



Southern lepidopterists' news



CHARTERED
1978

VOL. 3; NO. 1
MARCH 1981

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SOUTHERN LEPIDOPTERISTS' SOCIETY, ORGANIZED
TO PROMOTE SCIENTIFIC INTEREST AND KNOWLEDGE RELATED TO UNDERSTANDING
THE LEPIDOPTERA FAUNA OF THE SOUTHERN REGION OF THE UNITED STATES.

CHAIRMAN-EDITOR : DAVE BAGGETT

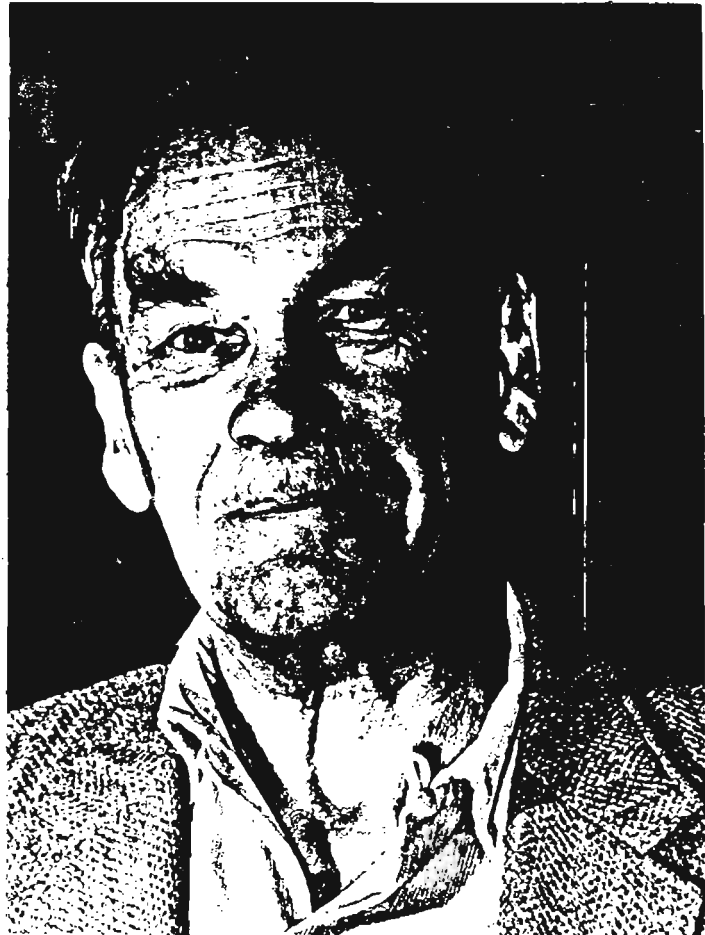
SECRETARY-TREASURER : TOM NEAL

FIRST JOHN ABBOT AWARD RECIPIENT : CHARLES P. KIMBALL

The result of the membership polling has established that the first recipient of the John Abbot Award will be Mr. Charles P. Kimball of West Barnestable, Massachusetts. For those of you unfamiliar with "Charley" and his efforts, this may seem a bit unusual for a Massachusetts resident to be receiving accolades for efforts involving the lepidoptera of Florida. However, the choice was clear from the votes, and we have a very deserving winner.

In 1943, he jointly authored The Lepidoptera of Nantucket and Marthas Vineyard Islands with Dr. Frank M. Jones, a close personal associate who apparently had much to do with stimulating a serious interest in lepidoptera. It was with Dr. Jones' encouragement that in effect led to the eventual publication of Lepidoptera of Florida in 1965, Volume I in the Arthropods of Florida series sponsored by the Division of Plant Industry. The text has become a widely-used reference, especially for moths of the region, and is frequently cited in current literature, containing valuable information regarding dates of capture, localities, and host plant records for nearly 2000 species.

For many years he maintained a second home
(to page 2)



in Sarasota, Florida, where he added numerous records. For many years he has maintained records for species from Florida, and has developed an acute interest in the microheterocera in a ceaseless effort to learn more about the moth fauna of the state. Many Florida collectors have found it to their great advantage to allow him to review material, appreciative of his knowledge and experience, and have found him eager and willing to assist with determinations and giving of his valuable time freely. Material from his personal collection is frequently referred to in publications, and several species bear reference to him personally.

