



Photo by Susan Schott

# On The Wing

Newsletter of the Tennessee Valley Chapter,  
North American Butterfly Association

June 2009

Volume 2, Number 2

Editor: Bill Haley, wgh@tnaqua.org

## JUNE MEETING TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 7:00PM TENNESSEE RIVER GARDENS ON HWY. 41

The Tennessee River Gardens, on Hwy. 41 near the Raccoon Mountain Pumped Storage Facility, will be the site of our June meeting. Tennessee River Gardens features extensive gardens planted along the river with many nectar and host plants for butterflies. There is also a butterfly rearing enclosure on-site, which we'll be able to tour, where native butterflies are raised. Bob Caldwell, owner, and Mark Lawrence, caretaker, will be our hosts. Join us to explore this beautiful area along the Tennessee River.

### DIRECTIONS FROM CHATTANOOGA:

- Take I-24 West to exit #174 (Lookout Valley/Hwy. 41), off exit ramp turn right onto Hwy. 41;
- Their driveway is exactly 2.7 miles from the exit;
- You will pass the TVA Pumped Storage Rd. on right;
- About 400 yards past TVA the mailbox and driveway (not well-marked) are on the right.;
- If gate is closed, code is 2525, turn down driveway and go down the hill;
- Meet at the first building you come to on the right.  
***IF YOU PASS A SMALL CHURCH ON THE RIGHT, YOU HAVE GONE TOO FAR!***

### DIRECTIONS FROM I-59 AND WEST:

- Take I-24 East to exit #174 (Lookout Valley/Hwy. 41), off exit ramp turn left onto Hwy. 41;
- Their driveway is exactly 2.7 miles from the exit;
- You will pass the TVA Pumped Storage Rd. on right;
- About 400 yards past TVA the mailbox and driveway (not well-marked) are on the right.;
- If gate is closed, code is 2525, turn down driveway and do down the hill;
- Meet at the first building you come to on the right.  
***IF YOU PASS A SMALL CHURCH ON THE RIGHT, YOU HAVE GONE TOO FAR!***

**PARKING:** Park around circle just past the house.

## JUNE FIELD TRIP

### FRIDAY, JUNE 5: PRENTICE COOPER STATE FOREST

MEET: 10:00AM IN THE PARKING LOT OF THE SIGNAL MOUNTAIN BI-LO. LEADER: BILL HALEY FOR INFO OR DIRECTIONS CALL (423) 785-4056 (W) OR (423) 756-4106 (H), 326-9248 (cell).

Note: This is a Friday field trip! Prentice Cooper is within the Tennessee River Gorge count circle. We'll walk a couple of different roads in search of hair-streaks, Diana Fritillary (may be a bit early for them), Common Wood Nymph, Pearly-eyes and others. Bring binoculars. Wear comfortable walking shoes or boots, (no sandals or flip-flops), hat and sunscreen. Dress for the weather. Cancelled if raining.

### NABA BUTTERFLY COUNTS IN JUNE

***\$3 NABA FEE FOR ALL COUNTERS***

### SATURDAY, JUNE 13: 15TH ANNUAL TENNESSEE RIVER GORGE, TN COUNT

COMPILER: BILL HALEY (CONTACT INFO ABOVE). Bill will be leading a Tennessee Aquarium members' program in the Tennessee River Gorge from 10:00-12:30 as part of this count. (Information on registering for that program on pg. 4). This is an all-day count, so he will be visiting other spots within the count circle after this program. Bring binoculars if you have them.

**COUNTERS NEEDED:** Other teams are needed to survey areas within the 15 mile diameter circle, so please contact him BEFORE COUNT DAY if you are willing to survey an area. This way he'll know where everyone is working and efforts won't be duplicated.

**YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE AN EXPERT!** If you are a new butterflyer or are unsure of your identification abilities, you are welcome to tag along with a more experienced butterflyer. Contact Bill BEFORE the count so you can be paired up.

### SATURDAY, JUNE 20:

13TH ANNUAL SODDY-DAISY, TN COUNT: See pg. 4 for more details.

### SATURDAY, JUNE 27:

10TH ANNUAL LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN, GA  
See pg. 4 for more details.

## Around The Puddle

by Bill Haley

What I Did On My Vacation  
(In search of butterflies...and other  
magnificent creatures)

Looking back on my vacation, I can't believe I was lucky enough to pick our best weather week in recent memory! In a week full of bright, sunny days I enjoyed a wonderful week of explorations!

