



Photo by Mike O'Brien

On The Wing

Newsletter of the Tennessee Valley Chapter,
North American Butterfly Association

Nov.-Dec. 2010

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Editor: Bill Haley, wgh@tnaqua.org

No Monthly NABA Meetings October-January

During the cooler fall and winter months, our club will not have monthly meetings. We will start regular meetings again in February 2011. You will continue to receive monthly newsletters from the Tennessee Valley NABA Chapter, as well as regular publications from the North American Butterfly Association.

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Remember to send in those late fall and winter butterfly sightings!

If you have butterfly sightings this time of year, please send them in to your editor, Bill Haley at wgh@tnaqua.org. While the weather was quite warm during much of November and we still saw some butterflies in between cold snaps, sightings will become much less frequent as we enter the colder winter months of December, January and February. Let me know what you see. One butterfly in December may be the highlight of the day!

November and December issues of "On The Wing" are merged this year!

Just in case you noticed that you never got a November newsletter (*I only heard from one person*), you were right! Things were very hectic in early November and I was off quite a bit during the month, so I decided to merge the November and December issues. I hope you had a nice Thanksgiving and I wish you an extremely happy holiday season!

Bill Haley, Editor

Wintertime Butterflies. What can you expect?

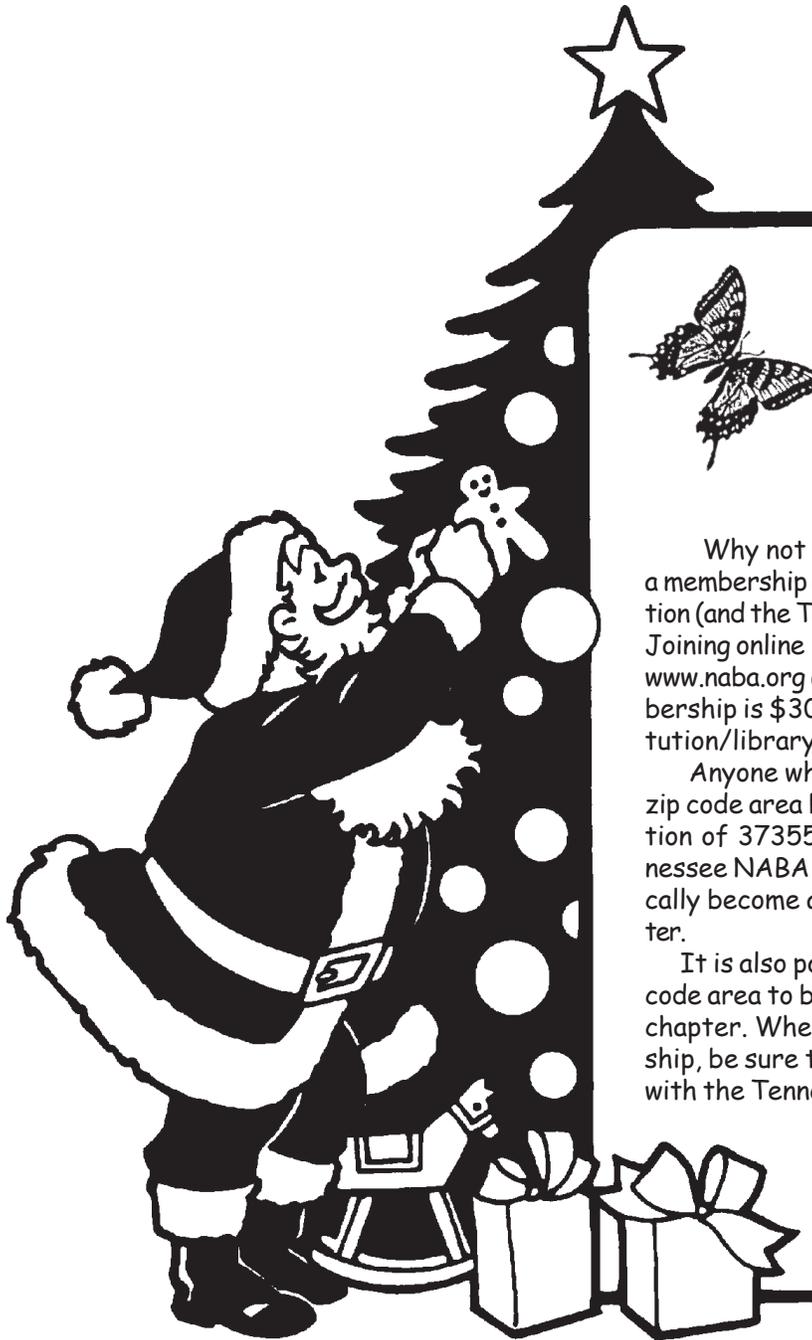


Photo by Allan Trenly



Photo by David Spicer

Question Mark (top) and **Mourning Cloak** (below) are two anglewing butterflies that are prime candidates to appear during a warm, sunny spell in mid-winter. They both overwinter in the adult stage. Be on the lookout for these two!



**Do You Know Someone
Who Loves Butterflies?
Give them a NABA
membership
this Christmas!**

Why not surprise a friend or family member with a membership in the North American Butterfly Association (and the Tennessee Valley NABA chapter) this year? Joining online is easy. Go to the NABA 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.

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 Tennessee Valley 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.

Happy Holidays!

Around The Puddle

by Bill Haley

End-of-the-Year Butterflies

