



Photo by David Spicer

# On The Wing

Newsletter of the Tennessee Valley Chapter,  
North American Butterfly Association

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**CAN YOU IDENTIFY THE CHRYSALIS PICTURED AT THE TOP OF THIS PAGE?** Not many are found on June butterfly counts in this area. Uncommon in the spring and early summer, this species is much more commonly seen in late summer or early fall. Thanks to David Spicer for this shot, which was taken in either September or October.

**Hint:** *The larvae feeds on the official Tennessee State Wildflower.*



## LATE SEASON BUTTERFLY SIGHTINGS:

**Nov. 1:** Bill Haley noted a southward bound Monarch fly past Greenlife Grocery in North Chattanooga.  
**Nov. 2:** Seen in 1 1/2 hours on Soddy Mountain hawk lookout: 5 Common Buckeye, 1 Orange Sulphur, 1 Cloudless Sulphur, 1 American Lady, 1 Variegated Fritillary, 2 Gulf Fritillary. It was a sunny day with calm wind and a high in the mid-70's.

**Nov. 6:** An American Lady and two Cloudless Sulphurs nectared at red sage, aster and chrysanthemum blooms in Bill Haley's front yard.

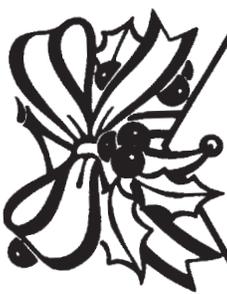
**Nov. 20:** Bill Haley saw an Orange Sulphur flying near Soddy-Daisy Healthcare on Sequoyah Road in Soddy-Daisy. Weather was sunny, but cool, with an air temperature of only 58 F. Even in mid-winter, keep your eyes open for this species on bright sunny days.



## TOO COLD TO GET OUT?

**HOW ABOUT VIRTUAL BUTTERFLY STUDIES?**  
Check out these websites on a cold winter day.

- Monarch Larval Monitoring Program  
[www.mlmp.org/](http://www.mlmp.org/)
- Journey North  
<http://www.learner.org/cgi-bin/jnorth>
- Discover Life in America, ATBI volunteer info  
[www.dlia.org](http://www.dlia.org)
- Monarch Watch  
[www.MonarchWatch.org/](http://www.MonarchWatch.org/)
- North American Butterfly Association  
[www.naba.org](http://www.naba.org)



**NO CHAPTER MEETING IN DECEMBER.  
HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**

### Send in Those Wintertime Butterfly Sightings!

Who says you can't find butterflies in the wintertime? Southeast Tennessee has several species that overwinter as adults. They can sometimes be seen flying around on warm, sunny winter days. Please let your editor know if you spot any of them, so your sightings can be reported in this newsletter. E-mail your winter sightings to Bill Haley at [WGH@tnaqua.org](mailto:WGH@tnaqua.org).

In winter months, butterflies go through an insect resting period, called *diapause*, that is somewhat similar to hibernation in mammals. Technically speaking, diapause is induced by hormones and is marked by a period of inactivity, marked by reduced metabolism, no feeding, reproduction, growth or development. Butterflies can diapause in any life stage, (egg, larvae, pupae, adult), but each individual species has a certain stage in which they spend the winter months.

The Mourning Cloak is a well-known butterfly that overwinters as an adult. They fatten up in the fall before finding a dark crevice in which to spend the winter. Studies have shown that external moisture greatly reduces a butterfly's cold tolerance, so they must find a dry spot. While conducting a Christmas Bird Count on Dec. 29 a few years back, I observed one flying through the woods on a mountainside. It was sunny, but the air temperature was below 50 F!

## Around The Puddle

by Bill Haley

### I'm Thankful For...

Around Thanksgiving, I've been reflecting on things I'm thankful for. The Good Lord has seen fit to bless me with another year on this earth and I believe as one piles on the years, you tend to get a bit more introspective about such things.

I'm thankful for my father and mother, who fostered (*and tolerated*) my enthusiasm for insects as I was growing up. My mother sewed my first homemade butterfly net from some old sheer curtains. I learned that her spot remover, which contained carbon tetrachloride, a deadly poisonous substance, worked well in an insect kill jar. (*I remember she didn't much like me using up all the cleaning fluid. Those were different times and I don't think she was at all concerned with my inhaling the stuff.*) Then came the storage issue with a small mountain of wooden cigar boxes containing the first specimens I caught with that net.

