Moth: New to Essex County, A Black Witch at the Tip, and Common Ringlet: New to Essex County, and Regal Fritillary at Holiday Beach.

To obtain this 2-color quarterly publication, send subscription information, together with \$15 (USD to US or International addresses, CDN to Canadian addresses), to: The Friends of Point Pelee, 1118 Point Pelee Dr., R.R. #1, Leamington, Ontario, Canada, N8H 3V4.





# Metamorphosis...

The Society has learned of the death of the following members. Our condolences to their families.

## Mason Arvold

of East Hampton, New York. His widow, Janet M. Arvold, wrote that "Mason certainly enjoyed being a member of The Lepidopterists' Society. Thank you for all of your past courtesies." Mr. Arvold had been a member since 1975.

## Dr. Ebbe Schmidt Nielsen

of CSIRO Entomology, Canberra, Australia, on 6 March 2001, in Santa Barbara, California, en route to a meeting in Canada. Dr. Nielsen had been a member of the Society since 1980.

## Wise Guys...continued from pp. xx

"learned" that my turf was a sanctuary both day and night.

My second experience involves the Zebra (*Heliconius charithonia*), an attractive yellow-striped species common in southern Texas and Florida but recorded only occasionally in Louisiana as a stray—Louisiana's winters are just a bit too severe to sustain viable long-term colonies. Therefore, in order to conduct experiments with Zebras, I had to import them (actually, a dozen eggs from a friend in southern Florida). To remove the risk of predation, I reared the brood in an indoor terrarium. All went well. Within a month I had a

dozen adults, which I then marked with a felt-tipped pen for future reference before releasing them on a sunny morning into my garden. After gaining their freedom, the butterflies flitted about, fed, courted, and soon mated. By mid afternoon, only a handful of Zebras were still around. But by next day, all but one had returned (by the way, it, too, returned the following day). I witnessed no competition between the Zebras and Gulf Fritillaries; both visited the flowers of lantana, Mexican flame vine, and red pentas, and both laid eggs on my maypops.

As the summer progressed, I observed that the Zebras were always departing from and arriving at my garden from the same direction: the northwest corner of my property, a street intersection complete with STOP signs. In fact, the butterflies would make a 180-degree right turn at the intersection to reach my garden just 100 feet beyond. So consistent and dramatic was this insect "traffic" that I frequently stationed myself near the STOP sign to marvel at the butterfly "wise guys." Sometimes doubting neighbors would join me. Of course, as you might expect, there was always one question: "How do the butterflies know to turn?"

Once again, I was able to evangelize on the perks of gardening for butterflies.

After approximately one month, I began receiving telephone calls from fellow garden enthusiasts: "What are the unusual, yellow and black striped butterflies visiting my garden?" After a few on-site inspections, I was able to conclude that "my" Zebras had discovered additional fertile "pastures," and were establishing an extended "trap line."

By late October, Zebras were delighting many gardeners throughout the southern sector of Baton Rouge. I have no way of accurately estimating the number of individual butterflies that eventually resulted from my initial release. But I am confident that the population peaked at over 50, with individuals observed as far as 15 miles—as the crow flies—from my home and point of introduction. However, eventually the wings of most of the Zebras began to show signs of their extended lives. After the first frost, fewer and fewer butterflies arrived at my garden. And after the first true freeze, I observed no butterflies at all. However, a few caterpillars continued to survive on the cold-damaged maypop (caterpillars appear to be hardier than adults). But in time, these too disappeared.

To conclude, longwing butterflies are the quintessential species for butterfly gardens and conservatories. Because of unique brains, these butterflies exhibit a degree of intelligence sufficient enough to allow them to orient their lengthy lives around specific plants in specific locations. This learned behavior increases their chances of reproductive success, thereby increasing the chances for survival for their species. In the Deep South, gardeners who include passionvines, lantanas, Mexican flame vine, and pentas, provide a perfect "bed and breakfast" for these remarkable "brainy butterflies" and a source of never-ending entertainment for themselves and their human guests.



A Zebra Longwing/Heliconian, *Heliconius charithonia*, nectaring at *Stachytarpheta* on Jamaica. Photo by Phil Schappert.

# Membership Update...

Julian Donahue

This update includes all changes received by 11 May 2001.

## "Lost" Members

(publications returned: "temporarily away," "moved," "left no address," or "addressee unknown"):

**Turcani, Marek** (Stiavnica, Slovak Republic)

## Minor changes/corrections to the 2000 Membership Directory:

**Oka, Yoshikatsu:** complete postal code is 162-0825.

## New and Reinstated Members

members who have joined/renewed/or rescinded their request to be omitted since publication of the 2000 Membership Directory (not included in the 2000 Membership Directory; all in U.S.A. unless noted otherwise)

**Albanese, Joseph M.** (Dr.): 52 Ridgeway Avenue, White Plains, NY 10605-3708.

**Altizer, Sonia M.** (Ph.D.): Dept. of Environmental Studies, Emory University, 1715 North Decatur Road NE, Atlanta, GA 30307-1011.

**Clark, Neill D.** (Mr.): 18 Witchford, Welwyn Garden City, Herts AL7 2PR, England.

**Fall, Louise:** BioQuip Products, Inc., 17803 LaSalle Avenue, Gardena, CA 90248-3678.

**Hupf, Thomas H., Sr.:** 736 Atlantic Avenue, Hammonton, NJ 08037.

**Jamieson, Edward:** 570 Hayne Road, Hillsborough, CA 94010-6829.

**Johnson, Paul G., II:** 5000 Hwy 146, Paicines, CA 95043-9770.

**Keeler, John Oliver:** 415 Fitzner Drive, Davison, MI 48423-1949.

**Kehrberg, Joshua:** 941 8<sup>th</sup> Street South, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494-5247.

**Layron, Nelson:** Cawit, Boac, Marinduque 4900, Philippines.

**Levine, Elena:** Biological Sciences Dept., Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, CA 93407-0001.

**Martsching, Paul:** 209 South Oak Avenue, Apt. 122, Ames, IA 50010-6949.

**McBride, Anthony E.:** 95 Stillwater Road, Blairstown, NJ 07825-9558.

**Melton, L. Joseph, III** (M.D.): 925 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW, Rochester, MN 55902-3262.

**Newby, Emily:** 1080 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Apt. 14, Arcata, CA 95521-6154.

**Porco, Larry:** P.O. Box 1019, Bronx, NY 10462-0545.

**Reed, Robert D.:** Dept. of Molecular and Cellular Biology, Life Sciences South 444, University of Arizona, P.O. Box 210106, Tucson, AZ 85721-0106.

**Butler, Robert B.:** 14109 Robcaste Road, Phoenix, MD 21131-1471.

**Robinson, Martha W.** (Mrs., BSN): 11718 SE 231<sup>st</sup> Place, Kent, WA 98031-3692.

**Robinson, Sarah Frances:** 11718 SE 231<sup>st</sup> Place, Kent, WA 98031-3692.

**Schroud, Paul M.:** 601A Meadow Street, Stevens Point, WI 54481-1748.

**Spainhower, Ernest:** 69 Hamlin Street, Cortland, NY 13045-1707.

**Whiteside, Robert:** 8585 Vreeland Road, Caneadea, NY 14717-2354

## Address Changes

(all U.S.A. unless noted otherwise)

**Belmont, Robert A.:** 2433 River Tree Circle, Sanford, FL 32771-8334.

**Estes, William J.:** 518 South Cedar Lane, Apt. 2, Upper Darby, PA 19082-5402.

**Fownes, Sherri** (MSc): 10407-136 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T5N 2E7, Canada.

**Hageman, Chuck:** 380 Evergreen Way,

Yuba City, CA 95993-5214.

**Layron, Leodegario :** Amoingon, Boac, Marinduque 4900, Philippines.

**McKoy, Joe A.:** 317 Ranch Road, Del Valle, TX 78617-5637.

**Qualls, Roger A.:** 5380 Parker Branch Road, Franklin, TN 37064-9460.

**Shepard, Jon H.:** 330 SE Gladstone Street – Upper, Pullman, WA 99163-2531.

**Smith, Michael J.:** 1200 Creekside Drive, Apt. 3027, Folsom, CA 95630-3827.

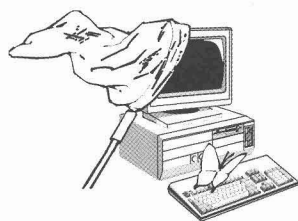
**Wahlberg, Niklas:** Department of Zoology, Stockholm University, S-106 91 Stockholm, Sweden.

## Correction...

## 2000 Season Summary

Two records published (News of the Lepidopterists' Society, 43(S1): 9; *Neophasia menapia* from Santa Clara: Mt. Hamilton-Mt. Day Ridge 30-Aug-83 and *Anthocharis cethura morrisoni* from Fresno County: Panoche Hills 15 Mar-00) are attributed to "ER". The correct collector was Eric Remington, not Eric Raun as listed in the collector initials under the Zone 3 section (pp. 7). The error was the result of the computer interpreting ER as Eric Raun rather than Eric Remington. My error was not catching this in my proofreading. My apologies to Mr. Remington. Thank you.

