



Photo by
Tommie Rogers

On The Wing

Newsletter of the Tennessee Valley Chapter,
North American Butterfly Association

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Editor: Bill Haley, wgh@tnaqua.org

SPRING SEASONAL COUNT Soddy-Daisy, TN Thursday, May 1, 2014

Meet: 10:00 at Daisy United Methodist Church;
Leader: Bill Haley (423) 326-9248 or
wgh@tnaqua.org. Cost: \$3.00 per participant.
Please note, that this is a mid-week count!

The second butterfly count of the year will take place **Thursday, May 1** in the Soddy-Daisy, TN count circle. **NOTE: We will have a new meeting spot - Daisy United Methodist Church, 9508 Dayton Pike, Soddy-Daisy, TN 37379.**

DIRECTIONS: From Chattanooga, take Hwy. 27N to the Harrison Lane exit, turn left onto Harrison Lane and continue to traffic light at Dayton Pike. Turn right on Dayton Pike and the church is located atop hill 1/4 mile on the right. (Look for the flowers!) Turn in at the 2nd entrance, beside the sanctuary.

The Soddy-Daisy /Bakewell Mountain area will be one of the field trip destinations for the upcoming 11th Annual Biennial NABA Members Meeting in Chattanooga, thus this will also be a scouting trip to determine worthwhile stops on those trips. Of course, we also hope to find many great butterflies! Join us for all day or part of the day. Dress for the weather and be sure to bring snacks and plenty of liquids to stay hydrated. There is a \$3 fee per person, which goes to NABA to offset publication expenses of the nationwide count summary.



**Eastern
Pine Elfin**
*Calophrys
niphon*
on redbud

Photo by
Mike O'Brien

Count totals:

Tennessee River Gorge spring count - Thursday, April 3, 2014

What butterflies might be found in very early April? In trying to answer that question, Bill Haley, Harold Birch, Susan Schott and Tommie Rogers conducted the Tennessee River Gorge spring seasonal count on Thursday, April 3. Some of our earliest spring species, such as Falcate Orangetip, West Virginia White and Pepper and Salt Skipper, have a very limited flight period and our aim was to document them while they were still to be found in 2014. The weather is always iffy at that time of year and we started off with 100% cloud cover all morning with scattered sunshine between 50-80% after 1:00. Temperature ranged from 67 F to a very warm 82 F. Butterfly numbers were pretty decent, but only 9 species were located for the day. More sunshine early in the day would likely have produced more species. Following are the totals:

- Eastern Tiger Swallowtail - 39
- West Virginia White - 12
- Falcate Orangetip - 14
- Spring Azure - 16
- Pearl Crescent - 2
- Question Mark - 4
- Eastern Comma - 5
- Juvenal's Duskywing - 78
- Pepper and Salt Skipper - 2
- Unidentified dark duskywing species - 100
(unidentified duskywings were probably Juvenal's)

Total: 9 species, 282 individuals

2014 BUTTERFLY COUNT SCHEDULE:

- Thurs., April 3, TN River Gorge, TN (spring seasonal)
- Thurs., May 1, Soddy-Daisy, TN (spring seasonal)
- Sat., June 7, 2014: TN River Gorge, TN
- Thurs., June 12, 2014: Soddy-Daisy, TN
- Thurs., June 26, 2014: Lookout Mountain, GA
- Thurs., July 24: Stevenson, AL
- Sat., Aug. 2: TN River Gorge, TN (fall seasonal)
- Thurs., Aug. 28: Soddy-Daisy, TN (fall seasonal)

Around the Puddle

by Bill Haley

NABA Biennial Members Meeting: Showing Off Our Butterflies

In you haven't heard, the 11th Biennial NABA Members Meeting will be held in Chattanooga, TN June 12-15, 2014. Butterfly lovers from across the country will be in attendance. We "locals" will have a rare opportunity to show off our butterflies to a national audience.

The host facility will be the Chattanooga Marriott, 2 Carter Plaza, Chattanooga, TN 37402. If you should wish to get a room, call (423) 756-0002. A room block has been reserved for the NABA conference, so be sure to mention you are with NABA.

Registration fees for NABA members are \$275 per person, non-members \$310 per person. (Please note: registration fees may have increased to \$300 after April 16!) You can visit the NABA website, www.naba.org to register online, select your field trip options and meals (box lunches on Friday, Saturday and Sunday for field trips, and banquet dinners Friday and Saturday night) - all of which are covered in the registration fee.

A wide variety of field trips are scheduled (no nets allowed). A complete listing can be found on the next two pages. Groups will travel to field trip sites by car pooling of participants' private vehicles. Field trips are set to depart the Marriott each morning at 9:15 and return by 4:00-5:00. On Sunday field trips may leave earlier and will return by 3:00.

