



On The Wing

Newsletter of the Tennessee Valley Chapter,
North American Butterfly Association

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First Butterfly Count of 2015!

Soddy-Daisy, TN

Saturday, April 25, 2015

Meet: 10:00 at Daisy United Methodist Church, 9508 Dayton Pike, Soddy-Daisy, TN 37384.

Leader: Bill Haley. (423) 326-9248, or e-mail wgh@tnaqua.org. Cost: \$3.00 per participant.

Last spring we found some really nice butterflies on Bakewell Mountain during the Soddy-Daisy spring count, especially some uncommon skipper species such as Mottled Duskywing, Dusted Skipper, Common Roadside and Lace-winged Roadside Skipper.

The week of April 19-25 will be National Environmental Education Week. Ivy Academy, located in the southern part of Soddy-Daisy has plans to host an open house and is expecting environmental educators from around the state to attend. The school is located in the count circle. In addition to their campus, they also have access to a nice path that leads along North Chickamauga Creek. In years past we've sometimes surveyed part of this land. I have been invited to help with their festivities that day, and have promised to be there from 1:00 to 3:00 to lead a butterfly walk. This factored in my decision to do the Soddy-Daisy count before Tennessee River Gorge this year.

Which Duskywing Is It?

The photo at right is the same butterfly as the top of the page. Since duskywings are very common in early spring, which one is this? (Hint: On the top shot, there are two tiny spots on the hindwing that allow a positive identification.)



- See the bottom of pg. 2 for the answer.

Another Spring Seasonal Count

Tennessee River Gorge, TN

Monday, May 4, 2015

Meet: 10:00am in the parking lot of the Signal Mountain Road Bi-Lo; Leader: Bill Haley (423) 326-9248 or wgh@tnaqua.org. Cost: \$3.00 per participant.

Note: This count will be held on a **MONDAY!**

While the Tennessee River Gorge count is historically the lead-off count each year, it has been moved back and is now the second official NABA count of 2015. If you are free on a Monday and can help, please make plans to attend.

We will have possibly missed some of the early spring species, such as Falcate Orangetip and West Virginia White, but you never know. There may still be a few in the upper elevations on Bakewell Mountain at this date. Butterfly diversity should be good.

The compiler of the count will be Bill Haley and if you have any doubts the day of the count, feel free to give him a call on his cell phone, (423) 326-9248. This is always a good opportunity to see both spring butterflies and beautiful spring wildflowers. As always, bring snacks and plenty to drink. Dress for the weather and sunblock and a hat are always good ideas.

2015 BUTTERFLY COUNT SCHEDULE:

Sat., April 25: Soddy-Daisy, TN (spring seasonal)
Mon., May 4: TN River Gorge, TN (spring seasonal)

Sat., June 6: TN River Gorge, TN
Sat., June 13: Soddy-Daisy, TN
Thurs., June 25: Lookout Mountain, GA
Thurs., July 23: Stevenson, AL

Thurs., Aug. 13: TN River Gorge, TN (fall seasonal)
Sat., Aug. 22: Soddy-Daisy, TN (fall seasonal)

Note: some summer dates are tentative, and may be changed, especially if another count is rescheduled.

Around the Puddle

by Bill Haley

It's Butterfly Counting Time!

Winter 2014-15 wasn't too bad in the Tennessee Valley - at least until the last two weeks of February. At that point it seemed to make up for lost time with single digit temperatures, ice and a good bit of snow. March proved to be a little more forgiving.

On a trip to Florida in February, we ate lunch at a rustic BBQ place with a family from Boston. When you look back at what these folks had to endure this winter, all I can say is I'm glad they live there and we live where we do. They'd been hit with huge snow storms practically every week, and at that time had already measured over 100 inches of snow. They had to shovel their roof before they left, lest it collapse from the sheer weight of snow built up on it. They were in very good spirits to be in sunny Florida and we certainly couldn't blame them for heading south. I hope most of the winter is now a memory for them too.

In contrast, we had some warm spots during January. Libby Wolfe reported the first local butterfly sighting of 2015 on January 19, a Clouded Sulphur at the Brainerd Levee. She also found an American Snout on January 21.

It is now mid-April, and I'm seeing butterflies. Easter is behind us and we've already had the cool snap we commonly call "dogwood winter". Temperatures have already reached over 80 degrees. When will "blackberry winter" - our second expected springtime cold snap (usually when the blackberries are blooming) arrive? I hope it isn't on April 25!

I've lately been overwhelmed with too many things going on and am looking forward to spending some relaxing time with the butterflies during our first two spring seasonal counts.

Soddy-Daisy, on Saturday, April 25, will go first this year. This will be the first time in local butterfly counting history I haven't started with the Tennessee River Gorge count. I'd planned to try for an April 4 River Gorge count, but was sick and badly needed some down-time.

Please read about the Soddy-Daisy count, which will take place during National Environmental Education Week on page one. Butterfly counting will play a part in that celebration.

'Nuff said. Let's count some butterflies!

Some great yard butterflies from Mike O'Brien



Great Purple Hairstreak, *Atlides halesus*, nectaring on redbud blooms.



Brown Elfin
Callophrys augustinus



Eastern Pine Elfin
Callophrys niphon