



CHARTERED
1978

Southern lepidopterists' news

A black silhouette of the Southern United States, including Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, and Florida, with state boundaries indicated.

VOLUME 3, NO. 3
OCT. 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

***** 1981 MEETING AT CAMP OWAISSA-BAUER *****

As anticipated, it has been necessary to reschedule the meeting, with the date now firm as the weekend of October 31 - November 1. Camp Owaissa-Bauer was booked solid through June of 1982 when I first tried to make arrangements, so I was forced to wait for a cancellation. I had also checked out other local possibilities, but much preferred to stay at Bauer Hammock, and think you will also when you get there - one of few remaining tropical hammocks left on the Florida mainland, with many unique features in fauna and flora. It is superior to regular campgrounds in the area in that only one group is permitted to stay at a time, designed for church groups and boy scout trips. The facility includes some 15 screened bunk houses, complete with bunks and mattresses (one needs to bring their own sheets, blankets, and pillows), with good shower/restroom facilities and a large enclosed pavilion building ideal for holding the meeting and working on specimens in the evening. In the pavilion, there is also a camp kitchen, providing an on-site efficiency for those bringing their own food and not wishing to go to restaurants. Meals will be left strictly up to an individual basis...I've found that there are an awful lot of fussy eaters among lepidopterists! There is also a swimming pool at the camp for cooling your heels after a hard day in the field, and I think that Saturday will prove to be just that.

For those preferring motel accommodations, I will recommend that you make reservations at either the Coral Roc Motel (AC 305 - 247-4010) or the Caribe Motel (AC 305 - 247-2442), both of which are on Krome Avenue about five minutes' drive south of the camp. The rates should be about half (about \$20.00 single, \$25.00 double) that of the larger chain motels, such as Howard Johnson's (248-2121) or Ramada Inn (245-1260) along US Highway 1 in north Homestead, plus they are closer. I plan on staying a few extra days during the first week in November, and if you plan an extended trip, please make sure that you have secured reservations. For the night at Camp Owaissa-Bauer, the cost will be approximately \$10.00 or less to stay on Saturday night.

We will plan to meet at the camp around 10:00 AM Saturday morning, and will depart for a field trip to Big Pine Key at noon. The meeting will be held at 9:00 PM in the pavilion at Camp Owaissa-Bauer, which will allow maximum time afield in the afternoon and time to set up blacklighting equipment at the camp. Sunday morning we will plan to collect locally at the facility and in the Florida City area. Don't forget your camera, either ! A map to scale follows to show you where to go to meet at Bauer.

DIRECTIONS TO CAMP OWAISSA-BAUER

To MIAMI

NORTH

Camp
Owaissa-
Bauer

Bauer Drive (264th. St.)

NARANJA



U. S. Hwy. **1**

Biscayne Drive

288th. St.

Interchange 14



(Florida Hwy. **27**)

HOMESTEAD

NE 8th. St.

(Campbell Drive)

