



Photo by  
Tommie Rogers

# On The Wing

Newsletter of the Tennessee Valley Chapter,  
North American Butterfly Association

June 2014

Volume 8, Number 3

Editor: Bill Haley, wgh@tnaqua.org

## JUNE NABA BUTTERFLY COUNTS:

(The TN River Gorge and Soddy-Daisy counts will be prior to the NABA conference. All counts in June or July are considered Fourth of July counts by NABA.)

### 20th Annual Tennessee River Gorge Count Saturday, June 7, 2014:

**Meet:** 10am, Signal Mountain Rd. Bi-Lo parking lot  
**Compiler:** Bill Haley, Cell Phone (423) 326-9248,  
**E-mail:** wgh@tnaqua.org.

Susan Schott 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.

### Also on Saturday, June 7:

#### Free Public Butterfly Walk in Coolidge Park and Renaissance Park, North Chattanooga:

**Meet:** 10:00am, at Outdoor Chattanooga, on River Street near the Walnut Street Bridge in North Chattanooga. **Leader:** Bill Haley (see contact info above). 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.

### 15th Annual Lookout Mountain, GA Count Thursday, June 26, 2014

**Meet:** 9:30am on South Broad Street in the parking lot of the Towing and Recovery Museum.

**Directions:** As you head away from downtown on Broad Street towards St. Elmo. You'll see the Towing and Recovery Museum on the right. (Statue out front of a heroic tow truck operator saving two people.)

### 18th Annual Soddy-Daisy, TN Count Thursday, June 12, 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 Soddy-Daisy, TN count will take place Thursday, June 12. **NOTE:** We have a new meeting spot this year - 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 and go 1/4 mile on Dayton Pike and the church is located atop the hill on the right. (Look for the flowers!) Turn in just past a yellow fire hydrant, and park in the parking lot behind the church.

Many people from the NABA Biennial Members Meeting are planning to join us for this count. They will be in town for the big event and will be 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, Florida and New Jersey who wish to participate in the 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 meet butterfly enthusiasts from around the country. Because of the large number of participants, I will probably be calling on some "regulars" to split up the group and lead parties of people into different areas of the count circle.

### REMAINING 2014 NABA BUTTERFLY COUNTS:

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

### Will The Dianas Show Up?

I discussed in last month's newsletter why the Diana Fritillary is such a big deal to many of the folks from across the country who will soon converge on Chattanooga for the 11th Biennial NABA Members Meeting. It is a big, bold, beautiful butterfly. But more than that, it has a very restricted range, mainly in the Southern Appalachians. Most years, fewer than 10 NABA counts nationwide, out of almost 500 total, record the Diana Fritillary. (Only seven in 2013!)

In Chattanooga, we are lucky to be within their range. In years of abundance, they may be seen in many locales and can be a common yard butterfly - especially if you live on a mountain, where they are a bit more abundant than in the "lowlands". If people wish to see a Diana, they must come to us. It is a major reason NABA was interested in Chattanooga as a venue.

Now lets look backward for a moment. Last summer we knew the big NABA conference would be in Chattanooga, and we knew the dates, June 13-15, 2014. We were a bit anxious when those dates were announced. The big question was: Would the Diana be here?

I expect to find Dianas on our first two counts each year, but butterfly populations can be extremely variable from year to year. For instance, on June 9, 2011 we had a freak occurrence. Dianas emerged in great abundance two days before that count. The result was an all-time continental high total of 132. The next year's count was on June 8, a day earlier - ZERO Dianas!

We completed the 2013 Tennessee River Gorge count on June 8 - no Dianas. We did the Soddy-Daisy count on June 15 - no Dianas. The Lookout Mountain count followed on June 22. Finally we found one Diana. I repeat. ONE Diana was sighted, but not until June 22, a week after the conference is to end this year. Things didn't improve much after that, as Dianas were in very low numbers for the remainder of the summer.

Here we are in 2014, practically on the eve of the big NABA get-together, and we are still asking the big question: Will they be here?

That question will only be answered after all the field trips are completed on Sunday, June 15. My fingers are firmly crossed that we'll have an early emergence of Dianas again, and that they'll be found on several of the field trips.