Monday was spent mowing the lawn, gardening and clearing brush from the backyard, all chores I'd been planning to get to. With these chores behind me, I was free to "hit the road" without guilt!

Tuesday dawned bright and clear. I knew abundant sunshine would fix the chill of "blackberry winter" quickly. My Checkerspot Hunt was going to be the very first butterfly field trip of 2009 that wasn't done in by bad weather. Mike O'Brien, from Valley Head, Alabama, was first to show up at the meeting place. Shortly thereafter we were joined by Carol Wolf from Woodbury, TN, Libby Wolfe and David Spicer, from Ooltewah, and Jennifer Taylor and Tommie Rogers, both from Chattanooga. It looked like my scheduling a field trip mid-week was a good idea!

I've led hundreds of field trips over the years, and I can truly say this was one of the more memorable! First we went to the "torture hill" site on Bakewell Mountain, in search of Gorgone Checkerspots. We found the first of eight before we got to the bottom of the hill. Other goodies located there included Eastern Pine Elfin and Hobomok Skipper. These were firsts for many.

Next stop was the only known Baltimore Checkerspot population in Hamilton County. One flew up and landed right in front of us! What a looker, with its stained glass window underwing pattern! The pressure was off. We'd found our "target butterflies" and many more species as well.

Everyone was gung-ho and having such a great time that I decided to try for a triple play. I targeted another hard-to-find species, the Golden-banded Skipper. I've known about this population for a number of years and figured we had a pretty fair chance, confidently saying if we found one, we'd find it within the first 100 yards. Turns out I should have said the first 20 yards. We were surprised to find several Giant Swallowtails there as well. It was a fitting end to a wonderful day full of butterflies. At the end of the day we had seen 36 species. (See list on page 3.)

Susan Schott called as I was heading home. She had been out of town attending her son's graduation from law school. Since she had an excellent excuse for missing the trip, I agreed to go out the next day with Susan to search for some of the butterflies we'd seen on the field trip.

Our first stop was only 15 minutes from her home for the Golden-banded Skipper. Jackpot! We found more than the previous day. We were also treated to the spectacle of 4 Giant Swallowtails, 2 Golden-banded Skippers, 2 Little Wood Satyrs and an azure all flitting around privet blooms high overhead. Not a bad start!

Next we headed for the Baltimore site. I suspected we could never top yesterday's experience. I was wrong. The field had been mown the afternoon before, and an unlucky rabbit had been run over by the mower. There was an adult Bald Eagle standing in the field eating the rabbit's remains!!! Walking through the field was much easier since it had been mown, and there were just as many Baltimores present. I suspect not many people reading this article have ever seen an adult Bald Eagle and Baltimore Checkerspots in the same field!

I'd explored a trailhead for the Cumberland Trail a week earlier and discovered more beech trees than any other spot I know. I suggested we take a stroll there in the hope of finding the extremely rare Early Hairstreak. We found no hairstreaks, but as a consolation prize Susan got a shot of a Zebra Swallowtail ovipositing on pawpaw, a BAMONA record for Hamilton Co.

The next day she and I explored Prentice Cooper State Forest. At one point she ran out into the woods to photograph a Red-spotted Purple. I decided against making a wisecrack about watching for Copperheads, as I didn't want to scare her. Less than fifteen minutes later, a magnificent, very well-fed four foot long Timber Rattlesnake crawled onto the sandy road 15 feet away from where we stood. Susan took a few far off photos, and I suggested we approach a little more closely. When we were 7-8 feet away, it rattled, and we figured that was close enough! Needless to say, Susan didn't venture into the woods any more that day.

The next morning Susan and I joined Jeff Basham and Stephen Johnson for some "brush-busting" on Bakewell Mountain to search of Reversed Roadside Skippers at the only known Hamilton County location. Neither of us had ever seen this species, but the memory of yesterday's rattler was still on our minds as we entered some very snakey-looking terrain. I spotted a Reversed within the first 10 minutes and Jeff got some great ventral shots. A few minutes later Jeff spotted a Dusted Skipper. Another "life butterfly" for Susan and I! Both male and female Hobomok Skippers were seen there also.

Wow! It was an extraordinary week. You will see numerous photos in this newsletter to commemorate it.