Interchange 15

Krome Avenue

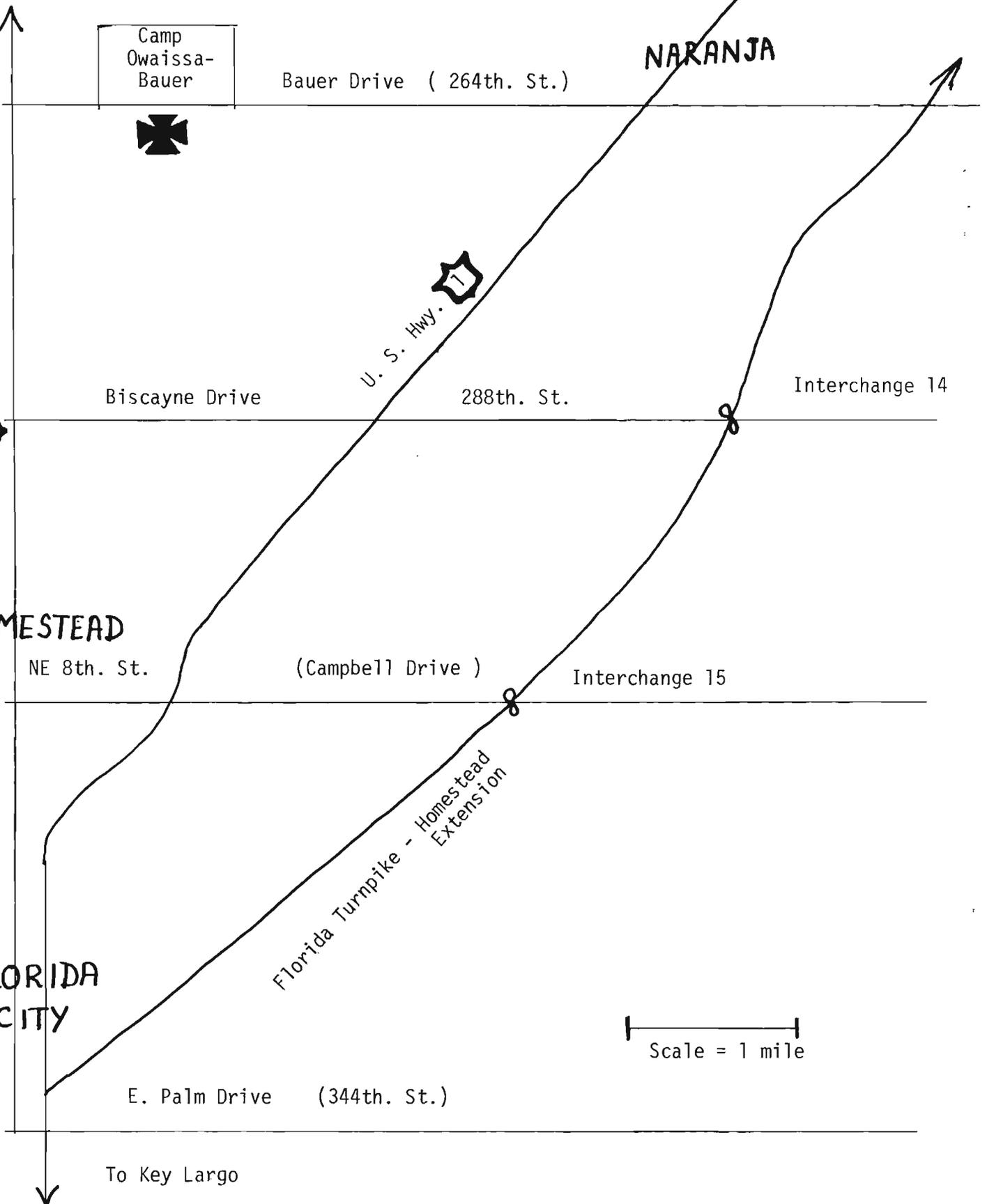
**FLORIDA
CITY**

Florida Turnpike - Homestead
Extension

E. Palm Drive (344th. St.)

Scale = 1 mile

To Key Largo



Those of you driving down to south Florida for the first time will find it expedient to use the Florida Turnpike, taking the Homestead Extension south from Ft. Lauderdale to avoid the tremendous congestion on US 1, or to come directly down Florida Highway 27. I'll be glad to make additional recommendations or to answer questions if need be - call me at home in the evening (813 - 977 5433). I look forward to seeing a few new faces, as well as seeing a number of friends from the past. I am especially looking forward to getting in the field again, having been ill most of the summer with mononucleosis, which aggravated an ulcer condition and put me in the hospital for eight days in July. As a result, I've taken things pretty easy most of the summer and have not been active in the field, so I'm really raring to go again now!

+++++

CURRENT ZONE REPORTS

ZONE I : TEXAS : Coordinators, Ed Knudson, 804 Woodstock, Bellaire 77401 and Mike Rickard, 6550 Hillcroft #201, Houston 77081.