It seems strange talking about butterflies when there aren't many (or any) butterflies around. We were very lucky to have had some good butterfly weather well into November this year and I continued to see several in my North Chattanooga yard on warm, sunny days. My favorites were the Common Checkered Skippers. This species is not usually a regular in my yard and always draws my attention when one shows up. This fall, with the onset of cooler weather, they really put on a strong showing at my house. Sometimes there were two or three flitting about. They loved my late-blooming asters. Several other NABA members also noted these small, distinctive skippers in November. I hope they come back next spring!

NOVEMBER BUTTERFLY SIGHTINGS:

Nov. 2: Bill Haley spotted several butterflies on his late-blooming asters and red sage: Monarch (female), Common Buckeye, Common Checkered Skipper (3), and Cloudless Sulphur (3).

Nov. 7: Mike O'Brien saw Clouded Skipper, Gulf Fritillary and Common Buckeye. (See photos).



Top: Gulf Fritillary, Bottom: Common Buckeye

Photos by Mike O'Brien

Nov. 10: Bill Haley saw a Cloudless Sulphur and two Common Checkered Skippers in his front yard.

Nov. 10: Susan Schott reported Painted Lady, Variegated Fritillary and Common Checkered Skipper on late-blooming chrysanthemums in her yard. (See photos)



L: Painted Lady, R: Common Checkered Skipper

Photos by Susan Schott

Nov. 10: Mike O'Brien spotted 6 Cloudless Sulphurs, a worn Little Yellow and a Clouded Skipper. (See photos).



Top: Little Yellow, Bottom: Clouded Skipper

Photos by Mike O'Brien

Nov. 12: Tommie Rogers reported seeing two Summer Azures in Marion County.

Nov. 12: Mike O'Brien took a nice photo of a Variegated Fritillary near his home in Valley Head, AL. (See below)



Nov. 21: Bill Haley still had at least two Common Checkered Skippers on aster blooms in his yard.

Nov. 22: Mike O'Brien reported his wife Marion saw over 50 migrating butterflies over I-59 in Ft. Payne, AL, (possibly Monarchs).

Cloudless Sulphur on Red Salvia



Photo by Mike O'Brien

22nd Annual Warrior's Path State Park
Winter Garden Seminar
With Kris Light
of EastTennesseeWildflowers.com

"BUTTERFLY GARDENING"
Saturday, January 15,
10:00am

Discover how to create a healthy landscape that will also attract butterflies. Winter is the perfect time to plan your natural yard and garden.

About the Guest Speaker:

Kris H. Light grew up in Nashville and spent as much of her childhood outdoors as possible. Her love of nature followed her into adulthood, and she continues to enjoy sharing her enthusiasm about wildflowers and insects with others. She has taught environmental and science outreach classes for the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, the American Museum of Science and Energy and the Oak Ridge schools since 1987. In 2003 she began using her photographs to develop a website. Her website - EastTennesseeWildflowers.com - contains thousands of images of flowers, insects, birds and other aspects of nature.

