

Photo by  
David Spicer



# On The Wing

Newsletter of the Tennessee Valley Chapter,  
North American Butterfly Association

July 2010

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Editor: Bill Haley, wgh@tnaqua.org

## July Meeting Tuesday, July 27, 7:00PM At the Home of Nancy Williams 1109 Radmoor Lane, in East Brainerd

**Bring sandwiches or other finger foods, fruit, cookies, chips, dips or whatever you wish to share and we'll have a feast!**

Nancy Williams has invited us to her home in East Brainerd for our July NABA meeting. She lives on 15 acres bordered by South Chickamauga Creek and the Concord Golf Course. She also has a spring-fed pond if anyone wishes to fish. Plan to join us!

### **DIRECTIONS** From Chattanooga:

- Take I-75 North;
- Take the East Brainerd Rd. East exit off I-75;
- You will pass the Baskin Robbins ice cream shop and Subway on the right, not far from the exit;
- Turn right at Concord Road, the next street, (at Hullco Windows store);
- Follow Concord Rd. and turn right at Radmoor Drive, the second street you come to;
- Continue a very short distance and turn left onto Radmoor Lane;
- At the end of Radmoor Lane you will come to a cul-de-sac, but keep going straight up the hill past three white houses on the left and Concord Golf Course on the right;
- Go through the gate and down the hill. Nancy's house sits on the left, and everyone can park in the yard close to the house.

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### 2010-2011 Tennessee Valley NABA officers named:

President - Bill Haley  
Vice President - David Spicer  
Secretary - Susan Schott  
Treasurer - Jennifer Taylor

## July Butterfly Counts

Butterflies of *all levels* are **encouraged** to participate in these counts. Come prepared! Dress for the weather, Bring \$3 NABA fee, hat, sunblock, binoculars, snacks and plenty of fluids (*it'll probably be very HOT!*). We will likely walk through overgrown, weedy fields. Some briars and poison ivy are almost a certainty, so long pants and bug spray might be on your list too. Flip-flops and crocs are **NOT** recommended.

### **SATURDAY, JULY 10:**

#### **11TH ANNUAL LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN, GEORGIA BUTTERFLY COUNT**

**MEET: 9:30AM** at the parking lot on the right just past the Krystal on South Broad Street in Chattanooga. **COMPILER: Bill Haley.** (Call (423) 756-4106 (H) or (423) 326-9248 (cell) or e-mail wgh@tnaqua.org \$3.00 NABA fee per counter. We'll meet beside the Krystal on South Broad and caravan to the count circle in Chattanooga Valley.

### **SATURDAY, JULY 17:**

#### **7TH ANNUAL CATOOSA-WHITFIELD CO., GEORGIA BUTTERFLY COUNT**

**MEET: 9:30AM** at convenience store at intersection of East Brainerd Road and Ooltewah-Ringgold Road. For directions or info contact Bill Haley (see contact info above.) We will caravan from our meeting spot to the count circle 3-4 miles away.

### **SATURDAY, JULY 31:**

#### **8TH ANNUAL STEVENSON, ALABAMA BUTTERFLY COUNT**

**MEET: 9:00AM** at the Food Lion on Brown's Ferry Rd. (*first exit off I-24W after Moccasin Bend, then turn right off exit. Store is on the left*) to caravan to Stevenson City Park. Be prompt, as we won't wait long after 9:00 before heading to Alabama! Or you can meet us in the first parking lot at 10:00am Eastern at Stevenson City Park. For directions or info, contact Bill Haley (see contact info above).

## Around The Puddle

by Bill Haley

### The Mid-Summer Explosion

*When good little plants become monsters!*

It happens every year. I had a whole new flower bed to play with this spring. I made sure to reserve plenty of room for new additions that I knew would be coming home after our NABA April plant swap. I even did a bit of renovation and created some room in an older bed for more new stuff. There was lots of bare ground to be planted, more than I've had to play with in several years!

Every gardener begins in early spring with visions of orderly and well-spaced plants in a picturebook garden setting. You know, like those gardens you see in the magazines. One that is so well-planned that it will be a joy to behold for the entire summer season as plants go in and out of bloom in an orderly fashion...just like the books say they will. Short plants up front, medium plants in the middle and large, tall plants in the back. Those gardening books and magazines feature such nice, obedient plants you couldn't possibly go wrong by listening to their advice. Could you?

I put all my cute little baby plants in the ground and they were so small they seemed pitiful. Gee, it looked like there was too much ground and not enough plants. Naturally I didn't want my flower and butterfly garden to be too sparse. Luckily, by then, I was beginning to find some volunteers coming up from seeds dropped last year. Maybe a salvia in that space between those two tiny plants? And over there was a whole square foot of space where zinnias would look good. Two or three more seedlings would look great right there.

I love playing in the dirt and planting gardens. It is not that I forget that plants grow, I just forget how BIG and WIDE they grow.

One celandine poppy in an older bed has gotten HUGE. Now I'm looking at the three that I put in my new bed. Uh, oh. That isn't going to work next year! My bur marigolds, so small and cute when I planted six together, are now in a shoving match with an aster and are swallowing my spicebush and Queen Anne's lace. I may have to intervene. The New England asters have completely engulfed the phlox and the day lillies are humongous and shading the purple salvia. The butterfly bush along the sidewalk that Susan said would get too big is getting too big. It is a jungle out there, but a beautiful jungle. I love gardening!

