

Welcome
to the
"caterpillar
edition"!
Can you
find this
caterpillar?

Photo by
Susan Schott



On The Wing

Newsletter of the Tennessee Valley Chapter,
North American Butterfly Association

September 2010

Volume 3, Number 5

Editor: Bill Haley, wgh@tnaqua.org

September Meeting Tuesday, Sept. 28, 7:00PM Tennessee River Gardens

Bring sandwiches or other finger foods, fruit, cookies, chips, dips or whatever you wish to share.

Join us at Tennessee River Gardens for our September meeting. We spent a wonderful evening there in May, enjoying a leisurely stroll around the grounds. At that time the zinnias were tiny seedlings. This meeting will be at the other end of the growing season, and it may or may not have gotten cold. If the weather allows, we'll walk the grounds again to see what late season flowers (and butterflies) might still be around. As always, feel free to bring a friend!

Directions (from downtown Chattanooga):

- Take I-24 West (towards Nashville);
- Take the Hwy. 41 exit, turn right;
- Continue on Hwy. 41 past the TVA Pumped Storage Facility entrance (large sign on the right);
- About 200 yards past this you'll turn right at the first driveway you come to (rock gate entrance);
- Take this driveway down the hill. Our meeting will take place in the first house you pass on the right.
- Park below this house around the circular drive.

Note: The entrance to Tennessee River Gardens is NOT well-marked. If you reach the little white church on the right, you've gone to far!



Tennessee River Gardens is also a great place for dragonfly watching! Tommie Rogers supplied this close-up shot of the face of a Great Blue Skimmer.

Mark Your Calendar!

Last Butterfly Counts of 2010

Dress for the weather, Bring \$3 NABA fee, hat, sunblock, binoculars, snacks and plenty of fluids.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2:

1ST ANNUAL LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN, GA FALL SEASONAL COUNT

MEET: 9:30AM at the parking lot just past the Krystal on South Broad Street. **DIRECTIONS:** From downtown Chattanooga, take Broad Street south towards St. Elmo. You'll see the Krystal on your right and just past this is a parking lot. We'll meet there to caravan to the count circle. **COMPILER: Bill Haley.** (Call (423) 756-4106 (H) or (423) 326-9248 (cell) or e-mail wgh@tnaqua.org

We have never done a NABA fall seasonal count in the Lookout Mountain, GA circle. We had a successful count on July 10. If you are able to do this mid-week count, come see what we can find in early September. **\$3.00 NABA fee per counter.**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 4:

3RD ANNUAL TENNESSEE RIVER GORGE FALL SEASONAL BUTTERFLY COUNT

MEET: 9:30AM at the parking lot of the Blue Blazes Trail on Moccasin Bend Road. For info contact Bill Haley (Contact info above.) We'll start at the area around Blue Blazes Trail and the old radio-control airplane field on Moccasin Bend, then visit several other areas. Bill would love to split up the group for maximum coverage of the count circle, so please let him know if you can survey other areas. The 15 mile diameter count circle extends from Amnicola Highway at the circle's eastern edge to Ketner's Mill in the Sequatchie Valley on the western edge. The butterflying has been fantastic this year, so come out and enjoy the day by participating in the count.

David Spicer will lead the group at the Blue Blazes Trail parking area. Bill Haley will meet people at Outdoor Chattanooga and lead a group to survey Coolidge and Renaissance Parks from 9:30 until 11:30, then will meet up with the main group afterwards.

Around The Puddle

by Bill Haley

A Tale of Two Fields: Do Nectar Sources Matter?

I've often wondered how important the nectar source is in attracting certain species of butterflies. If they have a choice, will some be drawn to one while other species favor another, or will all species make use of both sources?

The Stevenson, Alabama count on Saturday, July 31 presented a wonderful opportunity for comparison of two very different nectar sources, butterfly weed and alfalfa. My experience has shown that a large variety of butterflies readily visit both of these attractive nectar plants.