Ken Davenport,  
Zone 3 Coordinator,  
Southwestern region



# Out of the Net...

by Jim Taylor, [1\\_iron@msn.com](mailto:1_iron@msn.com)

John Snyder (Furman) has created a list of places you might find a picture of that bug in your hand. He calls it IMAGELIST, and it can be found at [www.furman.edu/~snyder/imagelist/](http://www.furman.edu/~snyder/imagelist/). This may sound like a strange thing to put together, but read on before you judge. As John said in a post to LEPS-L in February:

"While all species are shown in the journal articles where they are first described, not all of us have access to the major research libraries where these are archived. We often have to rely on the relatively few books that have been published and (recently) on images posted on the Web. This resource attempts to tell you which book(s) and web site(s) have at least one image of any particular species..."

John goes on to describe the site as "really boring, just a bunch of tables saying 'yes' or 'no' for each species." He short-changes himself and what he has done. As of this morning (April 4), the site includes five families: Geometridae, Saturniidae, Sphingidae, Arctiidae, and Noctuidae. More are to be added (you could hurry up on the Notodontids, John.) Click on a family, then search by MONA number or alphabetically, and you get a table, the column headings of which (after the MONA number and the genus and species) are sources of the pictures available, both larva and adult. It'll save you time, believe me.

For you butterfly people, Wayne Whaley presented a paper on the Indra swallowtail in Sierra Vista, Arizona, at the 1999 annual meeting of LEPSOC. He presented another, same topic, at Grant's Pass, Oregon, in June of last year. He has made both these papers

available at [www.uvsc.edu/prof/pages/whaleywa/research/indra01.html](http://www.uvsc.edu/prof/pages/whaleywa/research/indra01.html). These are loaded with pictures; be wary if you are not comfortable with a less-than-instant download.

Another butterfly site. Neil Jones posted to LEPS-L a month or so ago as follows:

"I have created a listing of the world's butterfly and moth websites. They are divided into the areas of the world which they cover. Each one that I have found is accompanied by a description and a star rating to act as a guide..."

You can find this at [www.wildlife-website.com/butterflies/](http://www.wildlife-website.com/butterflies/). Other critters are also available here: mammals, amphibians, reptiles, and birds. The listing is available with a click a few lines down in the text, and the result is as promised. The picture gallery (a few more lines down) is full of clickable thumbnails.

There has been a long and boring discussion over the last several weeks on LEPS-L concerning taxonomy—proper tense, proper gender, etc. Happily, Randy Lyttle alerted LEPS-L readers to Curiosities of Biological Taxonomy at [www.best.com/~atta/taxonomy.html](http://www.best.com/~atta/taxonomy.html). This site presents a long list of strange and imaginative tags that have been hung on defenseless animals (and plants.) Here you'll also find links to other, similar sites.

Scan down the list; you'll see the ground beetles named *Agra vation* and *Agra phobia*, respectively. Or contemplate the spider tagged *Apopyllus now*. Early last century a fellow named Kirkaldy christened some true bugs *Ochisme*, *Dolichisme*, *Florichisme*, *Marichisme*, *Nanichisme*, *Peggichisme*,

and *Polychisme*. It is not known whether he ran out of names or Hemiptera first. Mr. Kirkaldy, it is noted, was criticized for frivolity by the London Zoological Society in 1912.

Lastly, in the Spring 2001 issue, this column stated a position tantamount to throwing old grandma to the pigs. I suggested animals and plants had been going extinct since the beginning of time, that such was a normal situation, and that if the Monarch can't hack it, so be it. I hinted I wouldn't hit even a dog in the butt with a butterfly, including the Monarch. I invited my readers, both of you, to flame me and my position.

Editor Phil, who also suspects readership is at a low level, stated: "Here's my question of the issue: Has Jim Taylor finally bitten off more than he can chew? Or is he just trying to get our collective goat? I suspect that he will get some correspondence over this months [sic] column..." Well, Phil, as usual you are correct. I received ONE e-mail on this topic, worded as follows:

"Your article in the Lep. Soc. News is one of the first things I read when the issue arrives. Thanks for speaking your mind in general and especially regarding the monarch."

Considering that this is the total response, possibilities other than low readership come to mind:

1. Knowing I am very old, and on Coumadin, those with opposing views have decided that the humane thing to do is outlive me;
2. My position on Monarchs is sufficiently *outré* it is not understood by simple Doctors of Philosophy; and

*Continued on pp. 54*



# The Marketplace

**IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS:** If the number following your advertisement is "424" then you must renew your advertisement before the next issue! Remember that all revisions are required in writing.

## Books/Videos

Eliot, I. M. and C. G. Soule, Caterpillars and Their Moths, 1902 (\$75); Clark, A, Butterflies of the District of Columbia and Vicinity, 1932 (\$45); Packard, A. S., A Monograph of the Geometrid Moths or Phalaenidae of the United States, 1876 (\$150). John Calhoun, 977 Wicks Dr., Palm Harbor, FL 34684-4656, [bretcal@gte.net](mailto:bretcal@gte.net). 431

## Livestock

For sale: cocoons of *Hyalophora cecropia* and *Callosamia promethea*. Send SASE to: Joseph W. Markowicz, 343 Summer St., East Bridgewater, Mass 02333. Evenings 508-587-8658 431

For sale or exchange: Large selection of Iranian butterflies, perfect quality, with data. ALL *Louristana*, *Hypermnestra*, *Heloos* ssp. *bushirica*, *A. apollinaria*, *Colias sagartia*; *C. cholorocona*, *C. aurorina*, *C. thisoa* ssp. *shahku-*

*hensis*, *Euchloe lessei*; *Papilionidae*, *Agrodiaetus* and more. Many species from other families at fair prices. Local or rare species that are allowed for exchange. Exchange or buy pupae for breeding. Buy or exchange livestock and books—especially about the butterflies of North and South America, butterflies of Turkey, India, Saudi Arabia and etc. Please send me your collection list and I will be glad to send you my list. Ahmad Karbalaye, PO Box 11495-175, Tehran, Iran. Tel and FAX 0098-21-7531604. [Karbalaye@yahoo.com](mailto:Karbalaye@yahoo.com) 431

For Sale or Trade (USA only): Cocoons of *Antheraea harti*. Will trade for same of *Hyalophora cecropia*. Send SASE to Karl Ploran, 110 Route 20, Chester, MA 01011-9642, 413-354-7852 (evenings, 7-9 pm EST). 424

## Specimens

Available: Many years accumulation of

UV collections, largely moths and beetles, all with accurate data but undetermined. Mostly from southeast US, principally Kentucky and Tennessee. Total in excess of 25,000 specimens. I prefer to exchange for Odonata (dragonflies) from anywhere in the world; can segregate to family level and/or locality, willing to exchange small parcels. I'm running out of storage space and will consider any reasonable offer. Carl Cook, 469 Crailhope Rd., Center, KY 42214, [bugman@scrtc.com](mailto:bugman@scrtc.com) 432

## Equipment

For Sale: About 100 Riker mounts, new but lacking cotton fill. Black trim, size: 10"x12"x1". \$2.00 each plus shipping: Jim Ebner, Box 556, Okauchee, WI 53069. 262-567-1884. [Jae103030@cs.com](mailto:Jae103030@cs.com) 431

The aim of the Marketplace in the **News of the Lepidopterists' Society** is to be consistent with the goals of the Society: "to promote the science of lepidopterology...to facilitate the exchange of specimens and ideas by both the professional worker and the amateur in the field..." Therefore, the Editor will print notices which are deemed to meet the above criteria, *without quoting prices*, except for those of publications or lists.

No mention may be made in any advertisement in the **News** of any species on any federal threatened or endangered species list. For species listed under CITES, advertisers must provide a copy of the export permit from the country of origin to buyers. **Buyers must beware and be aware.** Advertisements for credit, debit, charge cards or similar financial instruments or accounts, insurance policies and those for travel or travel arrangements cannot be accepted because they jeopardize our nonprofit status.

Only members in good standing may place ads. All advertisements are accepted, in writing, for two (2) issues unless a single issue is specifically requested and must be renewed before the deadline of the following issue to remain in place. All ads contain a code in the lower right corner (eg. 386, 391) which denote the volume and number of the **News** in which the ad. first appeared.

Advertisements must be under 100 words in length, or **they will be returned for editing**. Ads for Lepidoptera or plants must include full latin binomials for all taxa listed in your advertisement.

## Send all advertisements to the Editor of the News.

The Lepidopterists' Society and the Editor take no responsibility whatsoever for the integrity and legality of any advertiser or advertisement. Disputes arising from such notices must be re-

solved by the parties involved, outside of the structure of The Lepidopterists' Society. Aggrieved members may request information from the Secretary regarding steps which they may take in the event of alleged unsatisfactory business transactions. A member may be expelled from The Lepidopterists' Society, given adequate indication of dishonest activity.

Buyers, sellers, and traders are advised to contact your state department of agriculture and/or PPQAPHIS, Hyattsville, Maryland, regarding US Department of Agriculture or other permits required for transport of live insects or plants. Buyers are responsible for being aware that many countries have laws restricting the possession, collection, import, and export of some insect and plant species. Plant Traders: Check with USDA and local agencies for permits to transport plants. Shipping of agricultural weeds across borders is often restricted.

