

White M Hairstreak
Parrahsuys m-album



Photo by
Mike O'Brien

On The Wing

Newsletter of the Tennessee Valley Chapter,
North American Butterfly Association

April 2016

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First Butterfly Counts of 2016!

Tuesday, April 5: 22nd Annual Tennessee River Gorge, TN count

Meet: 9:30am at the Food City parking lot on Signal Mountain Road. Leader: Bill Haley, wgh@tnaqua.org, (423) 326-9248

Plan to join us for the very first butterfly count of 2016, the spring seasonal count in the Tennessee River Gorge count circle. Please note that this count will be conducted on a **Tuesday**. This is a great chance to see and learn to identify early spring butterflies. Don't know your butterflies? Don't worry. We welcome participants of all skill levels from seasoned expert to brand new beginner. You can help spot the butterflies and someone else will make an identification. Extra eyeballs are always a plus. Close focusing binoculars are a definite help on a butterfly count. Dress for the weather. It may be cool in the morning and warm up in the afternoon, so layers are a good choice. Keep in mind that we may be wading into tall grasses. Long pants that can be tucked into socks, and comfortable walking shoes (not sandals or crocs) are recommended. These things help deter ticks briars and poison ivy. Bring snacks and plenty of drinks. While this is an all-day count, you can tag along for awhile and then leave if your schedule is hectic that day.

Note: There is a \$3 fee per participant on all NABA counts. They go to the North American Butterfly Association to help defray their publication costs.

Thursday, April 28: 20th Annual Soddy-Daisy, TN spring count

Meet: 9:30am at Daisy United Methodist Church, 9508 Dayton Pike, Soddy-Daisy, TN 37379. Leader: Bill Haley (see contact information above)

Our second 2016 count, another spring seasonal count in Soddy-Daisy, will take place on a **Thursday**. There should be many butterflies out by the end of April and this count will be just a little short of 2 months prior to the summer count. Read above for a list of what to bring for the count. Everyone is invited!

Falcate
Orangetip
(male)

*Anthocharis
midea*

(Ventral shot)
You can faintly
see the orange
wingtips
through the
wing.



Photo by
Mike O'Brien

American Lady
Vanessa virginensis



Photo by
Mike O'Brien

Thanks to Mike O'Brien for the three beautiful photos on this page. Mike and his wife Marion keep a sharp eye out for butterflies on their property in Valley Head, Alabama, and have gotten off to a quick start on their 2016 yard list.

OTHER 2016 BUTTERFLY COUNT DATES:

Thurs., May 19: Lookout Mtn., GA (spring count)
Sat., June 4: TN River Gorge, (summer count)
Mon., June 20: Soddy-Daisy, TN (summer count)
Sat., July 9: Stevenson, AL (summer count)
Thurs., July 21: Lookout Mtn., GA (summer count)
Sat., Aug. 13: TN River Gorge, TN (fall count)
Thur., Sept. 1: Soddy-Daisy, TN (fall count)

Around the Puddle

by Bill Haley

On March 5, I set up a Tennessee Valley NABA information table at an event sponsored by The Wild Ones, an organization that advocates the use of native wildflowers and plantings in home gardens and yards. Other members of our NABA chapter in attendance were Mike O'Brien, Nancy Williams, Ann Brown and Susan Schott. Please forgive me if you were there and I neglect to mention you! The event, called Plant Natives 2016 "Celebrating the Southeast's Bounty" was held at UTC. I found it to be extremely well-organized. This was our type crowd and the attendance was great.

A number of interesting presentations by very knowledgeable plant experts were offered in the auditorium. The room where our information table, along with many others, could be viewed also included organizations who offered native plants for sale and U.T.C. students who were there to discuss their graduate research projects.

It was an excellent opportunity for us to get the word out about our NABA chapter. A lot of people were surprised to learn there was an organization in town that focused on butterflies. Susan and I enjoyed chatting with many folks who stopped by the table, and we are in agreement that this is something our chapter needs to do more. To that end, we are planning to buy a tabletop display board that can be used in the future. I've included a couple of photos below of our table display.



