



Photo by Jeff Basham

On The Wing

Newsletter of the Tennessee Valley Chapter,
North American Butterfly Association

June 2011

Volume 5, Number 2

Editor: Bill Haley, wgh@tnaqua.org

June Meeting

Saturday, June 25 - 9:30am

MEETING SITE: Parking lot just past the Krystal Restaurant on South Broad Street in Chattanooga, near St. Elmo

This will be an *extremely* short meeting to discuss upcoming July counts. Everyone who attends the meeting is invited to the main attraction - the 12th annual Lookout Mountain, GA NABA butterfly count. This is a day-long count. You do not have to stay for the entire day....an hour or two is all right. Be prepared for a hot day! Bring sunblock, wear a hat, dress with the thought we probably will be wading through weedy fields, (wear tennis shoes or boots, crocs and flip-flops are discouraged). Bring plenty to drink.

Directions to meeting spot: From the freeway, take the Broad Street exit and follow signs to South Broad Street. You will be going towards Lookout Mountain - (Ruby Falls and Rock City attractions). Look for Krystal on your right and we'll meet in the parking lot just past the Krystal.

Saturday, June 11

17th Annual

Tennessee River Gorge Count

Meet: 9:30 at Signal Mountain Road Bi-Lo parking lot. For more info or directions contact: Bill Haley, (423) 326-9248 (cell), (423) 756-4106 (home), e-mail wgh@tnaqua.org.

We'll meet at the Signal Mountain Bi-Lo and proceed from there. If you are just learning butterfly identification, you will go with someone who knows their butterflies. This is an all-day count. It is a good way to see lots of butterflies in one day and get some experience. You do not have to be an expert to participate, and you can break away anytime you wish. Some experienced counters may be given other areas within the count circle and this can be arranged before count day, so let Bill know.

Saturday, June 18

15th Annual Soddy-Daisy Count

Meet: 10:00 Eastern. Parking lot near intersection of Thrasher Pike and Frontage Rd in Soddy-Daisy. for more information, see Bill's contact info, June 11. Susan's cell # is: (423) 505-7008.

Susan Schott will be leader for the early part of the count. Bill Haley will join up and take over after his butterfly walk at Harrison Bay State Park.

Directions to Soddy-Daisy meeting spot: From Chattanooga, take Hwy. 27 North. Take the Thrasher Pike exit, turn right. You'll cross the creek bridge and turn left at the first road (before you get to the railroad). A parking area is on the right.

Harrison Bay State Park butterfly walk: If you wish to participate in the butterfly walk Bill Haley will lead at Harrison Bay State Park, meet at 10:00am at the A Frame building where campers check in at Harrison Bay State Park. Walk will leave from there and last for about an hour. There is no charge for participating in this walk. Harrison Bay State Park is across the river from Soddy-Daisy, off Highway 58, but still within the Soddy-Daisy count circle. All butterflies seen will be part of the count total.

Saturday, June 25

12th Annual Lookout Mtn. GA Count

MEET: 9:30 in parking lot just past the Krystal on South Broad Street in Chattanooga. Leader: Bill Haley, see contact info, June 11. Directions to meeting spot are on first column, this page.

We will have a very short Tennessee Valley NABA business meeting and then caravan to the start of the count circle in Chattanooga Valley. We usually have a very good count and find lots of butterflies, so plan to join us after the brief NABA meeting.

REMEMBER: All participants in NABA butterfly counts must pay a \$3 fee for each count they help with. The money goes to NABA to help offset NABA's cost to publish count summaries of all counts conducted this year. Contact Bill Haley if you wish to purchase this book. Cost is \$7 for NABA members.

Around The Puddle

by Bill Haley

Can You Take the Heat?

Yesterday my wife offered to come pick me up after work. It was 97 degrees and she made the observation that it would be pretty hot walking home. (An understatement.) However, I told her it was good training for the upcoming butterfly counts and other bug-chasing adventures I'd be having this summer. I opted to walk the mile and a half. It was very hot, but I made it to the comforts of air conditioning and a glass of iced tea 25 minutes later.

