



Photo by Tanya Jordan

# On The Wing

Newsletter of the Tennessee Valley Chapter,  
North American Butterfly Association

July 2008

Volume 1, Number 3

## JULY CHAPTER MEETING

**NOTE: SAME TIME,  
DIFFERENT DATE,  
DIFFERENT LOCATION!**

**TUESDAY, JULY 29, 7:00PM, LISA LEMZA'S HOME AND GARDEN, NORTH OF SODDY-DAISY, TN**

Our July meeting will be a real treat. Lisa Lemza, Tennessee Valley NABA chapter member and accomplished Master Gardener, has invited us to her place for the July meeting. We usually meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, but in July, it will be on July 29th, the *fifth* Tuesday. Everyone is encouraged to bring either a dessert or finger food (sandwiches, etc.) to share with the group. Lisa has worked hard to landscape her yard to be attractive to butterflies and hummingbirds and she has done a great job, so come out and tour her garden. Her e-mail address is [Lemzala@aol.com](mailto:Lemzala@aol.com), or you may call **332-1780** if you wish to contact her. (She advises cell phone coverage in her area is sometimes spotty.)

### DIRECTIONS:

- Take Hwy. 27N towards Dayton;
- After crossing Soddy Lake, the highway will split, stay right on Hwy. 27N heading towards Dayton;
- After the split, take the 2nd right onto E. Highwater Road;
- When road T's, take a right onto Old Dayton Pike;
- Take first left onto Lee Pike;
- Go about 1.5 miles and turn left onto Arapaho Drive. There's a large red/white sign that says O'Possum Creek Pines;
- Go up the hill and as the road Y's, Lisa's house is at the top of the hill on the right just past the Y. It's OK to block the little crossroad at the Y. (We'll try to have someone around to help with parking suggestions).

From Rhea/Bradley County:

- Get on Hwy. 27S, from the Hwy. 60 bridge if coming from the east;
- Stay on Hwy. 27S through the Bakewell redlight (McCallie Ferry Rd. on east, Retro-Hughes Rd. to the west);
- After the light and at the top of a long hill, take the 2nd left onto East Highwater Road;
- Follow directions above from the turn onto E. Highwater Rd.

## FOURTH OF JULY BUTTERFLY COUNTS CONTINUE IN JULY

NABA members and other folks conducted the first three butterfly counts of the year in June: Tennessee River Gorge, TN, Soddy-Daisy, TN and Lookout Mountain, GA.

July also presents some great field opportunities for butterfly lovers. Everyone is invited to participate in these counts. You do not have to be an expert, and it is a good way to learn species found in our area, as well as good butterfly spots. While these are all day counts, you can come and help for only a couple of hours if you wish.

### NABA butterfly counts scheduled in July:

Bill Haley is the compiler for these two counts. If you plan to participate, please contact him **at least 2-3 days before each count** to learn where and when to meet. His e-mail is [wgh@tnaqua.org](mailto:wgh@tnaqua.org), work phone is **785-4056**, or **1 800 262-0695, ext. 4056**, or his home phone is **(423) 756-4106**.

### **Sat., July 12: Catoosa-Whitfield Co., Georgia**

**Meet: 10:00am at convenience store at intersection of East Brainerd Road and Ooltewah-Ringgold Road. Call for directions.**

### **Sat., July 26: Stevenson, Alabama**

**Meet: 9:00am at the Food Lion on Browns Ferry Rd. (first exit off I-24W after Moccasin Bend turn right off exit) to caravan to Stevenson, or 10:00am (Eastern) at Stevenson City Park in Stevenson, AL. Call for directions.**

### TENNESSEE VALLEY CHAPTER OFFICERS ELECTED!

*At our June meeting, the first slate of officers were elected for the new Tennessee Valley NABA chapter:*

President: Bill Haley - [wgh@tnaqua.org](mailto:wgh@tnaqua.org), (423) 785-4056

Vice President: Glenda Hood

Secretary: Julia Gregory - [jmg@tnaqua.org](mailto:jmg@tnaqua.org)

Treasurer: Jennifer Taylor [jet@tnaqua.org](mailto:jet@tnaqua.org)

**CAN YOU IDENTIFY THE BUTTERFLY AT THE TOP OF THIS PAGE?** Get out those butterfly field guides and see if you can identify this species! (*You may be surprised!*) Photo courtesy of Tanya Jordan.