Charles was born on March 18, 1897 in Rochester, N.Y.; he attained his A.B. degree from Harvard in 1920, and his M.S. from the University of Rochester in 1923. Current affiliations include the Lepidopterists' Society, the Entomological Society of Washington, and the Florida Entomological Society, and we can be pleased to have such a distinguished colleague in our limited membership. May we convey our hearty congratulations for a job well-done, and continuing, in recognition of outstanding achievement in expanding the knowledge of the lepidoptera of the southern region of the U.S.

(Photo courtesy of Div. of Plant Industry)

=====

TIP FOR THE FIELD COLLECTOR :

How many times have you been on a collecting trip some distance from home, and managed one way or another to rip or tear your net bag, without having the foresight to stow away an extra bag just-in-case? Having a propensity towards mild absent-mindedness (most of you must have noticed my tendency to ramble around in the newsletter) myself, I found a quick and simple solution to avoid this form of "field frustration" : take two 6" to 8" strips of mylar duct tape and wrap them around the handle of your net at home. Unless you have managed to totally annihilate the net bag in the brambles, the two strips, or pieces thereof, are generally more than sufficient to facilitate quick field repair by placing a strip on the inside and the outside of the tear. This type of tape retains its adhesive qualities very well over time, and could save you from ruining an otherwise eventful day afield. Duct tape comes in several forms, and I recommend the mylar-canvas type with imbedded threads rather than the plastic type without the inner reinforcement because the quality of the adhesive is better. You can get the tape at any hardware store or hardware department in larger stores.

TIP FOR REARED SPECIMENS :

Most of us at one time or another have the opportunity to rear specimens from eggs, larvae, or pupae, a fascinating part of the lepidoptera experience. However, I am sure that many of you are unaware that spent eggshells (or unhatched eggs), larvae that succumb prematurely (or are later discovered to be parasitized), and pupae and cocoons which are spent are also of significant value to your collection, and if not of interest to you personally, probably will be of interest to taxonomists and systematists at various museums or educational institutions with an entomology program. Try to save these as well as the emerging adults, or make arrangements with the curatorial staff of your choice to donate such material. It enhances the value of a specimen from a scientific standpoint to retain the spent pupal shell (and spent final instar skin and head capsule) with the specimen in your collection. On the label, there should be some reference to the source of the stock (in the case of ova, cocoons, etc.) as well as some notation regarding the plant the species was reared on. Even the parasites are important, as there is much to learn in the realm of biocontrol, a preferred method where applicable which utilizes natural predators to control pest species rather than the indiscriminant method of pesticides . Keep these thoughts in mind when rearing.

PRELIMINARY INFO FOR 1981 ANNUAL MEETING :

A recent poll of coordinators has indicated that the 1981 meeting will be held in the form of a south Florida expedition, with trips to popular spots in the Florida Keys, Dade County, and possibly Collier County. Tentatively, plans are that we would like to headquarter in the Homestead area, and hold the meeting and field trips during November 6-10th. If response warrants, I will try to make arrangements to stay at Camp Owaissa-Bauer, which has summer-camp type facilities (screened bunk houses, typical campground shower/restroom areas, etc.) and the advantage of numerous electrical hookups for blacklighting purposes. The campground itself borders on remnants of tropical hammock, and excellent general collecting is available (permit must be obtained for the group.) Early November is generally a very good time to collect in south Florida for many butterfly species, also excellent for capturing Sphingids and other moths over flowers in the evening and at dawn. Reasonable motel accommodations are also available at that time, which just precedes the regular tourist influx and the corresponding rate hikes. As member input is received, we'll include more information and specifics. While most other areas in the south are well into the fall decline, it is worthy to note that south Florida is reaching its fall peak. Give this some serious thought, and if you think you are interested, please contact the Editor as soon as possible. In order to reserve the facility at Owaissa-Bauer, I must make reservations well in advance, and even at this time may be forced to make some minor re-scheduling changes. I must also apply for a group Dade County Park permit. Last-minute entries can probably be worked in, but I must have all the details worked out as soon as possible in order to make proper arrangements for the group. Here's your chance to go to south Florida with someone who is familiar with the tropical species and how to locate many of them!

