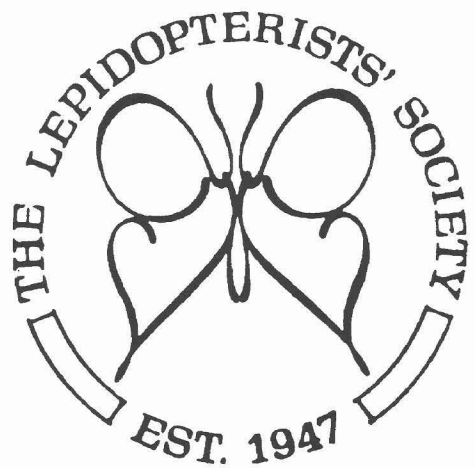


NEWS

OF THE

SOCIETY



Volume 43, Number 4 Winter 2001



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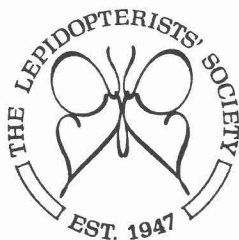
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NEWS OF THE LEPIDOPTERISTS' SOCIETY

Volume 43, No. 4 Winter 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.)

The **News of the Lepidopterists' Society** (ISSN 0091-1348) is published quarterly by The Lepidopterists' Society, c/o Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History, 900 Exposition Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90007-4057, USA., and includes one or two supplements each year. The **Season Summary** is published every year as Supplement S1 and is mailed with issue 1 of the News. In even numbered years a complete **Membership Directory** is published as Supplement S2 and is mailed with issue 4 of that volume of the News. Please see the inside back cover for instructions regarding subscriptions, submissions to, and deadline dates for, the News.

Periodicals Postage Pending at address above (Los Angeles, CA) and at additional mailing office (Lawrence, KS).

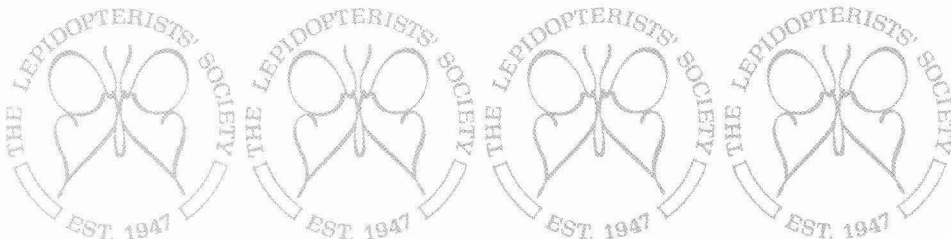
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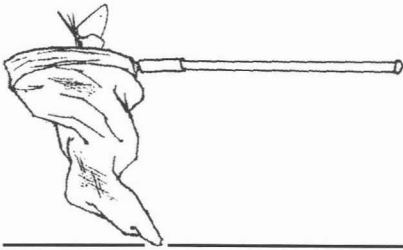
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Cover: Freshly eclosed adult silvery checkerspot, *Chlosyne nycteis* (Nymphalidae), at Baton Rouge, LA. See the report on a new larval host for this species on pp. 101. Photo by report author, Gary Noel Ross.



Mailbag...

More Queens...

Dear Editor,

Congratulations to David P. Moskowitz for his New Jersey state record of a Queen (*Danaus gilippus* Cramer) on 7/17/01 (News 43 (3): 72, 74). The following month there were in fact two other Queen sightings, this time in Washington D.C., which is also well north of the species' normal range. Both sightings were less than a half-mile apart, near the Anacostia River in the northeast quadrant of the city.

The first, a fresh female observed by me on 8/24/01 as it nectared on Bloodflower (*Asclepias curassavica* L.) in the National Arboretum's Herb Garden, is a new butterfly record for the District of Columbia (Clark (1932), Smithsonian Bulletin 157; Fales (1987), *The Maryland Naturalist*, 31(1): 5-24; Opler and Malikul (1998). *Peterson Field Guides to Eastern Butterflies*, pp. 314; Glassberg, (1999) *Butterflies through Binoculars: The East*, pp. 144; Smith, State Butterfly Coordinator for MD, DE and DC, USGS NPWRC, pers. comm.). Three days later, Rob Hilton observed a fresh Queen female on the grounds of Langston Golf Course, located immediately south of the Arboretum, as it progressed south while nectaring on *Polygonum*.

Possibly both sightings were of the same individual. They may represent strays, releases, hitchhikers or escapes, possibly from one of two live-butterfly exhibits within 15 miles of the sightings. These exhibits are established at the National Zoological Park in the northwest quadrant of the District and during summers at

Brookside Gardens in adjacent Montgomery County, MD. The Queen, a large tropical butterfly that apparently does well in captivity, is commonly displayed at live-butterfly exhibits. Approximately 200 such exhibits operate within the United States (Wayne Wehling, USDA, pers. comm.).

Patricia M. Durkin

23 Logan Circle, NW,
Washington, DC 20005



"You Said It" response...

Suzanne,

Hi! I'm Rik Littlefield, and I just ran across your letter to the Lepidopterist's Society, published in the Autumn 2001 issue. I'm afraid that the intent and tone of my letter to Reader's Digest has gotten a bit misunderstood.

The letter that I originally wrote to the Digest was intended as a light-hearted response to a publication that I really did find moving and sensitive, but also pretty amusing if you understand what's really going on. I mean, it still seems on the edge of hilarious to speak of an "ephemeral butterfly" "poised for a fleeting moment", when what the photo shows is clearly a dead moth fastened to a boot!

Certainly I did not intend the letter to be read as an "admonishment", and in fact when I spoke with the editors of Reader's Digest (who also thought the situation was quite amusing), I allowed them to edit & publish the letter only if

they could retain a flavor of good-hearted amusement.

Personally, I think they did quite well at that, and I am sorry if the letter struck you differently. I wonder, did you see the letter published in Readers Digest (where they quoted the photographer as saying that it was a "mystery" how the moth came to be on the hiker's boot, and that this was "art, not science"), or were you responding only to the followup item in Lep Soc News?

Thanks, and my apologies for annoying you with the letter.

Rik Littlefield

Errata/Corrections...

The announcements on pp. 68 of the Autumn issue (vol. 43, no. 3) regarding the new William D. Winter Jr. Award and the Harry K. Clench Memorial Award were actually written and submitted by Alma Solis, not Jackie Miller. Alma is the Chair of the Awards Committee (the other members are Felix Sperling and Susan Weller); Jackie is in charge of the Karl Jordan Award. The Awards committee has nothing to do with the Karl Jordan Medal.

Also, the "Focus on Nature" illustration in the same issue had an incomplete website address. Contact Ms. Mason, the artist behind the *Focus on Nature* columns, at www.rmasonfinearts.com.



Etymology of the Butterfly *Speyeria aphrodite whitehousei*: banker F.C. Whitehouse or forester A.C. Whitehouse?

Norbert G. Kondla

Box 244, Genelle, British Columbia V0G 1G0

Speyeria aphrodite whitehousei is a nymphalid butterfly that has a very limited distribution in and near the Rocky Mountain trench in extreme southeastern British Columbia, Canada. The subspecies was described by Gunder (1932) as *Argynnis whitehousei* with a type locality of Jaffray, British Columbia. Gunder thoughtfully explained the etymology of the name so that future butterfly workers would not have to wonder about this issue. Gunder explained that the subspecies was "Named after Mr. A.C. Whitehouse of Vancouver, B.C., who is in the Forest Service and stationed mostly in the Jaffray region." This was noted by Kondla (1999).

Despite this clarity, Guppy and Shepard (2001) state that "Subspecies *whitehousei* is named after Frank C. Whitehouse, of dragonfly fame, who was living in Cranbrook at the time he provided Gunder with the type material for the subspecies." No evidence is provided for this etymology.

There is ample published historical information on Frank Cecil Whitehouse, eg. Cannings (1988), Riegert (1980), Riegert (1981), Spencer (1963). Frank was entomologically known for his interests in dragonflies. He was a lifetime bank manager who also was a famous fly-fisherman, a golfer and a bit of a poet. There is no evidence that he ever lived in Cranbrook or worked for the British Columbia Forest Service. There is no evidence that he ever sold or gave any butterflies to Gunder. There is evidence that Frank did some butterfly collecting in Alberta (Whitehouse 1918).

A. C. Whitehouse is still a man of mystery. Search of local history books

for the Jaffray area did not turn up any reference to him and efforts to locate information through the Forest Service also were unsuccessful.

In conclusion, the etymology as described by the author of *whitehousei* is congruent with other published information and there is no apparent reason to dispute his very clear words. It is clear from the published record that A. C. Whitehouse and F. C. Whitehouse were two different people. The etymology presented by Guppy and Shepard (2001) is a *lapsus calamus* and should be ignored. C. S. Guppy (pers. comm.) agrees with this conclusion.

Acknowledgements

A number of people kindly looked into various leads or provided information to support this analysis. These include B. Beck, C. D. Bird, J. Crolla, R. A. Cannings, K. Gibbard, P. Murphy and G. Pohl. Thanks to B. Beck, C. D. Bird, R. A. Cannings and C. S. Guppy for reviewing a draft of this note.

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Announcement...

Basic Techniques Manual available...

Basic Techniques for Observing and Studying Moths & Butterflies

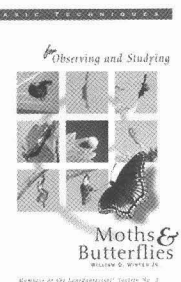
by William D. Winter.