Some very interesting presentations are slated during the conference. On Thursday, June 12 registration will be from 3:30-7:30. That evening will be a welcome to the conference and a presentation by Rita Venable and Bart Jones, our hosts, titled "An Introduction to the Butterflies of Southeastern Tennessee" from 7:00-9:00. Friday's banquet keynote speaker will be Randy Hedgepath, TN State Naturalist, 7:00-9:00. Saturday keynote speakers at the banquet will be Sonia Altizer, Ph.D. and Andy Davis, Ph.D.

Three workshops will run concurrently Friday and Saturday mornings between 8:00 and 8:45. Topics will be: "Butterfly Gardening with Regionally Native Plants"; Butterfly Photography - Finding Your Own Style"; and "Community Organizing to Protect Butterflies"

Join us. It'll be a fun time!

NABA Conference Field Trips & Leaders: (Attend a different field trip each day!)

Friday, June 13: (Approximate times 9:15-5:00)

Prentice Cooper State Forest: David Spicer & Rich Cech

Savage Gulf: Rita Venable & Linda Robertson

South Cumberland State Park: Allan Trently & Randy Hedgepath

May Prairie / AEDC: Dennis Horn & Jim Springer

Fall Creek Falls State Park: John Froeschauer & Richard Connors

Raccoon Mountain: Tommie Rogers & Jeff Glassberg

Tennessee River Gorge / Blue Blazes: Susan Schott

Reflection Riding Arboretum: Nancy Williams & Carol Southby

Local Butterfly Garden Tour: Ann Brown

Soddy-Daisy / Bakewell Mountain: Bill Haley & Nancy Garden

Stevenson, AL: Bart Jones

Saturday, June 14 (same approx. times as Friday)

Prentice-Cooper State Forest: David Spicer & Jeff Glassberg

Savage Gulf: Rita Venable & Linda Robertson

South Cumberland State Park: Allan Trently & Randy Hedgepath

May Prairie / AEDC: Dennis Horn & Carol Southby

Fall Creek Falls State Park: John Froeschauer & Richard Connors

Raccoon Mountain: Tommie Rogers & Jim Springer

Tennessee River Gorge / Blue Blazes: Doug Bruce

Reflection Riding Arboretum: Susan Schott & Nancy Williams

Local Butterfly Garden Tour: Ann Brown

Soddy-Daisy / Bakewell Mountain: Bill Haley & Nancy Garden

Stevenson, AL: Bart Jones

Sunday, June 15 (return by 3:00)

Prentice-Cooper State Forest: Randy Hedgepath & Nancy Garden

Prentice-Cooper State Forest 2: Bart Jones & Carol Southby

Savage Gulf: Rita Venable, Allan Trently, Jim Springer

Raccoon Mountain: Tommie Rogers & Rick Cech

Tennessee River Gorge / Blue Blazes: Doug Bruce

Reflection Riding Arboretum: Susan Schott & Nancy Williams

Local Butterfly Garden Tour: Ann Brown & Nancy Williams

Soddy-Daisy / Bakewell Mountain: David Spicer & Jeff Glassberg

Visit the NABA website: www.naba.org for more info on the meeting in Chattanooga!

Tentative Schedule (All times Eastern)

Thurs., June 12:

3:30-7:30pm: Registration
7:30-9:00pm: Welcome and Program:
"An Introduction to Butterflies of Southeastern Tennessee", Rita Venable and Bart Jones

Friday, June 13:

8:00-8:45am: Workshops (3 concurrently)
9:15am: Field trips depart
5:00pm: Field trips return
6:00-7:00pm: Social hour, book signing, exhibits
7:00-9:00pm: Banquet and Keynote Speaker
Randy Hedgepath, TN State Naturalist

Saturday, June 14:

8:00-8:45am: Workshops (3 concurrently)
9:15am: Field trips depart
5:00pm: Field trips return
6:00-7:00pm: Social hour, book signing, exhibits
7:00-9:00pm: Banquet and Featured Speakers:
Sonia Altizer, Ph.D. and Andy Davis, Ph.D.

Sunday, June 15:

8:00am: Field trips depart
3:00pm: Field trips return
3:00-3:30: Meeting finale

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Pre and Post Meeting Field Trips:

Tues., June 10 & Wed., June 11:

Cost \$25 per person / day, attend one day or both - your choice.

Trip 1: Target species: Mitchells Satyr

Group will meet in Brent, AL (approx. 3 hours from Chattanooga) at approximately 10:00am Central. Exact location to be determined.

Trip 2: Target species, Swamp Metalmark

Meet in Tusculmbia, AL (approx. 2 hours from Chattanooga) at approximately 9:00am Central. Exact location to be determined.

Sun., June 15 & Mon., June 16:

David Svetich restored meadows, Kentucky
(Please see the NABA website, www.naba.org for more information on this post meeting destination.)

What's All the Fuss About the Diana Fritillary, Our "Target Species"?