About the Seminar:

Butterflies are beautiful and fascinating insects. We can entice butterflies to feed or to lay their eggs in our yards and gardens by planting certain plants as nectar sources or caterpillar food sources. Join Kris Light as she discusses butterflies, moths and the plants to attract them. Kris will share some of the best ways to keep our gardens lovely and our natural landscape full of beautiful, useful native insects. Because everyone's garden is different, we will set aside time for answering gradener's questions.

Plan to spend a brisk winter morning learning how to create a more beautiful, more natural neighborhood. The seminar will be held at the Recreation Building on Duck Island, at Warrior's Path State Park. Although this event is free and open to all, we do ask that you pre-register to attend.

For more information and to pre-register:
Warrior's Path State Park, P.O. Box 5026,
Kingsport, TN 37663, (423) 239-6786.

e-mail: Marty.Silver@tn.gov

Harvester Caterpillar



Photo by Kris Light

How Do Butterflies Spend the Winter?

Have you ever thought of looking for butterfly life stages in the wintertime? Our Tennessee butterflies overwinter in various stages of their lifecycle. On this page and the next are a few examples.



Photo by
Jeff Basham

Zebra Swallowtail, our official Tennessee State Butterfly, overwinters as a pupae.



Photo by
Mike O'Brien

Eastern Tiger Swallowtail overwinters as a pupae.



Photo by
Tommie Rogers

Falcate Orangetip forms a pupae by early April in our area, then they overwinter in that stage. They will emerge next spring in early March. That is 10-11 months in the chrysalis. The book *Butterflies of the East Coast* states they sometimes go into diapause for a full year before emerging, "(an adaptation to drought.)"



Photo by
Jeff Basham

Coral Hairstreak overwinters as an egg.



Photo by
Jeff Basham

Henry's Elfin overwinters as a pupae in leaf litter.



Photo by
Mike O'Brien

Eastern Tailed-Blue overwinters as a mature caterpillar.

More Overwintering Butterflies!



Photo by Mike O'Brien

Variegated Fritillary overwinters "usually" as an adult.



Photo by David Spicer

Pearl Crescent overwinters as a 3rd stage instar larvae. Some from earlier broods.



Photo by Jeff Basham

Julius Basham 2009

Diana Fritillary overwinters as a first stage larvae.



Photo by Jeff Basham

Julius Basham 2010

Question Mark overwinters as an adult.



Photo by Scott Spicer

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Newly hatched caterpillars of the Great Spangled Fritillary overwinter unfed.

Request from NABA - Facebook Page Input:
 NABA now has a Facebook page. We would like to invite all chapters to have information posted. If your chapter has some photos, field trips, outings, etc. that you would like posted, please send a few sentences (along with photos if you have any), to Jane Hurwitz at hurwitz@naba.org and she will put up the information. We look forward to hearing from you.

Lisa Lewis
 NABA Office Manager
 4 Delaware Rd.
 Morristown, NJ 07960
 (973) 285-0907

Overwintering Butterflies, continued!



American Lady overwinters as an adult.



Northern Pearly-Eye overwinters as a third or fourth stage larvae.



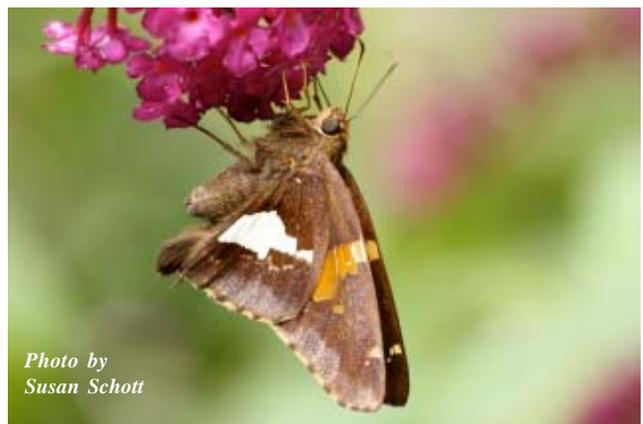
Viceroy overwinters as a third instar larvae in an "overwintering shelter", dried leaves at the very tip of a willow branch. Check willows closely in the winter and you may discover their hiding place. If you find one, please do not disturb! Caterpillars produce glycerol, a type of "antifreeze" to withstand the cold.



Common Wood Nymph overwinters as hatchling caterpillars.



Tawny Emperor overwinters in a curled leaf as a 3rd instar larvae.



Silver-spotted Skipper overwinters as a pupae.