Lep. Soc. Memoir #5 is a 350-page book (with 82 pages of Appendices) packed with information for study of Lepidoptera no matter what the reader's interests are. The introductory chapter tells where and when to look for butterflies: Best bets are disturbed areas, edge zones (roadsides, railroad verges) and openings in the forest. Since each group of species has its own habits and flight times, it is best to try different times, seasons and habitats.

Other chapters describe photo techniques, gardening for butterflies, and collecting methods. The latter subject is expanded to show how to obtain maximum scientific information within proper environmental guidelines. Both beginners and experienced students of Lepidoptera will find this book to be a valuable reference.

To get your copy, send check or Money Order for \$29.00 (Members), \$44.00 (Non-members), postpaid (Canada add \$6.00; other countries add \$10.00), made payable to "The Lepidopterists' Society," to:

Ken Bliss, Publications Mgr.
 P. O. Box 1366
 Edison, NJ 08817



New Host Plant for the Silvery Checkerspot, *Chlosyne nycteis*

Gary Noel Ross

6095 Stratford Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70808

The silvery checkerspot (*Chlosyne nycteis* (Doubleday & Hewitson)) is reported to utilize various herbaceous members of the aster or composite family (Asteraceae) of plants. Even though this small butterfly ranges throughout most of the eastern United States, in Louisiana silvery checkerspots are very local and usually associated with the recorded host plant, wing-stem crownbeard (*Verbesina walteri*)—common in disturbed habitats on terrace soils bordering the Mississippi Flood Plain. During the summer of 2000, I discovered that in the Baton Rouge area silvery checkerspots were laying eggs not only on the native crownbeard but also on a garden variety of purple coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*), both members of the aster family and the latter previously unrecorded as a host (*Butterfly Garden News*, winter 2000-2001 issue). This past summer (2001) I was able to confirm another unrecorded host: great ragweed (*Ambrosia trifida*), also a member of the Asteraceae.

On July 29, 2001 Craig Marks, a friend living in Lafayette, invited me to join him in a day of butterflying in Indian Bayou Wildlife Management Area (St. Landry Parish), an extensive area of bottomland hardwood forest bordering the Atchafalaya River and in the heart of "Cajunland." The preserve is quite picturesque, having a thick understory of fan-leaved palmettos canopied by tall oak, ash, gum and cypress trees heavily festooned with Spanish moss. Each fall dozens of sportsmen converge upon the trail-laced forest to hunt deer and turkey. Although Craig had "butterfyed" the preserve for nearly a decade, this was my first visit. Since the date fell within the time frame of the

NABA 4th of July Butterfly Count program, we decided to establish the day's activity as an official count day.

After just a few minutes into our first walk along a well-defined trail, I noticed a small cluster of black, spiny caterpillars feeding on great ragweed, a native weed extremely abundant within the preserve and infamous throughout much of the nation for triggering each autumn widespread



A mature caterpillar of the silvery checkerspot, *Chlosyne nycteis*, from Baton Rouge, LA. Photo by Gary Noel Ross.

nasal and pulmonary problems in allergic individuals. At first I was a bit confused. Because I was familiar with the silvery checkerspot's immature stages and the manner in which they skeletonize leaves, I was fairly certain of my identification. (Craig mentioned to me that he usually sees adult silvery checkerspots within the preserve every year.) However, over my many years of research within the state, I had never observed any species of butterfly utilizing ragweed as a host. (However, I have noticed in the past that the plant is occasionally eaten by "woolly bear"

caterpillars—larvae of several tiger moths.)

Within another few minutes, I noticed another cluster of similar caterpillars. In fact, during the leisurely walk of approximately four miles I counted no less than twelve distinct clusters scattered randomly throughout the preserve and all on ragweed. The caterpillars ranged in development from third to fifth instar. For confirmation, I collected a cluster of ten individuals to take home for rearing.

Within two weeks healthy adult silvery checkerspots had emerged. (During our day's butterfly count, Craig and I logged in two adult silvery checkerspots—both nectaring on bitterweed (*Helenium amarum*) (Asteraceae); the low number of individuals coupled with the presence of larvae indicates

that the species was likely between broods.)

As with purple coneflower, ragweed has not been previously documented as a host for the silvery checkerspot, but because I have only this single observation, I cannot speculate as to how commonly the butterfly utilizes ragweed elsewhere. Within the Baton Rouge area, however, I do know that silvery checkerspots avoid ragweed, instead preferring the local crownbeard. While I am tempted to explain this

continued on pp. 105...

Presidential Profile:

Don Lafontaine

Don Lafontaine

*Lepidoptera Unit, Canadian National Collection, ECORC, Research Branch,
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Ottawa, ON K1A 0C6, LafontaineD@EM.AGR.CA*

I think I have collected things all my life. This general passion first focused on Lepidoptera in the 7th grade when Roy Edwards, my science teacher, asked the class to make a collection of 30 kinds of insects over the summer vacation. I knew enough about insects to suggest to him that it would take less than an hour to manage a task like that—to which he replied “then why don’t you try to find 30 kinds of butterflies!” He was the first of a number of mentors that directed the course of my career in entomology and he provided me with books and materials to help me accomplish my enhanced challenge. By the end of the summer I had found 32 species and was completely hooked!

It didn’t take me too long to discover that the Canadian National Insect Collection (CNC) was just a few miles from my home and I benefited greatly from the advice and guidance of Tom Freeman, Eugene Munroe and especially David Hardwick. It was not long before my horizons had expanded to moths and I was running a light trap wherever I could find a little habitat worth checking. The most significant prize my light trap ever attracted came in the summer of 1966 when at the age of 17 I was a canoeing instructor at a camp about 100 km SW of Ottawa. One night as I was watching my trap from a distance a young counselor named Herma came up to me and asked if I knew what that “strange blue light” in the forest was. I generously offered to show her first hand, not noticing that the combination of blond hair and white clothing would make her an attractive target for the many moths circling the light. In spite of that shaky beginning, a life long partnership began in 1971.

Herma and I spent an unfortunately subdued 30th wedding anniversary “glued to the TV” in Washington, DC on September 11, 2001. Both of our daughters, Julie and Heather grew up with a passion for insects—they hate them with a passion—in spite of having traveled far and wide with us in search of Leps. However, it was not without some benefits since they both love to travel!



I am one of the few scientists at the CNC that actually grew up in Ottawa and I have lived there most of my life. After working for several years as a Park Naturalist, I was hired at the CNC as a summer student in 1971 and came on staff as a biologist in 1972. I initially worked on Microlepidoptera, replacing Tom Freeman, but switched to Noctuidae in 1973 when David Hardwick left his position to become the Director. In 1976 I started a two-year stint at The University of Alberta where I did the course work for my PhD Degree in Entomology with George Ball. George was (and is) amazing! He supervised almost half of the 15 graduate students in the Department of Entomology and created a synergism of cooperation and scientific pursuit in the

department that had far more impact on his students than any university course could ever accomplish. I was reclassified in 1979 as a Research Scientist after completing my PhD degree at U of A. My interests in higher classification, phylogeny, and biogeography were all well nurtured at U of A and continue to fascinate and frustrate, mostly the latter!

Most of my research work has been with the Noctuidae with the two main emphases being “The Moths of North America” series, and research on Holarctic Lepidoptera where I have worked with Kauri Mikkola (Helsinki), Vladimir Kononenko (Vladivostok) and Michael Fibiger (Copenhagen) in attempting to harmonize the species and genera of Noctuidae shared by North America and Eurasia. I have kept a finger in the butterfly world, mainly as curator of the CNC butterfly collection, and collaborated with Ross Layberry and Peter Hall in 1998 on “The Butterflies of Canada” book.

I have also poured a lot of heart into encouraging and cooperating and collaborating with “amateur” Lepidopterists. In part this is in recognition of the benefits I received as a young enthusiast, but also in recognition of the wealth of knowledge that so-called “amateurs” have accumulated and can contribute in terms of species recognition and their habits, habitats, life history, etc. The quality of work that “amateurs” are contributing to our knowledge of the Noctuidae is both amazing and humbling and I am honored to count many of them as both colleagues and friends.



The Lives of Butterflies: Tails & Tales

Bob Robbins

Building a Better Butterfly-Trap

No, we cannot leap tall buildings in a single bound. We are not faster than a speeding bullet. We are not comic book heroes, except maybe in our (hopefully) private fantasies. We are physiologically limited, like all animals, but are unique as a species in overcoming these limitations by the pervasive use of tools; from the mechanical, like mouse-traps and jet airplanes, to the symbolic, like those constructed objects used by artists and religions to evoke awe and other emotions. And for lepidopterists, our interactions with butterflies and moths would be rather paltry without insect nets, binoculars, and other "tools of the trade."

Unfortunately, butterfly nets and binoculars are not very efficient ways to find some kinds of butterflies. For

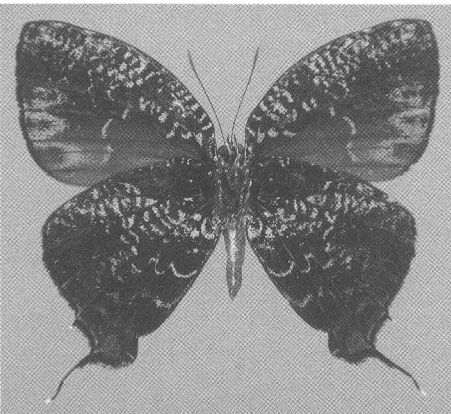


Fig. 1. Underside of *Bussa ematheon*.