## 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](http://www.naba.org) for more info on the meeting in Chattanooga!**

**Soddy-Daisy spring seasonal count totals:**

The Soddy-Daisy spring count was conducted on Thursday, May 1. Participants were Bill Haley, Mike O'Brien and David Spicer. It was a cool, windy, partly cloudy day - not great for butterflies. Dave Spicer covered the eastern side of the river, Bill and Mike were on the west side. Butterfly numbers were low, mostly due to the adverse weather conditions. Totals follow:

- Pipevine Swallowtail - 3
- E. Tiger Swallowtail - 21
- Spicebush Swallowtail - 12
- Orange Sulphur - 1
- E. Tailed-Blue - 8
- Spring Azure - 2
- Silvery Checkerspot - 1
- Pearl Crescent - 38
- American Lady - 1
- Carolina Satyr - 7
- Silver-spotted Skipper - 7
- Dreamy Duskywing - 1
- Sleepy Duskywing - 3
- Juvenal's Duskywing - 10
- Mottled Duskywing - 1
- Wild Indigo Duskywing - 3
- Sachem - 1
- Zabulon Skipper - 1
- Pepper and Salt Skipper - 12
- Common Roadside Skipper - 3
- unid. dk. swallowtail species - 2
- unid. hairstreak species - 1
- unid. duskywing species - 5
- unid. roadside skipper species - 1

**Total: 22 species, 165 individuals**

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**Scouting Soddy-Daisy / Bakewell Mtn.** for the NABA field trips, one benefit is that more time has been spent in the Soddy-Daisy count circle in May than most previous years: On **Friday, May 16** Bill Haley and Nancy Garden scouted areas to be visited during the NABA meeting in Soddy-Daisy, Bakewell and Sale Creek - all areas within the Soddy-Daisy count circle. Not all species found are listed, only highlights: 1 Silvery Checkerspot, 1 American Lady, 38 Little Wood Satyr, 6 Dusted Skipper (*that's 4 more than Bill had ever seen!*), 3 Pepper and Salt Skipper, 2 Lace-winged Roadside Skipper, 1 Common Roadside Skipper. On **Memorial Day, Monday, May 26** Bill did some solo scouting. Highlights included: 2 Banded Hairstreak, 14 Spring Azure, 4 Great Spangled Fritillary, 4 Silvery Checkerspot, 1 Eastern Comma, 3 Northern Pearly-Eye, 1 Creole Pearly-Eye, 3 Golden-banded Skipper, 2 Tawny-edged Skipper, 1 Little Glassywing. No Bakewell Mtn. this day because of an afternoon thunderstorm.

**NABA Biennial Meeting Schedule**

**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

**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.

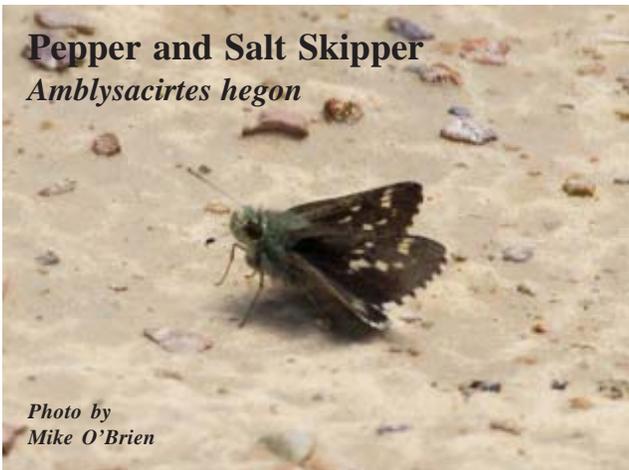
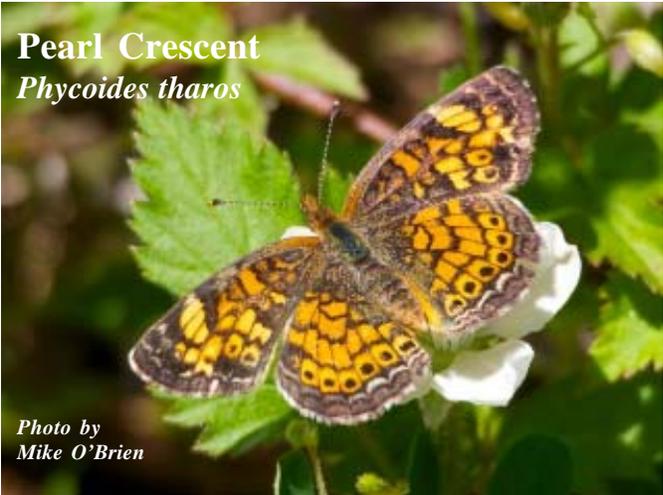
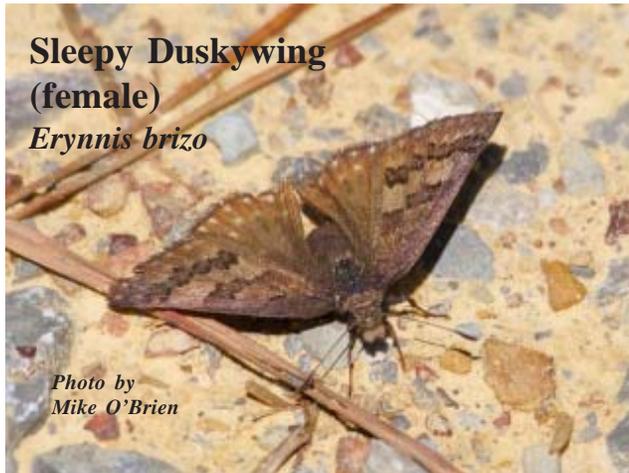
**Trip 2: Target species, Swamp Metalmark**