We had the perfect setup for an "experiment". Two large fields lay on either side of Hwy. 72. The field to the east of Hwy. 72 was full of blooming alfalfa. The one on the west side of Hwy. 72 was loaded with orange butterfly weed in bloom. These fields are separated by the 4 lane highway, but are still reasonably close to each other, not more than 500 yards apart. Butterflies can and do fly across Hwy. 72 all the time, so I figured that they could visit both fields if they wished. Would we find different species in each field?

We began by visiting the field with orange butterfly weed. Butterfly activity was brisk and we found 15 species: Pipevine Swallowtail, Spicebush Swallowtail, E. Tiger Swallowtail, Giant Swallowtail, Orange Sulphur, Cloudless Sulphur, Sleepy Orange, Gray Hairstreak, E. Tailed Blue, Gulf Fritillary, Variegated Fritillary, Great Spangled Fritillary, Pearl Crescent, Common Buckeye and Monarch. Note that we *didn't find a single skipper in this field!*

After everyone returned to the cars and a much-needed chance to rehydrate, my plan was to immediately survey the alfalfa field across Hwy. 72.

Unfortunately, Mother Nature had other plans. As soon as we parked near the alfalfa field a thunderstorm blew in. Some folks opted to call it a day at that point, leaving Harold Birch and me as the only remaining counters in our party. After 15-20 minutes of steady rain I decided we would drive to another part of the circle where it hopefully wasn't raining.

We were quite successful finding new species after dodging the rain. A stop at someone's zinnia bed gave us Sacher and Silver-spotted Skipper. Another stop at a large butterfly bush we always visit yielded a Painted Lady. It proved to be the only one found on the count all day.

Our last stop before Harold chose to call it a day was a really good one, illustrating that you never know what you might find if you keep going just a bit longer. One of the first butterflies we saw was a Little Yellow, (*new for the day's count list*). We tallied quite a few other butterflies and were about to pack it in, when I decided to walk down a little dirt road I had really never paid much attention to. A bright golden orange butterfly landed nearby, a Delaware Skipper (*new*). A little further along a Viceroy (*new*) flittered around a tiny willow bush. Then I spied a tiny black skipper, Common Sootywing (*new*). A larger spread-winged skipper proved to be a Horace's Duskywing (*new*). Upon returning to the car, I noticed a butterfly flitting around a nearby hackberry. It was an American Snout (*new*). Six species new to our list in that one area! It was that kind of day.

Now that I was the lone remaining counter and the rains had drifted out of the area, I decided to check out that alfalfa field again. It was at the north edge of the count circle, so was on my way home to Chattanooga anyway. I was intensely curious what I might find, despite the fact it had been hammered by rain a couple of hours earlier.

Along the way, I added two more species, Tawny Emperor (*on a dead opossum in the road*) and Red-spotted Purple (*on an armadillo carcass*). Clearly some butterflies prefer stinky over sweet!

When I reached the alfalfa field I immediately saw butterfly activity. I waded into the alfalfa, getting wet to the knees. In the interest of science, I used another count sheet to keep what I found there separate from the running tally I'd kept all day. Many species were in evidence, and the alfalfa proved to be a skipper "honey hole"! Following are the 21 species I found, along with the numbers. Those in bold-face type were NOT found in the nearby butterfly weed field. An apostrophe means it was not found anywhere else on count day: Pipevine Swallowtail 6, Spicebush Swallowtail 4, E. Tiger Swallowtail 6, **Clouded Sulphur 1***, Orange Sulphur 8, Cloudless Sulphur 5, Sleepy Orange 3, Gray Hairstreak 10, E. Tailed Blue 16, **Summer Azure 1**, Pearl Crescent 18, Common Buckeye 12, **Silver-spotted Skipper 101**, **Hoary Edge 1***, **Swarthy Skipper 1***, **Least Skipper 1**, **Fiery Skipper 18**, **Little Glassywing 2**, **Sacher 9**, **Dun Skipper 4**. 10 species not found in the butterfly weed field, 8 of them skippers!