### Help Needed

Clearwing (Sesiidae) pheromone lures are available in exchange for specimens. Pheromones are expensive, so specimens must be sent before any further lures will be sent out. Lures are also for sale, ask for prices. Sesiidae traps are also available on the same basis. Pheromones are fun and open a new horizon to collecting! Collectors from any region of the world, and the U.S.A., are invited to participate. Good, reliable collectors are needed for my work. John Holoyda, Innovative Concepts Laboratory, 5407 N. Oketo Ave., Chicago, IL 60656-1746. <sup>432</sup>

I am looking for a buyer of live butterfly pupae of Nymphalidae, Pieridae, Papilionidae, and other species of Philippine butterflies. Those who are interested contact Leodegario Layron, Amoingan, Boac, Marinduque, Philippines. Tel No. 042-332-1558 FAX No. 0063-423-321-558. <sup>431</sup>

Wanted: Seeds of the following plants, Pellitory-of-the-wall or Wall Pellitory (*Parietaria officinalis*), *Aristolochia rotunda*, *Aristolochia pistolochia*, and Crotons or Goatweed (*Croton capitatus* and *C. monanthogynus*). Randy Robinette, 7302 Midland Trail Rd., Ashland, KY 41102-9294. <sup>432</sup>

### Help Offered

Wish to collect legally in Costa Rica? We can help you obtain your Official Collecting Permit for the time of your stay. You would be allowed to collect in all the country (except National Parks). Costa Rica rain forests are unique in what you can get: species originally coming from the north (Mexico) and the south (South America). Moth collectors: we can rent you a portable generator. Miguel E. Chumpitassi P.O.Box 1106-2150 Moravia, San Jose, Costa Rica or phone (506) 236-1447. [echumpi@sol.racsa.co.cr](mailto:echumpi@sol.racsa.co.cr) <sup>432</sup>

### Miscellaneous

For sale: Three Super 8 Movie cameras: Belex 5120 Sound/Macrozoom; Belex 625XL silent; and Bell & Howell MS30 sound. All are in mint to -9 condition.

SASE for prices and specifications to Randy Robinette, 7302 Midland Trail Rd., Ashland, KY 41102-9294. <sup>432</sup>

### Research Requests

Sesiidae sp. needed for scientific work: I need the following Clearwing Borer spp., and am willing to trade good spp. in return, or pay for specimens: *Euhagena nebraskae*, *E. emphytiiformis*, *Paranthrene tabaniformis*, *Melittia gloriosa*, *M. calabaza*, *M. grandis*, *M. magnifica*, *Synanthedon pini*, *S. arkansasensis*, *S. dominicki*, *Carmenta ithacae*. Specimens can also be sent on loan. Both sexes needed. For trade I will send my Offerata List, which contains many good spp. Contact: Dr. John Holoyda, Innovative Concepts Laboratory, 5407 N Oketo Avenue, Chicago, IL 60656-1746; 773-774-8387. <sup>431</sup>

I am conducting a phylogenetic analysis of the Snout Butterflies (Nymphalidae: Libytheinae), using both morphological and molecular characters for my undergraduate honors thesis at Cornell

University (under the supervision of Dr. John Franclemont and Dr. Quentin Wheeler). To successfully resolve the relationships, I need collaborators to send me specimens of any of the 12 species, dried (in envelope), spread, in alcohol, in Kahle's solution, larvae, etc. It would be best if the alcohol samples are preserved in 95-100% ethanol, and that specimens are placed in Kahle's solution immediately after collected. I will send vials containing alcohol or Kahle's solution to those who are willing to help. In return for your generous help in providing specimens, I can offer an exchange for butterfly or moth specimens from Japan. Akito Kawahara, Department of Entomology, Cornell University, 3131 Comstock Hall, Ithaca, NY 14853 USA, (607) 255-8050, [ayk6@cornell.edu](mailto:ayk6@cornell.edu) <sup>431</sup>



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# [www.classeybooks.com](http://www.classeybooks.com)

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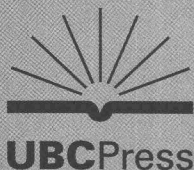
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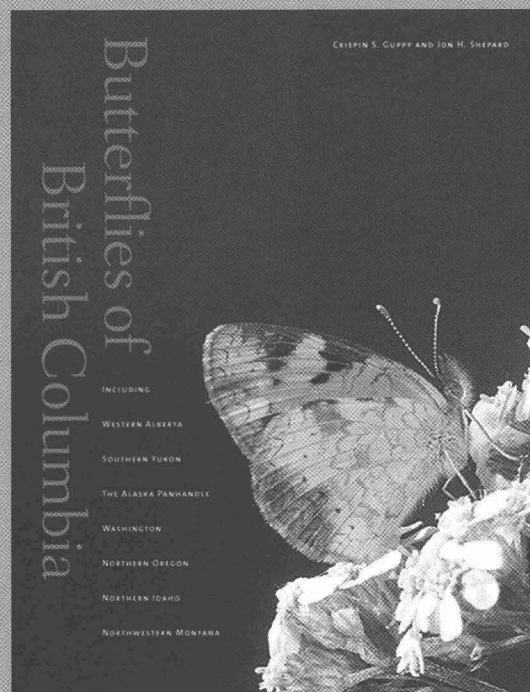
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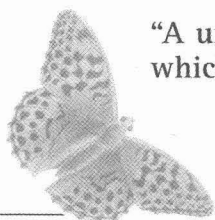
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## Letters...continued from pp. 39

nificantly seen in the Lepidoptera. Preserving this diversity is held by many to be a spiritually inspired mandate. Certainly, it is a false premise that we must pit the monarch's existence against the need to devastate natural communities to promote agriculture. Rather, carefully regulated tourism could both protect the monarch and benefit the local residents.

With regard to issues like pest control, I would agree that science and technology are key to our continued survival, but these tools must be applied under public scrutiny and with strict scientific integrity. Here is where the serious debate must occur. A poignant example in the same issue is Ric Peigler's review of Jeff Boettner's paper on the misuse of a tachinid as a biocontrol agent. I would also urge interested readers to browse through the current issue of *Orion* where Lincoln Brower, Bob Pyle, and others have contributed to a special section on



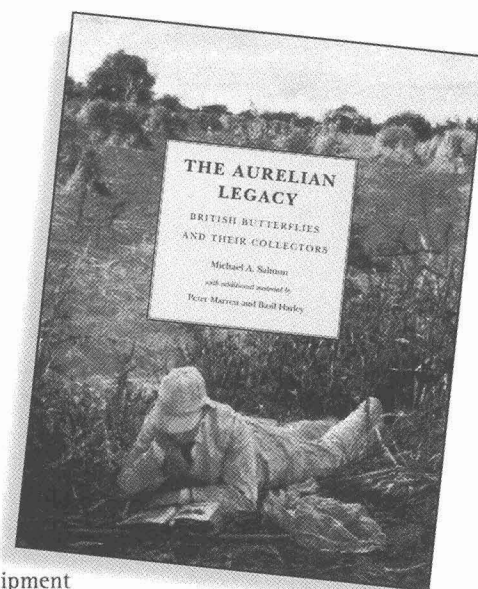
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*Continued on pp. 53...*



Announcement:

## Jacques Plante collection to the Muséum d'histoire naturelle, Geneva, Switzerland

Bernard Landry

Muséum d'histoire naturelle, C.P. 6434, CH-1211 Genève 6, Switzerland

In May of 2000, the staff of the Department of Entomology of the Muséum d'histoire naturelle, Geneva, had an appointment with Mr. Jacques Plante, owner of one of the most important collection of Noctuidae ever assembled. On this occasion, 750 drawers containing some 80,000 nicely prepared specimens of 8,000 species of Noctuidae were transferred to the Muséum, along with numerous documents (including several thousand reprints) and more than 1,000 microscope preparations of genitalia.

Although general in representation this collection consists, for the most part (90%), of trifold noctuids (Acronictinae, Cuculliinae, Dilobinae, Hadeninae, Heliothinae, Ipimorphinae, and Noctuinae). About a third of the World fauna of trifold noctuids is represented, including 80% of the Palaearctic and Oriental faunas.

Jacques Plante started to specialize on Noctuidae in the 1950s. He made no less than 50 collecting trips in the Old World and acquired several collections, of which the most important is that of Mr. Y. de Lajonquière. He authored 29 taxonomic publications on noctuids, and his working partnership with several other European noctuid workers (H. Hacker, L. Ronkay, Z. Varga, and M. Hreblay) greatly enhanced the scientific value of his collection. The collection was acquired thanks to the generosity of Mr. Alain Vaissade, Mayor of the City and

Head of the Department of Cultural Affairs of Geneva.

Jacques Plante is not a professional taxonomist, but one of the great "amateurs." He earned his living composing the lyrics of famous songs for artists like Edith Piaf, Charles Aznavour, and others, until he was financially able to devote most of his time to lepidopterology, around 1970. He did not start as a specialist of trifold noctuids but was a general collector of insects as a child in the French Midi, and started to concentrate on Lepidoptera, excluding micros, in 1939. The Muséum also acquired his collection of butterflies and other macros, excluding the Noctuidae, in 1986. The specimens of that first acquisition numbered 86,000 and were pinned in 1,200 insect drawers. Mostly containing Old World species, this collection was rich with the most sought after butterflies and larger moths, and is notable especially for its representation of species from Madagascar.

The Lepidoptera collection of the Muséum d'histoire naturelle, Geneva, is now home to about 400,000 specimens. It is well worth consulting for specialists on Noctuidae, Psychidae, Saturniidae, Zygaenidae, and butterflies. It contains primary types in numerous other families also. The keeper of the Lepidoptera, yours truly, welcomes visitors and loan requests from the specialists from the World over.