I think the most important thing in dealing with heat is to prepare for it. Train your body to deal with it. If you live in an air-conditioned world and the only time you ever experience the heat is when you dash out to your air-conditioned car and wait for it to cool down, you may need to spend more time outdoors. Take steps to deal with hot weather *before* a butterfly count. Rule #1: Always drink plenty of liquids. Be sure to bring more than one bottle of water....you'll need at least 3 or more if you are out there several hours. I usually take 4-5 bottles. Most have been filled half-way and frozen, then topped off with water on count day. Pop them into a small cooler and you have ice water all day long. Rule #2: Always wear appropriate clothing and a hat to block the sun. Rule #3: Speaking of blocking the sun, take the sunblock along and use it liberally too.

I just registered for an invertebrates conference in southeast Arizona. It is happening the last week of July, and is scheduled then because it coincides with their "monsoon season". While this may seem strange to someone not familiar with southeast Arizona, they do indeed have some really terrible cloudbursts at this time of year. The rains green up the desert and bring out the insects, spiders, scorpions, rattlesnakes and other animals that might otherwise stay hidden.

I'm signed up for a couple of field trips into the Sonoran Desert, one all day trip and one lasting a half day. Hot times chasing insects in Arizona. I can't wait!

Our butterfly counts in June and early July will be good training for the Sonoran Desert. Bring on the heat!!!



Tanya Jordan's picture of a Mourning Cloak has a very special significance. This photo was shot just a few days after the April 27 tornado that devastated Ringgold, Georgia. The Mourning Cloak rested amid the wreckage of what used to be her home. Thankfully she and her baby Sarah escaped the storm, but her house wasn't so lucky. Our thoughts and prayers are with them and all the people who lost property, valued possessions and loved ones in these terrible storms.



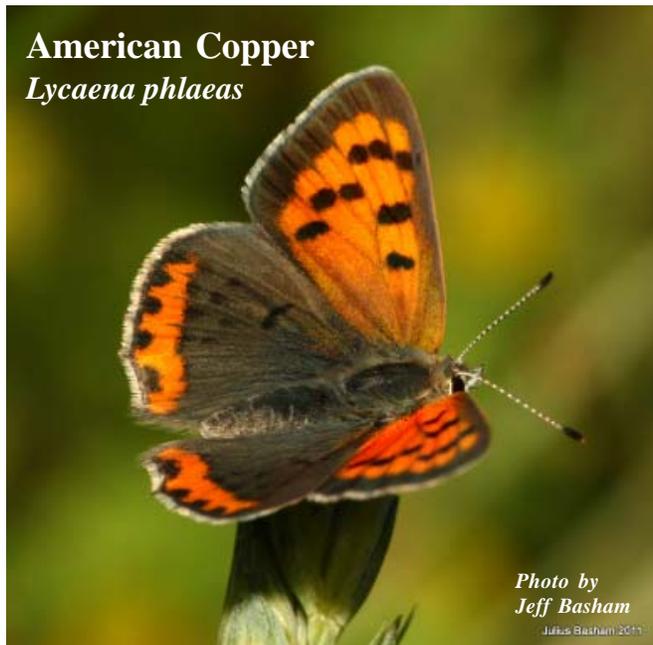
Joining online is easy. Go to the NABA website at <http://www.naba.org> and click on Membership. Individual membership is \$30. Family membership is \$40 and an institution/library can join for \$50.

Anyone who joins NABA 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 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.

Upcoming July butterfly counts:
Sat., July 9: Catoosa/Whitfield, GA
Sat., July 16: Stevenson, AL

Butterfly glamour shots



Papilio glaucus vs. *Papilio appalachiensis*

Would you have believed it if someone had told you 10 years ago that there was a very large swallowtail new to science that had been identified as an Eastern Tiger Swallowtail for years, but was actually a different species? An unidentified swallowtail species, found right here in the southeast, sounds incredible, but it is true. Here is a photo, taken by David Spicer in Polk County on May 25, of an Eastern Tiger Swallowtail on the left and the much more recently-described (2002) Appalachian Tiger Swallowtail on the right.