### TENNESSEE RIVER GORGE COUNT TOTAL

*Bill Haley, count compiler, wants to thank all who helped count butterflies for the 16th annual Tennessee River Gorge, TN butterfly count on Sat., June 12. We had a good turnout! Counters were: Bill Haley, Mark Lawrence, Tommie Rogers, Tammy Combs, Olivia Combs, Julia Combs, Nancy Williams, Susan Schott, David Spicer, Scott Spicer, Jeff Basham and Celeste Byles. These folks split up into four parties to help cover the count circle and they found lots of butterflies.*

#### SPECIES FOUND AND NUMBERS:

Pipevine Swallowtail 31, Zebra Sw. 1, Spicebush Sw. 16, E. Tiger Sw. 21, Spicebush Sw. 16, Cabbage White 7, Clouded Sulphur 4, Orange Su. 19, Cloudless Su. 1, Sleepy Orange 2, Coral Hairstreak, 14, Banded Ha 83, Striped Ha. 10, Gray Ha. 6, Red-banded Ha. 1, E. Tailed Blue 75, Summer Azure 13, Am. Snout 22, Variegated Fritillary 10, Diana Fr. 9, Great Spangled Fr. 115, Silvery Checkerspot 2, Pearl Crescent 293, Question Mark 7, E. Comma 1, Mourning Cloak 4, Am. Lady 6, Common Buckeye 7, Red-sp. Purple 11, Hackberry Emperor 9, Tawny Emp. 7, Creole Pearly-Eye 5, Carolina Satyr 2, Little Wood Satyr 11, Monarch 3, Silver-sp. Skipper 49, Hoary Edge 9, N. Cloudywing 14, S. Cloudywing 1, Wild Indigo Duskywing 12, Swarthy Skipper 2, Clouded Sk. 1, Least Skipper 3, Fiery Sk. 1, Tawny-edged Sk. 11, Crossline Sk. 11, N. Broken-Dash 2, Little Glassywing 5, Sachem 1, Dun Sk. 18.  
**Total: 50 species, 973 individuals**

### The Tennessee Butterfly Listserve

Do you want to know what other butterfly watchers are seeing in the Tennessee area or to learn more about our local butterflies? Join the Tennessee Butterfly listserve!

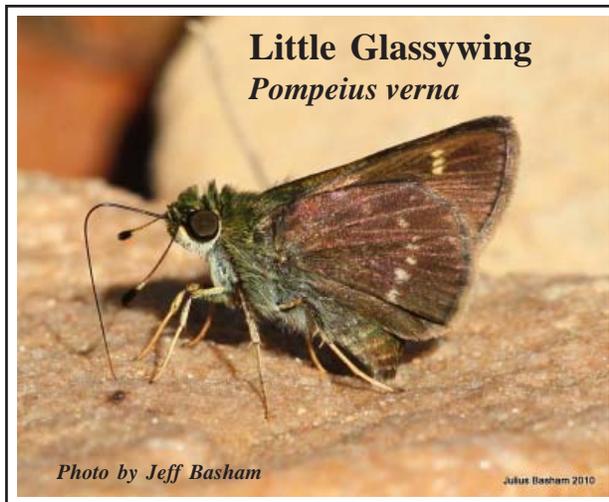
To subscribe, go to the following web address and follow the instructions:

<http://www.freelists.org/list/tn-butterflies>

Once you've joined, you can post messages to the list at: [tn-butterflies@freelists.org](mailto:tn-butterflies@freelists.org)

### Do You Know Your Skippers?

What species is pictured in the upper lefthand corner of page one? Hint: On this member of the grass skipper group, the base color of the underwings is usually a rich reddish orange color. This sets it apart from many other skippers. The wing edges are gray on the forewing, buff or rusty on the hindwing. What is your guess as to its identity?



## Join NABA

**the North American Butterfly Association**

The North American Butterfly Association, NABA, was started in 1994 to popularize the study of butterflies through observation and identification through the 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 northeastern 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 members 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.

### Bumblebee or Moth?

Thanks to Mike O'Brien for the two great shots below of a day-flying moth and excellent bumblebee mimic, the Snowberry Clearwing, a type of sphinx moth. These photos were taken in Mike's yard as the moth visited bee balm flowers. When the Snowberry Clearwing first emerges from the cocoon, the wings are completely covered with darkened scales. A few flutters of the dried wings, and scales fly off, creating mostly clear wings to enhance the deception that it is a not-to-be-bothered bumblebee.





Photos by Tommie Rogers

The **Common Wood Nymph**, *Cercyonis pegala*, was one highlight of the Soddy-Daisy butterfly count on June 26. Fourteen were found on Bakewell Mountain on the road that includes the infamous "torture hill". People who have survived the trip back up the hill in blazing sun and 95+ degree weather know exactly where it is! Unfortunately no Gorgone Checkerspots could be located there on count day.

**SODDY-DAISY COUNT TOTAL**

Six people in one party participated in the Soddy-Daisy count: Bill Haley, Harold Birch, Nancy Williams, Vaughn Trentham, Libby Wolfe, and Tommie Rogers. It was a very hot day. Sachem was the most common species, followed by Pearl Crescent. 32 species, 467 individuals. Species found are listed below:

Pipevine Swallowtail 1, Black Sw. 3, Spicebush Sw. 1, E. Tiger Sw. 9, Cabbage White 3, Orange Su. 11, Cloudless Su. 2, Sleepy Orange 1, Banded Hairstreak 2, Gray Ha. 5, E. Tailed-Blue 43, Summer Azure 2, Am. Snout 3, Diana Fritillary 3, Great Spangled Fr. 14, Pearl Crescent 125, American Lady 3, Common Buckeye 2, Red-sp. Purple 15, Hackberry Emperor 2, Carolina Satyr 14, Common Wood Nymph 14, Monarch 8, S. Cloudywing 1, Horace's Duskywing 1, Wild Indigo Du. 23, Clouded Sk. 2, Least Sk. 5, Sachem 146, Dun Sk. 1.