**SLATE OF OFFICERS, 2009-2010**

The nominating committee of Susan Schott, Jennifer Taylor and Bill Haley have come up with a proposed slate of Tennessee Valley NABA officers, whose one-year terms will begin in June 2009. If any member of our chapter wishes to nominate someone else for any of these positions, you are encouraged to do so by contacting Bill Haley at (423) 785-4056, or e-mail at wgh@tnaqua.org. We will vote for officers at our regular June meeting.

**PROPOSED SLATE OF OFFICERS**

- President: Bill Haley
- Vice President: David Spicer
- Secretary: Lisa Lemza
- Treasurer: Jennifer Taylor

If you cannot be at the meeting, but want to make sure your vote is counted, please e-mail your choices to jmg@tnaqua.org, or you can fill out the ballot below and mail it to our Secretary, Julia Gregory at the following address: Attn.: Julia Gregory, Tennessee Aquarium, P.O. Box 11048, Chattanooga, TN 37401-2048.

**Tennessee Valley NABA Officer Vote Ballot**

\_\_\_\_\_ President: Bill Haley

\_\_\_\_\_ Vice President: David Spicer

\_\_\_\_\_ Secretary: Lisa Lemza

\_\_\_\_\_ Treasurer: Jennifer Taylor

Write-ins? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**BUTTERFLY ATTRACTANT RECIPE**

If you've been watching butterflies for any amount of time, you know they aren't always found on flowers. Many prefer more "exotic" fare, such as animal scat, dead fish, rotten fruit, tree sap, human sweat, mud, etc. Some butterfly watchers capitalize on these seemingly bizarre tastes, inventing concoctions that seem irresistible to butterflies and moths. Moth fanciers call this "sugaring". Following is one recipe variation.

**INGREDIENTS:** 1 pound sugar, 1 or 2 cans stale beer, 3 mashed overripe bananas (the darker the better), 1 cup of molasses or syrup, 1 cup fruit juice.

**WHAT THEN?** *Mix ingredients well, put in a well-sealed jar and then paint the mixture on rocks, logs or tree trunks. Best to avoid any place where humans may come in contact with this sticky, yucky mess. Wait for butterflies or moths to find it and enjoy the sight.*

**May 19 Checkerspot Hunt field trip  
Species List:**

- Zebra Swallowtail - 2
- Spicebush Swallowtail - 2
- E. Tiger Swallowtail - 3
- Giant Swallowtail - 4
- Orange Sulphur - 7
- Cloudless Sulphur - 5
- Sleepy Orange - 3
- white species - 3
- Red-banded Hairstreak - 4
- E. Pine Elfin - 2
- E. Tailed Blue - 2
- azure sp. - 28
- Variigated Fritillary - 14
- Great Spangled Fritillary - 4
- Gorgone Checkerspot - 8
- Silvery Checkerspot - 1
- Baltimore Checkerspot - 7
- Pearl Crescent - 1
- Question Mark - 3
- Eastern Comma - 1
- American Lady - 1
- Common Buckeye- 2
- Red-spotted Purple - 2
- Carolina Satyr - 3
- Little Wood Satyr - 34
- Monarch - 1
- Silver-spotted Skipper - 2
- Golden-banded Skipper - 5
- Northern Cloudywing - 1
- Wild Indigo Duskywing - 2
- Juvenal's Duskywing - 5
- Horace's Duskywing - 3
- Least Skipper - 2
- Sachem - 21
- Hobomok Skipper - 2
- Zabulon Skipper - 1

Total: 36 species\*

*\* A butterfly identified as Sleepy Duskywing during the trip was found to be a Wild Indigo Duskywing when photos were studied.*

**SATURDAY, JUNE 20:**

**13TH ANNUAL SODDY-DAISY, TN BUTTERFLY COUNT (ALL DAY COUNT)**  
MEET: 9:30AM EASTERN. COMPILER: BILL HALEY. FOR INFO CALL (423) 785-4056 (W), (423) 765-4106 (H), 326-9248 (CELL), E-MAIL wgh@tnaqua.org

We'll meet at 9:30am in the OLD Soddy-Daisy WalMart parking lot, directly behind Subway.

**DIRECTIONS FROM CHATTANOOGA:**

- Take Hwy. 27N to the Sequoyah Road Exit;
- Off the exit, turn right onto Sequoyah Rd.;
- In less than a mile, road T's into old Dayton Pike. Continue straight at red light (you'll see Subway on the left, Kentucky Fried Chicken on the right.)
- We'll meet in the parking lot near the Subway.