 **Excellent
Wintertime
Reading!**

Butterflies of the East Coast, An Observer's Guide, by Rick Cech and Guy Tudor. Highly recommended!

Wrapping up 2010

The New Year is only 3 short weeks away! Time has really flown this fall.

One of my annual late-fall "jobs", was completed *exactly* on the December first deadline this year. As a regional compiler for the North American Butterfly Association it is my duty to produce a write-up for NABA's annual butterfly count publication. Before doing this I was required to look through and approve every single count reported for Tennessee, West Virginia and Kentucky in 2010. Gathering information from those reports, I provided a brief synopsis of highlights in the Appalachians Region.

Butterfly counters in the state of Tennessee should be justifiably proud of our efforts. When I began the Tennessee River Gorge count over 15 years ago, it was only the second count in our state. Tennessee's oldest count, Roan Mountain, has me beat by a couple of years. I have watched the number of counts steadily increase over the years, with very rapid growth in the past 5 years. I think this is in large part because of the excellent Tennessee Butterflies listserve, which has raised awareness of butterflies across the state.

I am aware that many Tennessee Valley NABA members don't get the count summary, so I'm sharing my entire Appalachians Region report with you. This gives only a taste of what you can learn from seeing the individual counts. If you find this interesting, you might want to order a report next year to learn what is being seen in the United States, Mexico and Canada.

Appalachians Region

Tennessee, West Virginia, Kentucky

William G. Haley, Jr, compiler

Twenty-one counts were conducted in the Appalachians Region in 2010. Tennessee reported 20 counts and West Virginia had one. No word from Kentucky this year. The total of 21 counts includes one spring and four fall seasonal counts. The Owls Hill (Nashville), TN spring count recorded 29 species. It was held May 17, less than two weeks before a huge 500-1,000 year flood event inundated the Nashville area. Owls Hill conducted their 4th of July count on July 10, reporting all areas they covered were impacted by the May flooding, but still managed to find a respectable 38 species. Highest species total on a 4th of July count was Tennessee River Gorge, TN with 50, followed by Putnam County (West), TN (48).

High species total for fall counts was Soddy-Daisy, TN with 53 species.

Some notable species and numbers were recorded in 2010. The big news as Funereal Duskywing, a western species not often found this far east, showing up on three Tennessee counts. First was the Reelfoot Lake, TN count no June 23, (3rd TN state record), then DeKalb County, TN on July 21 (4th TN state record), followed by Lower Hatchie, TN on July 31 (5th TN state record). Little Yellow, almost completely absent in the region last year, was reported on 12 counts in 2010. Lower Hatchie, TN (127) and Meeman-Shelby Forest, TN (49) had high totals for this species. The seldom-reported Dainty Sulphur was found on two Tennessee counts this year, with Lower Hatchie reporting an incredible 212 on July 31. Meeman-Shelby Forest, TN counted 3 on July 3, a very early appearance for this species. Notable numbers of swallowtails were found on several counts. Roan Mountain, TN, the oldest count in this region, found a whopping 702 Pipevine Swallowtails. DeKalb County, TN counted 490 Eastern Tiger Swallowtails, Putnam County West, TN found 155 and Arthurdale, WV had 106. Dekalb County also had high numbers of Spicebush Swallowtail with 116. Lower Hatchie, TN, in addition to high counts already mentioned, had by far the largest number of individuals reported, with 3012. Other high marks on that count include: Question Mark (69), Red-spotted Purple (211), Hackberry Emperor (699) and Tawny Emperor (296). Arthurdale, WV (1) and Roan Mountain, TN (7) had the only Aphrodite Fritillary in the region as well as the only Meadow Fritillary, with 12 found at Arthurdale and 58 at Roan Mountain. Diana Fritillary, a Southern Appalachian endemic, showed up on only 6 counts in Tennessee, Elizabethton (4), Sewanee (1), Soddy-Daisy (3), Tennessee River Gorge (9), Soddy-Daisy fall (4), Tennessee River Gorge fall (2). Reelfoot Lake, TN found the only Southern Dogface (8) in the region. Land Between the Lakes South, TN found the only Dion Skipper and Owls Hill fall reported a Yehl Skipper.

I want to wish everyone a blessed Christmas season and a safe and Happy New Year!

Bill Haley, President TN Valley NABA