



On The Wing

Newsletter of the Tennessee Valley Chapter,
North American Butterfly Association

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No July meeting

The summer is for counting butterflies, not having meetings! You are invited to help with one or more NABA butterfly count(s) in July. 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, and get you into the great outdoors. Bring binoculars (close-focus if you have them), cold drinks, hat, sunblock and snacks.

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

Saturday, June 30:

16th Annual

Soddy-Daisy, TN count

Meet: 9:30am behind the Soddy-Daisy Subway Sandwich shop. Leader: Bill Haley - for info or directions call (423) 326-9248 or e-mail wgh@tnaqua.org.

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.

The Soddy-Daisy count is centered at Soddy Lake roadside park. It takes in parts of Montlake Mountain, Bakewell Mountain and Sale Creek, featuring diverse habitats. The eastern edge of the count circle actually spills over to the Harrison side of the river. Come prepared for potentially very hot weather and wear a hat, bring lots of liquids, snacks, and sunblock.

Saturday July 7:

13th Annual

Lookout Mountain, GA count

ATTENTION: NEW MEETING SPOT!

Meet: 9:00am on South Broad Street in the parking lot of the Towing and Recovery Museum.

Directions: As you head towards St. Elmo, you'll see the Towing and Recovery Museum on the right. This is before you get to the old Krystal location where we've met in years past. (There is a statue out front of a heroic tow truck operator saving two people.) Compiler: Bill Haley (see contact info for June 30 count).

Help survey the wilds of Chattanooga Valley and Lookout Mountain. It seems we always turn up some real interesting butterflies on this count. Even if you are not an expert, we need your eyes to help spot butterflies, so plan to join us.

Saturday, July 14:

10th Annual Stevenson, AL count

NOTE: This date has been moved up a week from the date previously published because Bill's work schedule has changed.

Meet: 9:00am Eastern at the Food Lion on Brown's Ferry Road (1st exit off I-24W after Moccasin Bend - turn right off exit, store is on left in 1/4 mile)/ We'll caravan from there to Stevenson. Please be prompt, we won't wait long! If you wish to join us in Stevenson, meet us at 9:00am Central at the first parking lot at Stevenson City Park off Hwy. 117. Compiler: Bill Haley (contact info - June 30 count)

Always a good count and a good excuse to explore possibly unfamiliar territory. By the time we do this count, most of the later summer butterflies are out and we often have a good species total. Stevenson is only about a 45-50 minute drive from Chattanooga.

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

Tennessee River Gorge, TN count totals:

The 18th Annual Tennessee River Gorge butterfly count was conducted Saturday, June 9. This is the second oldest continuously running NABA count in the state of Tennessee. Participants included: Libby Wolfe, Dan Falls, David Spicer, Scott Spicer, Harold Birch, Nancy Williams, Tommie Rogers and Bill Haley. We enjoyed a nice day with temperatures from 69-86 F. Sun in the am was 80%, pm sun was 50%. Winds were light at 1-3 MPH.

We split into 3 parties to better cover areas within the circle and had a total of 22 party-hours, walking a combined 6 miles. This strategy definitely pays off as each party found some species that the other two didn't. Good finds included: Checkered White, Little Yellow, Harvester, American Copper, Gemed Satyr, Striped Hairstreak and Juniper Hairstreak. Seven Dianas were located by David and Scott Spicer.

Count totals follow:

Pipevine Swallowtail 8, Black Sw. 2, Spicebush Sw. 5, E. Tiger Sw. 14, Checkered White 3, Cabbage Wh. 2, Clouded Sulphur 1, Orange Su. 21, Cloudless Su. 2, Little Yellow 1, Sleepy Orange 1, Harvesteer 1, Am. Copper 3, Coral Hairstreak 2, Banded Ha. 14, Striped Ha. 2, Juniper Ha. 1, Red-banded Ha. 6, E. Tailed Blue 44, Summer Azure 13, Am. Snout 2, Gulf Fritillary 1, Variegated Fr. 35, Diana Fr. 7, Great Spangled Fr. 8, Pearl Crescent 247, Question Mark 1, E. Comma 1, Painted Lady 3, Com. Buckeye 47, Red-sp. Purple 6, Viceroy 1, Hackberry Emperor 2, N. Pearly eye. 1, Gemmed Satyr 1, Carolina Sa. 15, Little Wood Satyr 2, Silver-sp. Skipper 7, Hoary Edge 1, Wild Indigo Duskywing 1, Com. Checkered Skipper 3, Clouded Sk. 1, Least Sk. 8, Fiery Sk. 10, Crossline Sk. 3, Sachem 87, Dun Sk. 2, unid. dark swallowtail 9. Immatures: 1 Pipevine Swallowtail caterpillar on dutchman's pipe.