GENERAL NOTICES AND RESEARCH REQUESTS

You are reminded that you must re-apply for Florida State Park permit renewal if you have not already done so. It is illegal to collect on Florida State Parks unless you have a permit, and it is your personal responsibility to apply for a permit. A list of members of the Southern Lepidopterists has been provided to the office of the State Naturalist, Maj. Jim Stevenson, Division of Recreation & Parks, Florida Department of Natural Resources, 202 Blount St., Tallahassee, FL 32304. You are also reminded that this is a privilege, and that you have an obligation to provide a written report listing species seen/collected on the parks you visit, which help the park personnel develop checklists. If you visit a particular park regularly, why not check in with the superintendant and inquire about preparing a checklist over the course of the season, which gives even better accounting of the species present. Checklists for Torreya State Park and Gold Head State Park have been registered with the State Naturalist, and a formal display of most butterflies and Saturniid moths will be presented to the staff at Torreya State Park during April 1981, with reference to those species on the park. If you are interested in preparing a checklist for any Florida State Park, I will be glad to assist in keeping the general format uniform.

The extensive collection of the Allyn Museum of Entomology, which houses one of the world's largest butterfly collections (and certainly one of the best curated), has recently been donated to the University of Florida in Gainesville. We are very pleased with this development, and more details will be provided later.

Mark K. Wourms, Biological Science Center, Boston University, 2 Cummington St., Boston, Massachusetts 02215 : Mark needs to obtain livestock of Pieris rapae and/or Ascia monuste for studies regarding host plant preference. He is also interested in observations of predation by birds for these species.

Mark H. Evans, College of Agricultural & Life Sciences, Dept. of Entomology, Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison, 237 Russell Laboratories, 1630 Linden Drive, Madison, Wisc., 53706 : Mark is the specialist technician for J. Mark Scriber, and they need to obtain livestock in the form of ova / pupae of Papilio glaucus, Callosamia promethea, C. angulifera, C. securifera, and the endemic Hyalalophora spp. for research purposes. Also needed are precise locality information for the stocks, and local host plant preferences, if known. Correspondence is invited.

Paul F. Pfenninger, 1220 Broad St., Box 506, New Castle, Indiana 47362 : Paul would like to correspond with anyone knowledgeable about food plants in south Florida for resident Saturniid moths, especially those which may utilize fruit trees such as lychee, mango, sapote, carambola, avocado, etc. (Ed. note : the only reference in C. P. Kimball, Lepid. of Florida, 1965, is for Automeris io, reported as feeding on lychee and avocado, not surprising for this general feeder.)

CHANGES OF ADDRESS, NEW MEMBERS

Alvin F. Ludke, 6524 Stoneman Dr., North Highlands, CA 95660.

Donald W. Bowden, 276 Grove St., #5, Newton, MA 02166.

Marvyne Betsch, c/o Afro-American Life Ins. Co., P.O. Box 2140, Jacksonville, FL 32203

Frank D. Fee, 522 Fairway Rd., State College, PA 16801.

Mark Meyers, 4703 W. Parker, Chicago, IL 60639.

William E. Sieker, 119 Monona Ave., Madison, Wisc. 53703.

John R. Watts, 5816 SW Archer Rd., lot 73, Gainesville, FL 32608.

Christopher D. Nagano, Research Associate Entomology Section, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles Co., 900 Exposition Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90007.

Ada Ginsburg, 710 N. Ocean Blvd., #1102, Pompano Beach, FL 33062.

Col. Stanley S. Nicolay, 1500 Wakefield Dr., Virginia Beach, VA 23455.

Richard L. Brown, Mississippi Entomological Museum, Drawer EM, Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS 39762.

Bob Belmont, 902 SE 23rd. St., Cape Coral, FL 33904.

Parker & Donna Henry have two addresses : October 1 thru April 1, 10960 SW 89th. Terr., Miami, FL 33176; April 1 thru October 1, Rt. 2, Box 478D, Heber Springs, Ark. 72543.