**Tennessee River Gorge, TN count report:**

The first butterfly count of the summer was held Saturday, June 7. A total of 20 people participated in this count, including Tennessee Valley NABA chapter members Bill Haley, Jennifer Taylor, David Spicer, Libby Wolfe, Mary Randles and Jeff Basham. It was a sunny, hot day with temperatures ranging from 74-96 degrees and we saw lots of butterflies! In fact, a new count record of 60 species was recorded.

Some really good butterflies were found: Zebra and Giant Swallowtail, (*we found all six possible swallowtail species in this area on the count, a feat rarely accomplished*), Harvester, American Copper, Great Purple Hairstreak, Hickory Hairstreak, Striped Hairstreak, Eastern Pine Elfin, Creole Pearly-Eye, Gemmed Satyr, Common Sootywing, Swarthy Skipper, Southern and Northern Broken-Dash, and Delaware Skipper.

Despite our great species total, our biggest miss of the day was Diana Fritillary! Obviously they hadn't emerged yet this year. Last year they were very common on June 7. This just goes to illustrate how weather can affect the emergence time of a species from year to year. Continental all-time high record in 2007, zero in 2008. Wow! Hopefully they will show up on other counts this summer. It seems we were also too early for Common Wood Nymph. Other species often found did not show up on count day, such as Checkered White, Coral and Red-banded Hairstreak, Monarch, Silvery Checkerspot, Viceroy, Common Checkered Skipper and Least Skipper.

**Species and number of individuals:**

Pipevine Swallowtail 15, Zebra Sw. 2, E. Tiger Sw. 42, Black Sw. 6, Spicebush Sw. 148, Giant Sw. 4, Cabbage White 3, Clouded Sulphur 14, Orange Su. 59, Cloudless Su. 14, Sleepy Orange 12, Harvester 2, Am. Copper 1, Great Purple Hairstreak 1, Banded Hairstreak 54, Hickory Hairstreak 5, Striped Hairstreak 6, Gray Hairstreak 5, E. Pine Elfin 1, E. Tailed-Blue 435, 'Summer' Spring Azure 51, American Snout 5, Gulf Fritillary 4, Variegated Fr. 43, Great Spangled Fr. 81, Pearl Crescent 21, Question Mark 10, E. Comma 3, Mourning Cloak 2, American Lady 3, Painted Lady 1, Red Admiral 2, Common Buckeye 71, Red-spotted Purple 4, Hackberry Emperor 24, Tawny Emperor 6, N. Pearly-Eye 1, Creole Pearly-Eye 4, Gemmed Satyr 4, Carolina Satyr 4, Little Wood Satyr 32, Silver-spotted Skipper 78, Hoary Edge 21, S. Cloudywing 1, N. Cloudywing 9, Horace's Duskywing 3, Wild Indigo Duskywing 1, Common Sootywing 1, Swarthy Sk. 1, Clouded Sk. 4, Fiery Sk. 1, Tawny-edged Sk. 16, Crossline Sk. 15, S. Broken-Dash 2, N. Broken-Dash 1, Little Glassywing 1, Sachem 8, Delaware Sk. 4, Zabulon Sk. 4, Dun Sk. 5.

**Total 60 species, 1388 individuals.**

**Immatures:** 37 Pipevine Swallowtail caterpillars on Dutchman's Pipevine, 2 Spicebush Swallowtail eggs and 1 caterpillar on spicebush.

**NEW CHAPTER BROCHURE AVAILABLE!**

Bill Haley has put together an informational brochure to hand out. It contains info about NABA and our new chapter, as well as butterfly count dates and butterfly gardening tips. Brochures will be available at monthly meetings.

**Soddy-Daisy, TN count report:**

The day started off with rain showers and clouds and ended a bit early with a thunderstorm at 4:30, but in between those times the first day of summer, Saturday, June 21, proved to be a very good butterfly counting day. Five Tennessee Valley NABA members, Harold Birch, Susan Schott, Lisa Lemza, David Spicer and Bill Haley were joined by TOS (TN Ornithology Society) member Ryan Shafer to conduct the 12th annual Soddy-Daisy butterfly count.

We started the day on a high note, visiting Lisa Lemza's place, in O'Possum Creek Pines, north of Soddy-Daisy. (You'll want to attend our July meeting at her house, *see page one.*) Despite very cloudy skies while there, we managed to document our first four butterfly species of the day while touring her beautiful gardens. After leaving Lisa's home, the sun began to peek out of the clouds and things were looking up as we toured a big swath of pink clover along Hwy. 27 in Bakewell. We were greeted by many butterflies and plenty of duskywings and other skipper species to puzzle over. Many were netted and examined at our leisure before being released unharmed. These small brown butterflies often look confusingly similar and there was lots of turning of field guide pages and scratching of heads...but we added one species after another.