You are welcome to stay with us part of the day, or all day. Dress for the weather and be sure to wear sunscreen and comfortable walking shoes. No sandals or flip-flops, as we may be walking through grassy fields or briars. Bring binoculars if you have them. \$3 NABA fee per counter. We may split into 2-3 separate parties so we can better cover the count circle. Some of the areas within this count circle were visited on the May 19 field trip.



**SATURDAY, JUNE 27:**

**10TH ANNUAL LOOKOUT MTN., GA BUTTERFLY COUNT (ALL DAY COUNT)**  
MEET: 9:30AM EASTERN ON SOUTH BROAD STREET IN PARKING LOT ON THE RIGHT JUST PAST THE KRYSTAL.  
COMPILER: BILL HALEY (SEE CONTACT INFO ABOVE).

**DIRECTIONS:**

- From I -24 East or West, take the Broad Street exit, head south on Broad Street towards Lookout Mountain (away from downtown);
- Krystal is on the right 1 to 1 1/2 miles from I -24;
- We'll meet in the parking lot just past Krystal and caravan to the count circle.

\$3 NABA fee per counter. See directions above for what to wear. There are some excellent butterfly areas within this circle, which is centered at the intersection of Hwy. 136 and Hwy. 193 in Chattanooga Valley. Anyone is welcome to participate, you don't have to be an expert at identification.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 13:**

**TENNESSEE AQUARIUM MEMBERS' PROGRAM**

**Butterfly Field Day in the Tennessee River Gorge**

10:00AM - 12:30PM

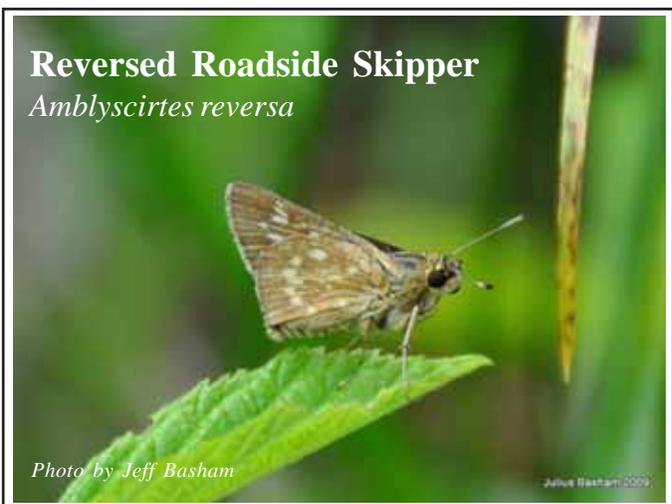
Learn about our native butterflies as we explore the riverside meadows at the Tennessee River Gorge Trust field station. Bill Haley, Aquarium educator and president of the Tennessee Valley chapter of the North American Butterfly Association, will help identify and collect valuable data for NABA's annual national survey. Add an optional field guide, *Butterflies and Moths*, for \$5. We'll meet at the Pot Point Field Station.

Adults and ages 8 and older accompanied by an adult  
Limited to 25  
\$5/Member (\$10 with book)  
\$10/Non-member (\$15 with book)

**TO REGISTER:** You can register online at [www.tnaqua.org/Events/Events\\_travel.asp](http://www.tnaqua.org/Events/Events_travel.asp), or call (423) 267-FISH.

*As a special addition to this program, a short ceremony will be held and the field below the Pot House will be dedicated as a wild butterfly meadow in honor of the late Mike Linger, who served as the Tennessee River Gorge Trust's Land Stewardship Director for several years. A native of South Africa, Mike was a fun person to be around and an excellent naturalist who loved his butterflies. All who knew him feel this meadow will be a very fitting tribute to him.*

TOP OF PAGE ONE: *What butterfly was Jeff Basham attempting to photograph? Here is the picture! (It was within the Soddy-Daisy, TN count circle.)*



The Hazards of Watching Butterflies



Photo by Jeff Basham

Back on April 25th, beginning butterflyer Celeste Byles broke her right let while butterflying on a remote trail, near Ducktown, TN, in Polk County. She stepped on a decayed log that gave way out from under her foot. The twist was so quick that it broke off the bottom inch of the fibula, and tore surrounding ligature. Not good. Also an FBB (first broken bone in her life) for Celeste.