Fresh Spring Seens...

March 6: Mike O'Brien reported a Spring Azure, the first true spring butterfly. All others seen prior to that were overwintering species.

March 7: Nancy Williams saw her first Spring Azure at her home in East Brainerd.

March 10: Tommie Rogers spent some time birding in Marion County and had a good butterfly day too. Her sightings included Eastern Comma, Tiger Swallowtail, Spring Azure, Falcate Orangetip, and duskywing species. In Hamilton County the same day she spotted Eastern Comma, Cabbage White and a sulphur species.

March 10: Susan Schott reported a Falcate Orangetip near blooming toothwort plants at the Chattanooga Nature Center and Arboretum (Reflection Riding).

March 19: Mike O'Brien e-mailed to say, "The last few days have been really good for seeing early spring BF's, especially with the 10 redbuds and one Weeping Cherry we have now blooming just off our deck. Today is cooler so the butterflies are hiding. I did manage to get a few decent photos the last two days. We also had a Spicebush Swallowtail female and both yellow and black forms of the Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, also Spring Azures. Yard species at 10 now for 2016 and include both Eastern Comma and Question Mark." Mike included photos of Falcate Orangetip, American Lady, White M Hairstreak, Juvenal's Duskywing, Henry's Elfin, Juniper hairstreak and Red-banded Hairstreak.

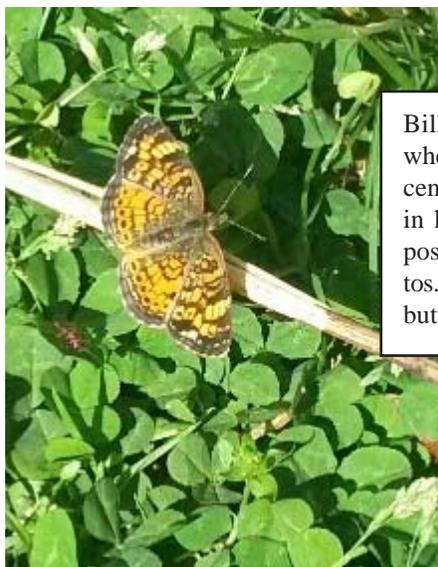
March 22: Mike O'Brien found an Eastern Pine Elfin on his Weeping Cherry. He said, "I now have the 3 early spring Elfins and the Juniper and White M Hairstreaks. Now I just need a Great Purple Hairstreak and I'll be set. I had a Red Admiral today also and am up to 15 species now."

March 26: David Spicer went over to Enterprise South nature park and saw a number of butterflies, including: Pearl Crescent, American Lady, Falcate Orangetip, Gemmed Satyr, Eastern Tiger Swallowtail and a couple of duskywing species. Dave said, "I had a number of duskywings, most of which were sitting on the ground or in a pose where I couldn't see the underside of their wings. The few pictures I got of the underside shows these were Horace's. I found a dead Juvenal's on the road, so they are or have been around. There were several dark swallowtails aggressively patrolling, most went by too high or too fast to be sure what they were, although I got the impression of a Pipevine and a Spicebush. I got a good enough look at one to be sure it was a Pipevine."

March 27: Walking home from work, Bill Haley saw a number of sulphurs patrolling a flowery bank near the Veteran's Bridge. He saw both Orange and Clouded Sulphur, and one white - which was either a white phase or a Cabbage White.

March 28: Bill Haley stopped by his house during lunch hour and finally got his first yard butterfly of 2016, a fresh Pearl Crescent. It was very cooperative and sat still while he took several photos with his phone.