John Hyatt reported on the trip he and Charles Watson made in May: At Pedernales Falls State Park near Johnson City, they found Megisto rubricata, Cercyonis pegala texana, Phaeostrymon alcestis, E. ontario autolytus, Atrytone arogos, Chlosyne lacinia, and C. theola bolli among the more interesting butterflies, this on 20 May. At Bentsen-Rio Grande St. Pk. in Hidalgo Co., they found a wide assortment of Pierids, including C. cesonia, P. agariste, A. monuste, and K. lyside; Calephelis nemisis was common, as were the Texas Asterocampa spp.; Mestra amymone was found along with Cyllopsis gemma (freemani ?) and Phyciodes texana texana. John reported taking the skipper Astrartes anaphus annetta within sight of the Rio Grande on the Mexican side, probably one of the best catches. This collection was 22-24 May. He's still working on the moths and skippers...at Black Gap Wildlife Refuge, Brewster Co., 25-30 May, they collected in Chihuahuan desert to find many species common, the best being Apodemia mormo duryi, L. bachmanii larvata, Systasea pulverulenta, Eurema mexicana, D. gillippus strigosum, and Papilio multicaudatus.

Ed reported on summer activities for moths : at Seminole Canyon St. Pk., Val Verde Co. on May 23, he found Tolype mayelisae (Lasiocampidae); Sphingicampa hubbardi (Saturn.); Glaucina eupitheciaria, Acanthophora graefi (Geometridae) and others. At Big Bend Nat. Park, Brewster Co. on May 27-29 : Bertholdia trigona, Calidota muricolor, Halisidota caryae, Euchaetias expressa (Arctiidae); Acronicta vallisicola, Neperigea costa, Nocloa plagiata, Nacopa melanderi, Spragueia magnifica, S. obatra, Acontia bella, Catocala frederici, C. delilah, C. verilliana, Zale termina, Synedoida fumosa (Noctuidae); Litodonta wymola, Litodonta alpina (Notodontidae); Apotolype brevicrista (Lasiocamp.); Evergestis lunulalis (Pyralid); Sparganothis reticulatana (Tortricid); and Comadia redtenbacheri (Cossidae). At Sierra Diablo W.M.A., Culberson Co. on June 26-27, he found Sphinx chersis and Hypocrisias minima; Actebia cymnopristes, Oncocnemis poliafascies, Hemibryomina chryselectra, Agrostia evelinae, Cobubatha limbata (Noctuidae); Symmerista suavis, Fentonia dorothea (Notodonts); Eupithecia edna, E. hauchuca, Itame simpliciatata, Merisma spododea, Somatolophia petila (Geometridae); Edia semiluna, Pyrausta nexalis, Crambus bolterellus, Acrobasis blanchardorum, Dioryctria ponderosae, Anderia sonorella, Rhagea packardella (Pyralidae); Eucosma bolanderana, E. morrisoni, E. bobana, E. reversana (Tortricidae); Pseudochelarica pennsylvanica, Compsolechia paltodoriella, Lita dialis (Gelechiidae); and Ethmia marmorea (Ethmiidae). At Bee Caves Ranch, 10 miles west of Hunt, Kerr Co. : Sphinx dolli (25 July); Gloveria sphingiformis (Lasiocampid) and Iguromorpha itzalana (Cossidae)-both 22 July; and Catocala consors (28 June). Ed had many others to report, but space prevents them all.

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, on a visit with Bryant, found a specimen of Automeris louisiana (n. sp., Ferguson & Brou) from Bay St. Louis, MS taken by Rick Kergosian - the first from outside Louisiana. Vern also reported finding a hybrid Limenitis archippus watsoni X L. arthemis astyanax in his light trap! New parish records for Sphingidae in LA include E. pandorus (Tangipahoa Par.) and Manduca jasminearum & S. kalmiae from St. John Parish. Mike Israel and Vernon collected at Weyanoke, West Feliciana Par. in early Sept. to find 2 Papaipema inquaesita (2nd. & 3rd. from the state) plus two specimens of an undescribed Notodontid (3919, 1 in Kimball). They found Catocala nebulosa, C. neogama, and C. piatrix common at light between midnight and the early morning hours. New Louisiana state records include Eoparargyractis irroratalis & Lamprosema magualis (Pyralidae), August, near Fluker, Tangipahoa Parish; Eucosma scintillana (Olethreutidae), August, St. John Parish; and Langessa nomophilalis (Pyralidae), July & Aug., St. John Parish. Vernon commented on the effectiveness of employing fermented fruit bait to attract Amphion nessus; in 21 years of previous collecting in Louisiana, he had recorded 16; in several weeks employing bait, he added 28 new records ! Bryant took his first home county specimen of Catocala sappho this summer. John Hyatt reported Staphylus hayhurstii on 18 May near Reelfoot Lake, TN as the only bug of interest on an otherwise dismal day of collecting there.