Meet in Tusculumbia, 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](http://www.naba.org) for more information on this post meeting destination.)

Soddy-Daisy Spring Count Photos



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**GOLDEN-BANDED SKIPPER NEWS:** Once again, scouting for the upcoming NABA field trips has paid dividends! While scouting for trips she will lead on Raccoon Mountain, Tommie Rogers has discovered a nice population of **Golden-banded Skippers**, *Autochton cellus*. She found 14 of these uncommon skippers - a very high count for this area.

**IDENTIFICATION HEADACHE:** The five duskywing and two roadside skipper species gave Bill, Mike and Dave quite a test during the Soddy-Daisy spring count. Much time was spent looking through field guides and scratching heads in an attempt to identify them all.



### Tennessee Valley NABA Officers A Note from Bill Haley:

Last spring, due to time required to plan and host a National Insulator Association convention in Franklin, TN, I stepped down as president of the Tennessee Valley NABA chapter. I was just not able to devote the time to butterflies our chapter deserved.

At that time the Tennessee Valley membership was asked if anyone was willing to step up and assume the role of president. Nobody stepped forward, so we've been without a president for over a year now.

David Spicer, who is our vice-president, became president-by-default (a position that was kind of thrust upon him - he certainly never asked for it). Dave has done a wonderful job on the chapter's website and is a big help on butterfly counts. I appreciate this greatly. However, I recently spoke with him and Dave is ready to relinquish the "acting president" role.

I firmly believe that a club without a president is like a ship without a rudder. You really never know where it will go - or IF it will go at all. I refuse to let our chapter drift away into oblivion. I feel we need a president again.

This chapter was founded in 2008 and I am the only president we've ever had. Even though I took a leave of absence from the position, I've continued to get most of the questions and mailings directed to our club by the NABA national office. I've also invested more time than I originally intended in the planning for the NABA Biennial Members Meeting this year. I am willing to resume my role as president, unless someone else wishes to "put their name in the hat".

Our bylaws state that anyone who is a current member of our NABA chapter can make nominations for any officer position, or can run for any office themselves. Our chapter currently has the following officer positions.

- President -
- Vice-President - David Spicer
- Secretary - Susan Schott
- Treasurer - Jennifer Taylor

This is your invitation to help our NABA chapter move forward into the future, and to bigger and better things. If you have a nomination for any officer position, please e-mail David Spicer at [birdsnbfls@gmail.com](mailto:birdsnbfls@gmail.com), Susan Schott at [schottbids@gmail.com](mailto:schottbids@gmail.com), Jennifer Taylor at [jet@tnaqua.org](mailto:jet@tnaqua.org) or me at [wgh@tnaqua.org](mailto:wgh@tnaqua.org). If we receive nominations for any office, a vote will be held next month. Here is your chance. Speak up now.

Bill Haley, Founder, Editor, TN Valley NABA



Eastern Tailed-Blue, *Everes comyntas*, may be small in wingspan, but they are very beautiful little butterflies. Much thanks to Mike O'Brien for these nice shots.



Tommie Rogers sent in this photo of Silvery Checkerspot, *Chlosyne nycteis*, caterpillars. She reports they are finding her purple coneflower plants quite delicious and are busily eating them down to the ground. (Now if she can just keep the deer from eating both coneflowers and caterpillars!)