



# On The Wing

Newsletter of the Tennessee Valley Chapter,  
North American Butterfly Association

March 2012

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Editor: Bill Haley, wgh@tnaqua.org

## March Meeting

**Tuesday, March 27, 2012  
7:00pm**

**Tennessee Aquarium  
Ocean Journey Building  
Butterfly Garden Exhibit**

Our first meeting of 2012 will be in the Butterfly Garden exhibit at the Tennessee Aquarium. Plan to meet a few minutes before 7:00 Eastern in front of the main entrance of the Ocean Journey building (*the newer one near Market Street*). We'll gather everyone from there and proceed to the butterfly exhibit. This will be an excellent opportunity for some good photographs, so be sure to bring your cameras. We should see many tropical species there, most coming from Central America.

At this first meeting of the year we will enjoy some beautiful butterflies, (maybe release a few), discuss plans for upcoming meetings, possible field trips and butterfly counts this summer.

Due to our early and very warm spring weather, many species of native butterflies are already making an appearance. Mike O'Brien has been busy documenting the butterflies in his yard in north Alabama and all of the photos you see in this issue are his.

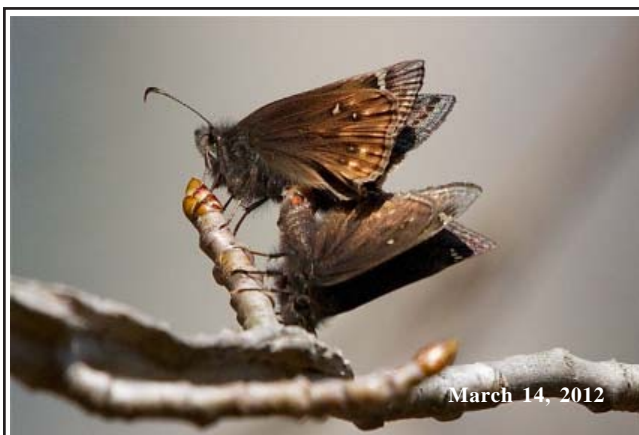
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**PLEASE VOTE BEFORE TUESDAY MARCH 27TH!**  
You have two choices. See below. Weather can be variable this time of year, so either is a gamble.

(1). Do a Spring Butterfly Count and could you participate? NABA rules state that a **MINIMUM** of 4 adult observers and 6 party hours are required for a Seasonal Count. \$3 fee per person.

(2). Would you rather do an early Spring field trip that is not an official count?

**TO VOTE:** E-mail Bill Haley at [WGH@tnaqua.org](mailto:WGH@tnaqua.org), or call me at (423) 326-9248.



Juvenal's Duskywing, *Erynnis juvenalis*, mated pair.

**Around The Puddle**  
by Bill Haley

**A Note From the President:**

My apologies for not getting any NABA Tennessee Valley Chapter newsletters out this winter. I guess I suffered butterfly burnout last fall and it felt good to "go into diapause" and take a Sabbatical during the colder months.

Since this was our fourth warmest winter on record, I did receive some reports of butterfly sightings, but sadly, I didn't keep up with them very well. Because of this and the fact I've been in a real time crunch this past month, I will not list those sightings now. Suffice it to say that butterflies were seen in both January and February. March has seen an explosion of early spring species. Susan Schott, Tommie Rogers and Mike O'Brien have gotten off to a strong butterfly start. Mike informs me he has already seen 19 species in his yard near Valley Head, AL this year!

I promise to get back in "butterfly mode" and will attempt to do better now that warm weather is here. I'm considering possibilities for butterfly count dates. Please vote your choice for the spring season at the bottom of page one, column one. My only available dates are two Saturdays - March 31 and April 7.

As always, I'm open to suggestions for field trips, programs or any constructive ideas you might have for the Tennessee Valley Chapter of the North American Butterfly Association. This year, I hope to spread the chapter responsibilities about a bit more and ask for your help and input.

Bill Haley  
President & Editor

**Eastern Tiger Swallowtail**  
*Papilio glaucus*



March 13, 2012

**Sleepy Orange in flight**  
*Eurema nicippe*



March 13, 2012

**Sleepy Orange**  
*Cool season ventral color form*



March 13, 2012

**Question Mark**  
*Polyommia interrogationis*



Feb. 27, 2012

**Variegated Fritillary**  
*Euptoita claudia*



Feb. 26, 2012

The earliest butterfly photo I received from Mike O'Brien. All photos in this issue are by him. Thanks, Mike!