What species were found on the orange butterfly weed, but NOT on alfalfa? I've added an apostrophe if they were the only ones found that day. **Giant Swallowtail 1***, **Variegated Fritillary 14**, **Gulf Fritillary 14***, **Great Spangled Fritillary 6**, **Monarch 8**. The nectar source does make a difference!

STEVENSON, ALABAMA COUNT TOTAL

Six people participated in the 8th annual Stevenson, Alabama butterfly count conducted Saturday, July 31; Harold Birch, Bill Haley, David Spicer, Scott Spicer, Nancy Williams and Mike O'Brien. Although an afternoon thunderstorm moved in for 30-40 minutes, butterfly activity was constant all day long when it wasn't raining. Two parties put in 15 hours of effort to find 48 species and over 1200 individuals. A total of 17 Northern Pearly-Eyes, all found in wooded areas at Stevenson City Park, set a new record for most found on a count. Fifteen skipper species were located.

SPECIES FOUND AND NUMBERS:

Pipevine Swallowtail 74, Black Sw. 3, E. Tiger Sw. 63, Spicebush Sw. 15, Giant Sw. 1, Checkered White 2, Clouded Sulphur 1, Orange Su. 23, Cloudless Su. 62, Little Yellow 2, Sleepy Orange 213, Gray Hairstreak 28, E. Tailed Blue 113, Summer Azure 9, American Snout 6, Gulf Fritillary 14, Variegated Fritillary 37, Great Spangled Fr. 7, Pearl Crescent 116, Question Mark 4, E. Comma 2, Painted Lady 1, Red Admiral 22, Common Buckeye 133, Red-sp. Purple 3, Viceroy 6, Hackberry Emperor 9, Tawny Emp. 3, S. Pearly-Eye 1, N. Pearly-Eye 17, Gemmed Satyr 2, Carolina Satyr 13, Monarch 10, Silver-sp. Skipper 132, Hoary Edge 1, Horace's Duskywing 2, Comm. Checkered Skipper 1, Comm. Sootywing 2, Swarthy Sk. 1, Least Sk. 25, Fiery Sk. 21, Crossline Sk. 2, Little Glassywing 5, Sachem 11, Delaware Sk. 1, Zabulon Sk. 5, Dun Sk. 7, Lace-winged Roadside Sk. 1. **Total: 48 species.**



This male **Zabulon Skipper** was one of 15 species of skippers found on the Stevenson, Alabama count on July 31. With the bright lemon-yellow color on the hindwing, this makes it one of the easier skipper species to identify. As is the case with many skippers, the females are sexually dimorphic, meaning they look very different!

WANTED: Someone to man a Tennessee Valley NABA booth at the Blessing of the Animals celebraton at Saint Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church on Sunday, October 3 from 1:00-4:00. Please contact Bill Haley, WGH@tnaqua.org, or (423) 785-4056 if you can help.

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**Find Out More About Butterflies
 on 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**



Join NABA

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 with 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.

**SODDY-DAISY, TN
FALL SEASONAL COUNT TOTAL**

Bill Haley, Christy Jones, Philip Jones and Sean Jones braved a heat index that reached 107 F on Tuesday, August 3 to conduct the first fall seasonal count in the Soddy-Daisy count circle. The count ran from 10:00-5:00. Compared to the 32 species found on the June 26 count, there were excellent numbers of butterflies this time around. Temperatures ranged from 82-97 (with that brutal reported heat index of 107). It was somewhat overcast, with full sun only 40% of the time. A notable 17 skipper species were located.

SPECIES FOUND AND NUMBERS:

