



# On The Wing

Newsletter of the Tennessee Valley Chapter,  
North American Butterfly Association

May 2012

Volume 6, Number 3

Editor: Bill Haley, wgh@tnaqua.org

## May Field Trip

**Saturday May 5, 2012**  
**8:00 - 10:00pm**  
**Blacklighting for**  
**Night Insects at**  
**Nancy Williams' Home**

1109 Radmoor Lane, in East Brainerd

**NOTE:** *Blacklighting for insects must be done after dark, so we are starting later on this field trip. Bring sandwiches or other finger foods, fruit, cookies, chips, dips or whatever you wish to share and we'll have a feast while waiting for it to get dark!*

Come and join us to explore the insect world "night shift". You'll get a glimpse of the wealth of insects out after dark. Some will be familiar, some may be new to you. Forrest Gump said it well, blacklighting is "Like a box of chocolates.....you never know what you'll get."

**DIRECTIONS:** From Chattanooga, take I-75 North to the East Brainerd Rd. East exit, Not far from the exit you'll pass the Baskin Robbins Ice Cream shop and Subway on the right - this is not far from the exit. Turn right on Concord Road, the next street, (at Hullco Windows store). Follow Concord Road 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.

## 2012 Butterfly Count Schedule:

*Listed here are the NABA butterfly counts Bill Haley has scheduled so far for 2012. There is a fee of \$3.00 per participant, which goes to NABA to help offset expenses of publishing their annual count report. Anyone is welcome to participate, and you don't have to be a butterfly identification expert. You will always be with a leader who can make the tough calls. These counts will help strengthen your identification skills, so mark your calendar.*

Saturday, June 9:  
Tennessee River Gorge, TN

Saturday, June 30:  
Soddy-Daisy, TN

Saturday, July 7:  
Lookout Mountain, GA

Saturday, July 21:  
Stevenson, AL

Saturday, August 11:  
Tennessee River Gorge  
(Fall seasonal count)

*Please Note: At present, some of these dates are tentative, and could be subject to change as the summer progresses. Variables, such as cancellations due to inclement weather, demands on Bill's time, etc. could dictate changes of date.*

## A Matter of Time

Our NABA Tennessee Valley chapter officer elections have always taken place in May or June. I have decided to step down as president. It is time to pass the reigns on to someone else. If anyone in the club wishes to volunteer for this position, please let me or another officer know.

The organizational meeting to discuss forming a NABA Chapter in Chattanooga, the Tennessee Valley chapter, took place on April 22, 2008. Fifteen people attended that first meeting a little over 4 years ago.

When we elected our first officers I became president and I have also served as newsletter editor ever since the club's inception.

Flash forward to 2012. Eight people attended our first meeting of the year. Four people showed up for our first butterfly count. Our April field trip to look for Yucca Giant Skippers (see page 3) had four participants. Four people attended our April meeting and plant swap at Outdoor Chattanooga.

Many folks live far enough away that gas consumption figures into how far, or if, they travel. I understand. I suffer from the same concerns in these times of rising gas prices.

I know many of our members have very busy schedules. I understand busy.

Since our chapter was formed I've become much more active in my church, often making 3-4 trips weekly to church functions and meetings, a 35 mile round trip each time.

I serve as president of the Dixie Jewels Insulator Club. We've put in a bid to host one of the largest insulator shows in the country in 2013. It will attract collectors from all parts of the U.S., Canada and even overseas. I'm one of a committee of three who have already spent many, many hours negotiating a contract with a convention center in Franklin, TN, and this is just the tip of the iceberg. The coming year will be intense as we prepare for this event.

My work schedule can also be demanding of my time, even my "spare time".

These are all things I've committed to, just as I committed to being our chapter's president and newsletter editor. Because of future demands on my time, however, I've reluctantly decided I must cut back.

I'll continue to do counts, as I have for 17 years. I will continue editing this newsletter for the near future. I will still be involved. I won't be president.

In this issue on page 3 all members will find a ballot for chapter officers, with a space for write-ins. At the top will be a blank space for president. Please consider filling in that blank.

Bill Haley, President

## Results of the Tennessee River Gorge NABA Spring Seasonal Butterfly Count

On Friday, March 30, four NABA members, Bill Haley, Susan Schott, David Spicer and Tommie Rogers, got together for a butterfly / wildflower field trip. Although they'd been advised if it was a good butterfly day, it might become a butterfly count, conditions didn't look at all favorable. Temperatures were warm enough, but heavy clouds and the threat of impending rain didn't seem very promising. I knew if we couldn't find butterflies, there would be plenty of wildflowers and some early spring migrant birds to occupy our time.

