



Photo by
Mike O'Brien

On The Wing

Newsletter of the Tennessee Valley Chapter,
North American Butterfly Association

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Editor: Bill Haley, wgh@tnaqua.org

2013 NABA

Butterfly Count Schedule

For information about any of these NABA counts, please contact Bill Haley. You do not have to be a butterfly expert. Extra pairs of eyes are always welcome on counts, even if you don't know a thing about butterflies. Getting out in the field and seeing the butterflies is a great way to learn field marks and work on your identification skills. There is a fee of \$3 per person for each count you participate in to help NABA defray publishing expenses.

Phone: (423) 326-9248 or (423) 756-4106 (H)
E-mail: wgh@tnaqua.org

Sat., June 8:

19th Annual Tennessee River Gorge, TN

Meet: 9:30am, Signal Mtn. Road Bi-Lo parking lot
Leader: Bill Haley, (see contact info).

The Tennessee River Gorge count is the second oldest butterfly count in Tennessee. This year will be the 19th successive count, making it the longest unbroken stretch for any one count in the state. Center of the count circle is the Suck Creek bridge at the entrance to the Tennessee River Gorge. We'll caravan to many different locations within the 15 mile diameter count circle and find as many species as possible. Stay with us for the whole day, or just a couple of hours, depending on your schedule. We need all the help we can get!

Note: It is probably going to be hot, so please dress for the weather and plan to bring a cooler stocked with ample liquids to drink. (*Warning to the wise: One bottle of water will NOT be enough - bring at least 2-4!*) Be sure to bring some sandwiches/snacks to sustain you during the day too. A hat and sunscreen are also good things to have. If you have a pair of close-focus binoculars, they will be invaluable in helping see the field marks on tiny butterflies.

Sat., June 15:

17th Annual Soddy-Daisy, TN count

Meet: 9:30am at parking lot behind Subway in Soddy-Daisy.

Directions: From Chattanooga take Hwy. 27N and exit at Sequoyah Road, turning right onto Sequoyah Road. Go through 2 traffic lights. You'll see the Subway sandwiches place on the left as you enter the parking lot after the 2nd light.

Leader: Bill Haley, (see contact info).

The Soddy-Daisy count is celebrating its 17th birthday this year. Center of the count circle is Soddy Lake roadside park. This 15 mile diameter circle actually spills over onto the Harrison side of the lake. We'll caravan from the meeting site to various locales within the count circle. Please see note at bottom of first column to know how to prepare for the count.

Sat., June 22:

14th Annual Lookout Mountain, GA count

Meet: 9:00am, Chattanooga Towing & Recovery Museum parking lot on South Broad Street.

Directions: Head towards Lookout Mountain on Broad Street. You'll see the museum on the right side of the road. There is a large statue of a wrecker operator saving some folks in front of the museum.
Leader: Bill Haley (see contact info).

We are meeting a bit earlier for this one, as we'll have to drive several miles to get to the count circle. We'll caravan to Chattanooga Valley and visit many different locales in the valley and atop Lookout Mountain. See bottom of first column to prepare for the count.

Sat., June 29:

11th Annual Stevenson, AL count

Meet: 9:00am at the Food Lion on Brown's Ferry Rd. (first exit off I-24W after Moccasin Bend, then turn right off exit. Store parking lot will be on left in 1/4 mile.) Be prompt, as we won't wait long before heading to Alabama! Or you can meet us in the first parking lot at 10:00am Eastern at Stevenson City Park off Hwy. 72 in Stevenson, Alabama.

Leader: Bill Haley. For directions, see contact info.

Around the Puddle

by Bill Haley

A One, and a Two, and.... Butterfly Count Time Again!

Many folks probably think I've dropped off the face of the earth, as you've not received a single Tennessee Valley NABA newsletter all year. My other interests and duties outside of the butterfly world sometimes get in the way of a hobby I've enjoyed ever since I was a 4th grader! I apologize for neglecting my butterfly newsletter editor duties.