Pipevine Swallowtail 14, Black Sw. 5, E. Tiger Sw. 26, Spicebush Sw. 32, Checkered White 2, Cabbage White 1, Clouded Sulphur 6, Orange Su. 43, Cloudless Su. 32, Little Yellow 15, Sleepy Orange 19, Gray Hairstreak 4, Red-banded Ha. 2, E. Tailed Blue 68, Summer Azure 16, Am. Snout 2, Gulf Fritillary 3, Variegated Fr. 19, Diana Fr. 4, Great Spangled Fr. 7, Silvery Checkerspot 2, Pearl Crescent 67, Question Mark 2, E. Comma 1, Am. Lady 2, Painted Lady 1, Red Admiral 1, Common Buckeye 43, Red-sp. Purple 10, Viceroy 2, Hackberry Emperor 3, Northern Pearly-Eye 2, Carolina Satyr 4, Gemmed Satyr 1, Common Wood Nymph 4, Monarch 13, Silver-sp. Skipper 23, Hoary Edge 11, S. Cloudywing 2, Confused Cloudywing 1, Horace's Duskywing 1, Wild Indigo Duskywing 33, Swarthy Sk. 3, Clouded Sk. 1, Least Skipper 6, Fiery Sk. 5, S. Broken-Dash 2, N. Broken-Dash 4, Little Glassywing 2, S. Sachem 31, Zabulon Sk. 4, Dun Sk. 14, Lace-winged Roadside Sk. 2. **Total: 53 species, 624 individuals**



Photo by Susan Schott

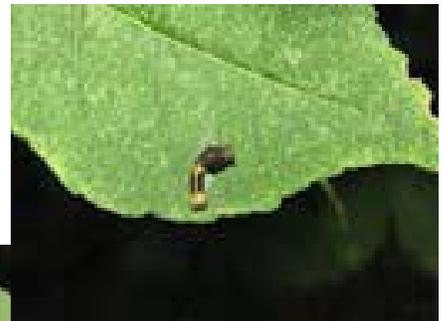
Scared? If you were a predator trying to eat this big, fat, tasty-looking caterpillar, you might be. When threatened, the Giant Swallowtail caterpillar quickly sprouts two red "horns", or osmoteria from its head. This sudden transformation is quite startling in real life!

Giant Swallowtail Caterpillars Discovered in Soddy-Daisy During Fall Count

Bill Haley discovered five Giant Swallowtail, *Papilio cresphontes*, caterpillars on an upper trail at North Chickamauga Creek in Soddy-Daisy during his fall seasonal count on August 3. They were feeding and resting on a Common Hop Tree, *Ptelea trifoliata*. This is also called Wafer Ash in *Butterflies of the East Coast*.

Bill and Susan Schott returned two days later so she could take these photos. They found a total of 9 on three different trees that day. Many have wondered what this species' host plant is in our area. Common Hoptree is a member of the rue/citrus family and is characterized by having three leaflets, smooth bark and flattened seed-pods.

Right: Very early instar; possibly second. Length was less than 1/4 inch.



Left: Third instar. Length - between 3/4 inch - 1 inch. Note bird dropping appearance.

Right: Last instar, almost ready to pupate. Length was approximately 2 1/2 inches.



Right: Host plant for Giant Swallowtail in our area. Common Hop Tree or Wafer Ash, *Ptelea trifoliata*. This photo shows the three leaflets and seed pods.



Going for the Gold...or Golden-banded, That Is!

On Tuesday, August 3rd, as the day of butterfly counting in Soddy-Daisy drew towards a close, Bill Haley decided to try for a couple more species by visiting the Golden-banded Skipper habitat on an old mining trail above North Chickamauga Creek. Three species he hadn't found had previously been seen there, Golden-banded Skipper, Gemmed Satyr and Giant Swallowtail.

It was already after 4:00, so he knew his chances were slim. Most of the trail was in shadow by that hour. He struck out on Golden-banded. None around.

Walking further he spotted a total of six small satyrs, which he just knew must be Gemmed. As satyrs love to do, they flitted about in a maddeningly slow dance over the woodland floor then disappeared into the forest. Only one landed to give him even a brief look. Gemmed Satyr!

Otehr butterflies were counted there: Summer Azure, Diana Fritillary, Great Spangled Fritillary, Northern Pearly-Eye, Hoary Edge and Silver-spotted Skipper. All nice to see, but not new for the count.

As he turned to retrace his steps on the trail, he came face-to-face with a strange creature sitting on a limb almost at eye level. It proved to be a Giant Swallowtail caterpillar! Not a countable adult, but still pretty neat! He'd never seen a live one before. You've probably already read about them on the preceding page.