The Polk County Rescue Team did a beautiful job of extracting her from the forest. The rescue operation took about six hours to complete. All the efforts of the Ducktown team were greatly appreciated. They are all volunteer, and they worked with vigor and great common sense.

Celeste underwent surgery this past Friday where they installed a small plate and some screws to keep the bone from moving while it heals. She is recovering beautifully and has no plans to stop heading into uncharted Butterfly Country.

Thirty minutes before the accident we found a sunny hillside that had 30-50 Cobweb Skippers. The place was thick with them. I've never had a problem of trying to figure out which Cobweb I should photograph first. After the accident, as Stephen and I went for help, a fresh out-of-the-box Golden-banded Skipper landed right beside me in the trail. So his picture got taken as well.

Jeff Basham  
 -e-mail received 5/3/09, Editor

Another Butterfly Watching Hazard



Photo by Susan Schott

Yes, there are other animals out there besides butterflies! On a butterfly watching trip to Prentice Cooper, Susan Schott and Bill Haley discovered this handsome beast crawling across the dirt road a few feet in front of them. More photos on page 6.

**Need a Gift for a Friend Who Loves Butterflies? Get Them a Membership in NABA, the North American Butterfly Association**

The North American Butterfly Association was formed in 1992 by Dr. Jeffrey Glassberg, a scientist, lawyer, former president of the Xerces Society and author of *Butterflies Through Binoculars*, one of the most widely-used butterfly field guides available. It was started to popularize the study of butterflies through observation and identification through use of field marks rather than collecting.

The Tennessee Valley NABA chapter was formed in 2008. The chapter's territory is centered around southeastern Tennessee, but also encompasses parts of northwestern Georgia and north-eastern Alabama. Anyone who joins the national organization within a zip code area beginning with 374, 373 (with the exception of 37355 which is allocated to the Middle Tennessee NABA chapter), 307, 357 or 359 will automatically become a member of the chapter.

It is also possible for persons living outside this zip code area to become a member of the Tennessee Valley chapter. When you join or renew your NABA membership, be sure to specify that you'd like to be affiliated with the Tennessee Valley chapter. Joining online is easy. Go to their website at <http://www.naba.org> and click on Membership. Individual membership is \$30. Family membership is \$40 and an institution/library can join for \$50. It would make a great birthday gift!

**JULY / AUGUST BUTTERFLY COUNTS**

For more information, contact Bill Haley, compiler of these counts, at [wgh@tnaqua.org](mailto:wgh@tnaqua.org), or you can call him at (423) 756-4106 (H), or (423) 785-4056 (W).

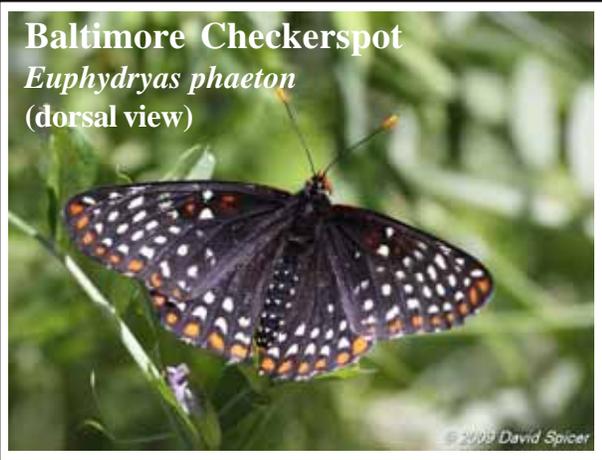
Sat., July 18: Catoosa-Whitfield Co., GA  
 (6th annual 4th of July count)

Sat., July 25: Stevenson, AL  
 (7th annual 4th of July count)