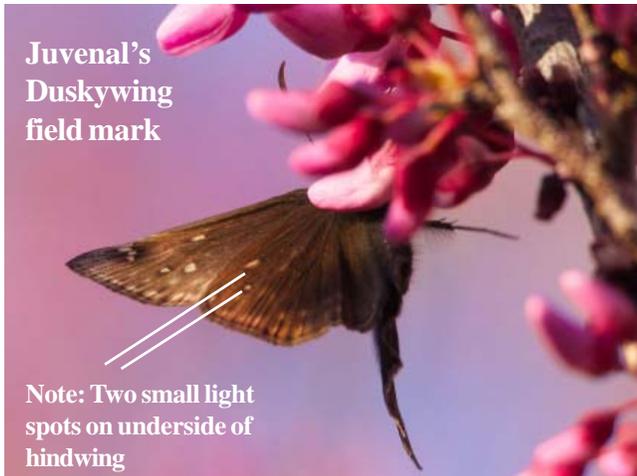
The Spring Butterflies are Here ...and we have photos to prove it!



Bill Haley got lucky when this Pearl Crescent landed on a twig in his front yard and posed for a few photos. It was his first yard butterfly of the year.



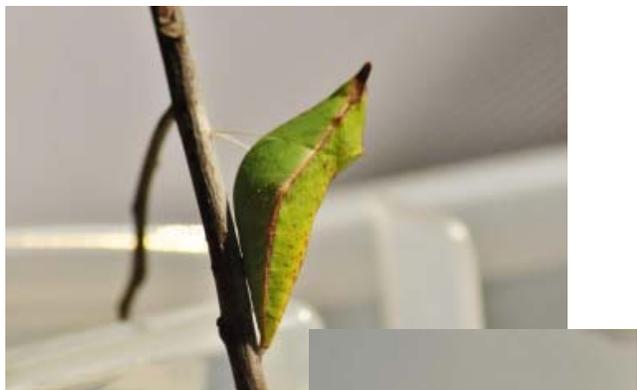
Oh, those confusing duskywings! In "Butterflies of the East Coast" by Cech and Tudor state, "Our two largest duskywings (Juvenal's and Horace's) are similar in appearance and habitats, and are both variable enough to generate confusion in the field." (*Amen to that!*) Juvenal's Duskywing is a spreadwinged skipper. This means you rarely have a chance to see the underside. The best field mark, unfortunately for butterflyers, is two small light dots on the underside of the butterfly on the hindwing near where it meets the forewing.



Juvenal's Duskywing field mark

Note: Two small light spots on underside of hindwing

I looked back through a number of years of butterfly photographs to find one that clearly shows the field mark for Juvenal's Duskywing. This is the best I could do. As stated on the preceding page, it is difficult to get a photo of the underside of this butterfly. In this photo, the top spot is much more distinct than the one right under it.



Tommie Rogers sent the photos above and to the right of two Spicebush Swallowtail chrysalises that spent the winter in her garage. Note the "safety belt" near the middle of each. It is interesting that they are two different colors, green and brown. These might be mistaken for a leaf on a twig by a hungry predator .

Photos by Tommie Rogers



Red-spotted Purple *Limenitis arthemis astyanax* caterpillar

Photo by Tommie Rogers

The caterpillar of the Red-spotted Purple has an interesting way to avoid predators - it looks like bird poop!

5th Annual Plant Give-Away Daisy United Methodist Saturday, April 9, 2016, 10-2



Columbine, hens and chicks and moneywort, dug from Bill Haley's yard, will all be given away on Saturday, April 9th!



Lots of garlic and purple Siberian iris

Five years ago Daisy United Methodist in Soddy-Daisy, known in the area as "the church with the flowers", was looking for new community outreach ideas. I noted that many other places had plant sales. Why didn't we give away FREE plants? The annual Plant Give-Away was born!

Our church is located on Dayton Pike a little bit north of the WalMart and we get a lot of interest from passers-by. Each person is limited to three plants of their choice. Last year we had over 400 people stop for plants! Some who had received plants in previous years stopped by with a trunkload of plants for us to give away.

Here is a sampling of what will be available: Pink Bergamot, Bee Balm, Sundrops, Siberian, Louisiana and bearded iris, Columbine, Hens and Chicks, Garlic, Aromatic Aster, English Garden Aster, New England Aster, Oregano, Chives, Lenten Rose, Mints and much, much more.

I have close to 300 plants from out of my small yard in North Chattanooga, and others donate plants too. Everyone is invited!
- Bill Haley