A brief stop at the convenience store in Bakewell produced 4 Least Skippers, the smallest butterfly in this area, in the grasses along a small stream that flows under the road nearby. They are so small, these tiny gems can be easily missed as they flit among streamside grasses. This has been a dependable site for them.

From there, it was off to Bakewell Mountain, where we spent the remainder of the day. David Spicer, who had surveyed the east side of the count circle on the Harrison Bay side of the river that morning was able to join up with our party for the rest of the day. His best find in that area of the count circle was a Dion Skipper, a rare find. On the mountain, we were very pleased to find 11 Diana Fritillary, which had emerged in the two weeks since the River Gorge count. They neared alongside numerous Great Spangled Fritillary and Spicebush Swallowtails on orange butterfly weed. Bill was lucky to spot one Coral Hairstreak on a butterfly weed as we drove past. Of note, we also found 3 Gorgone Checkerspots in a clearcut area. They are always a great find and according to range maps in the field guides, not a species that is supposed to be in SE Tennessee. Mainly a midwestern species, they have disjunct populations in the southeast.

**Species and number of individuals:**

Pipevine Swallowtail 6, Black Sw. 2, E. Tiger Sw. 20, Spicebush Sw. 42, Cabbage White 10, Clouded Sulphur 3, Orange Su. 9, Cloudless Su. 3, Sleepy Orange 2, Coral Hairstreak 1, Banded Ha. 4, E. Tailed Blue 52, 'Summer' Spring Azure 4, Variegated Fritillary 16, Diana Fr. 11, Great Spangled Fr. 110, Gorgone Checkerspot 3, Pearl Crescent 34, Question Mark 2, American Lady 11, Red Admiral 1, Common Buckeye 35, Red-spotted Purple 5, Carolina Satyr 1, Little Wood Sa. 2, Common Wood Nymph 1, Monarch 1, Silver-spotted Skipper 1, Hoary Edge 3, Southern Cloudywing 3, Horace's Duskywing 2, Wild Indigo Duskywing 11, Swarthy Sk. 1, Least Sk. 4, Fiery Sk. 5, Tawny-edged Sk. 3, Crossline Sk. 6, Southern Broken-Dash 1, Sachem 6, Dion Sk. 1.

**Total: 40 species, 439 individuals.**

## Around The Puddle

by Bill Haley

### Why I Love to Have Newcomers on Butterfly Counts

OK, you've been reading all about these darn butterfly counts and by now you probably have a few questions. Listed below are common ones I get asked time and again:

- 1). Are butterfly counts only for "experts"?
- 2). Do I need to have logged hundreds of hours in the field finding butterflies and sweating out difficult identification puzzles to be worthy of participation?
- 3). Will I be in the way if I come along?
- 4). What if I can't identify most (or any) of the butterflies I will see?

Here are my answers: 1). NO; 2). NO; 3). NO; 4). SO WHAT?

Let me explain my answer to question 4. Count day is not a good time for you to set out by yourself if you can't tell a swallowtail from a skipper. However, it is an excellent time to go out with someone who knows their butterflies. Here's how I look at it. You have eyes, and generally speaking, the more eyes the better. Even though you might not be able to identify it, you may see something I don't and call my attention to it. Your butterfly might be the only one of its type found that day. If you didn't see it, it would probably go unrecorded. Chances are really good that after a day in the field with someone knowledgeable about butterflies, you will be able to identify at least a few.

I propose that there is a scientific principal, which I'll call the "Newcomer Effect". If someone new comes along on a count or field trip, you are almost assured of finding something REALLY good. I've experienced this many times.

Case in point: Joe Pope and his wife Martha came along June 7 on my members program to the Pot Point property to count butterflies. Now Joe is an experienced SCUBA diver at the Aquarium and all-around good guy, but kind of new with butterflies. What happens? We are walking along and a little butterfly flaps up and lands on Joe's finger. It sits there while everyone gets a great up-close look. I'm thrilled because it is a Harvester, the only butterfly in North America with carnivorous caterpillars. Harvester caterpillars eat woolly aphids that live on riverside alder trees. Harvesters are quite uncommon and rarely found on counts. Thanks Joe! *Newcomers Effect is real!*

### Lookout Mountain, GA count report:

The weathermen had predicted rain most of the day on Saturday, June 28, but thank goodness they were wrong. A beautiful blue sky in the morning promised lots of butterflies for the Lookout Mountain, Georgia butterfly count. This count has traditionally yielded many fine butterflies and good numbers of individuals too.