This article begins a new series of light-hearted columns about the lives of butterflies (and butterflyers). The author of this installment, Bob Robbins, hopes that other members will also contribute tales. Contact him at the Department of Entomology, NHB 127, NMNH, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC 20560-0127, (202) 357-2353, robbins.robert@nmnh.si.edu

example, about 225 years ago, Cramer illustrated from Surinam two "Oh Wow" butterflies—hairstreaks the size of a Clouded Sulfur (*Colias philodice*) with rather spectacular wing patterns—that are now called *Thereus ismarus* and *Bussa ematheon* (Fig. 1). The original individuals were lost, and decade after decade, no others were found. Some folks speculated that these species were figments of the illustrator's imagination. However, in the late 1800s *Bussa ematheon* was re-discovered in the Peruvian Amazon nearly 1,000 miles from Surinam. And in the past decade, two museum specimens of *Thereus ismarus* were found in Germany and Brazil. The point is that many tropical butterflies are exceedingly rare for ground dwelling human beings with nets and binoculars.

Like human beings, butterflies and moths are physiologically limited. Adults, as you are undoubtedly aware, cannot chew solid food (some very primitive moths have mandibles for chewing pollen). Rather, most butterfly adults have straw-like mouthparts (the proboscis) and are restricted to slurping liquid food, which ranges from moisture to juicy nectar to the liquefied remains of decaying fruits and rotting animals and excrement. This butterfly limitation enables us to attract butterfly and moth individuals that we might otherwise not see or know about. We plant nectar-producing flowers to bribe colorful butterflies to frequent our gardens and paint sugary, fermenting concoctions on tree trunks to coax moths like the gorgeous Underwings (*Catocala*) to visit. And in the tropics, traps baited with decaying fruit and more disgusting substances such as liquefied rotting fish

(perhaps the most foul odor on the face of the earth, but also perhaps the best butterfly attractant) have long been used as a tool by butterfly collectors. At its simplest, a butterfly is attracted to bait and then flies upwards into a trap (Fig 2). The problem is that the smaller and more obscure Skippers (Hesperiidae), Metalmarks (Riodinidae), and Hairstreaks (Theclinae) are rarely attracted to baits, but comprise 2/3 of

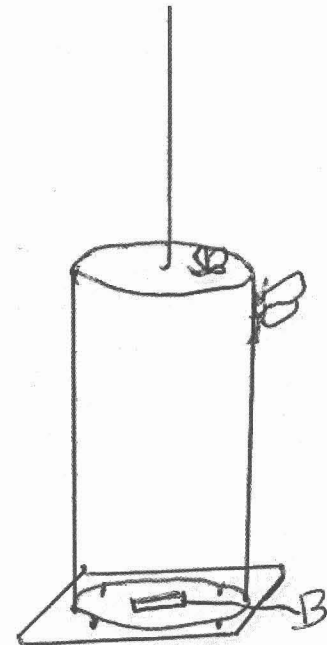


Fig. 2. Freehand drawing (by the author) of a simple butterfly trap. B is bait.

butterfly diversity, at least in the American Tropics. Finding tools for attracting these butterflies, such as *T. ismarus* and *B. ematheon*, is sort of a holy grail for those of us trying to document the tropical butterfly fauna and to learn the basics of its natural history.

continued on pp. 105...

Despite Terror Tragedy, New Yorkers Turn Out for Monarchs

Kurt Johnson and Robert De Candido

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

Monarch Watch 2001, now an annual event sponsored by the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation, commenced with only minor “hitches” on September 22, scarcely ten days after the tragic attack on New York City’s World Trade Center. New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani had encouraged New Yorkers to get back to “business as usual” and, in this spirit, Parks Commissioner Henry Stern, lead speaker and master of ceremonies, greeted what turned out to be a crowd larger than the one attending last year’s premier event.



The smoking Manhattan skyline taken from the roof of Kurt Johnson’s house at sunset on Sept. 11, 2001. Photo by Kurt Johnson.

To the several hundred spectators and conservation representatives gathered on the patio of Central Park’s “Belvedere Castle,” Commissioner Stern pointed out that the now endangered North American migration of the Monarch had been going on for millennia—in a sense putting New York’s recent tragedies in a broader perspective. This view was echoed eloquently by Harry Zirlin, a founding member of the North American Butterfly Association, who spoke on behalf of the New York Butterfly Club. As Monarchs flew overhead, paced at about one every few minutes in their annual migration, Harry asked people

to think back a minute and imagine the butterfly passing over Long Island millennia ago—when Mammoths, not skyscrapers, would have been their company. He noted that this perspective might help bring a sense of “peace” to severely “rattled” members of the New York community hoping soon to get back to a more normal life.

The purpose of Monarch Watch is to keep before the public, and especially the world media centered in New York City, the current plight of the Monarch’s overwintering grounds in Mexico. Representing Mexico, Dr. Hugo Hiriart (Executive Director of the Mexican Cultural Institute in New York), spoke of the new initiatives of the Mexican government in concert with world environmental groups. Dr. Kurt Johnson, representing the American Ethical Union (who along with Mastervision, an educational film company, supplied additional resources for the event) updated the Monarch situation in Mexico based on materials supplied by Monarch experts and conservationists working “on the ground” in Mexico. This included a review of the current conservation plan in Mexico, provided by the World Wildlife Fund, and commentary on “Bt Corn” provided by Monarch expert Dr. Lincoln P. Brower. Dr. Orley (“Chip”) Taylor, of Monarch Watch (University of Kansas) provided educational materials for the event by courier—at the last minute, Chip had been unable to attend the event due to flight cancellations in wake of the World Trade Center disaster. Harry Zirlin, however, capably stepped into Chip’s shoes and brought the Monarch crisis into perspective for spectators who were less familiar with Monarch or butterflies in general.

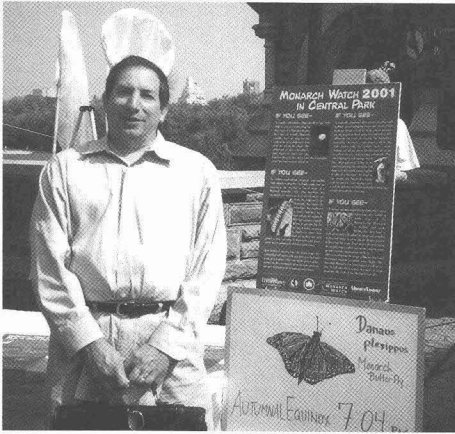
Rounding out the event, New York Urban Park Rangers, under the direction of Mr. Alex Brash, and ranger event coordinator E. J. McAdams, provided an array of educational materials and “eyes-on/hands-on” Monarch experiences. These included watching Monarchs emerge from chrysalids in the Parks Department’s “rearing tanks” and tagging Monarchs for Dr. Taylor’s Monarch Watch research efforts. This part of the event is always a favorite for “children of all ages” who lined up in droves to get their turn to watch Monarchs in action.



Monarch Watch 2001 at Belvedere Castle in New York’s Central Park. Photo by Spencer Tucker.

Mexican music, provided by the Consulate of Mexico in New York, did much to gather the large crowd of spectators for the event. In addition, the patio provided a large educational display area representing the work of various conservation groups joining in support of the Monarch Watch cause; these included the Michoacan Reforestation Fund, the Linnaean Society, the Audubon Society, the American Ethical Union, the Sierra Club, and The Nature Conservancy.

A Press Packet included not only the statements of World Wildlife Fund and Dr. Brower, but statements also from Drs. Robert Michael Pyle, Chip Taylor



Harry Zirlin, founding member of NABA, spoke at Monarch Watch 2001 on behalf of the New York Butterfly Club.

and Paul Opler, all members of the Lepidopterists Society. The major emphasis of World Wildlife Fund was to keep lepidopterists aware of the importance of their new "Monarch Butterfly Conservation Fund," *Fideicomiso Monarca* in Spanish, as a major focus for financial support. The legal work for the Fund is just about complete and lepidopterists should watch for WWF publicity on the Fund once it is fully active. The Fund's goal of \$30 million dollars is crucial to implementation of the new, broad-based and wide-ranging conservation protocol, probably the last chance for the Mexican overwintering grounds to be saved. Dr. Brower's comments reinforced the need for lepidopterists to financially support of the new onsite work in Mexico. He also advised vigilance on the "Bt Corn" controversy, noting the matter is far from "settled" and involves a conundrum of "interest conflicts" when it comes to "objective" research, especially in the commercial sector, concerning how dangerous genetically engineered crops actually are to Monarchs and other "innocent bystander" biota. Sponsors and participants in Monarch Watch are confident that this yearly program in New York City, the media capital of the world, will help keep the public aware of the plight of North America's Monarchs.



Trap...continued from pp. 103

About a decade ago, two young English biologists, Jason Hall and Keith Wilmott, realized that some butterflies, which were landed on the netting of their traps (placed high above the ground), flew away when the trap was lowered. So, they bought smooth twine made of polypropylene, which allowed them to lower the traps with considerably less bumping. They found that many Metalmarks, most Hairstreaks, and some smaller Brush-Foots, such as genus *Adelpha*, landed on the top and sides of the trap, but did not walk down to the bait. Whether this behavior is a sign of genius, or just the opposite, is not entirely clear. In any case, by lowering the traps gently, Jason and Keith discovered species that had not been found by other methods. Finally, Bob Busby, an amateur from the Boston area, nearly perfected the technique. By experimentation, he found that he could optimize the effectiveness of fish bait by placing traps 15-40 feet high under a big tree with the trap itself in sunlight. And if a bit of bait contaminates the top and side netting of the trap, so much the better. This technique works superbly in wet forests at all elevations except on exposed ridges and hilltops.