## Letters...continued from pp. 52

the unique value of the monarch to our culture, and the plight of this butterfly at the hand of man. Few creatures have contributed so much to our understanding of evolutionary ecology, and yet also served as so vivid a natural history icon in our culture. The monarch's peril should be a warning that our species is living outside nature's rules.

It is inevitable that honest debate on environmental and other controversial issues will become part of our discourse, but I would hope that contributors agree to consider the goals of our society in choosing to publish their remarks here, and that such comment should appear in a letters column so as not to appear to necessarily represent the official view of the Lepidopterists' Society.

Michael M. Collins

11901 Miwok Path,  
Nevada City CA 95959

*Michael: If you read my "From the Editor's Desk" column in the same issue, then you know that I suspected (hell, I knew!) that Jim's remarks would be "controversial." I also think that that was his point (but I've been wrong before). I also said (quoting myself from pp. 28) that "I may not agree with everything that Jim says (this column being a case in point) but I'll staunchly defend his right to say it..."*

*Jim Taylor writes a column that reviews websites. By design such columns are opinions—it is the nature of a review column. Jim's opinions on what websites to review or, indeed, how to review it are his personal decisions.*

*While his views may bother you (or me), they are his and his alone. In my opinion (there's that word again) they cannot be construed to represent the Society any more than shock-jock Howard Stern's views represent the radio stations on which he appears, or Andy Rooney's remarks represent the news policy of CBS or the views of anyone at 60 Minutes.—Ed.*





## From the Editor's Desk

Phil Schappert

I really stepped in it last time, folks! I know that it's become *de rigueur* for me to begin each column with an apology but I gotta doozy this time.

It turns out that my welcome to Carla Penz, the incoming editor of the **Journal of the Lepidopterists' Society**, was a tad premature (that will be quite enough of the "premature" jokes, if you don't mind). Poor Carla returned from a field trip to find that I had announced to all and sundry that she was the new editor when, in fact, she's not due to take over from Deane Bowers until after the 2001 meeting. Mea culpa (again). My heartfelt and abject apologies, Carla.

Now, don't get me started on such odd policies as changing a slate of officers, or worse, editors, in the middle of a publication year (or a fiscal year for that matter). You know what happens when you change horses in mid-stream, don't you? You get wet! (and if you're lucky the horse doesn't bite you). Of course, I've been doing this editing thing for 4 goin' on 5 years now so maybe I should've known, but you can't really blame me for assuming (yes, I do know what happens when you ass-u-me something) that Carla would take over at the *beginning* of the volume. Wrong.

OK, enough flogging of dead horses (and you thought it was only wet), on to other things...

As I suspected, Jim Taylor, stepped in it, too! Of course, he received only a letter of support, I (in the meantime) received the complaints. See Jim's column from this and last issues and the Mailbag (and my response to one of the letters) for the whole sordid story. Thankfully, I didn't have to endure any phone calls full of cuss words (but then, Jim never called me!)

I do have to apologize (again) for the tardiness of this issue of the **News**. I began the year so well, the best of intentions being to move the whole publication schedule up a bit, but the best laid plans often go awry. Moving the Spring issue up, I failed to take into account that the Summer issue would need to be done in one of the busiest months of my year: the end of spring semester. Worse, on top of the squalling "but I deserved an A!" students that love to second guess their professors and the sundry other deadlines that I was afflicted with, I undertook (with the aid of some of the students that *actually* got A's) a "quick and dirty" research project. Wrong again...

In any case, you can hear all about the research project (and can listen to me complain about being overworked, underpaid, etc.) if you attend this year's meeting. You do remember that there's a meeting, don't you? Corvallis? End of July? Ring a bell? Yep, your's truly is going to be there this year (huzzah's all around). This will be the first full meeting that I've been able to attend since Houston in '96 and to say that I'm really looking forward to it would be an incredibly stupid understatement (not that I'm prone, or known, to make any of those, you understand).

I do hope to meet and greet some of you at the meeting. If you've never been to one, then by all means get off your butt and go. It's never too late (well almost). They're a lot of fun and you never do know who you'll meet, who you'll get to talkin' to or what you might learn.

See ya there!?!?

Phil

PS: For anyone who cares, the deadline for the next issue is now Aug. 17<sup>th</sup>.

### The Net...continued from pp. 49p

3. My view is so unerringly correct those who do hold the opposing argument are overwhelmed—and haven't yet recovered sufficiently to break into applause.

Keep your discal spotless.



## Nominations for Karl Jordan Medal

Jacqueline Y. Miller

Allyn Museum of Entomology, Florida  
Museum of Natural History,  
3621 Bay Shore Road,  
Sarasota, FL 34234 USA

The Karl Jordan Medal is now given biannually by the Lepidopterists' Society in recognition of outstanding original research in lepidopterology, especially works which emphasize the fields of morphology, taxonomy, zoogeography, and "natural history." Established in 1972 through the efforts of the Dr. A. C. Allyn, the award consists of a \$1,000 cash award and an appropriately engraved medal. One of the preeminent lepidopterists of the 20th Century, Dr. Jordan was active in the field for more than 50 years and one of the original Honorary Life Members of the Lepidopterists' Society.

Nominations of appropriate works are now requested for consideration by the Karl Jordan Committee and a possible award at the Annual Meeting in 2002. Please include a complete curriculum vita for the nominee along with a cover letter. Please send these to: Karl Jordan Committee, c/o Dr. J. Y. Miller, Allyn Museum of Entomology, 3621 Bay Shore Road, Sarasota, FL 34234, [jmiller@virtu.sar.usf.edu](mailto:jmiller@virtu.sar.usf.edu).

*Meeting Report...***The 2001 Annual Meeting of the Association for Tropical Lepidoptera***Dan Petr**Department of Biology, Southwestern Adventist University, 100 West Hillcrest Drive, Keene, TX 76059*

On April 20-22, I attended the annual meeting of the Association for Tropical Lepidoptera (ATL) at the University of Florida. The meeting was held at the Doyle Conner Auditorium, Florida State Collection of Arthropods, Gainesville, Florida. I submit this report to inform Lepidopterists' Society members about the events of this year's ATL meeting.

**The McGuire Center for Lepidoptera Research**

Dr. Tom Emmel, director of the Division of Lepidoptera Research, presented an update on the planning stages of the McGuire Center for Lepidoptera Research. The Center was made possible by a December 29, 2000 donation of \$4.2 million by Dr. William W. McGuire and his wife Nadine. The Florida legislature is matching this gift to bring the amount available for construction to a total of \$8.4 million.

Tom showed preliminary drawings and some of the proposed architectural sketches. The Center will be located just north of the Florida State Collection of Arthropods and will be built as an adjoining structure to the Florida Museum of Natural History. Plans include a 5,000 sq. foot butterfly house with waterfalls and tropical rainforest habitat including poison arrow frogs, tropical finches, and live butterflies year round. The butterfly house will be patterned after the Cockrell Butterfly Center in Houston.

Visitors will walk from the Museum of Natural History through the butterfly house into the Lepidoptera Research Center. At the Center visitors will view exhibits on butterfly biology, genetics, ecology, and conservation. As visitors proceed through public display areas

along the periphery of the building, they will be able to view the research areas through glass walls and see researchers at work. This is designed to convey the thrill of exploration to the public, to show how scientists work, and to inspire young people toward careers in conservation. The Center is expected to draw 1 million visitors a year.

The McGuire Center for Lepidoptera Research will be a 2-3 story building. Each floor will be about 20,000 square feet. The main floor will house the Lepidoptera collection in compactors, some office space, and freezers for control of pests in incoming specimens. The second floor will have some more offices, a morphology lab, genetics lab, and a slide preparation room. The Lepidoptera Research Library will contain 12,000 volumes. The partial third floor will house the Endangered Species Lab, which will become the McGuire Center for Conservation.

The Lepidoptera Research Center will have 10-12 curators, 30-40 graduate students, and visiting researchers will not be charged bench fees. Nearly 4 million Lepidoptera specimens will be brought together at the Center from the Allyn Museum of Entomology in Sarasota, Florida, the Florida State Collection of Arthropods, and several collections scattered across the University of Florida campus.

Private donors have pledged a number of large collections to the Center and more collections are being sought. The number of Lepidoptera specimens is soon expected to exceed 6 million, second only to the 8.7 million specimen collection of the British Natural History Museum in London. The Center will have enough space to double

or triple that figure over the next decade or two. A computerized database of all specimens and associated locality and distribution data is being planned.

Outside walkways are being designed to pass through an extensive butterfly garden. Visitors will be able to enjoy not only the tropical butterfly species inside the butterfly house but also the local native butterflies attracted to the garden.

A 250-seat auditorium will be built next to the McGuire Center for Lepidoptera Research. This auditorium is being made possible by the gift of Dr. Gary N. Ross, award-winning writer and photographer, who is contributing his entire estate to the project. The gift includes his butterfly collection, Latin American folk art and furniture collection, slide collection, and cash (an undisclosed amount in the seven figure range). The monetary contribution will be used to develop the auditorium/theater-reception center.