This lucky find proved to be a bonus in more ways than one. Bill didn't have a camera, so he and Susan Schott retraced the same route two days later on August 5. This time they were in "caterpillar mode".

When they entered the area where they'd found Golden-banded Skippers before, Bill noticed a number of caterpillar "nests" on the leaves of Tick Trefoil. Most skippers make these nests by folding over a portion of a leaf and tying it down with silk. Tick trefoil, a member of the legume family, is about 1 1/2 to 2 feet tall. These plants were growing over hog peanut plants, another known hostplant for the Golden-banded.

Bill gingerly peeled back a leaf to reveal a small skipper caterpillar hidden inside.



Photo by Susan Schott

Upon returning home, Bill got out his copy of *Caterpillars In Field And Garden*, by Allen, Brock and Glassberg. It has a good shot of the Golden-banded Skipper caterpillar. It looked like "their" caterpillar! He encouraged Susan to send some photos to their good friend Rita Venable in Franklin, a good person to consult about immature stages of butterflies.

Rita quickly answered, citing the same book Bill had looked at and stating, "The description and time of year matches. The reddish collar, cleft in the head, orange-red eyespots, look very similar. The broad yellow lateral stripes look similar. The host plant checks out. As far as I know, it is the Golden-banded Skipper, a very good find."

In the book *Butterflies of the East Coast*, by Rich Cech and Guy Tudor, the only host plant given is hog peanut. However, *Caterpillars In Field and Garden* also states Golden-bandeds use other legumes. Bill and Susan documented a new hostplant, tick trefoil, for Golden-banded in our area. (See more, pg. 10)

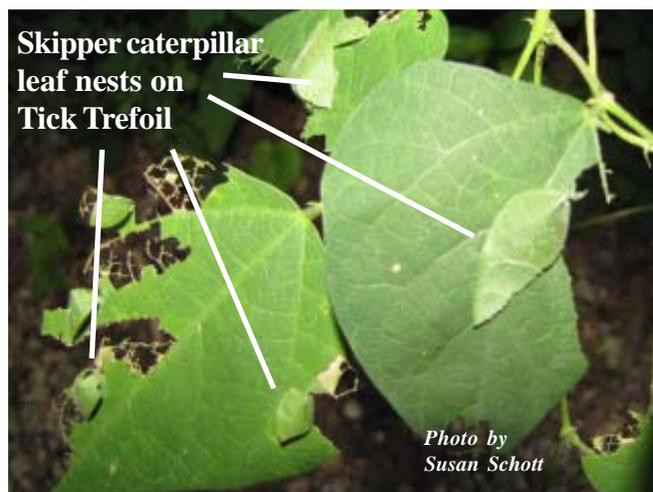


Photo by Susan Schott



Photo by Susan Schott

This fresh adult showed up that day. Two days late for the butterfly count, but still nice to see!

Photos from the Stevenson, Alabama Count, Saturday, Aug. 31, 2010



Photo key:

1. **Common Buckeye**, *Junonia coenia* (mating behavior)., 2. **Eastern Comma**, *Polygonia comma* (ventral). Note the great camouglage coloration. The comma mark on this individual was very thin and hard to see. 3. **Eastern Comma**, *Polygonia comma* (dorsal). Same individual as above. Butterfly is feeding on sap oozing from the trunk of an oak tree. 4. **Monarch**, *Danaus plexippus*. 5. **Giant Swallowtail**, *Papilio cresphontes*. 6. **Great Spangled Fritillary**, *Speyeria cybele*.

More Butterfly Photos from Stevenson, Alabama
Saturday, July 31, 2010 - SATYRS



1. **Gemmed Satyr**, *Calopsis gemma*. The wooded area near the boat ramp at Stevenson City Park has a reliable population of this species. 2. **Northern Pearly-Eye**, *Enodia anhedon*. A new count record 17 were found at Stevenson City Park. Antennal clubs are black at base of the club with an orange tip. 3. **Southern Pearly-Eye**, *Enodia portlandia*, found by David and Scott Spicer, has all-orange antennal clubs.