This method has taught us two basic pieces of information that I have not seen in any books. First, many Metalmark and Hairstreak species fly to bait in the middle levels of wet forest far,

New Host...continued from pp. 101

ragweed-butterfly connection as simply an example of a butterfly exploiting an abundant unused aster resource, this does not account for the fact that silvery checkerspots are so local throughout Louisiana and, indeed, the eastern United States in contrast to ragweed, one of the most ubiquitous weeds throughout these same venues. Additionally, since *Ambrosia trifida* has such large leaves and attains such robust stature, I would assume that a single plant would be able to provide more than an adequate supply of food

far more readily than to bait near the ground, so they seem to us ground-dwellers to be rare species. Second, these butterflies apparently fly to food items from above and will not, as a general rule, fly or walk to the bait, in contrast to many larger Brush-Foots (Nymphalidae), such as Charaxines (e.g., dead-leaf butterflies, *Agrias*). What a smashing success when a new method not only teaches us some basic butterfly biology but also gives us a tool for finding otherwise poorly known species! But the method still has one drawback; no matter how carefully one lowers the trap, butterflies escape with a low, but regular frequency. So, how does one modify a trap, which was originally intended to trap insects that fly or walk to the bait and then fly upwards, to do a better job of catching those Metalmarks, Hairstreaks, and others that fly to bait from above, land on the netting, but do not then move to the bait? The bottom line is that any design has to be exceedingly simple, light-weight, easily portable, and able to withstand rain and wind-tangled lines. **So, who can build a better Metalmark and Hairstreak trap?** I suspect that Phil Schappert, the Editor of the News, would be glad to print the simplest, best designs for real life testing. And if someone succeeds, the Lepidoptera community will "beat a path to your door" with gratitude.

Note: to learn more about bait traps, see Dave Winter's *Basic Techniques for Observing and Studying Moths & Butterflies*, pages 93-97, *Memoirs Lepid. Soc.* #5.

for the gregarious larvae of the silvery checkerspot (such is often not the case with other hosts of this butterfly). In light of this, two questions are perplexing. First, why doesn't the butterfly habitually take advantage of ragweed as a host? And second, why isn't the butterfly more common?

For now, all I conclude is that the distribution of the silvery checkerspot is regulated not only by the distribution of its potential hosts but also by still-unknown factors. Anyone interested in a research project?



The Lepidopterists' Bookshelf

P. J. DeVries, Editor

Four Wings and a Prayer: Caught in the Mystery of the Monarch Butterfly

by Sue Halpern. 2001. Pantheon Books, Random House, Inc. Hardcover, 212pp. 14.5 x 21.5 cm ISBN 0-375-40208-X. \$23.00.

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:

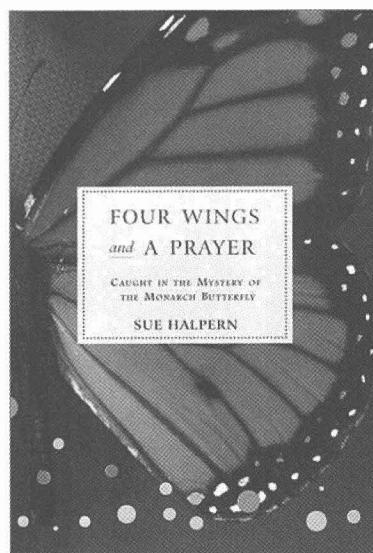
Dr. P. J. DeVries,
Director, Center
for Biodiversity
Studies, Milwaukee
Public Museum,
800 West Wells St.,
Milwaukee, WI
53233, U.S.A.
Tel: (414) 278-6939
Fax: (414) 278-6100

E-mail:
pjd@mpm.edu

Sue Halpern had no idea as she embarked on her first visit to a monarch butterfly preserve that what she was about to experience would have such a profound impact on her life. The trip was an ancillary excursion following a meeting she and her husband had come to Mexico to attend. She left the winter roost site at El Rosario that day with images of monarch butterflies "tugging on my imagination as if it were a loose sleeve." It led to a rekindling of her childhood feelings of the joy in single-minded pursuit when "finding something valuable enough to hold on to." The extraordinary migration of the monarch butterfly is unique and much of the process guiding this phenomenon remains a mystery. Though unprepared for her first encounter, once captivated, Halpern ably demonstrates in *Four Wings and A Prayer* just how well equipped she actually was to pursue the mystery of the monarchs' migration.

The monarch, with its striking orange and black coloration, distinctive gliding flight and broad geographical distribution, is without a doubt the most widely recognized butterfly in North America. With the locations of the wintering sites becoming public knowledge some

25 years ago, numerous accounts have been written summarizing the factual content of our expanding base of knowledge about monarch migration. Halpern's book is not one of these, although a wealth of information about monarch biology is conveyed through her narrative.



Instead, the real mystery she skillfully entices readers to join her in exploring is about human passions, the underlying basis of how and why we have come to know what we know—the "pursuit of knowledge, and love for the pursuit of knowledge"—rather than the facts of what we know. This is both the heart and

strength of her book, and the reason I recommend it for any audience but especially youth and young adults interested in careers in science.

Halpern employs her personal quest—to understand how the monarchs passing through her yard in New York's Adirondack Mountains accomplish their remarkable journey to Mexico—to reveal the passions and personas of monarch researchers (professional and amateur) who have spent much of their lives in pursuit of answers to their own questions about monarch migration. Her portrayals are honest, respectful and quite accurate.

The story begins with a rendezvous and her first adventure with Bill Calvert driving through Mexico to attend the international conference on monarch butterflies held in Morelia. There she meets many of the preeminent biologists, politicians and Mexican *ejidatarios* whose lives have been touched by monarch butterflies and learns about the complexities of monarch conservation issues. Over the next year, she accompanies Bill Calvert, Lincoln Brower, Sandra Perez, David Gibo, Dick Walton, Dan Petr, Karen Oberhauser and others on a broad range of

research expeditions, subtly illustrating how each shape and contribute to the mosaic of knowledge about monarch migration. Through her visits to Monarch Watch (cyber and in person), Chip Taylor provides her with an historical perspective on monarch migration studies. She also explores divergent view-points expressed by individuals such as Paul Cherubini. The chronicle of her exploration serves as an effective instrument to highlight what interests, motivates, inspires or frustrates others with a passion for monarchs in following their individual pursuits. Halpern does not attempt to evaluate what makes *good science*, but interspersed throughout the story she provides the kind of probing questions that contribute to it and can serve as instructive examples for students. The trail of questions also invites readers to actively participate in the quest.

In bringing the story of her year of exploration to a close, Halpern leaves the reader with one final emotion to contemplate although the question is never articulated. What if the butterflies don't make it this time? What then of the common bonds, passions and quest for knowledge about this amazing animal? What will we personally have lost?

Four pages of select annotated resources follow the conclusion of the chronicle. Halpern's recommendations include scientific papers, references on related themes that may interest readers, a children's book, poetry about monarchs and Internet sites. All the resources she found to be the most useful in her research for the book.

Four Wings and A Prayer reflects thorough background research by the author. It is well written and a pleasure to read. Anyone who personally knows the profiled researchers, those whose passion for monarch butterflies provided such fertile ground for inspiration, will find it particularly enjoyable.

Susan Sullivan Borikin
Milwaukee Public Museum



Metamorphosis...

The Society has learned of the death of the following member. Our condolences to his family.

John Holoyda

of Chicago, Illinois, on 12 Sept. 2001. 1973, had been a long-time student of Dr. Holoyda, a Sustaining Member in 2001 and a member of the Society since the clearwing moth family Sesiidae.

Results of the 2001 Election of Officers

A total of 558 valid ballots were received on time. The names of the successful candidates are preceded with an asterisk (*) below.

President:

*J. Donald Lafontaine 531
Jacqueline Y. Miller (write-in) 1
William E. Miller (write-in) 1
Robert K. Robbins (write-in) 1

Vice-Presidents:

(3 are elected; no more than one per country):
*Bernard Landry (Canada) 442
*Jorge B. Llorente-Bousquets (Mexico) 428
William E. Miller (USA) 317
*David L. Wagner (USA) 334
Andre Freitas (Brazil) (write-in) 1
Edward C. Knudson (USA) (write-in) 1

Executive Council, Members-at-Large:

(top 3 are elected):
*David Ahrenholz 390
*Philip J. DeVries 455
Daniel Rubinoff 330
*J. Bolling Sullivan 341
Leslie A. Ferge (write-in) 1
Ronald R. Gatrell (write-in) 1
David C. Iftner (write-in) 1

Secretary:

*Ernest H. Williams 529

Ernest H. Williams, Secretary

Announcements...

The Kentucky Academy of Science presented its 2001 *Distinguished University/College Scientist Award* to **Charlie Covell** at the joint KY/TN academy meetings in Murfreesboro, TN on November 9, 2001. The award is given for "significant contributions to science teaching, particularly to academic research in Kentucky."

The **Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists**, founded in 1974, invites you to join (or rejoin). Our quarterly newsletter, edited by Leroy Koehn, is on time and color illustrated. We also offer field trips in spring, summer and fall, and an annual meeting every November at the University of Louisville. Send a check in the amount of \$10 (\$15 outside U.S.) made out to "Ky. Leps." to Les Ferge, Treasurer, 7119 Hubbard Ave., Middleton, WI 53562-3231 U.S.A.