She also put up with bugs in her freezer. In the 5th grade, I collected and sold fireflies, or lightning bugs as we called them, to the father of a friend. He, in turn, saved up several thousand and sold them to scientists doing experiments on "cold light". This meant each night, I stuck a metal coffee can of live lightning bugs, my evening's catch, in our refrigerator freezer. When they had succumbed to the cold, they were counted and went into another storage container. (*I might add that insects in the freezer is a trend that continues to this day....except now they are in MY freezer.*)

My dad liked to go on "hikes" on the nearby railroad and on country lanes around the house. Each Sunday afternoon we'd pester him until he'd take us hiking. I'd lobby to go to certain areas. Of course, my butterfly net and kill jar usually accompanied me on these outings. A butterfly that continually eluded me was the Black Swallowtail. I occasionally saw one, but they were just too fast and wary to net. I never did catch one, but I learned they could be found nectaring on butterfly weed near that big open field along the railroad.

I would occasionally talk him into a hike up Daisy Mountain, where I found Great-spangled Fritillaries. Dad's hikes taught me about different habitats which contained different species. I never realized at the time how useful those walks would become when searching for butterflies later in life.

I'm thankful for mom and dad.

Upcoming Tennessee Aquarium members' trip!

## MONTEREY, CALIFORNIA Whales, Big Sur and Monarchs January 19-24, 2009

The Monterey Peninsula is home to gorgeous scenic drives, fabulous marine life, Sea Otters, wintering Monarch butterflies, redwoods and world-renowned coastal wines.

Join Tennessee Aquarium horticulturist Christine Bock to visit the world-class Monterey Bay Aquarium, including a guided behind the scenes tour and lunch at the Portola Cafe overlooking the bay, with the afternoon free to explore Steinbeck's historic Cannery Row.

The nearby Victorian town of Pacific Grove is known as "Butterfly Town, U.S.A." and is one of the few locations west of the Rockies where Monarch butterflies spend the winter. We will witness the overwintering phenomenon of thousands of colorful migrating Monarch butterflies clustering in thick bunches in the pines and eucalyptus trees. We will lunch and shop in charming Carmel, on our way to a winery tour, explore tidal pools at Pt. Lobos park and watch the sun set over the Pacific Ocean.

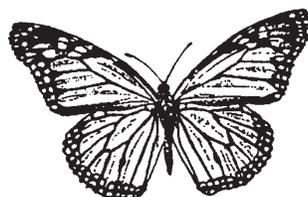
Participants will also search for migrating Gray Whales and other marine life and seabirds on a whale watch in Monterey Bay. Afterwards, you will have time to eat lunch and shop in the Fisherman's Wharf area with the afternoon free to shop, bike, hike or kayak.

We will end our week by driving the famous Highway One along the rugged coastline to Big Sur, with a farewell lunch at famous Nepenthe's Restaurant, with its stunning views of the Pacific Ocean.

*Includes transportation by small van, five night's accommodations, behind the scenes tour and admission to Monterey Bay Aquarium, Whale Watch, Monarch Museum and Sanctuary, winery tour, Big Sur, 5 breakfasts, 2 lunches and 1 dinner, escorted by the Tennessee Aquarium.*

**Trip Price: Around \$800!**  
**(Airfare not included)**

**Contact Betty Miles:**  
**(423) 785-3008, e-mail: [ebm@tnaquaa.org](mailto:ebm@tnaquaa.org)**



Some of the Best Butterflies of 2008!



Baltimore Checkerspot



Leonard's Skipper



Broad-winged Skipper



Juniper Hairstreak



Harvester



Yehl Skipper



Southern Dogface

# Give a Gift of Butterflies This Year!

Looking For a Unique Christmas Gift That Will Be Appreciated All Year Long?

*Have you considered giving a NABA membership?*



## NABA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership type** (circle one):

**National, individual (\$30)**

(Please credit Tennessee Valley NABA chapter)

**National, family (\$40)**

(Please credit Tennessee Valley NABA chapter)

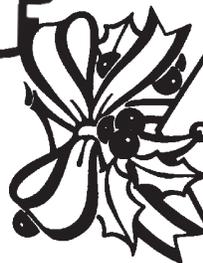
**Institution / Library subscription to all annual NABA publications (\$50)**

(Credit Tennessee Valley NABA chapter)

### BUTTERFLY INTERESTS

(Circle all that apply):

- Listing
- Butterfly Counts
- Observation
- Photography
- Conservation
- Gardening



Make check to **NABA**. Mail completed form & check to:  
Jennifer Taylor, Tennessee Aquarium, P.O. Box 11048, Chattanooga, TN 37401-2048.

*A membership in the Tennessee Valley Chapter of the North American Butterfly Association will make a great holiday gift!*