Hercules Club in bloom at North Chickamauga Creek towers over Bill Haley. The large clusters of tiny white flowers are very attractive nectar sources for many bees, wasps, flies and butterflies. It is another reported host plant for the Giant Swallowtail. Although Bill and Susan Schott did discover one caterpillar in a leaf nest on this plant, it was probably some type of moth, not that of the Giant Swallowtail. This is the exact type of habitat where they found Giant Swallowtail "Orange Dog" caterpillars on Common Hop Tree.



Close-up look at the stem of the Hercules Club, showing spines. This earns it other names it is sometimes known by, Prickly Ash or Devil's Walking-stick.

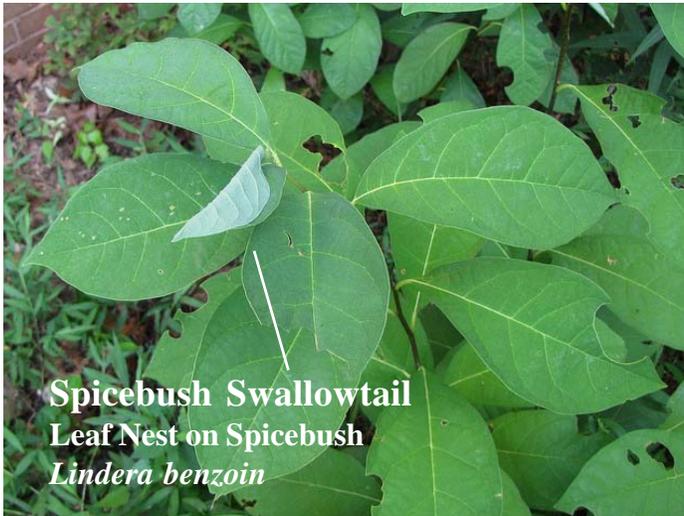


Jeff Basham photographed this **Peck's Skipper** in Polk County in early August. This species is somewhat uncommon in this area. Have you seen one?



Great Polk County Finds! Jeff Basham had a good day of butterflying on August 11, finding two very uncommon species for this area: **1. Dainty Sulphur**, *nathalis iole*, only shows up every 3-4 years, usually in dry years. Many folks have never seen one in this area. **2. Eufala Skipper**, *Lerodea eufala*, is a tiny skipper only occasionally found in SE Tennessee. Other good finds were: **3. Southern Broken-Dash**, *Wallengrenia egeremet*, which seems to be more common in late summer; **4. Delaware Skipper**, *Anatryone logan*, a gorgeous solid golden-yellow skipper; and **5. Tawny-edged Skipper**, *Polites themistocles*. Note the color difference between the orange forewing and tan hindwing, a key identification mark. Jeff also reported seeing as many as a dozen Common Sootywings at a time puddling beside the Hiwassee River!





Spicebush Swallowtail
Leaf Nest on Spicebush
Lindera benzoin

Butterfly Caterpillars on Kudzu?
(You probably shouldn't plant this!)

The same day (Aug. 13) that Susan Schott took the photos of the Spicebush Swallowtail caterpillars, she and Bill explored a nearby kudzu patch in North Chattanooga, finding lots of Silver-spotted Skipper caterpillars and their leaf nests. Kudzu is a member of the legume family. Silver-spotted also use tick trefoil and black locust. Now that Bill and Susan have found Golden-banded Skipper caterpillars on both hog peanut and tick trefoil, is it possible they might also use kudzu if there were a patch near a population of the skippers? A couple of years ago, Bill found a Golden-banded Skipper sitting on a kudzu leaf in the Tennessee River Gorge, so it *might* be possible.



Spicebush Swallowtail caterpillar
Papilio troilus
 Note: "bird-dropping" camouflage.



Silver-spotted Skipper
leaf nests on kudzu



Silver-spotted Skipper leaf nest
 size comparison with penny



Spicebush Swallowtail caterpillar
 (side view)
 Note: false eyespot marking behind head designed to startle predators.