One butterfly we hope to find on several of the NABA field trips, and one reason why many butterfly watchers gravitate to this area of the country, is the **Diana Fritillary**, *Speyeria diana*. The Diana is a Southern Appalachian endemic, found only here and in the Ozark Mountains. The all-time record continental high count for Diana Fritillary of 132 was recorded on June 9, 2011 during the Tennessee River Gorge count. Below is a photo taken in 2011, showing how "common" they were. Every year is different, with different spring-time weather. We didn't find our first Diana on a count last year until June 21 - and numbers continued low all summer. We are all keeping our fingers crossed that they will emerge earlier in 2014 and put on a good show for the NABA meeting attendees.

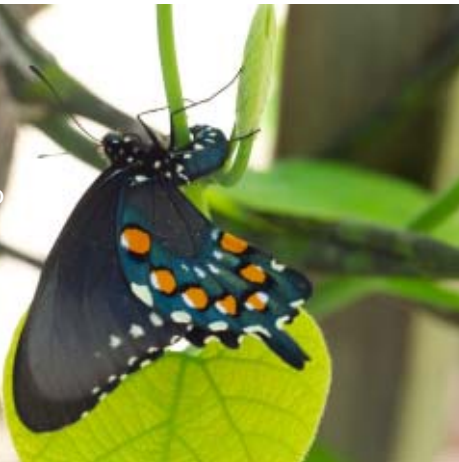


Order a Polo Shirt commemorating the 2014 NABA Biennial Members Meeting in Chattanooga. The shirt features either a male or a female Diana Fritillary (you get to choose which you want), and there are a number of attractive colors to choose from. Cost is either \$25 or \$27, and they can be ordered online at the NABA website, www.naba.org.

Pipevine Swallowtail Laying Eggs

Mike O'Brien, in Valley Head, Alabama, took these great photos of a female Pipevine Swallowtail laying eggs on the dutchman's pipevine on his porch. Enjoy!

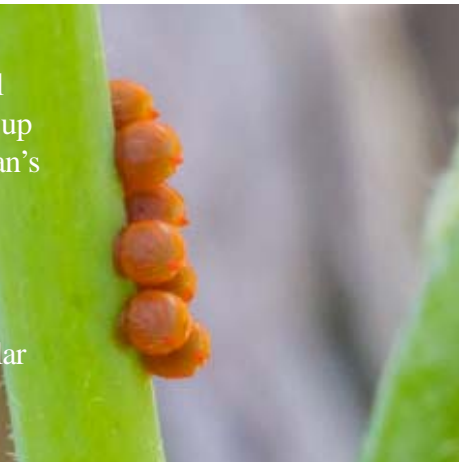
Female Pipevine Swallowtail curling abdomen to lay 1st egg on stem of dutchman's pipevine, April 24.



Pipevine Swallowtails lay several eggs and caterpillars start life feeding together..



Pipevine Swallowtail eggs close-up on dutchman's pipevine. April 24. Stay tuned next month for caterpillar "glamour shots".



JUNE NABA BUTTERFLY COUNTS:

Mark your calendar and plan to help out!

(Both counts will be prior to the NABA conference, so these counts will be valuable scouting opportunities for field trip leaders in these areas.)

Saturday, June 7:

20th Annual Tennessee River Gorge Count Meet: 10am, Signal Mountain Rd. Bi-Lo parking lot
Leader: Bill Haley, Cell Phone (423) 326-9248,
E-mail: wgh@tnaqua.org.

A designated person will be at the Bi-Lo to meet participants and get them started. If we have enough counters, we may split up to better cover the count circle. Bill will be leading a butterfly walk for the public in North Chattanooga as part of our count efforts that day (see below), and will be free to count in other areas after noon.

Saturday, June 7:

Free Public Butterfly Walk in Coolidge Park and Renaissance Park:

In an effort to expose the public to the world of butterflies and the joys of butterfly watching, a free butterfly walk in Coolidge and Renaissance Parks in North Chattanooga will be led by Bill Haley from 10:00am to noon on Saturday, June 7. This walk will leave from Outdoor Chattanooga, located on River Street beside the Walnut Bridge and adjoining Coolidge Park. Both parks are within the Tennessee River Gorge count circle and butterflies found there will be added to our count totals. Bill will join counters in other areas within the circle after he leaves the parks at noon.

Thursday, June 12:

18th Annual Soddy-Daisy, TN Count
Meet: 10:00am at Daisy United Methodist Church in Soddy-Daisy. (Note: New meeting spot!!! See directions on page 1). Leader: Bill Haley, (See contact info above).

We will be joined on this count by a number of NABA meeting attendees from around the country. They will be in town a day early and eager to "get the lay of the land" and see some Tennessee butterflies. What better way to do this than by helping with our butterfly count? Bill has already been contacted by attendees from California, Massachusetts and New Jersey who wish to participate in our count. They may run the gamut from first time counters to those who have compiled counts in their own areas for years. It will be a wonderful opportunity to scout for the field trips to Soddy-Daisy / Bakewell Mountain that will be offered every day of the conference, as well as meet and spend some time in the field with some fascinating and experienced butterfly folks from far off.