Since Dr. Ross is particularly concerned with interacting with the public, he will relocate to Gainesville and develop audio-visual programs, festivals, workshops, lectures, etc. that will showcase butterflies in dramatic ways to the public. Dr. Ross is elated with the prospect of a world-class butterfly center and for the opportunity to engage in what for him has been a lifelong passion.

Building the McGuire Center for Lepidoptera Research has become a top priority item for the University of Florida. The ambitious schedule includes selecting 3 out of 15 architectural firms by May 11 and narrowing the search to one principal architectural firm by June 5. Ground breaking is scheduled for the fall of 2001



and construction will begin in December 2001. The Center is scheduled for completion by January 2003. The McGuire Center for Lepidoptera Research is well on the way to becoming the major world center for Lepidoptera and biodiversity research. To donate collections or monetary gifts for the development of the Center and graduate student endowments, contact Dr. Tom Emmel at 352-392-5894 or by e-mail at [tcmemel@ufl.edu](mailto:tcmemel@ufl.edu).

### Awards

Two awards were given at this year's ATL meeting. The 2001 Henry Bates Award in recognition of outstanding and extraordinary efforts toward the knowledge and conservation of Lepidoptera was awarded to Dr. William W. McGuire. Dr. McGuire's fieldwork included intensive study of the virtually unknown giant skippers of the family Megathymidae. He assembled one of the world's greatest private collections of this fascinating family and several years ago donated it to the University of Florida. He also assembled probably the world's largest collection of the genus *Hesperia* from North America, discovering and describing many new taxa. He donated his collection of 30,000 specimens of *Hesperia* to the University of Florida. He also accumulated substantial life history information, preserving and recording in meticulous detail the eggs, larval stages, and pupae of many of the western skipper species. Other workers named several new skipper taxa after him.

He sponsored work on the conservation of the endangered Schaus Swallowtail and the Rockland Skipper. Dr. McGuire received his M.D. degree from the University of Texas at Austin, practiced pulmonary trauma medicine, and eventually became the Chairman and CEO of the giant United HealthCare Corporation, today called United Health Group. His recent and most major gift of \$4.2 million made jointly with his wife Nadine to the University of Florida Foundation is bringing the McGuire Center for Lepidoptera Research to realization.

The 2001 Jacob Hübner Award in recognition of significant contributions for the advancement of the systematics of Lepidoptera was awarded to Dr. Frederick H. Rindge. Dr. Rindge is known for his lifetime of research and extensive publication on New World moths of the family Geometridae. His publications include major revisions of various New World genera in the *Bulletin* of the American Museum of Natural History and many smaller papers in their *Novitates* series. Dr. Rindge received his Ph.D. degree from the University of California at Berkeley and has been on the staff of the American Museum of Natural History in New York throughout his career. He was awarded the Karl Jordan Medal in 1986.

### Program

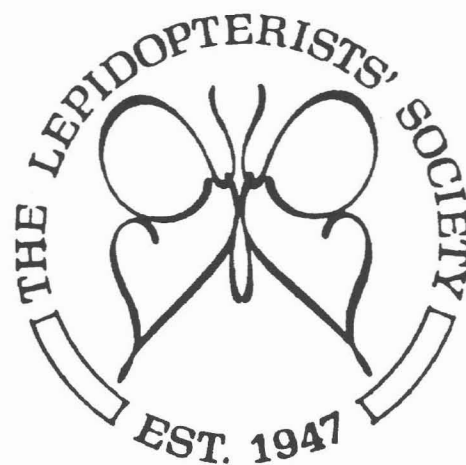
Highlights of presentations at this year's ATL meeting included the following topics. "The Tropical Rainforests of Guyana" featured spectacular photography of pristine rainforests as far as the eye could see and reported on the great diversity of butterfly species in various regions of the country including the border territory with Brazil - presented by explorer Steven Fratello. "Saving the Biosphere, One Butterfly at a Time" featured the conservation efforts of the *Mitoura swadneri* hairstreak and demonstrated differences between it and *Mitoura grynneus* - presented by J. Akers Pence. George Krizek had a thought-provoking presentation on "Human Perception of Insects Protected by the Mechanism of Crypsis". Other presentations on the program included "Evidence of Chemical Defense in the Zebra Swallowtail Butterfly *Eurytides marcellus*, involving Annonaceous Acetogenins" by Steven Madigosky; "Courtship Solicitation by Females of the Barred Sulphur Butterfly *Eurema daira* in Florida" by Jaret Daniels; "Interspecific Crosses and Cuticular Hydrocarbons of *Danaus erippus* and *Danaus plexippus nigrippus*" from Peru by Mirian Medina Hay-Roe; "The

Reclamation of Golf Courses with Natural Habitat for Butterflies, Especially the Endangered Schaus Swallowtail" in Florida by Tom Emmel and J. Akers Pence; "Experience-related Changes in the Brain of *Agraulis vanillae*" by Vadim Kroutov; and a photographic essay on the more temperate "Butterfly Nectaring Oases and Diversity across Cape Cod" by Tor Hansen.

The evening banquet was catered outdoors around a beautiful pool in the middle of Tom Emmel's ten wooded acres. The banquet concluded with two addresses showcasing outstanding photography, George Krizek's "Tropical Riodinids from South America" featuring several countries from the Neotropical realm and Andrei Sourakov's "Butterflies of Tropical Islands" featuring the Solomon Islands (including aerial photography) and the island of Hispaniola.

### ATL Membership Information

As most Lepidopterists' Society members know, the ATL publishes two color journals, *Tropical Lepidoptera* and *Holarctic Lepidoptera*, including supplements, newsletters, and information on trips for Lepidopterists. Membership in the ATL is open to anyone interested in moths and butterflies, their study, and conservation. For more information see [www.trolep.org](http://www.trolep.org) or contact Dr. John Heppner, ATL, P. O. Box 141210, Gainesville, FL 32614-1210, USA.



# Entomological Noir

Paul Manton

10 Flower St., Hicksville, NY 11801

In Japanese director Kore-eda Hirokazu's film, **After Life**, the souls of the departed gather to receive their just rewards in the Great Beyond. It's no one-size-fits-all, grandiose, Judeo-Christian Heaven or Hell, though. Just the eternal recapitulation of some joyous moment or event in life. The most compelling custom-designed hereafter was the experience of a quiet moment, long ago, sitting by an open window enjoying a gentle breeze. Nothing more. Yet the suggestion brought me back, many years, to those early summer mornings when I would sit in the living room chair while the rest of the household still slumbered. Dawn's golden glow crept across the silvery dewdrops on the lawn and a cool breeze caressed my skin and brushed through the auburn-blond hair on my arm like an autumn gust sweeping through waves of meadow grass. In that moment, loved ones who have since died were alive and the friends and happy events in a future waiting to unfold were all there with me. One unspoiled moment.

As the sunlight warmed the weathered windowsill, a hairy little jumping spider with stout legs and multiple eyes came into view, crawling onto the screen. In its dreadfully sharp and venomous fangs, a tiny iridescent fly dangled in gruesome and silent death throes; a scene recapitulated for eons, only now there was a conscious being present to bear witness—a lone intelligence contemplating a manifestation of the unknowing and indifferent universe. Here was the serpent in paradise. From the dark abyss of that cold and infinite universe, a long shadow cast itself upon the light of my bright sunrise.

Vladimir Nabokov wrote of this bottomless pit in his autobiographical **Speak, Memory**. "Common sense tell

us" he wrote, "that our existence is but a brief crack of light between two eternities of darkness. Although the two are identical twins, Man as a rule, views the prenatal abyss with more calm than the one he is heading for...over and over again, my mind has made colossal efforts to distinguish the faintest of personal glimmers in the impersonal darkness on both sides of my life". Indeed, at the epicenter of these "personal glimmers" was butterfly collecting. Nabokov was keenly aware that the light between his birth and death was an exceptionally brilliant illuminary that, like a fen on a sun-drenched late afternoon, was populated with gaily hued lepidopterians to be savored before the coming of nightfall.

It would be unfair, however, to characterize **Speak, Memory** in terms of Proust's **Remembrance of Things Past**. The author's indulgence in nostalgic yearning arose from the external turmoil of his life as a perpetual refugee rather than from any underlying neurosis. Nabokov craved connection to his formative years in a stable, prosperous, aristocratic—but liberal Russian household by way of his butterfly collecting because, and the analogy to lepidopteran metamorphosis did not elude him, it offered some intimation of life before the Revolution. The life cycle of the butterfly is fundamentally transformative and yet quintessentially cyclic. Egg, larva, pupa, and adult invariably leads back to egg.

One can not help but wonder what this child of 1899 would have thought about the 20<sup>th</sup> Century's own reproachment to its early years. The first dozen years of the Century ended exactly as the last dozen: Czarist tricolor over the Kremlin, Russian revolutionaries in the

streets, Serbian nationalism, and a Berlin-centered Middle Europe as a butterfly emerged from its chrysalis after the long Winter of world war and totalitarian repression.

Both Nabokov and Proust, however, sought solace in a personal past preserved in vignettes of drawn-upon bygone moments. What made these moments all the more meaningful was that they were gleanings of the merely prosaic rather than the profound. They reflected not simply experiences, but experience itself; memories vague and fragmentary like that nondescript little butterfly that tumbled across one's field of view, ever so briefly, one nameless Summer morning many years ago.

