



# On The Wing

Newsletter of the Tennessee Valley Chapter,  
North American Butterfly Association

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## No June meeting

Join us for one or more NABA butterfly count(s) in June! Anyone is welcome to participate. 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. Bring binoculars (close-focus if you have them), cold drinks, hat, sunblock and snacks.

### Saturday June 9:

#### 18th Annual

#### Tennessee River Gorge, TN count

Meet: 9:00am at Signal Mountain Bi-Lo parking lot. Compiler: Bill Haley - for info or directions call (423) 326-9248 or e-mail wgh@tnaqua.org

Come and join us for our first summertime butterfly count and the second oldest official NABA count in Tennessee. If we have enough participants, we will split into several parties to more effectively survey the 15 mile diameter count circle. Each group will have at least one person experienced in butterfly identification. This is an all-day count, but if you can't stay the whole time, join us for part of the day. Come and learn. You don't need to be an expert. Even beginning butterfly counters can help by spotting butterflies with a sharp pair of eyes.

Bill will be doing a Tennessee Aquarium members program as part of this count, surveying riverside meadows and pull-offs in the Tennessee River Gorge from 10:00 to noon, so he will need some other leaders to cover other areas during that time. Of course, if you wish to join him you are welcome. Be on time, as **Bill will probably leave by 9:20 for the River Gorge.**

### Saturday, June 30:

#### 16th Annual

#### Soddy-Daisy, TN count

Meet: 9:30am behind the Soddy-Daisy Subway Sandwich shop.

Leader: Bill Haley (*See contact info for the June 9 count*).

Directions: From Chattanooga, take Hwy. 27 North to the Sequoyah Rd. exit, turn right onto Sequoyah Rd. and follow past two traffic lights and into parking lot between Subway on left and KFC Chicken on right. Park behind the Subway in large parking lot.

Remember that all participants in North American Butterfly Association counts must pay a \$3 fee to help NABA defray publication costs.

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Keep these future dates reserved too!

### 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. More fall counts may be added.*

### Tennessee Valley NABA Election Results

Only **two** people's votes were received in the balloting for next year's Tennessee Valley NABA chapter officers before the announced June 1 deadline - mine and one other. Hardly a quorum, but the vote will stand and we will adopt the slate that was proposed. The other voter knows who he is and I sincerely appreciate him taking the time to vote.

Nobody stepped up or made a nomination and our chapter now officially has NO President.

Continuing in their present capacities are:

- Dave Spicer - Vice-President**
- Jennifer Taylor - Treasurer**
- Susan Schott - Secretary**

### It is a Bug-Eat-Bug World Out There!

The following two shots are a Pipevine Swallowtail caterpillar with Brachonid wasp pupae attached. The wasp laid eggs on the young caterpillars, and the wasp larvae literally ate the caterpillars from the inside, then formed pupae on the outside.



All photos this page by Mike O'Brien



Ever wonder what a one minute-old Eastern Black Swallowtail egg looks like? Mike O'Brien saw the female lay this egg and immediately ran for his camera.



**A healthy, unparasitized Pipevine Swallowtail caterpillar**

Mike took this photo of a very early instar Eastern Black Swallowtail caterpillar feeding on parsley.



**Coral Hairstreak**  
*Satyrium titus*



Photo by Mike O'Brien



This Eastern Black Swallowtail caterpillar is a couple of days older and has taken on the coloration of a later instar.

Last instar Eastern Black Swallowtail caterpillar, just before the pupa stage. Shortly after this, it quit eating to pupate.



(Right) Eastern Black Swallowtail Chrysalis. This is what the caterpillar to the left became after its last molt. Amazing!



Eastern Comma  
*Polygonia comma*



Great Spangled  
Fritillary  
*Speyeria cybele*



**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!



Closeup of Great Spangled Fritillary nectaring on butterfly bush. All photos by Mike O'Brien.

**Violets and Fritillaries: A Close Association:** *The following information comes from Butterflies of the East Coast, An Observers Guide, by Rick Cech and Guy Tudor.*

"for one group of temperate zone butterflies, the fritillaries, violets are the cornerstone of a distinctive lifestyle, a host genus with which they have evolved a dedicated and finely tailored relationship."

"Greater Fritillaries (genus *Speyeria*) are large, single-brooded butterflies, all obligate violet feeders."

"Male Greater Fritillaries emerge in late spring or early summer, well ahead of the females (protandry). They patrol actively for mates during the day. Once females emerge, active courtship ensues. Females apparently mate just once, after which males die off. But females persist, in a temporary state of reproductive diapause. Most egg-laying is deferred until the late summer or early fall."

"ovipositing females disperse eggs near the ground, on twigs, foliage, or the like, customarily near a stand of violets - but often not upon them. Newly hatched caterpillars crawl to the nearby hostplant or hostplant rootstock. Once there, they exhibit an unexpected behavior: rather than feeding actively while good weather persists, to accumulate a store of nutrients to help pass the winter, they nestle into leaf litter and enter diapause *without feeding*."