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

Richard Heitzman confirmed the capture of Lethe anthedon from Georgia, a significant southward extension, for Irving Finkelstein, Abner Towers, and Hermann Flaschka. They found them common at Pigeon Mt. Wildlife Management Area, Walker County in late May. They also recorded Papilio cresphontes from the same spot, the first mountain region record for this species in Georgia. On May 12, Hermann and Irving visited the Oconee National Forest in Jasper County, and found P. interrogationis, P. comma, L. arthemis astyanax, L. bachmanii, A. celtis (and a quantity of A. clyton larvae defoliating the Hackberry trees), and F. tarquinius common. They also duplicated Jeff Slotten's record for Poanes hobomok there, the southernmost known colony. Irving is engaged in rearing out a new species of Narraga (Geometridae) found earlier this year in Georgia, which will be jointly described in the future with Charlie Covell.

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

Irv Finkelstein provided a new county record for Electrostrymon angelia, after examining specimens provided by Morris Spelman taken Feb. 16, 1976, Boca Raton, Palm Beach Co. Tom Neal provided a good list of moths : Eumacaria latiferrugata, Blue Spring, Washington Co. , 28 May; Itame inextricata & Racheospila catachloa, Panama City Beach, 24 May (all Geometridae); Argyrostromis sylvarum, A. erasa, Ptichodis flavistriaria, Catocala jair, Cutina distincta, 24-30 May, vic. Panama City Beach (Noctuidae); Exyra ridingsi, Heliophana mitis, and Didasys belae, 29-30 May, vic. West Bay, Bay County; plus Anepia capsularis, 10 April, Gainesville, Alachua Co. John Watts reported on a trip to the IFAS Research Station in Homestead during late August; he found the following butterflies present : Electrostrymon angelia (common), Tmolus azia (3, a new locality), B. polydamas, P. philea, P. statira (one male), A. drusilla, S. columella, S. stelenes (1), Polygonus leo, and Ephriades brunnea. In Gainesville, Sept. 5th., he found A. lyciades, P. yehl, P. aaroni howardi, P. viator, V. cardui (a fall migrant in Florida, absent in some years), and W. egemeret.

Frank Hedges found some good Sphingids in his Kissimmee back yard this summer in Eumorpha achemon and Isoparce cupressi (the latter some distance from Cypress trees, since his home is several miles from the nearest swamp, and these moths tend to be most common near the host plant). Richard Gilmore noted that C. maestosa had a boom season this year, with numerous individuals on almost every tree trunk at Torreya State Park, Liberty Co. in July and August. He and Frank also found several Paonias astylus at their mercury vapor lights in August at Torreya. Linwood Dow has been busily preparing distribution maps for many of the Florida micros, and continually amazes me with his material and dedication. Gilmore saw and missed a Megathymus cofaqui at Torreya on 8 August, but did get A. cellus; Lee Adair got a male M. cofaqui at the Withlacoochee St. Forest Rec. Area on 10 October, and he and Dan Burris both got their first Hesperia attalus in Levy County the same day. John Riggensbach paid Chuck Zeiger & Charlie Stevens a visit in early September, and got to photograph F. tarquinius and M. gryneus swadneri in the Jacksonville area; John will have some slides of many Florida butterflies to show at the meeting. Steve Roman has been actively pursuing the Heliothine Noctuids in Florida this fall, and has added a number of new species to his collection, especially among the Schinia and Eupanychis genera; these are small diurnal moths which are commonly found in the heads of fall Compositae, many of which are brightly colored to mimic the coloration of the flower heads on which they rest. Terry Dickel has recently reared what I believe will prove to be E. funeralis from larvae found on Sesbania macrocarpa on Stock Island in the Keys, and has reared both Xylophanes pluto and X. tersa ex-ova and larvae found on Hamelia sp. in Homestead; he also duplicated Paul Tuskes' records for A. tantalus by finding eggs of this species on 7-year apple on Big Pine Key and raising a few on to adults. Our condolences to Charley Kimball, who has also been ill this summer, but is out of the hospital and recuperating.