But Nabokovian nostalgia and Proustian recollection are found in all but the most arid, the most droll, and academic descriptions of butterflies. Every lepidopterist is as much a collector of experiences as of Whites, Swallowtails, and Fritillaries. Like the Japanese Haiku poet, he sees in his trophies, and the ones that escaped his net or were merely seen fluttering about a pasture of wildflowers, a perfect moment captured forevermore. "In Haiku", Miriam Rothschild wrote of the "incidental butterfly" in **Butterfly Cooing Like a Dove**, "there is no desire, no sex, no noise, no war, no laughter, no anger, no urgency - only a detached moment and a faint stab of mild surprise".

The butterfly, therefore, is the eternal encapsulated within a single unblemished mood; a flicker of perfect contentment. And the lepidopterist is the seeker of this unending instant.

But that vision quest has a dark underside. A butterfly may dance with the gentle breeze from bloom to bloom in the meadows of one's mind.

Something is lost, however, when it is killed and pinned to spreading board and consigned to a Riker Mount or Schmidt Box. Suddenly, the butterfly collector sheds his image as a kind of Victorian eccentric: the lepidopterist as crucifier of the butterfly, metaphor for the Risen Christ; the lepidopterist as a collector of dead things and killed things like Frederick Clegg in John Fowle's **The Collector** and Jame Gumb in Thomas Harris' **The Silence of the Lambs**. Both murdered the vibrant and the energetic—butterflies and young women—in a futile endeavor to acquire some of the vitality therein. Think of that fellow in the fields and vacant lots and overgrown waysides, armed with his net and hand lens and collecting jars. Maybe he is a quaint eccentric steeped in harmless esoteric interests like the lover of literature (and Nabokov deemed the two inseparable). But he may also be the practitioner of an entomological noir. The Gothic imagery is the sinister bend underlying much of what we consider typically Victorian.

In Nabokov's short story, **The Aurelian**, we meet the corpulent, ailing, and gruff Paul Pilgram; a small shopkeeper in gloomy and drab Weimarer Berlin. It's a world that yearns to be seduced by lights, colors, and parades and in due time, it will. But the year is 1930 and Pilgram is ambivalent about his vapid bourgeois environs. It is in the throes of quiet desperation and society-imposed pleasantries, polite fictions, and obligatory gestures that he nurtured his one secret and unacknowledgable passion. He wished for nothing more than to escape his dreary and empty life for exotic climes where he could net brilliantly colored and ornately patterned tropical butterflies; to see alive and fluttering in the sunny glades and distant jungles those gleaming Swallowtails and iridescent Morphos he knew only from dead, mail-ordered specimens displayed in his shop window.

Nabokov based Pilgram, at least the physical description, on a German entomologist named Arnold Moltrecht he met when he was living in Berlin in

1926. But whereas this fellow was an agreeable Old World gentleman who spoke softly to his prized specimens, Pilgram was a deeply bitter man, a kind of slovenly would-be academician who missed his calling in life, if, indeed, he ever had one. His dream was sabotaged by its own castle-in-the-air quality as a conjured fancy rather than a serious goal and by his inability to resist the inertia of societal expectations. If only he had been endowed the ability to articulate his passion in some coherent and structured way that might assuage his growing despondency. But, this was not to be and in the end he could find neither fulfillment in wild wishes nor commit himself to anything that would be practical and attainable.

This is not atypical of Nabokov's characters. Nabokovian tragedy is the result of self-indulgent creators of their own misery whose dashed hopes and nostalgic wallowing drive them to exist wholly within themselves while throwing up an artificial persona from the rest of the world.

One day, Frau Pilgram finds her husband dead on his shop floor; dead of a stroke. He had on hand his life's savings and collecting accoutrements and he left behind a note indicating his plans for a collecting expedition to some distant land. Had the one thing that sustained him finally been defeated? Or, as a Nabokov who had yet to describe life as a "brief crack of light between two eternities of darkness" suggested, had the promise of a reward after this life, a reward of transcendence and transformation of which the butterfly is emblematic, been his fate? Alas, we feel more relief than loss. Like the newly formed chrysalid, there is still a greater sense of the more corporeal life just past than the seemingly ethereal one to come. Paul Pilgram's death is a freedom from rather than a freedom to. It has an incompleteness about it that alludes to metamorphosis in some incipient stage.

Juxtaposing Paul Pilgram with Arnold Moltrecht allowed Nabokov to explore the myriad circumstances and

alternatives that go into defining a man or a woman as a person. "I simply loved that old, fat, red-cheeked scientist" he wrote of the latter. In the entomologist's shop, Nabokov "watched him with a dead cigar in his teeth as he casually and dexterously picked through butterflies, cartons, glass boxes, and thought that only two months ago, he was catching huge green butterflies in Java". One can not but think that Herr Moltrecht was the man Paul Pilgram should have become and that this mimicry complex—like those occurring among many species of look-alike tropical butterflies illustrates the patterns, both colorful and drab, our own lives have taken or could have taken. What grand Birdwings, delightful Heliconians, or handsome Whites may have eluded us!

Perhaps, too, Pilgram desired less to accumulate exotic lepidoptera than merely to observe them alive and vibrant. I have oftentimes looked at my own modest collection and wondered what these butterflies and moths were like afield. My big, blue, Indonesian Swallowtail (*Papilio ulysses*) is of the deepest, most regal azure of any naturally occurring object of which I am familiar. But did it flutter? Or soar? Or dip and glide?

Paul Pilgram's yearning for the experience of living colorful butterflies contrasts with Frederick Clegg in John Fowles' 1965 novel, **The Collector**. Here a frustrated young London clerk, who spends his free time in the fields outside the city, wins a lottery and purchases an old home in the country. The woman he kidnaps, a young art student named Miranda, eventually dies of cruel neglect and is buried on the property and the chloroform-and-handkerchief hunt begins anew. While both Pilgram and Clegg are dead inside, Clegg has no vision of an Eden, entomological or otherwise, in which to sustain him. His Obsession is entirely static. The butterflies in his collection are dead and preserved and, like this vapid lepidopterist, come to represent the very antithesis of transformation.



When he kidnaps Miranda, he tells her that it is the "first wicked thing" he has ever done. True enough. But not for any failed desire to do good. Clegg has no passionate desire or sense of vice or virtue. He is an empty shell propelled by a kind of instinctive fixation; the proverbial banality of evil. Literary critic, Peter Wolfe, called Clegg "a mousy, fawning Satan" who "has no friends, feels strongly about nothing, lacks a sense of humor...never voted, had sex, nor lived away from home except for his military service." One thinks of Emerson's juxtaposed description of Thoreau at Walden Pond; a life spent avoiding the excessive and anxiety-forming baggage of the modern world. "Poverty without the least trace of squalor or inelegance". But Clegg, Fowles shows us, is a man disengaged from his fellow man for purely aspiritual reasons. He superficially went through the motions of normal life until his luck in the lottery permitted him to express his expressionless self. His life, quite unlike Thoreau's, was not a life full of abstaining, but an abstaining of life itself. He is *Bartleby* without the good fortune of being a human dead letter to define him and give him a niche in society. Indeed, he is the product of a modern world whose much ballyhooed freedoms and equalities are far less tolerant of individual imitative and eccentricity than the class system and tradition-bound mores of the past.

Coming into money, seventy three thousand pounds, should be cause to celebrate. But when Clegg goes to dine at a fine eatery and consort with a prostitute, he discovers that both experiences are unsatisfying. The money has eliminated all risk of poverty without removing the squalor or inelegance from his life. It didn't endow him with the sense of control missing in his life and, indeed, what we know to be the overriding force in the lives of serial killers. Quite the contrary, it merely reinforced his feelings of helplessness and his need for power. His kidnapping of Miranda is thus an expression of his profound contempt for the counterfeit liberties, shoddily

constructed morality, and pointless ambitions the modern world imposes upon us. It is a direct challenge, albeit in private, to the whole smug and hypocritical world of "the new-class people with their cars and money and their tellies and their stupid vulgarities." An act of protest against an emerging cultural elite devoid of the courtly graces, gentile tastes, or diffidence to past human achievements. The New Class Clegg despises, Fowles anticipated, and Christopher Lash wrote about a few years ago in *The Revolt of the Elite*, is bound only by the machinations of politics: the featureless topography of undifferentiated egalitarianism and the babble of abstract legalism that is mere subterfuge. In many ways, Clegg is the anti-hero of everyone who has ever been disgusted by the brutal manner in which civilization with a lower case encroaches upon civilization with an upper case. In his class-consciousness and self-constructed snobbery, he is Beethoven-loving Alex in ***A Clockwork Orange*** and Nietzsche-reading Leopold and Loeb.

Alas, his rebellion is for naught. To commit a moral outrage against a society whose morality is mere pretense and posture is absurd and meaningless.

Born in 1939, the year World War Two began, Clegg is the perfect emblem for those middle and working classes whose deep cynicism and dissatisfaction crystallized into the nihilism that sired the totalitarian impulse. Empty, depressed, having—to borrow for Fitzgerald—"found all gods dead, all wars fought, and all faiths in mankind shaken," Clegg cultivated an oppressive regime of his own. His hollow soul was, like the man in the throes of deep clinical depression, truly like a kind of psychological Iron Curtain. "Depression is the culture of such a society writ small" wrote the Canadian journalist John Bently Mays. "The self as a tiny modern state, mimicking the totalitarian state's boredom and frantic distraction, oppressive and parasitic bureaucracies, police forces, its terror that leaves no visible scars.