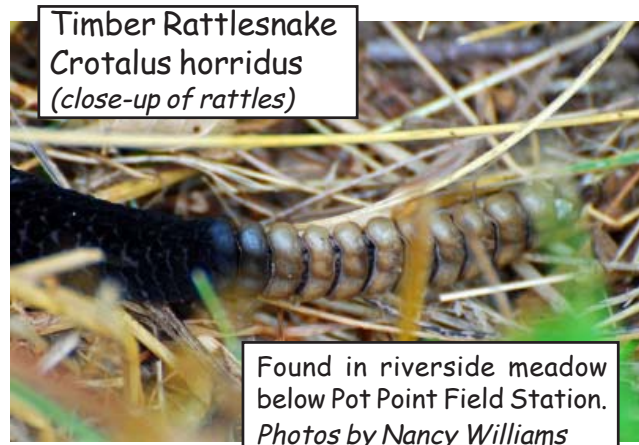
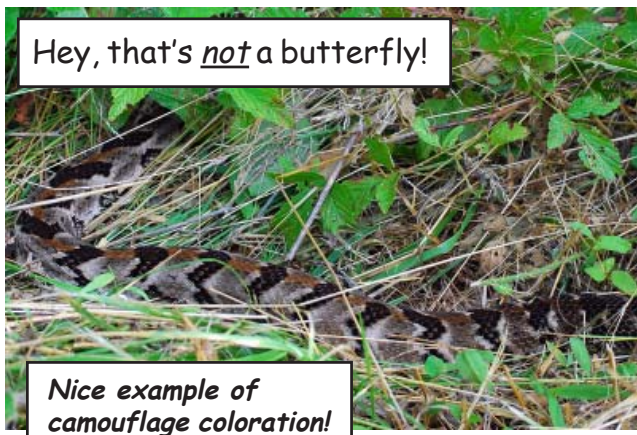
Total: 47 species, 661 individuals.
(Look below for our best find on the count....)



The only butterfly in North America with a carnivorous larval stage is the **Harvester, *Feniseca tarquinius***. They feed on wooly aphids on alder trees. Bill Haley's party found this one on a roadside pull-off in the Tennessee River Gorge. They patiently watched it flit about for a couple of minutes until it finally landed. This very small and somewhat drab Harvester proved to be the only one seen on the count.



Several Red-banded Hairstreaks were found on count day and a fresh specimen like this one can be spectacular. Thanks to Nancy Williams for all photos this page.





When we weren't looking at Timber Rattlesnakes in the meadows below the Pot House, we saw quite a few Banded Hairstreaks. This year's crop was the largest number we've ever found in that location.



The Pearl Crescent, *Phycoides tharos*, is perhaps our most common butterfly found in open meadows, flower gardens and along roadsides. We counted 247 during the Tennessee River Gorge count on June 9 - by far the most individuals of any species seen that day.



NATIONAL EXPERT COMING TO CHATTANOOGA TO PRESENT A PROGRAM ON MEADOWSCAPING: A SAFE, BEAUTIFUL, ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY AND ECONOMICALLY ALTERNATIVE TO LAWNS.

The Tennessee Valley Chapter of the Wild Ones (formerly known as the Chattanooga Native Plant & Wildflower Group) is bringing nationally-renowned filmmaker and organic landscaper Catherine Zimmerman to Chattanooga on **Monday, July 9** to present "**Meadowscaping: A Recipe for Healthy Urban and Suburban Landscapes**" at Chattanooga State Community College's Humanities Auditorium at **7:00pm**. Admission free to Wild Ones members, \$10 (cash or check only) to public, \$5 students/seniors.

Ms. Zimmerman is an award-winning director of photography with over 35 years of experience as a documentary filmmaker with an emphasis in education and environmental issues. She is also an author, certified horticulturist and landscape designer based in Washington D.C., who is helping urban and suburban landowners take a more natural approach to landscaping.

Using a practice called "meadowscaping," Catherine inspires her clients, readers, audiences and viewers to do away with pesticides, reduce lawn and return their land to a beautiful, natural habitat for native plants and wildlife.

Meadowscaping describes a landscaping movement that reintroduces the beauty and biodiversity of a meadow. Meadows help support the intricate connections between wildlife and native plant communities that serve as both food source and habitat. The presentation will cover why meadow and prairie habitats are so beneficial both economically and environmentally, and provide a step-by-step primer on reducing lawn size and organically installing a beautiful meadow or prairie in your yard. As Catherine points out, no space is too small for a nature area.

Catherine grew up on an organic vegetable farm in Ohio where she developed a passion for flowers and gardening. However, when she bought her home in DC, she began gardening thinking only about what she wanted - the perfect lawn, her choice plants - and not what was natural to her piece of land. She succeeded in killing off all the resident fireflies and other valued insects.

She became conscious of the environmental costs of her gardening practices and vowed to find alternatives to her toxic turf. She traveled the country, interviewing meadow experts, researching and documenting meadows on film, and educating herself about all aspects of meadows. Her book, *Urban and Suburban Meadows: Bringing Meadowscaping to Big and Small Spaces* (Matrix Media Press, 2010) is the result of her journey.

Why plant a meadow instead of a lawn? The simple answer to this question is that traditional lawns cost too much from an environmental and monetary standpoint. Annually, tons of fertilizers and pesticides used on lawns are carried by stormwater into our waterways and eventually into the Tennessee River, contributing along with other pollutants to destruction of aquatic life. Monetarily, the cost of lawns is also very high. Catherine compared the costs of two sites in the Chesapeake Bay area, each 1/3 acre: one was a lawn treated with chemicals and the other was a meadow. The initial cost of the meadow was higher than the lawn, but the longer-term costs were considerably lower.