Membership Update...

Julian Donahue

This update includes all changes received by 9 November, 2001.

"Lost" Members

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

Suzanne C. Bird (Delray Beach, FL); **Kathryn Harvey** (Corpus Christi, TX); **Jamie Marshall** (Enderby, B.C., Canada).

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)

Albert, Edgar: 20419 Beth Lee Drive, Peculiar, MO 64078-9462.

Bramble, Harriet O.: 4977 Battery Lane, Apt. 510, Bethesda, MD 20814-4919.

Jacobs, Warren A.: 252A Fulmer Road, Perkiomenville, PA 18074-9730.

Komai, Furumi (Dr.): Osaka University of Arts, Kanan-cho, Osaka 585-8555, **Japan**.

Kruppenbacher, Andrew: 47 Whitney Drive, Valatie, NY 12184-5245.

Matter, Stephen F. (Ph.D.): Division of Science, Truman State University, Kirksville, MO 63501.

Mooney, Kailen: Dept. EPO Bio, Ramaley N122, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO 80309-0334.

Morehouse, Christina (Ms.): 369 Myrtlewood Road, Melbourne, FL 32940-7761.

Moskowitz, David: c/o EcolSciences, Inc., 75 Fleetwood Drive, Suite 250, Rockaway, NJ 07866-2267.

Oreña, Stephen: 7 Eagle Ridge Drive, Gales Ferry, CT 06335-1905.

Reilly, James R.: 2685 Old Timber Way, Powhatan, VA 23139-5227.

Relyea, Douglas I. (Ph.D.): 25 Brookwood Road, Bethany, CT 06524-3148.

Severns, Paul: 2526 North 21st Street, Springfield, OR 97477-1719.

Wallenmaier, Thomas E. (Dr.): 28815 Murray Crescent Drive, Southfield, MI 48076-5562.

Wallez, Dave: 601 South Cortez Street, Apt. E3, Prescott, AZ 86303-4340.

Wilcox, Mark W.: 769 Sherwood Drive, Kaysville, UT 84037-1333.

Address Changes

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

Beebe, Warden W.: 8421 59th Lane, Pinellas Park, FL 33781-1484.

Bers, George: 7 Sausalito Drive, Coto de Caza, CA 92679-4936.

Braby, Michael F. (Dr.): c/- 21 Cromwell Street, Eltham, Victoria 3095, **Australia**.

Cary, Steven J.: 202 Solana Drive, Santa Fe, NM 87501-1675.

Davis, Christopher K.: 267 North Lakes Drive, Eastman, GA 31023-9309.

East, Raymond (Randy) James: Colonial Village, 762 Fairley Street, Apt. 21, Laurinburg, NC 28352-3595.

Ewing, Robert: 19 Elmwood Drive, Monroe, LA 71203-2770.

Garland, Mark S.: 134 Third Avenue, West Cape May, NJ 08204-1051.

Hubbell, Peter: 6200 North Via Ranchero, Tucson, AZ 85704-2838.

Kehrberg, Joshua: 150 21st Avenue South, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495-2269.

Kryglik, Melvin T.: 5332 King Avenue, Rosedale, MD 21237-4004.

Miller, Stephen S.: 11200 Township Road, Browns Valley, CA 95918-9622.

Nadborne, Ira: 5021 West Paseo de las Colinas, Tucson, AZ 85745-9222.

Nice, Chris: Department of Biology, Southwest Texas State University, 601 University Drive, San Marcos, TX 78666-4616.

Oliver, Jeff: 330 County Road, Louisville, CO 80027-2004.

Prudic, Katy: 330 County Road, Louisville, CO 80027-2004.

Radulescu, Andrei: Str. D.I. Mendeleev nr. 4, Et. 4, Ap. 20, 1900 Timisoara, **Romania**.

Schmidt, Chris: Box 191, Riondel, BC V0B 2B0, **Canada**.

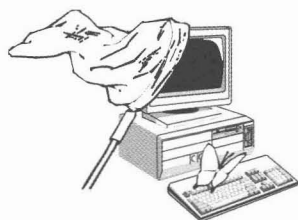
Shiraiwa, Kojiro: 8-14, Miyagidai 2-Chome, Funabashi, Chiba 274-0804, **Japan**.

Shuey, John A. (Dr.): The Nature Conservancy, 1505 North Delaware Street, #200, Indianapolis, IN 46202-2418.

Smaglinski, Joseph: 55 South Hampton Drive, Reading, PA 19610-3108.

Vosefski, Alan M.: 3320 Old Kirkwood Drive, Virginia Beach, VA 23452-5948.





Out of the Net...

by Jim Taylor, 1_iron@msn.com

There were two letters to the Editor in the Summer issue of the News critical of opinions I expressed in the Spring issue of *Out of the Net*. (I am writing this for the Winter issue because the Fall column is long gone.) I had one favorable email, agreeing with what I said about our inability to preserve the Monarch without interfering with the rights of individual humans and Nations to run their own affairs. I have reread what I wrote, and while it may not have been worded diplomatically enough for some, it does accurately reflect my opinion.

We have deforested and paved our country for years in the interest of progress and a better and more comfortable life; we haven't the right to sit in our air conditioning and tell other governments or individuals they must preserve their portion of the world environment at their discomfort for our pleasure. Further, I am not convinced the Monarch as a species is endangered. The Monarch Watch people are not persuasive, and I think the Monarch is far more adaptable and a helluva lot less fragile than it is given credit for.

One of the letters of complaint raised again the old *Bt*-corn-pollen-on-the-milkweed issue. The following was posted to LEPS-L not long ago:

CHICAGO (AP) - A new study found that pollen from genetically altered corn poses little risk to monarch butterfly larvae, contradicting previous findings that led to calls to curb the spread of bio-engineered crops...But the latest study... found that the larvae usually do not eat enough pollen for it to harm them...“It's a negligible risk at best. They must consume considerable amounts of pollen to show an effect,

and that amount of pollen rarely exists in nature,” said Mark K. Sears, chairman of the Department of Environmental Biology at the University of Guelph in Canada...

One of the letters to Editor Phil also took me to task because, “[I] deny the existence of global warming.” Simply not true. I implied that I am not convinced global warming exists as something caused by civilization. I expect educated folks not to embrace blindly and without credential-checking the Chicken Little opinions on global warming touted by the major networks and NPR; those people also publicized and backed midnight basketball. Hear some reputable opinions on the subject; try TechCentralStation.com, or globalwarming.org, or marshall.org, or sepp.org.

Again, sorry if I offend, and I really don't hate Monarchs (or other butterflies); I just think moths are more fun because less is known about them—and it throws some spice in the column if I am outrageous on occasion. I thought I had but one or two readers; it now seems I have a few more.

Now, back to the net. In the last issue I said I would explore free sites on the web where one can put up pictures for others to admire, as an alternative to attaching them to emails.

I took a few UFO pictures and established an “album” at y42.photos.yahoo.com/bc/1_iron1/lst?.dir=/Unknowns&.src=ph&.last=1. It works, and several have been identified for me. Some of you might look to see if you can supply an ID; if there are no pictures there, someone has beaten you to it.

Matthew Barnes has done it again—twice. Some of you may remember my review of his *Moths of Belize* site (I think in the Winter 2000 issue), which can be reached through www.tropicalmoths.org/. If you go there now, you'll find TWO new site references: *Moths of Jamaica* and *Moths of the Grenadines*. What I said about *Moths of Belize* applies as well to these new sites. The pictures are great. He also has some unidentifieds posted at members.fortunecity.com/belizemoths/images7/mysterymoths.jpg, and I am sure he would appreciate a hand.

Bill Oehlke has put together an album of *Large and Showy Moths of North America* at www.silkmoths.bizland.com/lisizsaturn.htm. They are all Saturniids, they are gorgeous, and they appear to have been photographed live. Accompanying each are preferred food, range, larvae description, etc. There are also links to other sites. Go see.

Pierre Zagatti (France) notified LEPS-L not long ago that “the oldest lep database is still online” at www.inra.fr/Internet/Produits/PAPILLON/noctuid/noctuide.htm#Ophiderinae. This site covers the *Noctuids of Guadeloupe and Martinique* and is complete with pictures. You'll find there some moths found commonly all over the United States. Go compare your *Helicoverpa zea* to one from the French Antilles (corn earworms are the same all over—just like politicians.)

Tony Thomas has two illustrated checklists of the moths of Fundy National Park:

192.75.17.5/cfs_afc/CFS_AFC_FBN/biodiv-e/moth_d-e/family-e.html covering the five Saturniids

continued on pp. 112

The Marketplace

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS: If the number following your advertisement is "432" then you must renew your advertisement before the next issue! Remember that all revisions are required in writing.