Paul Pilgram's dream, an embracing of life rather than the impoverishment of seeking merely to possess for possessions sake, is foiled because it had no chance of coming into fruition. Clegg's dream (if it can be called that) is, on the other hand, frustrated by its actualization.

The two passions, one greed, the other purity of experience may seem diametrically opposed. But there is common ground.

It is metamorphosis into a thing of beauty that drives Jame Gumb in ***The Silence of the Lambs*** or so the relentless and spooky Hannibal Lecter tells FBI neophyte Clarice Starling. Gumb's first entomological encounter is as a paroled youthful killer who discovers a parcel of Malaysian butterflies and cocoons. When a brilliant green butterfly emerged from one of the chrysalids, Gumb "opened the window and it flew away and he felt so light...he knew what to do".

The chrysalids impressed upon him the reality of transformation; the realization that he too, in the androgynous and dead cocoon of his psyche, could metamorphose into a woman. It became a symbolic act to be relived again and again by rearing exotic lepidopterians. In the freedom that comes with the flight of the newly emerged butterfly, came liberation from all moral inhibition. He then felt free to kidnap, kill, and skin young women in order to fashion himself a suit.

The symbolism employed by Harris is quite ancient and widespread among the world's peoples. Hannibal Lecter guesses correctly that one of Gumb's victims, whose body is fished out of a river, has a cocoon inserted in her mouth. The association of the oral cavity, winged creatures, and immortality or rebirth, is found in the mythologies of many cultures. In ancient China, for example, a jade cicada amulet was placed in the mouth of the dead and in Finno-Hungarian folklore, the soul was said to exit the body via the mouth in the form of a small, gray butterfly.

The donning of skins and the power they endow the wearer is likewise a symbolic gesture of considerable antiquity. In the folklore of Norway, there was a class of ancient warriors who went into battle attired only in the skin of a wolf or a bear or some other wild beast. The homicidal fury of these men, augmented by the ritual consumption of certain herbs and fungi, was such that their name, berserkers (meaning "without garment") has entered the modern lexicon.

Most problematic is Jame Gumb's motivations. He is not a serial killer in the classic sense of the word anymore than his is a true transsexual. Hannibal Lecter even chides Clarice Starling for looking at Gumb strictly in terms of these incidentals. For Gumb, the transformation into a woman by wearing their sewn hides is not a symbolic act, as with the butterfly rearing, or an attempt at uncanny mimicry. It's resurrection into a true presence as genuine to him as the doctrine of the transmogrification of the host is to the Christian church.

Perhaps possessiveness and freedom through catharsis are deeply entrenched in the subconscious of all lepidopterists. Butterfly collecting in the 19th century was the curious and unbridled passion of the middle and working classes of Great Britain. Hardly a home in England didn't have a collection. What better metaphor for Empire—the epicenter of Victorian culture—existed? In collecting butterflies from exotic climes, the British worker in the textile mill, counting house, or on the railroad was, in a fashion, collecting the exotic lands themselves.

When I first became a lepidopterist more than three decades ago at the age of eight, I came upon the glossy, full color entomological catalogue of the Butterfly Company of Far Rockaway, New York. Suddenly, a whole insect world of deep and indescribable beauty and variety unfolded itself before me on page after page. Equally astounding was the near-mythic geography. I found

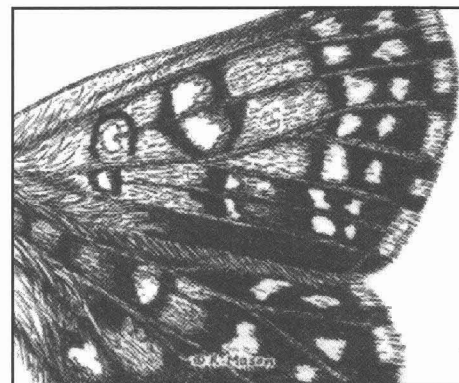
myself looking at maps with wonderful names like Ceylon and Sumatra, Borneo, and the Amazon (and assembling and reassembling a world map jigsaw puzzle my mother gave me for my birthday). I found myself reading about lands inhabited by peoples whose cultures and exotic tongues were indecipherable. I found myself dreaming of sloshing through the mire of steamy jungle glades and horizon-to-horizon meadows, butterfly net in hand, in the unending summertime of the tropics.

Thereafter, whenever I traversed the vacant lots, overgrown waysides, and weedy storm basins of Levittown, my commonplace Average American suburb, a part of me remained in some distant place that was neither wholly imaginary nor real. Nabokov would have known the place and the ambivalence and disconnectedness that ferments in the psyche of the individual

who never truly leaves it behind. He warned that it was the place where delightful childhood adventures could metamorphose into dark passions; where Thoreau's cabin could become Ted Kaczynski's hideaway.

But the darker aspect of our entomological zeal is merely the shadow cast by its lighter one. It is mitigated not by the linearity of a Millennial dream of unending peace and joy in some afterlife, but by the serenity of Nabokov's "personal glimmers" contemplating the moments of beauty and perfection symbolized by the butterfly aloft, the cicada's haunting shrill, and the dragonfly's dazzling acrobatics on the wing. It is mitigated in the infinity within an inch and the forevermore of a passing moment. And it is inhabited by those wondrous beings that flutter and shimmer and bask in the glow that resides betwixt "two eternities of darkness".

Artist **Rochelle Mason** of Volcano, HI, is a self-taught artist who combines her more than 20 years of artistic experience with a veterinary technology degree to focus on endangered species. She is the author of the "Focus on Nature™" columns that you may have seen in your local newspapers. A color feature, including some of her butterfly artwork, will be published in the next color issue of the News. In the meantime, visit her site [www.rmasonfinearts.com](http://www.rmasonfinearts.com) and see for yourself.



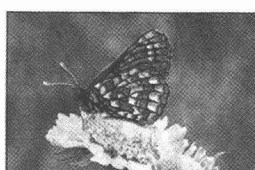
A detail of the wings of Lange's metalmark butterfly, *Apodemia mormo langei*. © R. Mason.

# ALBUQUERQUE JOURNAL

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**RARE BEAUTY:** An environmental group wants the checkerspot butterfly listed as an endangered species.

## Butterfly Raises Flap in Cloudcroft

■ Putting the rare checkerspot on endangered list would have serious repercussions for small village

By TANIA SOUSSAN  
Journal Staff Writer

The rare Sacramento Mountains checkerspot butterfly, found only in alpine meadows near the tiny village of Cloudcroft, could become New Mexico's next

endangered species.

It could also be the focus of a new showdown between resource users and environmentalists.

The Center for Biological Diversity filed a lawsuit Tuesday in U.S. District Court in Albuquerque, seeking federal endangered species listing for the checkerspot.

The striking butterfly — marked by white and deep orange squares separated by black bands — faces a long list of threats to its habitat, according to the

environmental group.

"The small size of the butterfly's range and the extent of ongoing threats demonstrate this species needs immediate protection, not foot-dragging by Fish and Wildlife," said Noah Greenwald, a conservation biologist with the Tucson-based center.

Endangered species status for the butterfly could limit livestock grazing, housing development, road construction and maintenance and pesticide spraying in

See TOWN on PAGE A2

Dick Holland sent this newspaper clipping from the Albuquerque Journal to keep us up-to-date on the Cloudcroft checkerspot story that has been previously reported in the News.



*Photo Essay...*

## **Falcate Orangetips, *Anthocharis midea* Hübner, at the Stengl "Lost Pines" Biological Station near Smithville, Bastrop Co., TX.**

Above left: A male orangetip nectars on false garlic, *Nothoscordum bivalve* (Alliaceae) in the yard; Above right: A female "rests" on one of the local hostplants, Virginia peppergrass, *Lepidium virginicum* (Cruciferae); Below left: Courtship or harrassment? The male is intent on wooing the female but she, in classic rejection posture, appears to be anything but wooed. Below right: A female oviposits on peppergrass. All photos by Phil Schappert.





## Membership

The Lepidopterists' Society is open to membership from anyone interested in any aspect of lepidopterology. The only criteria for membership is that you appreciate butterflies or moths! To become a member, please send full dues for the current year, together with your current mailing address and a note about your particular areas of interest in Lepidoptera, to:

Kelly Richers,  
Assistant Treasurer,  
The Lepidopterists' Society  
9417 Carvalho Court  
Bakersfield, CA 93311

### Dues Rate

Active (regular)	\$ 45.00
Affiliate	10.00
Student	20.00
Sustaining	60.00
Contributor	100.00
Institutional Subscription	60.00
Air Mail Postage for News	15.00

Students must send proof of enrollment. Please add \$ 5.00 to your Student or Active dues if you live outside of the U.S. to cover additional mailing costs. Remittances must be in U.S. dollars, payable to "The Lepidopterists' Society". All members receive the **Journal** and the **News** (each published quarterly). Supplements included in the **News** are the Membership Directory, published in even-numbered years, and the Season Summary, published annually. Additional information on membership and other aspects of the Society can be obtained from the Secretary (see address inside back cover).

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Julian P. Donahue, Assistant Secretary,  
The Lepidopterists' Society,  
Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, 900 Exposition Blvd.,  
Los Angeles, CA 90007-4057.  
[donahue@caroli.usc.edu](mailto:donahue@caroli.usc.edu)

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Contact Dr. Donahue for information on mailing list rental.