The sad truth is I've been overwhelmed this year. As President of the Dixie Jewels Insulator Club, I am one of three hosts of the National Insulator Association's convention in mid-July. It's the "biggie" in the insulator hobby, and preparations have been intense and hectic. This is why I've scheduled all butterfly counts in June.

I've also had to deal with my mother's recent stroke and the chore of helping her adjust to assisted living. Add to that my normal job duties at the Tennessee Aquarium and my "other job" - weaving baskets to sell at area farmers markets.

Despite all these distractions, I guarantee that my summer butterfly counts will not be neglected. I have done each count you see on page one, beginning 19 years ago with the Tennessee River Gorge count. I'm proud of the fact we've never missed a single year and I don't intend to let all the other stuff keep me from completing all four this summer. Please plan to join me for one, or more, counts this year.

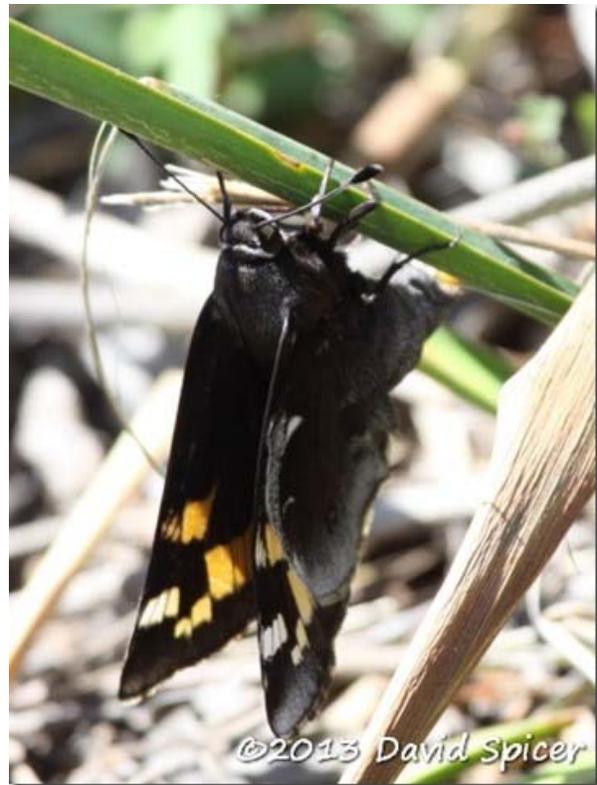
If you also have a busy schedule, as I know many of you do, and can't commit to an entire day in the wild counting butterflies, consider setting aside 2-3 hours in the field on count day. As a rule, the more counters and pairs of eyes, the more species we find.

Depending on how many people show up for any single count, we may actually split up in parties and visit areas within the large 15 mile diameter count circles that one group can't possibly hope to cover in a day. This also results in a better species count, as different parties always finds something the other doesn't.

Most of all, don't worry if you are not a butterfly identification expert. You'll be paired with someone who can identify the butterflies. A day in the field will be enjoyable, so come out and have some fun with us this June!

2014 North American Butterfly Association Biennial Members Meeting Will be Held in Chattanooga, Tennessee on June 12-15, 2014!

In a recent e-mail from Rita Venable, I learned that the NABA members meeting will be held in Chattanooga next year. Butterfliers from all over the country will converge on our area and this will be a great opportunity to show off our butterflies to a national audience. Hosts for this event will be Rita Venable, from Franklin, TN, and Bart Jones from Memphis. We will need local folks to help with this event, so don't make other plans to be anywhere else during that time next summer! As we receive more information, it'll be passed along to the members of the Tennessee Valley NABA chapter.



David Spicer took this image in late April of a Yucca Giant Skipper laying an egg on a yucca plant at the Enterprise South location near the new VW plant.



Mike O'Brien took this lovely photo of a female Eastern Tailed Blue in his yard in Valley Head, Alabama.