Ray E. Stanford, 720 Fairfax St., Denver, CO 80220 has assumed his son's (Scott) subscription. Scott won a subscription at the 1980 Lep. Soc. Meeting in Gainesville.

----- CURRENT ZONE REPORTS AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES -----

ZONE I: TEXAS : Coordinators, Ed Knudson & Mike Rickard, 803 Woodstock, Bellaire, TX, 77401.

Ed gave the following catch-up report on fall activities : Sanderson, Terrel Co., 28-IX- 1980; Saturniids : Agapema galbina, Hemileuca chinatiensis; Noctuids : Oncocnemis toddi (previously known only from four type specimens, Big Bend Nat. Park), Grotella blanchardi, Reabotis immaculalis, Cropia templada, Acopa carina, Catabena pronuba, and Abrostola microvalis; Geometrids : Metasiopsis griseata, Glaucina mayelisaria, Chesiadodes polingi, and Synaxis triangulata; Pyralids: Pyrausta lethalis, Noctueliopsis bububattalis, and N. brunnealis ; Olethreutids : Eucosma ridingsana, E. persolita, and E.reversana. At Bentsen State Park, Hidalgo Co. on 11-X-1980, he found Sphinx chisoya (det. Brou); Noctuids : Chalcopasta howardi, Oslaria viridifera, Schinia accessa, S. regia, Fruva fasciatella, and Gonodonta sinaldus. At Davis Mt. State Park, Nov. 2-3, he found the following : Ctenuchid : Lycomorpha splendens ; Noctuids : Euxoa medialis, E. sculptilis, Tridepia nova, Catocala verilliana, C. delilah (late ?), and Agrotis vetusta; Pyralids : Chloristostigma roseopennalis, C. elegantalis, Rostrotaetilia texanella, and Peoria johnstoni.

ZONE II : ALABAMA, LOUISIANA, MISSISSIPPI, & TENNESSEE : Coordinators : Vernon Brou, Rt. 1, Box 74, Edgard, LA 70049; Bryant Mather, 213 Mt. Salus Dr., Clinton, MS 39056; John Hyatt, 439 Forest Hills Dr., Kingsport, TN 37663; Charles Watson, 1337 Watauga St., Kingsport, TN 37660.

Vernon gave the following as new for LA : Phyllodesma carpinifolia (Lasiocampid), Ceratomyx satanaria (Geometrid), Feralia major (Noctuid), all from Weyanoke, West Feliciana Parish, plus Lepipolys perscripta (Noctuid). He also picked up a single male specimen of Automeris louisiana (new species, in press) in early March in Vermilion Parish. Members are asked to be on the lookout for female Lapara coniferarum or L. halicarniae in hopes of obtaining ova for rearing purposes.

If you plan on doing some collecting in Mississippi, you are urged to contact Charles Bryson, 1906 Patton St., Starkville 39759 for specifics for spots to check. Bryant noted new county records for Fulgoraecia exigua, Cryptotheleá gloverii, C. nigruta, and Zamopsyche commentella, and that Rick Kergosien had taken a new state record with Basicladus tracyi. Spring moth collecting seems to be good in MS this season.

It is too early yet for much in the way of butterfly reports, but if planning to visit TN you should contact either Charles or John, particularly late May through July; both will be happy to put you in good localities there. However, you might want to make connections early, as both plan to be on a field trip with E. Tennessee State University to SW and extreme southern Texas between mid-May and mid-June. John hopes to check out the Reelfoot Lake region en route.

ZONE III : GEORGIA : Coordinators, Irving Finkelstein, 425 Springdale Dr. NE, Atlanta, 30305 and Abner Towers, Box 127, Powder Springs, 30073.

Both visited the Macon area on March 14th., and found slim pickings, but still managed to find a few C. henrici, C. nippon, a single A. halesus, plus two Colias cesonia f. rosa, the normal "winter" form. Irving is looking forward to the Lep. Society Meeting in Mexico this summer. A note of special interest concerns the Xerces Society's annual meeting, which will be held June 5-7 in Savannah, followed by a field trip to Ossabaw Island between June 8-12. The meetings will be held in the Savannah Science Museum between 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM, and the preregistration deadline is May 1st. Only 24 persons will be allowed to make the Ossabaw trip, the capacity for this barrier island. Collecting on Ossabaw is limited.