Books/Videos

Books for sale. The first 3 color-illustrated volumes of "Mariposas del Ecuador," edited by Dr. Giovanni Onore, (1) Generos; (2) Arctiidae (part); and (3) Papilionidae are available at \$27 per volume, postpaid in the U.S. (outside will be at rate of postage). Checks should be made out to Charlie Covell, Dept. of Biology, Univ. of Louisville, Louisville, KY 40292-0001. Funds all go directly to Dr. Onore to enable future publication, of which a Sphingidae fascicle is expected soon. ⁴³⁴

New! Stewart, Brodtkin and Brodtkin, Butterflies of Arizona: A Photographic Guide, 2001, West Coast Lady Press, Arcata, CA. Includes 557 full, 1/2 and 1/4 page color photographs of 331 species. Opposite each photograph is essential information including key field marks, time of year adults can be observed, Larval foodplant, range

within Arizona and pertinent biological and behavioral notes. Includes a special foodplant appendix prepared by botanist Richard Felger and botanist/lepidopterist Michael Wilson of Drylands Institute, Tucson. Order at www.naba.org/chapters/nabasa/book.html or contact Hank Brodtkin, 3050 E Carr Canyon RD, Hereford, AZ 85615, 520 803-9700, hankb@theriver.com ⁴³³

Wanted: Journal of the Lepidopterists' Society, Volume 14, and Volume 18 through 25. Please state condition and price. Russell.Rahn@Verizon.net ⁴³³

For Sale: Butterflies of the World by D'Abbrera, including Australian, Neotropical and Oriental Regions. Send SASE for particulars and prices. Doug Ross, P.O. Box 351, Banner Elk, NC 28604, 828-733-4034 ⁴³³

Livestock

Help wanted: Livestock and daveice for rearing + breeding Saturniidae, Papilionidae, *D. plexippus*. Just a beginner but lots of interest. Chris Davis, 267 N. Lakes Dr., Eastman, GA 31023, 478-374-6264 evenings. ⁴³⁴

For sale: Cocoons for spring 2002: *Actias luna*, *Hyalophora cecropia* & *Antheraea polyphemus*. Framed set specimens also available. Send SASE to Alan Vosefski, 3320 Old Kirkwood Dr., Virginia Beach, VA 23452, 757-498-3168, alanv@peoplepc.com ⁴³⁴

Livestock wanted: Wanted to buy, ova and/or pupa of *Citheronia regalis* and *C. sepulcralis* for Spring/Summer 2002. Ron Roscioli, 101 Rose Ct., Easton, PA 18042-9546, 610-253-8458. ⁴³⁴

For Sale: cocoons/pupae of *Hemileuca eglanterina* (coastal race), *Automeris cecrops pamina*, *Saturnia walterorum*.

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.

Send SASE to Frank Sala, 3493 Greenfield Place, Carmel, CA 93923. 433

Wanted: Buyer of live butterfly pupae and dried moth and butterfly specimens from the Philippines. All families of butterflies and Saturniidae and Sphingidae. Nelson Layron, Cawit, Boac Marinduque 4900 Philippines, (042) 332-1991. 433

Specimens

For sale or exchange: Space constraints force me to thin my collection of duplicate African, N. & S. American Papilionidae acquired over 27 yrs. Many are rare and difficult to obtain. Send SASE for list or send your want list and I will advise on availability. Rick Rozycki, 5830 S. McVicker Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. 434

Wanted to exchange/purchase: bright, colorful small/medium, night/day flying moths from all exotic places. Have collected in small #s because they are of little commercial value and dealers do not bother with them. Have many beautiful individual photos to share from 40 yrs of collecting. Robert Aronheim, agriasman@aol.com 434

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@srtc.com 432

Equipment

Wanted to buy: Portable, good size mercury vapor light trap. Rain drain and/or sorting screen would be nice. I'm also looking for a good commercial relaxing fluid that will not promote mold. Joshua Kehrberg, 150-21st Ave. S., Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495, 715-423-0709 (evenings). 433

Help Needed

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. 432

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. Chumpitasi P.O.Box 1106-2150 Moravia, San Jose, Costa Rica or phone (506) 241-0204. echumpi@sol.racsa.co.cr 433

Miscellaneous

For Sale: 1987 Monarch medal, 5 ounces of pure silver, proof quality, serially numbered, with one-ounce ANA medal and certificate of authenticity in leatherette case. Only 2000 minted for Atlanta convention of American Numismatic Association. \$750. Info and image by e-mail to Julian@Donahue.net. Julian Donahue, 735 Rome Dr., Los Angeles, CA 90065-4040. 434

Wanted: Companions to collect the Dalton Highway (Pipeline Road) in Alaska in July 2002. This is a cost-sharing trip for which I have worked out logistics and obtained promotional airfares for a group of 4 people to minimize costs. John Masters, 26503 Hillsfall Court, Newhall, CA 91321, jhmasters5@aol.com 433

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





From the Editor's Desk

Phil Schappert

A Strange New World...

The world has changed. Writing this, a bit more than 2 months after "the event," it's difficult to put into words how exactly it has changed, but the evidence of uncertainty is all around me. Recent trips to south Texas to do research along the Rio Grande have revealed more frequent and diligent patrols and far more stringent check-points. The almost daily EMS visits to campus to investigate all manner of potential—if most often imagined—threats. Mail from New York to Austin that used to take 3 or 4 days now takes 14 days or more. And the nightly news reminding us, lest we forget (how could we possibly?), that there is a war being fought, are just some of the visible manifestations.

Being a Canadian living in the U.S. has been instructive and eye-opening, to say the least. Some of the opening words in my last editorial seem strangely prophetic..."Contrary to popular belief, Canadians are quite patriotic (we're just not exactly sure to what, who, or why for that matter)." I can tell you now that, without a shadow of a doubt we can't hold a candle to Americans. Patriotism here, especially in the last two months, is not just a word but a way of life. And who could possibly blame them—while citizens of some 140 or so countries were victims of the WTC attack, it happened here on American soil.

Are hostility and intolerance one of the consequences of a "smaller," more-connected world? Or is it just a result of burgeoning overpopulation that results in us not knowing or appreciating our neighbors? Our differences are what make the world

such an interesting place. *Vive la différence!*

One of the unforeseen consequences, of direct interest to many Society members who trade livestock, may include the complete cessation of their hobby if the USPS proceeds with plans to irradiate mail to kill biological agents sent through the mail. It will also have an impact, I'm sure, on the research that I do, involving living butterflies and their hostplants from various parts of the world.

Such a strange new world it is.

Before I run out of space, a quick reminder to all of you that we begin putting 8 pages of color in all regular issues of the **News** with the next volume. Please do try to submit your articles and accompanying photos as soon as you possibly can. The mail is taking longer to get from point A to point B these days and color issues do take longer to prepare—a little extra lead time would be greatly appreciated.

Phil

Randy Robinette, 7302 Midland Trail Rd., Ashland, KY 41102-9294. ⁴³²

Research Requests

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

Net...continued from pp. 109

found in the park, and a complete checklist at 192.75.17.5/cfs_afc/CFS_AFC_FBN/biodiv-e/moth_d-e/family_s-e.html. Pictures of both caterpillar and adult are shown at the former; many of the moths are illustrated at the latter site.

Next, at www.csd.tamu.edu/tiara/ you'll find the Tiara Biodiversity Project, "A collaborative, on-line, biological information system for the insects and terrestrial arthropods of the south-central United States and adjacent Mexico." Over 1700 pictures of more than 1000 moths and butterflies are shown here, along with every other order of joint-legged critters. The work is too vast to do justice to here; go browse, pull up your favorite bug and judge for yourself. By the way, once you have clicked on the name, don't just sit there expectantly and wait for the picture to form; you have to punch "Images" on the left before anything happens. You'll also be short-changing yourself if you look only at the leps.

A final word. I peck along on this column for a few weeks, a few minutes at a time, until it is finished or Phil's deadline is upon me, whichever comes first. I had another item or so I intended including, but the Trade Center towers just came down, and this doesn't seem very important right now. I'll wait a week or so before I send it in, but I suspect that's all.

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 ⁴³¹

Minutes of the 2001 Annual Business Meeting of the Lepidopterists' Society

Ernest H. Williams, Secretary

1. President Bob Robbins opened the annual meeting of the Lepidopterists' Society membership at 9:13 a.m., Sunday, July 29, 2001, in the LaSells Stewart Center auditorium, Oregon State Univ., Corvallis, OR. He especially welcomed the moth-ers who had been up all night.
2. President Robbins described several issues currently before the Society:
 - a. He said the biggest problem facing us right now is that the **Journal** is behind schedule in publishing. Steps have been taken to correct this problem, however, and he introduced Carla Penz, the incoming editor of the **Journal**. He then described the schedule for publishing the next few issues. He added that we need more good submissions, as well as responsible reviewers.
 - b. He stated that the Society's financial status is much improved due to recently increased dues and the change to a large journal format. Eric Metzler estimated that we currently spend \$35 per member on publications and receive \$44 per membership. We are in good shape financially.
 - c. He noted that membership in the Society is declining. To improve services to members, we have increased spending on the **News** so that all regular issues will have color pages. We also approved an introductory offer to entice new members and have debated a two-tiered membership (receipt of the **News** but not the **Journal**).
 - d. Finally, because of the importance of the world wide web and the possibility of electronic publishing, a committee is being formed to study these issues for the Society. They will report by the end of the year.
3. Secretary Ernest Williams summarized Thursday's meeting (July 26, 2001) of the Executive Council:
 - a. He said Bob had already described several of the most important issues discussed in the Council meeting, and he would add only a little on those topics. With regard to our financial status, the Council noted that our large estimated paper debt of two years ago had been significantly reduced to one-fourth of what it had been. To improve membership services, we're looking into adding credit card payment for dues (currently available to foreign members only).
 - b. We have chosen the locations for the Society's annual meetings for the next three years:
 - 2002: June 13-16, Charleston, South Carolina
 - 2003: July 24-27, Olds, Alberta
 - 2004: College Park, Maryland, and Washington, DC
 - c. The Council reviewed the Society's publications. Much effort has been spent recently to get the **Journal** back on schedule, and the Council agreed that getting this publication caught up is very important. Meanwhile, the **News** under editor Phil Schappert is on schedule and serving its role very successfully. As President Robbins stated, the Council approved increasing expenditures on the **News** so that 8 full pages of every regular issue will be in color. Our publications also include separate volumes known as memoirs, and the techniques manual—our latest memoir, which was put together by Dave Winter—is selling very well.
 - d. The Council has established a new award, the William D. Winter, Jr., Service Award, to be given for outstanding service to the Society. Quite appropriately, this award is named for a person who was one of the Society's most dedicated volunteers.
 - e. Finally, under the leadership of President Robbins, the Council had an open discussion of the activities and directions of the Society. We reviewed the purpose of the Society as stated in the Constitution, and Bob offered several ideas for member activities. The Council is continuing this long-term discussion.
4. Many comments followed these two reports. We discussed the use of color in the **Journal** as well as the **News**, reaching out to entice new members from splinter groups and from NABA, increasing publicity about the Society, attaching the Society's name to lep-related activities such as the Great Smokies BioBlitz, the need to centralize communications to the Society *via* a single address, and the value of stories about our interests and activities.
5. President Robbins called for a moment of silence in remembrance of members of the Society who have died during the past year.
6. President Robbins thanked all who have been active on behalf of the Society; many people keep this organization functioning so well.
7. Kelly Richers then came forward and offered his resolutions about the wonderful meeting in Corvallis.
8. Outgoing President Bob Robbins called Don Lafontaine forward to receive the gavel and antennae of office. The antennae this year conspicuously lack knobs on the ends.
9. Incoming President Lafontaine invited us all to join him at Charleston next summer and then adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Behavior of Juno Silverspot, *Dione juno huascama*, larvae: wood eating?