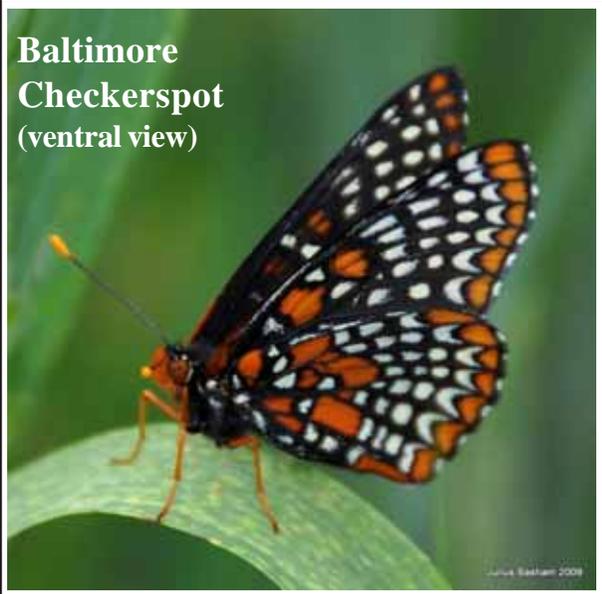
Sat., Aug. 29: Tennessee River Gorge, TN  
 (3rd annual seasonal fall count)

HIGHLIGHTS FROM MAY 19-23 FIELD TRIPS IN THE AREA

Baltimore Checkerspot  
*Euphydryas phaeton*  
(dorsal view)



Baltimore Checkerspot  
(ventral view)



Golden-banded Skipper  
*Autochton cellus*



Photographers from top:  
First column:  
David Spicer, Jeff Basham,  
Carol Wolf, David Spicer  
Second column:  
Susan Schott

Timber Rattlesnake  
*Crotalus horridus*



Photo by Susan Schott



At least 12 buttons on rattle!  
Photo by Susan Schott

**DON'T TREAD ON ME!** Two more photos of the four foot long Timber Rattlesnake that Bill and Susan found at Prentice Cooper State Forest on May 21. (It rattled at us a couple of times to let us know we were near enough.) Be careful where you step when dashing into the forest to photograph butterflies!

Golden-banded Skipper



**CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF THESE!** This Golden-banded Skipper was sitting on the ground less than 10 feet from our car on May 20. It was fresh, probably just emerged from the chrysalis that day.