ZONE V : VIRGINIA, NORTH & SOUTH CAROLINA : Coordinators; Leroy Koehn, 5400 Bernard Dr. SW, Apt. C-102, Roanoke, VA 24014; John Coffman, Rt. 1, Box 331, Timberville, VA 22853; Ron Gatrell, 126 Wells Rd., Goose Creek, SC 29445; Bob Cavanaugh, P.O. Box 489, Newport, NC 28570.

Bob reported finding M. g. gryneus at Ft. Macon St. Park on 30 August, while trying to verify the presence of A. loammi - it had not been reported since the turn of the century in the area (Beaufort). He found larvae of Calephelis virginiensis feeding on Carduus spinosissimus (= Cirsium horridulum of some authors); I've looked for this for years here in Florida without success! He has had some equally amazing observations regarding the oviposition behavior of Calycopis cecrops in N. Carolina as well, this being that they frequently oviposit on decaying leaf matter. He's working on an excellent documentation of this. He recorded P. protodice in Montgomery Co., NC on 26 July; Problema bulenta at the type locality near Wilmington on 16 August, along with P. viator and E. palatka. He found D. gillippus berenice along the coast near Southport the same day, a super NC record. On July 4th., he found S. edwardsii and a single S. caryaevorus near Deep Gap, Watawga Co. Keep up the good work! Among moth material provided by Leroy Koehn from last season, I came across two specimens of Hyles galli taken in Augusta County, VA last summer. These represent a significant southward record for this Sphingid, both taken in a fermented bait trap. One of these days I'll let Leroy provide us with a list of some of the assorted baits he has found to be attractive to lepidoptera in VA. He has probably done more experimentation of this sort than anyone else I can imagine, with some equally startling subject matter and results. How about a note on this, Leroy? I know you've tried just about everything from road kills to rock salt mixed with sand! A good field collector learns to be observant, and applies this knowledge; a good field collector also applies new methods and uses a variety of proven techniques - Leroy is one of the best I know in terms of looking for new areas, trying new ideas, and finding new records.

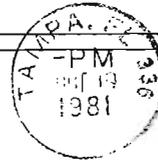
The new Audubon Field Guide to the Butterflies of North America is in your local bookstore; this text applies the latest nomenclature and provides numerous accounts for North American butterflies and skippers. There are a few minor errors, but the book is a must for all those with an interest in butterflies, and accomplishes the goal for which it is designed. The cost is a modest \$11.95, not bad when you realize there 1,086 illustrations, many of which are color photographs of these insects in the wild state. Bob Pyle has done a fine job in putting the book together - check it out !

Bob Godefroi, 3535 Hiawatha Ave. #120C, Miami, FL 33133, has about fifty or so of the large Riker mounts which he'll part with quite reasonably, having converted to the Cornell drawer system recently. If you are interested in obtaining a few or all of them, write him a letter to inquire.

Those of you who have not yet received your Memoirs No. 2 from the Lepidopterists' Society can finally clap your hands after the long wait; you should be receiving your copy through the mail soon, if not already. If you haven't ordered a copy from the Lep. Society, I would recommend doing so, since this will have all the updated nomenclature and will serve as the reference checklist for some time to come.

The Southern Lepidopterists' News is published four times annually, with annual membership dues of \$3.00 ; the organization is open to anyone with an interest in the lepidoptera fauna of the region. Information about the group can be obtained from the Secretary-Treasurer, Tom Neal, 3820 NW 16th. Place, Gainesville, Florida 32605. If you wish to contribute to the newsletter, you should direct information to your regional coordinator, or you can send the note directly to the Editor. We encourage your participation.

The SOUTHERN LEPIDOPTERISTS' NEWS
C/O the EDITOR, Dave Baggett
14406 N. 22nd. St., Apt. 169
Lutz, Florida 33549



Dr. Lee D. Miller
Allyn Museum of Entomology
3701 Bay Shore Rd.
Sarasota, FL 33580