Gerald E. Einem

1424 W. Price Road #475, Brownsville, TX 78520

While searching for a wild passion vine (*Passifloraceae*) for my butterfly garden near my home in La Penita de Jaltemba, Nayarit on the Pacific slope of Mexico, I discovered a vine (*Passiflora* sp.) with larvae of *Dione juno huascama* Reakirt, Lam. (Nymphalidae: Heliconiinae), the Juno Silverspot. The larvae and the pupae reared from them provided novel information about four aspects of their behavior and development of immatures: "wood chewing", "parasite defense", "rearing up", and "pupal bending." My observations during the initial discovery and three return visits to the vine were as follows:

I found twenty mature *D. j. huascama* larvae, nearly uniform in size, resting gregariously, lying in rows nearly parallel to one another in a compact group along a short lateral branch of a

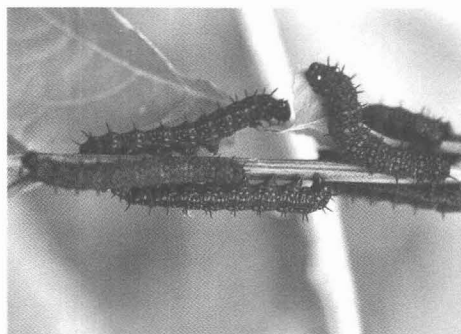


Fig. 1. Gregarious mature larvae of *Dione juno huascama* on passion vine. Note the two eggs near the head of one larva. Photo by G. Einem.

vine at 7:30–7:45am on March 20, 2001. The main stem of the ascending vine was about 4m in length and had five short branches, each with a small amount of terminal foliage. Some of the larvae had from one to six small white eggs on the body surface that may have been oviposited by a small dipteran seen perched on one of the larvae. I went home to get my camera.

I returned at 9:00–9:10am and found that some larvae had moved a short distance while others remained aggregated on the branch where they were first seen (Figure 1); two of these were feeding. Of those that moved away from the group, four had left the passion vine and were resting on two dead woody branches, two on each branch, about 20cm from the group (Figure 2). One or two of these larvae had eggs on the integument. The dead branches had dry eroded surfaces and were a part of a living tree, *Gliricidia sepium* (Jacquin) Steudel (Leguminosae), which supported the vine. I was fascinated by the behavior of the four larvae since they all appeared to be "chewing" (the mandibles were moving) on the wood and may have been ingesting it. They engaged in this activity for five minutes



Fig. 2. Mature *Dione juno huascama* larvae chewing on wood of a tree, *Gliricidia sepium*. (Other wood chewing larvae had eggs on the integument.) Photo by G. Einem.

or more, seldom moving from one location. The larvae were not laying down silk since the head did not oscillate from side to side as is characteristic of silk spinning activities and no silk was seen.

When I returned between 4:00–4:30pm all of the mature larvae had left the passion vine except for two; these were collected for rearing. The areas of wood

where the four larvae had been chewing and areas of the tree that supported the vine were also without mature larvae.

The next day between 7:15–7:30pm no mature larvae were visible on the vine, however six early instar *D. j. huascama* larvae were found feeding or resting on new growth in two groups of three larvae. Three were clustered side by side under a leaf and three were moving along a nearby leaf petiole. When disturbed by the moving the branch, these latter larvae reared up the anterior part of their bodies while the posterior part remained attached by their prolegs (Figure 3). This behavior was not seen earlier when the mature larvae were visited by a dipteran parasite.

The two mature larvae collected for rearing pupated the following day, both



Fig. 3. Early instar larvae of *Dione juno huascama* giving a rearing up response when disturbed. Photo by G. Einem.

were found hanging head down attached only by their cremasters. When placed near a sunny window, one of the pupae

bent toward/away from the sun, suggesting basking and antibasking in response to changing ambient temperature or solar radiation as previously described for the Gulf Fritillary, *Agraulis vanillae* L. pupae (Einem 1998). This active pupa eclosed April 2, twelve days after pupation and the adult was photographed (Figure 4). The second pupa never moved, but remained vertical (as did the active pupa at night), and eventually turned black and failed to eclose. Alexander (1961b), working in Trinidad, found that of ten species of Heliconiinae pupae studied, only *Dione juno juno* (Cramer) and *A. vanillae* had bent bodies that periodically changed the direction of bending. However, this study did not suggest that bending was in response to light or temperature.

The presence of eggs and an adult dipteran on the mature larvae suggests that they were parasitized. This was surprising to me since Muysshondt, *et al* (1973) reported a failure to find evidence of parasitism of *D. j. huascama* larvae collected at different places and different times of the year. They



Fig. 4. Adult *Dione juno huascama* reared from one of the gregarious larvae. Photo by G. Einem.

attributed this to effective group defense behavior although they did observe lizards, but not birds, preying on larval *D. j. huascama*. These observations do not rule out the possibility that gregariousness or other larval behaviors reduced parasitism or predation; but for parasitism at least, larval behavior seems to be unable to eliminate it. Certainly, many more observations are needed to clarify the

role of larval behaviors in defense against predators and parasites.

The larvae seen "chewing" on wood may have pupated the following day as did the larvae taken for rearing. DeVries (1987) states that *D. j. huascama* larvae feed gregariously and show synchronization of molts; suggesting, I believe, that all or most of the mature larvae pupated somewhat simultaneously. The four mature larvae "chewing" on wood may have been attracted to some substance, perhaps a nutrient not present in the passion vine or on the living branches of the supporting tree. Then again, wood chewing may be a "displacement behavior". This occurs when some strongly activated behavior, such as chewing (feeding) on a passion vine, is thwarted but is then seen in a different but inappropriate context. Crane (1957) described "displacement behaviors" in imaginal Heliconiinae, however they have not been reported for larvae.

Dione juno larvae have been reported to raise the head and thorax under two circumstances: (1) when resting, usually in a dense group, when the raised posture appears to prevent the caterpillars from overlapping one another (Alexander 1961a) or (2) when a shadow or moving their support causes the group to react together, making vertical or lateral spasmodic movements with the anterior part of the

body (Muysshondt *et al*, 1973). The larvae I observed reared up together with a rapid vertical movement and then remained motionless in this position for three minutes or more. This unusual posture and the rapid movement may startle would be predators.

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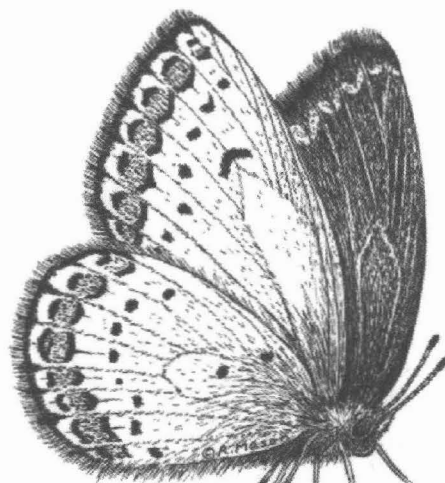
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Readers may also contact the author at libbyeinem@hotmail.com

Focus on Nature...

California's endangered Lotis Blue Butterfly, *Lycaeides idas lotis* (Lycaenidae), is the subject of this issue's installment of artist Rochelle Mason's artwork.

Her **Focus on Nature** columns highlight endangered species and they are published in many newspapers around the world. The Spring issue, 44(1), will feature one of her color pieces. Drawing © R. Mason. Contact her at R. Mason Fine Arts, P.O. Box 554, Volcano, HI 96785, (808) 985-7311, www.rmasonfinearts.com



Meeting Report...

