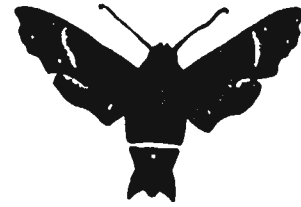




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THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SOUTHERN LEPIDOPTERISTS' SOCIETY, ORGANIZED
TO PROMOTE SCIENTIFIC INTEREST AND KNOWLEDGE RELATED TO UNDERSTANDING
THE LEPIDOPTERA FAUNA OF THE SOUTHERN REGION OF THE UNITED STATES.

CHAIRMAN-EDITOR : DAVE BAGGETT

SECRETARY-TREASURER : TOM NEAL

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT : LEE ADAIR

TORREYA STATE PARK CONSTITUTIONAL MEETING : OUR BEST TO DATE

The October 1-2nd. meeting held at Torreya State Park near Bristol, Florida proved to be one of unexpected proportions, as we had the best turnout ever for a Southern Lepidopterists' meeting. This was especially significant in lieu of the fact that our group constitution was unveiled to the membership for the first time, the product of nearly two years' worth of discussion and debate between our members in leadership roles, open discussion by members at last year's meeting in Tennessee, and finally, the end result of efforts of members selected for the Drafting Committee, which included Tom Neal, Lee Adair, Ed Knudson, Irving Finkelstein, Bob Cavanaugh, and was admirably chaired by our 1983 Abbot Award winner, Bryant Mather of Clinton, Mississippi. These fellows, and especially Bryant, deserve our thanks for developing a simple, but practical and effective group constitution. We have never been formally chartered by anyone, as is implied by the headsheet above, but we set up shop in 1978 with a loose structure and a simple set of goals and guidelines. Now, we can say we are for real, because our constitution will help pave the way for bigger and better things in the future, giving the group a solid structural format and a formal statement of policies. We will continue to have our meetings once annually, alternating between Florida and other states comprising the Southern Lepidopterists' Zones, due primarily the high concentration of members residing in Florida. Next year's meeting plans are being developed by Ed Knudson, who will host the meeting in Texas, probably in mid-October in east or south-central Texas at a site not yet determined. As is customary, our meetings will continue to be field-oriented, followed by a cook-out, and an informal business session held in the evening, a practice which we feel offers our members the best opportunity to get to meet one another and to experience field collecting in different types of terrain and habitat, led by local members who are familiar with the areas in general and who are knowledgeable regarding lepidoptera found in the respective areas to be visited. If you haven't attended one of our field meetings in the past, all we can say is that you have missed out on a good time! In all cases, our field meetings have produced some interesting catches, and this year's was no exception, in spite of an early "cool" front in the Florida panhandle, as the list to follow will illustrate. Why not begin thinking about prospects for next year now - I am sure that some members will want to take advantage of the proximity to the northern portions of Mexico for some before- or after- excursions. Keep in touch!

THE SOUTHERN LEPIDOPTERISTS' SOCIETY CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE 1 : NAME

- a. The name of this society shall be the SOUTHERN LEPIDOPTERISTS' SOCIETY *.

ARTICLE 2 : TERRITORY AND ZONES

- a. For the purposes of the society, the "South" includes the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, Louisiana, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas.
- b. The territory shall be divided into zones, and each zone shall have a coordinator. For the zones in effect at the time of any annual meeting, coordinators will be elected. If zones are merged or subdivided at the meeting, acceptance of resignations by incumbent coordinators or appointment of new coordinators shall be by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE 3 : PURPOSE

- a. The purpose of the society shall be to help increase scientific knowledge and public awareness of the lepidoptera of the South.

ARTICLE 4 : MEMBERSHIP

- a. Membership in this society shall be open to any person or organization having an interest in the purpose of the society. Membership will terminate upon (1) death, (2) receipt by the Secretary-Treasurer of a written resignation, or (3) failure to pay dues within six months of the due date.
- b. Applications for membership should be made to the Secretary-Treasurer and should be accompanied by dues for one calendar year.