Silver-spotted Skipper
Epargyreus clarus

Plant it and they will come! Offer the right kinds of host plant and you'll be rewarded. When Susan Schott took these photos on August 13, there were at least 7 caterpillars on the Spicebush in Bill Haley's yard. It was the second brood he's hosted this year.

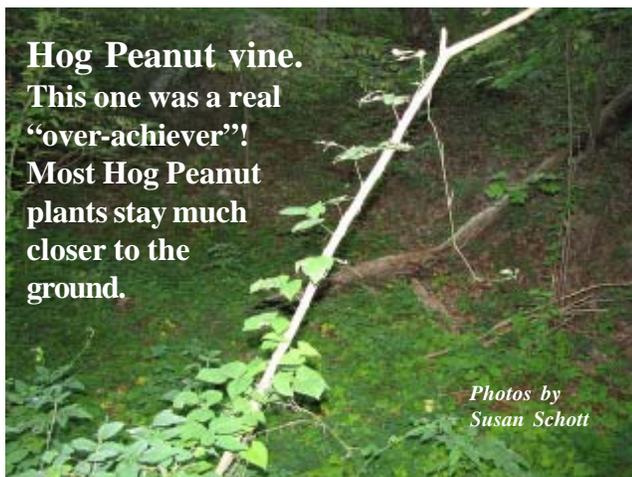
**Golden-banded Skipper Caterpillars
on Hog Peanut Vines at
North Chickamauga Creek Gorge**

Bill Haley and Susan Schott found both Golden-banded Skipper, *Autochton cellus*, and Silver-spotted Skipper, *Epargyreus clarus*, caterpillars on tick trefoil on August 5 at the North Chickamauga Creek Gorge. For some reason they never thought to check the obvious Golden-banded host plant, Hog Peanut, *Amphicarpa bracteata*, that day.

They returned August 13 to look for caterpillars on the weak-climbing vines of Hog Peanut. This proved to be quite an easy task. They were pleased to note that every leaf nest they checked that held a caterpillar on Hog Peanut was a Golden-banded! Although they didn't open every leaf nest for fear of disturbing the caterpillar population too much, they didn't find a single Silver-spotted Skipper on Hog Peanut.



**Golden-banded Skipper caterpillar
on Hog Peanut, *Amphicarpa bracteata***



**Hog Peanut vine.
This one was a real
"over-achiever"!
Most Hog Peanut
plants stay much
closer to the
ground.**

*Photos by
Susan Schott*

The Hog Peanut vine shown above had climbed almost 5 feet on this sapling. There were at least 10 skipper leaf nests on this one plant. The three that were opened all held Golden-banded Skipper caterpillars.



**Harvester caterpillar
*Feniseca tarquinius***

*Photo by
Kris Light*

Harvester photo! While exploring at Ijams Nature Center in Knoxville, Kris Light spied a greenbrier that was absolutely covered in aphids, except in one spot. Kris was surprised to discover a caterpillar busily dining on aphids! It was a Harvester, the only butterfly in North America with carnivorous caterpillars. Kris says the caterpillar was about an inch long.

Kris also has a very nice website and nature blog that you may want to check out. Although I've never met Kris, I can tell we'd have fun out in the field, as we have similar interests! There are butterfly and moth photo galleries, #54 and #55 on this page:

http://www.easttennesseewildflowers.com/gallery/search_albums.php

A big thank you to Kris for allowing me to use the photo in our newsletter!

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GREAT BUTTERFLY OUTING: David Trently, Doug Bruce, Harold Howell and Mike Nelson made a butterfly outing on August 15 to Bradley and Meigs County. Their first stop at Candies Creek yielded a **Hayhurst's Scallopwing**, which they thought might be the butterfly of the day. At Gunstocker Creek they were surprised to discover several **Southern Dogfaces**, which they thought would surely be the butterflies of the day. Continuing on to Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge, they found a **Dion Skipper**, which they were able to photograph. It was a lifer for all of them and it did indeed turn out to be **THE BEST BUTTERFLY OF THE DAY.**