At the first stop, we began walking down the road looking at wildflowers when an Eastern Tiger Swallowtail flew by. On down the road we spotted a Spring Azure. Maybe the butterflies would be out and we could do a count!

The next stop produced quite a few more butterfly species, including Gemmed Satyr and Zebra Swallowtail, so our field trip became a NABA spring seasonal count. It was our earliest count ever. We stayed out from 11:15 to 5:15. Despite some very light misty rain early in the day, threatening afternoon thunder, and only occasional glimpses of the sun, the butterflies cooperated wonderfully. Two big surprises happened late in the day when we found a Fiery Skipper and 2 Common Checkered Skippers. Both are early appearances.

Wildflowers seen were Sessile Trillium, Hepatica, Foam Flower, Alumroot, Wild Blue Phlox, Wild Geranium, Woodland Anise, Pinxter Azalea, Crossvine, Toothwort, Stonecrop, Golden Ragwort, and probably several I've forgotten.

Early migrant birds included Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, Yellow-throated Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Red-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, White-eyed Vireo and Osprey.

We were treated to a chorus of the lovely trills of the American Toad from the opposite side of the river, and we also heard Southeastern Chorus Frogs and Gray Treefrogs during the day.

Everyone agreed that it was a very profitable spring day and a great first count of 2012, with lots of good butterflies, wildflowers and other creatures.

### Following are the butterflies totals:

Pipevine Swallowtail 1, Zebra Swallowtail 3, E. Tiger Swallowtail 28, Spicebush Swallowtail 14, West Virginia White 37, Cabbage White 1, Falcate Orangetip 1, Clouded Sulphur 1, Red-banded Hairstreak 2, E. Tailed Blue 23, Spring Azure 12, Pearl Crescent 35, Mourning Cloak 1, Red-spotted Purple 1, Gemmed Satyr 1, Carolina Satyr 6, Monarch 2, Silver-spotted Skipper 4, N. Cloudywing 1, Juvenal's Duskywing 31, Common Checkered Skipper 2, Fiery Skipper 1. Total: 22 species, 208 individuals.

Saturday, April 7 field trip to Enterprise South Nature Park a BIG success!

David Spicer, Nancy Williams, Mike O'Brien and Bill Haley enjoyed a sunny spring day at Enterprise South Nature Park in search of butterflies on Saturday, April 7. The "target butterfly" was Yucca Giant Skipper, which was discovered at this site last year by David. We found two adults and everyone enjoyed great long looks at the perched butterflies, including a group of bikers who happened to pass by. We even located one egg on a yucca leaf!

There were other highlights as well. A Juniper Hairstreak was observed laying eggs on a red cedar. It was the first time any of us had witnessed that!

Another hard-to-find butterfly in Hamilton County, the Goatweed Leafwing, also gave us good looks.

Our butterfly list wasn't huge, but all participants had a great time and enjoyed the walk. Thanks to David Spicer for leading this expedition.



Yucca Giant Skipper egg on yucca leaf



Yucca Giant Skipper  
*Megathymus yuccae*

Ballot to Elect New Tennessee Valley NABA Officers for 2012-2013

Voting is open to all members of Tennessee Valley NABA. Blank spaces on ballot are for write-ins. There are three options to vote:

- 1.) mail this ballot to: Bill Haley, 215 McFarland Ave., Chattanooga, TN 37405
- 2.) call (423) 785-4056
- 3.) via e-mail to wgh@tnaqua.org.

**Deadline to vote is Friday, June 1, 2012.**

President \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Vice President: David Spicer

\_\_\_\_\_ Secretary: Susan Schott

\_\_\_\_\_ Treasurer: Jennifer Taylor



Juniper Hairstreak  
*Callophrys gryneus*  
ovipositing on red cedar

All field trip photos by Mike O'Brien



Photo by Tommie Rogers

Another Juniper Hairstreak seen on Raccoon Mountain, in Marion County.

**Our Website Has a New Address!** David Spicer has just gotten a new version of the club website up and running. We can now be found at <http://tvcnaba.org/>. Most of the content hasn't changed, but Dave has added some current data and rearranged a few things. A new "Butterflies in Counties" page has been added. Check it out!