ZONE IV : FLORIDA : Coordinators, Lee Adair, 810 Gascon Pl., Temple Terrace, 33617;
Steve Roman, 117 Masters Blvd., Winter Park, 32792.

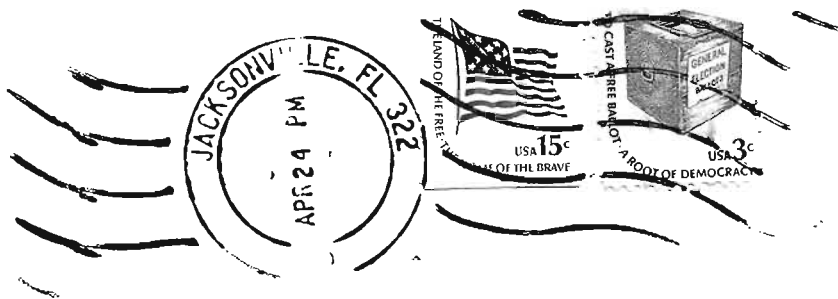
A spring meeting held on Feb. 28th developed plans for two field trips in Florida, one the weekend of May 2-3 at Torreya State Park and a second to south Florida May 16-17. Anyone else interested in participating should contact the Editor. Steve took some fine slides of C. henrici margaretae near Deland on Feb. 22nd, which were shown at the meeting. Charlie Stevens captured his first Nymphalis antiopa from Florida (rare here) on Feb. 23rd. in Jacksonville - I saw only two there the entire time I lived there. On 8 March, he visited Ft. George Island and Eastport with Chuck Zeiger, where they found a few C. henrici margaretae and several C. gryneas sweadneri. Visitor June Preston paid a visit, and had success with C. h. margaretae at Deland also. Roman, Fee, Boscoe, and Gilmore all found a few C. hesseli during 21-22 March at Sumatra. Dow, Baggett, Stevens, and Zeiger visited Larry Hill in Inverness on 28 Feb. for an evening of blacklighting, which was productive : Epicnaptera americana, Lycia ypsilon, Phaeoura quernaria, and a species near Agrotis manifesta were among the species recorded. On the return, a fine specimen of Ceratomyx satanaria was taken in Sumter Co. just east of Nobleton.

ZONE V : VIRGINIA, SOUTH & NORTH CAROLINA : Coordinators, Leroy Koehn, Rt. 3, Box 270H, Staunton, VA 24401; John Coffman, Rt. 1, Box 331, Timberville, VA 22853; Ron Gattelle, 126 Wells Rd., Goose Creek, SC 29445; Bob Cavanaugh, P.O. Box 489, Newport, NC 28570.

Bob has received confirmation as the new NC Coordinator for the group, and we can look forward to some interesting reports from him during the season. Ron reported that one of three localities for C. irus arsace was badly burned in Charleston; the TL colony is in Savannah. He is hoping to look for additional Megathymus yuccae in Aiken Co., noting that the neotype specimen came from ornamental plants, suggesting it may have originated elsewhere in the SE ! Don't hesitate to contact Ron if you plan to be in the Charleston area. Leroy and John plan to make the May trip to south Florida. At present, thought is being given to holding the 1982 meeting in July at Fontana Dam, NC. Any comments ?

+++++
The Southern Lepidopterists' News is published quarterly, with annual membership dues of \$3.00, open to anyone with an interest in lepidoptera of the region. Contact the Secretary-Treasurer, Tom Neal, 3820 NW 16th Place, Gainesville, FL 32605 for back issues and group information.

The SOUTHERN LEPIDOPTERISTS' NEWS
c/o the EDITOR, Dave Baggett
14406 N. 22nd. St., Apt. 169
Lutz, FL 33549



Jacqueline Y. Miller
Allyn Museum of Entomology
3701 Bay Shore Rd.
Sarasota, FL 33580