**Dusted Skipper**  
*Atrytonopsis hianna*

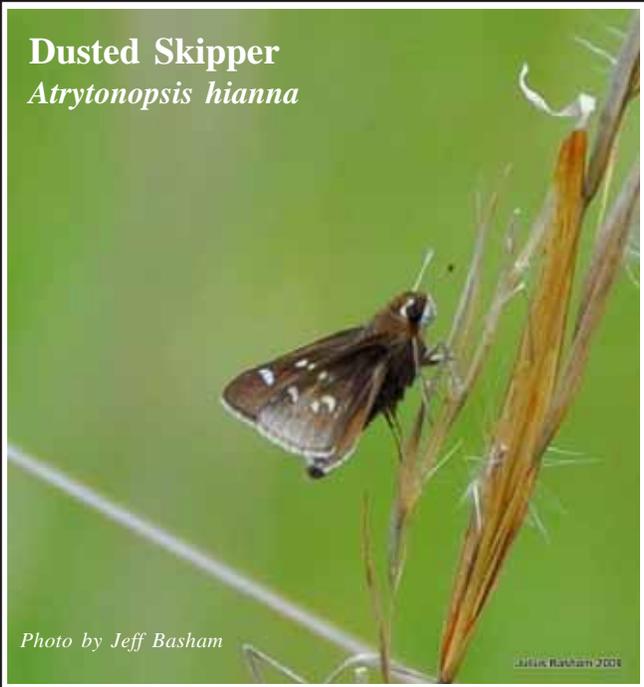


Photo by Jeff Basham

**Eastern Pine Elfin**  
*Callophrys niphon*

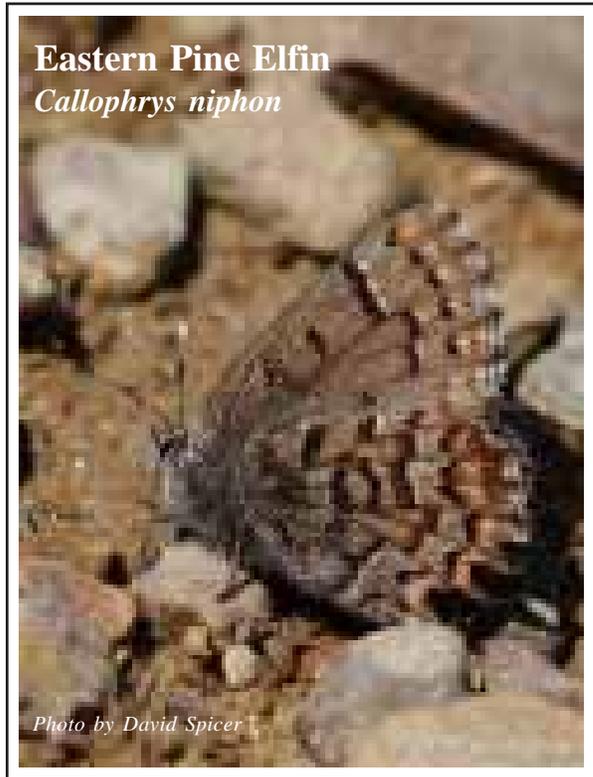


Photo by David Spicer

**Gorgone Checkerspot (dorsal view)**  
*Chlosyne gorgone*



Photo by David Spicer

**Hobomok Skipper**  
*Poanes hobomok*

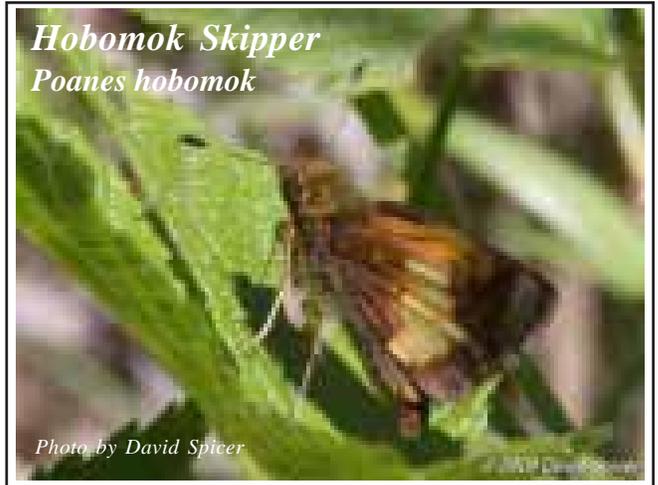


Photo by David Spicer

**Gorgone Checkerspot**  
(ventral view)



Photo by David Spicer

**Hobomok Skipper**

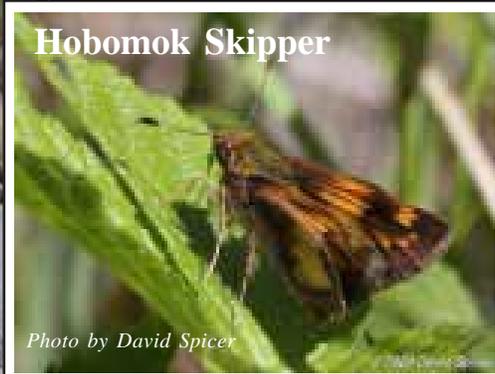
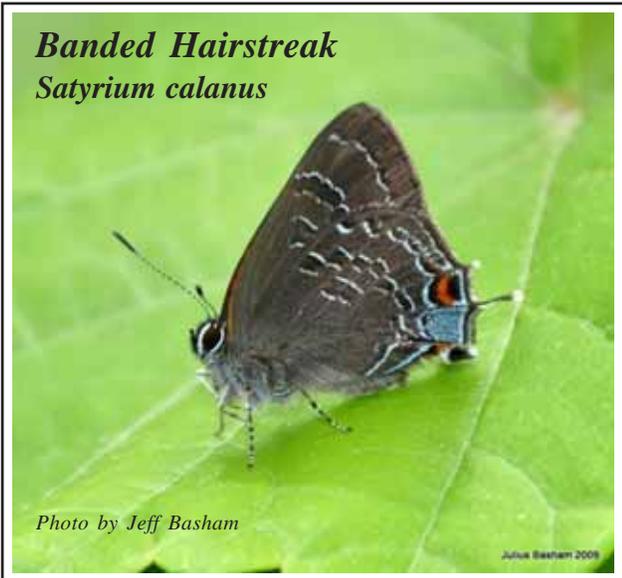


Photo by David Spicer

The week from May 19th-23rd could truly be described as a week of superlatives. Ample proof you can find wonderful things if you get out and look! Enjoy more photos on the next page.