Minutes of May 24, 2011 Meeting, Tennessee Valley chapter of NABA

Location: Outdoor Chattanooga, near Coolidge Park on River Street

Present: Adrienne Cox, Maya Cox, Terri Joyce, Bill Haley, Julius Basham, Stephen Johnson, Mike O'Brien, Susan Schott, David Spicer, Vaughn Trentham, Rita Venable, Nancy Williams

President Bill Haley opened the meeting at 7:00pm.

Old Business:

Susan Schott reported that she and her group counted 25 species of butterflies at the Reflection Riding/CNC BioBlitz on May 21st. Her favorite was the Striped Hairstreak. Notable misses were the Pearl Crescent and the Sagem. (Kyle Waggoner, Blitz coordinator, states that 25 is the most seen on the BioBlitz, and exceeds the previous count of 23.

Rita Venable reported that the weather was wet and cool for the May 14th Sparta field trip and no butterflies were seen.

New Business:

Bill announced upcoming butterfly counts:
Saturday, June 11 - Tennessee River Gorge, TN
Saturday, June 18 - Soddy-Daisy, TN
Saturday, June 25 - Lookout Mountain, GA
Saturday, July 9 - Catoosa-Whitfield, GA
Saturday, July 16 - Stevenson, AL

All counts require \$3/participant and bring sunscreen, bug spray and a hat. Rita Venable invited our chapter to come to the other NABA counts in Nashville, Land Between the Lakes, Reelfoot, Decatur, Shelby and Putnam Counties. These chapters can be reached through the NABA main website and clicking on the chapters link. Bill stated that Tennessee was very well represented with 21 counts last year. The Tennessee River Gorge copunt had continental high totals in 2010 of Banded and Striped Hairstreak.

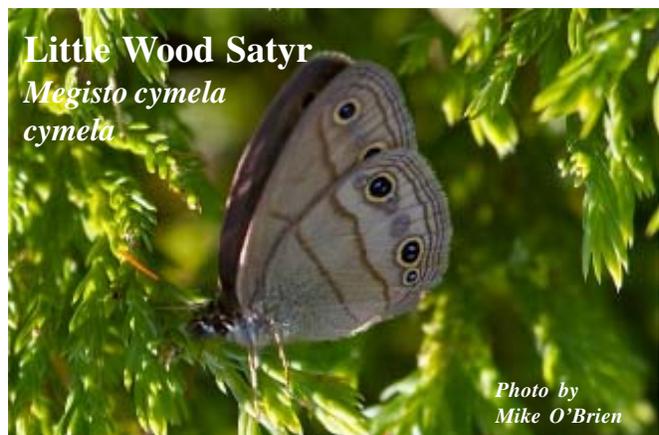
Bill asked for nominations from the floor for new officers for our chapter and none were offered. It was voted and approved that the officers for our chapter would continue for another year. They are Bill Haley, President, David Spicer, Vice-President, and Jennifer Taylor, Treasurer.

Rita Venable, founder of the Middle Tennessee NABA Chapter and a freelance writer, presented a program on her project to produce a book about the butterflies

of Tennessee. One purpose of her book is to increase awareness of Tennessee butterflies in all life stages: egg, larvae, pupa and adult, and when possible, show pictures of each life stage. Each species will have a two page description including habitat, host plants, garden tips and fun facts. She hopes the book will be a tool in identifying Tennessee butterflies and will help gardeners know which plants attract butterflies. An important purpose will be to promote people to take action to observe, photograph and conserve our native butterflies and their habitats. Rita displayed a mock-up page of her self-published book and invites us to help in providing data on East Tennessee butterflies. She hopes to have 1,000 copies of her book published by the summer or fall of 2012.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20.

Susan Schott, Secretary



Little Wood Satyr
Megisto cymela
cymela

Photo by
Mike O'Brien



Great Spangled Fritillary
Speyeria cybele

Photo by
Mike O'Brien

Subtle or Showy: Some butterflies have very subtle beauty, such as the Little Wood Satyr, with two nice eyespots on each wing, both top and bottom. Others are very showy, such as the brightly-colored Great Spangled Fritillary, here seen sipping nectar at a thistle.