Mary Randles, David Spicer, Scott Spicer, Harold Birch and Bill Haley formed one counting party that stayed out from 10:30 to 6:30, finding 53 species. A highlight for their group was six species of hairstreak; Coral, Banded, Striped, 'Olive' Juniper, Gray and Red-banded, a record for this count circle and a feat rarely equalled.

After the fact, Bill learned Jeff Basham, Stephen Johnson and Tanya Jordan had also counted within the count circle that day, registering 47 species and adding five additional species to the day's overall total-Giant Swallowtail, Little Yellow, Harvester, Zarucco Duskywing and Yehl Skipper. Unfortunately, there is the very real possibility they may have counted in the some of the same areas, so only species not found by the first party and any numbers over what they recorded are included on this count summary.

If you wish to count as a separate party on any count, it is **imperative** you let the count compiler know before the count that you will be surveying within the count circle so they can give you specific areas to search and make sure areas do not overlap with someone else's count areas.

Final numbers will change a bit, as a garden watcher hasn't reported her numbers at press time.

In addition to noteworthy species mentioned above, other good finds included: Diana Fritillary, Painted Lady, Southern Pearly-Eye, Appalachian Brown (possibly the "butterfly of the day"), Southern Broken Dash, Northern Broken-Dash, Ocola Skipper and Eufala Skipper.

### Species and number of individuals:

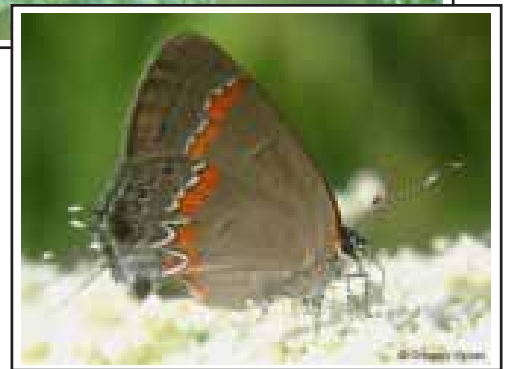
Pipevine Swallowtail 3, Black Sw. 2, Spicebush Sw. 18, E. Tiger Sw. 7, Giant Sw. 2, Checkered White 2, Cabbage Wh. 21, Clouded Sulphur 8, Orange Su. 68, Cloudless Su. 5, Little Yellow 5, Sleepy Orange 12, Harvester 3, Coral Hairstreak 1, Banded Ha. 4, Striped Ha. 4, 'Olive' Juniper Ha. 3, Gray Ha. 8, Red-banded Ha. 82, E. Tailed Blue 220, 'Summer' Spring Azure 32, Am. Snout 4, Gulf Fritillary 2, Variegated Fr. 182, Diana Fr. 5, Great Spangled Fr. 7, Pearl Crescent 191, Question Mark 4, American Lady 6, Painted Lady 2, Common Buckeye 466, Red-spotted Purple 4, Viceroy 4, Hackberry Emperor 11, Tawny Emperor 1, S. Pearly-Eye 1, Appalachian Brown 3, Carolina Satyr 13, Little Wood Sa. 5, Common Wood Nymph 12, Monarch 1, Silver-spotted Skipper 94, S. Cloudywing 3, Horace's Duskywing 1, Zarucco Du. 1, Wild Indigo Du. 2, Com. Checkered Sk. 2, Clouded Sk. 2, Clouded Sk. 2, Least Sk. 14, Fiery Sk. 8, Crossline Sk. 2, S. BrokenDash 2, N. Broken-Dash 1, Little Glassywing 2, Sachem 46, Yehl Sk. 1, Eufala Sk. 2, Ocola Sk. 1.

**Total: 58 species, 1618 individuals.**

**Immatures:** 2 Silver-spotted Skipper caterpillars on black locust leaves.



Featured on this page are a few of the species found on our first three counts of the year.



**NICE FINDS!** (all left to right). *All photos courtesy of David and Scott Spicer.*

Top row: Hickory Hairstreak, Striped Hairstreak.

2nd row: Coral Hairstreak, 'Olive' Juniper Hairstreak, Red-banded Hairstreak.

3rd row: Southern Pearly-Eye, Common Wood Nymph, Appalachian Brown.

4th row: Diana Fritillary, Gorgone Checkerspot (ventral side), Gorgone Checkerspot (dorsal side).