6th Annual Texas Butterfly Festival

Mike Quinn

Invertebrate Biologist, Wildlife Diversity Branch, Texas Parks & Wildlife

The 6th Annual Texas Butterfly Festival held in Mission, TX from October 18-21, 2001 was once again a huge success! And why not, the Rio Grande Valley is a region of legendary lepidopteran diversity. More species of butterflies have been recorded from southmost Texas than nearly all of Eastern North America combined.



The author, left, discusses field trip logistics with Shawn Patterson of the Mission Chamber of Commerce and Ray Beiber of the Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge. Photo by Phil Schappert.

With such diversity, field trips are one of the most popular parts of this annual gathering. The first trip I helped with was to the Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge. The ultimate destination of this excursion was the Jaguarundi Trail, a north-south trail that cuts through the heart of the refuge and bisects one of the highest areas of plant diversity remaining in south Texas. In addition to the host of potential host plants, the trailside flora is further conducive to butterflying as it is composed of low wood plants widely spaced and interspersed with flowering annuals

that respond favorably to the sometimes-infrequent late summer rains. I was once a park ranger at Santa Ana, and yet I have never seen the Jaguarundi Trail so primed, as it was that October day. In places, the dominant blooming plant Golden-eyed Daisy (*Viguiera stenoloba*), an excellent nectar source, seemed to stretch for 50 yards.

Ro Wauer, formerly of Big Bend National Park, co-led the trip with me. We managed a group list totaling 66 species, though my personal list was closer to 50. One of the more memorable butterflies was the Silver-banded Hairstreak (*Chlorostymon simaethis*). While it was not more than 10 feet off the trail, it took a bit of effort to get everyone's binoculars on this small camouflaged butterfly. All participants eventually got good looks at this silvery sedentary critter and as this was the first day of the festival, it was a "lifer" for many folks. Hiking back to the visitors' center, some people saw a Mexican Bluewing (*Myscelia ethusa*) along the forested Terrace Trail.

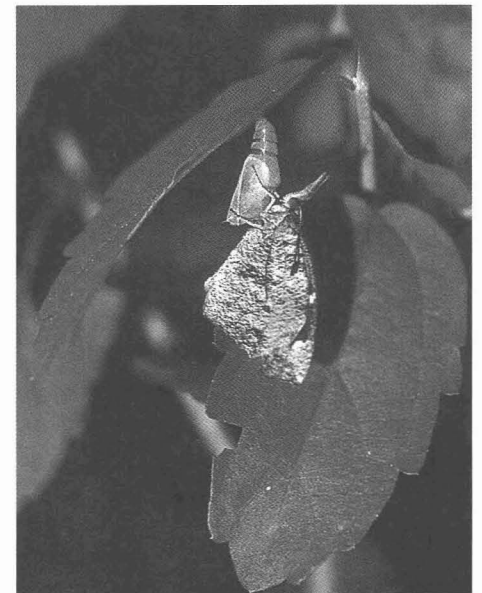
On Saturday, Mike Overton and I led a field trip to the Valley Nature Center in Weslaco. The VNC manages a five-acre park in an urban setting. Each year they increase the number and diversity of their butterfly attracting plants. A dominant flower here was Crucita (*Eupatorium odoratum*), generally acknowledged to be the premier Fall-blooming butterfly attracting plant in south Texas.

After seeing many butterflies including a somewhat worn Brown-banded Skipper (*Timochares rufifasciatus*), the group started to spread out. Lagging behind, I happened upon an immaculately fresh Guava Skipper (*Phocides palemon*). Through an error

on my part, I nearly lost my bride when I yelled, "GUAVA SKIPPER!" You see, Gloria is new to the world of butterflying and as such was unaware of the immediate action such words were likely to evoke. She later said that she was nearly stampeded without so much as a warning of "women and children first."

Incidentally, all entomologists should know the origin of the word, "honeymoon." For thousands of years, northern Europeans drank mead (a highly alcoholic beverage made from honey, water and yeast) for one month-long cycle of the moon after matrimony. Some suggest that this practice was done solely to affect the acidity of the womb thus increasing fertility, but I digress...

Saturday evening, Mission Chamber of Commerce put on an excellent *pachanga* or ranch barbeque near the future site of the NABA Butterfly Park. As the sun



A freshly-ecloded, if ubiquitous, south Texas American Snout, *Libytheana bachmanii* (Nymphalidae), photographed at Santa Ana during the Festival. Photo by Phil Schappert.

set in anticipation of the night's presentation, Jim Brock noticed a strangely active butterfly flying in rapid tight circles high up in a Hackberry tree. Binos were raised and it was determined to be a Red-bordered Pixie (*Melanis pike*). Clay Taylor mustered up a spotting scope and a line quickly formed behind it.

John Himmelman's talk that night was on "Butterflies and Moths through the Seasons." As this was essentially a New Englander's exploration of 12 months of northern natural history, I thought it would be a rather hard sell in southmost Texas but I couldn't have been more wrong. John quickly won me over (and no doubt, everyone else in the audience). In the end, I thought John's was one of the best natural history presentations I'd ever experienced. The intensity of his enthusiasm (or dare I say his love) of the New England flora and fauna was as palpable as was his knowledge of the same.

On Sunday, Jim Brock and I led a trip to the Sabal Palm Sanctuary south of

Brownsville. The butterfly gardening bug has bitten here too. Sabal Palm now has 13 raised beds full of butterfly attracting plants just behind their visitors' center. Nearly everyone's target species here was the Blue Metalmark (*Lasia sula*).

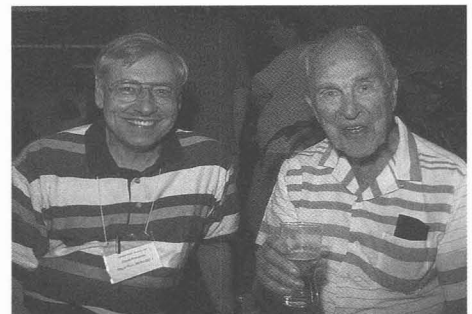
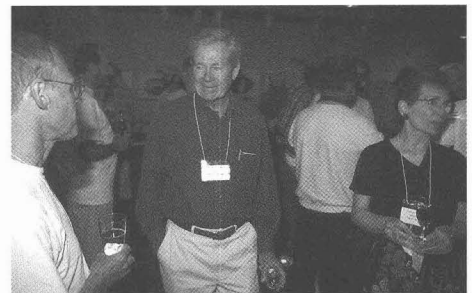
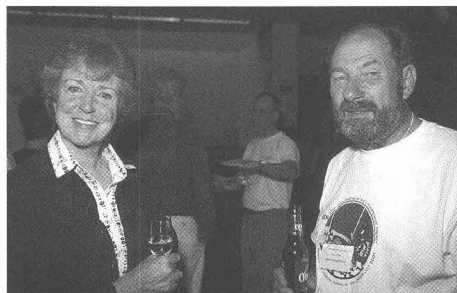
We struck out on the Blue Metalmark in the morning, but Jim found a small population of Fawn-spotted Skippers (*Cybaenes odilia*) and one Olive-clouded Skipper (*Lerodea dysaules/arabus*) all in the same flowerbed. At mid-day we went on a hike down the Resaca Trail to find the elusive Double-dotted Skipper (*Decinea percossius*), which proved to be...elusive. Returning to the gardens, there seemed to have been a changing of the guard as the Fawn-spotted Skipper population was missing, but male Blue Metalmarks abounded. A rare Frosted Flasher (*Astrartes alardus*) was reported from the Sabal Palm gardens just prior to the festival.

Back at the VNC on Sunday, a Ruddy Daggerwing (*Marpesia petreus*) was

seen. Paul Opler seemed to take particular pleasure in telling me that his field trip found it down a forested trail were, during a scouting expedition I had suggested "there weren't any butterflies in that part of the park!" This individual, missing both tails, was still on the wing four days later. Six new species were added to the VNC's butterfly checklist during October 2001.

Other speakers instrumental in the success of this year's festival included Ann Swengel, Phil Schappert, Priscilla and Hank Brodtkin, Carrie Cate, and Larry Ditto. Approximately 2,000 people attended the 2001 Texas Butterfly Festival. Participants came from 13 states and three countries. For information on attending next year's festival see the festival website at www.texasbutterfly.com, visit the Greater Mission Chamber of Commerce site at www.missionchamber.com, or contact Shawn Patterson, spatterson@missionchamber.com, or 800-580-2700.

Readers may also contact the author at mike.quinn@tpwd.state.tx.us



More Lep Soc 2001 Meeting Photos...

Top row, left to right: Floyd Preston, Dan Rubinoff, Andy and Sally Warren; Jane Ruffin and Paul Opler; Jean-François Landry, Jerry Powell and Elaine Hodges (you might see Paul Opler and even yours truly in the background). Bottom row, left to right: A pair of John's (Brown and Burns, respectively); Ernest Williams and Lincoln Brower; Dave Ahrenholz and Stan Nicolay. Photos by Ranger Steve Mueller.

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).

Change of Address?

Please send permanent changes of address, telephone numbers, areas of interest, or e-mail addresses to:

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

Our Mailing List?

Contact Dr. Donahue for information on mailing list rental.

Missed or Defective Issue?

Requests for missed issues should be directed to: Ron Leuschner (1900 John Street, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266-2608, (310) 545-9415, 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
(see address opposite)
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:

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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 44 must reach the Editor by the following dates:

Issue	Date Due
1 Spring	Jan. 25, 2002
2 Summer	Apr. 26, 2002
3 Autumn	July 26, 2002
4 Winter	Oct. 25, 2002

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.

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