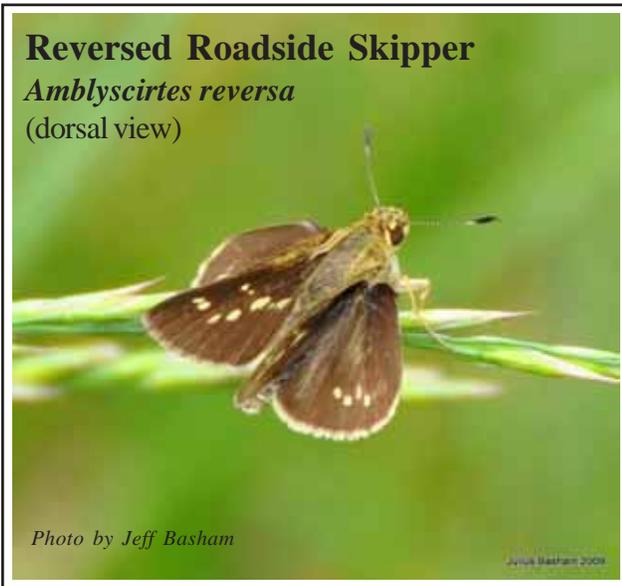
More Late May Butterflies.....



**Banded Hairstreak**  
*Satyrium calanus*

Photo by Jeff Basham

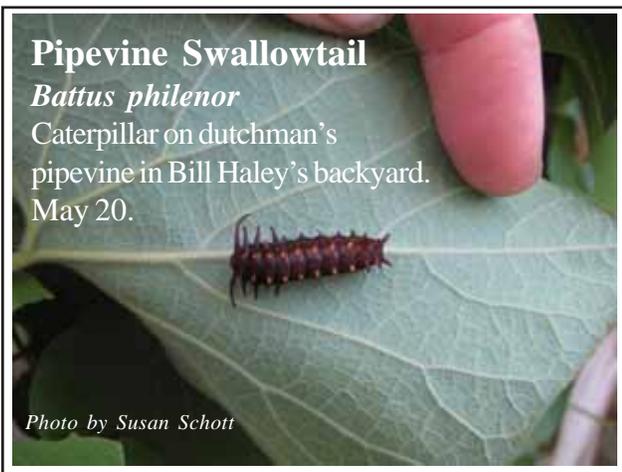
Julius Basham 2009



**Reversed Roadside Skipper**  
*Amblyscirtes reversa*  
(dorsal view)

Photo by Jeff Basham

Julius Basham 2009



**Pipevine Swallowtail**  
*Battus philenor*  
Caterpillar on dutchman's  
pipevine in Bill Haley's backyard.  
May 20.

Photo by Susan Schott

My Butterfly Walk With Jeffrey Glassberg  
by Carol Wolf

During the Wildflower Pilgrimage in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in April, Jeffrey Glassberg gave one of the evening presentations. He spoke of his great love of butterflies and gave a very interesting and informative presentation on each of the different families of butterflies with very nice photos to represent each group. He also had pictures of many non-native species. I remember one especially that had beautiful long tails. It was outstanding! At the close of his presentation he took time to answer many questions.

He also gave a nice update on the National Butterfly Park in Mission, Texas. Also brought our attention to the NABA website. It was a lot of good information on just about everything you would want to know about butterflies.

He also led a butterfly walk with somewhere between 25-30 people. For many it was a first time butterfly walk, but there were several who had been doing this for awhile. Mr. Glassberg was a very good teacher and answered many questions from the group. After parking, we immediately started seeing butterflies. Quite a few duskywings, Eastern Tiger Swallowtails and Pipevine Swallowtails. We started walking the Little River Trail and not too far up the trail there was an Early Hairstreak. I think most saw it and one lucky person got a quick picture of the beautiful blue wings. I saw it fly over the trail and into the woods. I even went back that afternoon to see if it might still be hanging around, but no luck.

Then up the trail a little further there was a beautiful Brown Elfin. It was quite cooperative and allowed everyone very close looks and many photographs. It was nectaring on Dog Hobble and changed positions several times, always giving better views. It was a life butterfly for me.

We then went to a different spot and found Pearl Crescents, Orange Sulphurs and a few others. After I left was when they found the Olympia Marble. That would have been a really great one to see.

How can you separate butterflies and flowers? Both are so lovely and add such a rich dimension to all of our lives.

**WE NEED YOU!**  
*All NABA butterfly counts rely on volunteers. The more the merrier! Even if you are not an expert at identification, extra pairs of eyes mean more butterflies seen. Please plan to help with one (or all) of the butterfly counts this summer! You'll have fun, see many beautiful butterflies and learn lots about them and their varied habitats. Plan to join a count!*