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Requests for missed issues should be directed to: Ron Leuschner (1900 John Street, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266-2608, (310) 545-9415, [ronleusch@aol.com](mailto:ronleusch@aol.com)). Defective issues will also be replaced. Please be certain that you've really missed an issue by waiting for a subsequent issue to arrive.

## Journal of the Lepidopterists' Society

Inquiries regarding **Journal** policy and manuscripts submitted for publication in the **Journal** are to be sent to:

Carla M. Penz

Curator of Lepidoptera,  
Dept. of Invertebrate Zoology  
Milwaukee Public Museum  
800 West Wells St.  
Milwaukee, WI 53233  
Phone: (414) 278-6936  
FAX: (414) 278-6100

[flea@mpm.edu](mailto:flea@mpm.edu)

Editorial policy is outlined on the inside back cover of any issue of the **Journal**.

## Book Reviews

Send book reviews or new book releases for review, for either the **Journal** or the **News**, to:

Dr. P. J. DeVries, Director,  
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Milwaukee, WI 53233  
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Fax: (414) 278-6100

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## Submission Guidelines for the News

Submissions are always welcome! When space becomes limiting, preference is given to articles written for a non-technical but knowledgeable audience, illustrated, written succinctly, and under 1,000 words. Please submit your article or item in one of the following formats (in order of preference):

1. Electronically transmitted file in ASCII or other acceptable form *via* e-mail.
2. Article on high-density floppy diskette or Zip disk in any of the popular formats. You may include graphics on disk, too. Indicate what format(s) your article is in, and call if in doubt. Include a printed hardcopy and a backup in ASCII or RTF (just in case). All disks will be returned upon request.
3. Typewritten copy, double-spaced suitable for scanning and optical character recognition. Artwork should be line drawings in pen and ink or good, clean photocopies suitable for scanning. Originals are preferred.
4. Handwritten or printed (very legible, short pieces only please, <500 words).

## Submission Deadlines

Material for Volume 43 must reach the Editor by the following dates:

Issue	Date Due
1 Spring	you missed it!
2 Summer	too late again...
<b>3 Autumn</b>	<b>Aug. 17, 2001</b>
4 Winter	Oct. 26, 2001

Reports for Supplement S1, the Season Summary, must reach the respective Zone Coordinator (see most recent Season Summary for your Zone) by Dec. 15. See inside back cover for Zone Coordinator information.

## Executive Council

### President

Robert K. Robbins  
Dept. Entomol., NHB 127,  
NMNH, Smithsonian Inst.,  
Washington, DC 20560-0127  
(202) 357-2353  
[robbins.robert@nmnh.si.edu](mailto:robbins.robert@nmnh.si.edu)

### Past President

John W. Brown  
Syst. Entomol. Lab., USDA,  
c/o NMNH, MRC-168,  
Washington, D.C. 20560-0168  
(202) 382-1778  
[jbrown@sel.barc.usda.gov](mailto:jbrown@sel.barc.usda.gov)

### Vice Presidents

Joaquin Baixeras  
Inst. Cavanilles de Biodiv. y  
Biol. Evol., Univ. of Valencia,  
Apartat de Correus 22085,  
46071 Valencia, Spain.  
[joaquin.baixeras@uv.es](mailto:joaquin.baixeras@uv.es)

Richard P. Fall  
Bioquip Products, Inc., 17803  
LaSalle Ave., Gardena, CA  
90248-3678  
[bioquip@aol.com](mailto:bioquip@aol.com)

Felix A. H. Sperling  
Dept. Biol. Sci., CW405A Biol.  
Sci. Centre, Univ. of Alberta,  
Edmonton, AB, T6G 2E9, Canada  
[felix.sperling@ualberta.ca](mailto:felix.sperling@ualberta.ca)

### Secretary

Ernest H. Williams  
Department of Biology, Hamil-  
ton College, Clinton, NY 13323  
(315) 859-4387  
[ewilliam@hamilton.edu](mailto:ewilliam@hamilton.edu)

### Assistant Secretary

Julian P. Donahue  
Natural History Museum  
900 Exposition Boulevard  
Los Angeles, CA 90007-4057  
(213) 763-3363 (office)  
(213) 746-2999 (fax)  
[donahue@caroli.usc.edu](mailto:donahue@caroli.usc.edu)

### Treasurer

David C. Iftner  
8 Alpine Trail, Sparta, New  
Jersey 07871, (973) 729-1350  
[iftner@worldnet.att.net](mailto:iftner@worldnet.att.net)

### Assistant Treasurer

Kelly M. Richers  
9417 Carvalho Court  
Bakersfield CA 93311  
(805) 665-1993 (home)  
[kerichers@lightspeed.net](mailto:kerichers@lightspeed.net)

### Publications Manager

Ken Bliss  
P. O. Box 1366,  
Edison, NJ 08817  
[KBliss0568@aol.com](mailto:KBliss0568@aol.com)

### Editor, News of the Lepidopterists' Society

Phil Schappert  
Integrative Biology, C0930,  
University of Texas at Austin,  
Austin, TX 78712-1064,  
(512) 471-8240 (office),  
(512) 471-3878 (fax),  
(512) 237-3864 (home),  
[philjs@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:philjs@mail.utexas.edu)

### Editor, Journal of the Lepidopterists' Society

Carla M. Penz  
Curator of Invertebrates, Dept.  
of Invertebrate Zoology,  
Milwaukee Public Museum,  
800 West Wells St., Milwaukee,  
WI 53233, Phone: (414) 278-  
6936, FAX: (414) 278-6100,  
[flea@mpm.edu](mailto:flea@mpm.edu)

### Editor, Memoirs of the Lepidopterists' Society

William E. Miller  
Department of Entomology,  
University of Minnesota, St.  
Paul, MN 55108,  
(612) 624-7493 (office)  
[mille014@maroon.tc.umn.edu](mailto:mille014@maroon.tc.umn.edu)

### Book Review Editor

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### Members-At-Large

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## Season Summary Zone Coordinators

Refer to Season Summary for  
Zone coverage details.

### Chief Season Summary Coordinator And Editor

Jim Tuttle  
4285 N. Homestead Avenue  
Tucson, Arizona 85749-9437  
(520) 749-1806 (home)  
[jtuttle@fiaaz.net](mailto:jtuttle@fiaaz.net)

### Zone 1, The Far North:

Dr. Kenelm W. Philip  
Institute of Arctic Biology  
University of Alaska  
P.O. Box 75700  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99775-7000  
(907) 479-2689  
[fnkwp@aurora.alaska.edu](mailto:fnkwp@aurora.alaska.edu)

### Zone 2, The Pacific Northwest:

Jon H. Shepard  
R.R. #2, S.22, C.44  
Nelson, British Columbia  
V1L 5P5 Canada  
(250) 352-3028  
[shep.lep@netidea.com](mailto:shep.lep@netidea.com)

### Zone 3, The Southwest:

Ken Davenport  
6601 Eucalyptus Dr., #325  
Bakersfield, CA 93306-6856  
(805) 366-3074 (home)  
[flutterflies@juno.com](mailto:flutterflies@juno.com)

### Zone 4, The Rocky Mountains:

Dr. Ray E. Stanford  
720 Fairfax Street  
Denver CO 80220-5151  
(303) 377-1332 (home)  
[r.k.stanford@mindspring.com](mailto:r.k.stanford@mindspring.com)

### Zone 5, The Plains:

Dr. Ronald Alan Royer  
Division of Science  
Minot State University  
Minot, North Dakota 58707-0001  
Office: (701) 858-3209  
FAX: (701) 839-6933  
[royer@warpp6.cs.misu.nodak.edu](mailto:royer@warpp6.cs.misu.nodak.edu)

### Zone 6, South-Central:

Charles Bordelon, Jr.,  
8517 Burkhart Road  
Houston, TX 77055  
(713) 468-1989 (home)

### Zone 7, Ontario And Quebec:

Alan J. Hanks  
34 Seaton Drive, Aurora,  
Ontario L4G 2K1 Canada  
(905) 727-6993 (home)  
[A.Hanks@aci.on.ca](mailto:A.Hanks@aci.on.ca)

### Zone 8, The Midwest:

Leslie A. Ferge  
7119 Hubbard Avenue  
Middleton, Wisconsin 53562-3231  
(608) 836-9438  
[ferge@chorus.net](mailto:ferge@chorus.net)

### Zone 9, The Southeast:

Brian G. Scholtens  
Biology Department  
College of Charleston  
Charleston SC 29424-0001  
(803) 856-0186  
[scholtensb@cofc.edu](mailto:scholtensb@cofc.edu)

### Zone 10, The Northeast:

Mark J. Mello  
c/o Lloyd Center,  
430 Potomska Rd  
Dartmouth, MA 02748  
[mothman@mediaone.net](mailto:mothman@mediaone.net)

### Zone 12, Mexico & the Caribbean:

Isabel Vargas Fernandez  
Museo de Zoologia,  
Facultad de Ciencias,  
Univ. Nacional Autonoma, Mexico,  
Apartado Postal 70-399,  
Mexico 04510 D.F., Mexico  
[ivf@hp.fcienencias.unam.mx](mailto:ivf@hp.fcienencias.unam.mx)



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\*\*\*\*\*AUTO\*\*MIXED ADC 640  
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John A. Snyder  
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Furman University  
Greenville SC 29613-0001