ARTICLE 5 : OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- a. The officers shall be : a Chairman, an Editor, an Editorial Assistant, a Secretary-Treasurer, and Zone Coordinators. These officers as a group shall constitute the Board of Directors.
- b. The Chairman shall annually appoint a nominating committee of five members of the society. The committee shall select at least one candidate for each office; obtain a written statement from the candidate of willingness to serve if elected; and submit a report of its work to the Chairman not less than 60 days prior to each annual meeting.
- c. The officers shall be elected by voice vote of the members present at the annual meeting, and shall serve from from the following 1 January for one year. Duties of officers shall be those normally pertaining to the respective offices.
- d. Officers will serve without remuneration.
- e. The Board shall meet annually and at such other times as deemed necessary on call by the Chairman.
- f. Quorum for the Board is five.
- g. Vacancies in the Board developing between annual meetings may be filled by the Board.
- h. Standing or ad hoc committees may be established by the Board; members thereof shall be appointed by the Chairman of the society.

ARTICLE 6 : MEETINGS

- a. The society shall hold meetings at times and places selected by the Board of Directors. All meetings will be announced in the News and will be held not sooner than 30 days after the notice is mailed. There shall be an annual meeting at which officers are elected. The society's fiscal year will coincide with the calendar year.

ARTICLE 7 : AWARDS

- a. The John Abbot Award may not be given more often than once a year. The Board will submit a ballot containing names of three eligible recipients to the members with the announcement of the annual meeting. The candidate receiving the largest number of votes by return of this ballot to the Secretary-Treasurer will be the recipient. The award recognizes exceptional contribution to the purpose of the society through publication and otherwise. A person does not need to be a member of the society to be eligible. The names of those not receiving the award in any year will remain on the ballot the year following with at least one additional name being added annually by the Board. In the case of a tie, the candidate who has been in contention longest will be selected.
- b. Additional awards may be presented to members for special efforts by action of the Board.

ARTICLE 8 : PUBLICATIONS

- a. The society shall publish and distribute to the members the following :
 - (1) Southern Lepidopterists' News (four times annually).
 - (2) Membership list (biennially).
 - (3) Bulletin of the Southern Lepidopterists' Society (intermittent).
- b. The publication program is the responsibility of the Editor and the Assistant Editor.

ARTICLE 9 : DUES

- a. The dues for each year will be set by the Board for each class of membership.
- b. Dues notices will be distributed with the last issue of each Volume of the News for each calendar year.

ARTICLE 10 : POLICIES

- a. The society and its members, in carrying out activities in the support of its purpose, shall be guided by these policies :
 - (1) The society will cooperate with the Lepidopterists' Society.
 - (2) The society will encourage scientific publication by its members.
 - (3) The society will function as a non-profit, non-political, educational organization.
 - (4) The society will encourage activity by members who are not professional entomologists.
 - (5) Members of the society are expected to follow ethical guidelines relative to collecting as developed by the Lepidopterists' Society.
 - (6) Members are encouraged to develop information on lepidoptera and forward this to the zone coordinator for compilation and publication.
 - (7) Members are encouraged to establish affiliations with museums and educational institutions for the deposit and preservation of specimens.

ARTICLE 11 : AMENDMENTS

- a. This constitution may be amended by motion made, seconded, and passed by a majority vote of the members present at an annual meeting, and concurred in by a 3/4 affirmative vote of the Board.

ARTICLE 12 : DISSOLUTION

- a. *In the event that this society should cease to exist, all of its assets shall be liquidated as follows :*
- (1) *All outstanding debts shall be paid promptly.*
 - (2) *All remaining assets shall be given to the Lepidopterists' Society.*

* *The SOUTHERN LEPIDOPTERISTS' SOCIETY was founded at Gainesville, Florida on 18 November 1978, and the name was established at this meeting.*

CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS REGARDING THE CONSTITUTION

I trust that each of you will seriously read and consider all of the Articles comprising the new constitution for our group. At present, I find myself with a "split personality", if you will, as two officers in one, a situation I will take steps to remedy as soon as possible. As Chairman, it is my responsibility to appoint a nominating committee for purposes of selecting officers each year, and I will be doing this in the near future; with the beginning of the next calendar year, there will be a separation of duties, since there will not be a Chairman-Editor as in the past, but a Chairman AND Editor. For the majority of the past five years, I have served the group as both, and I have no reservations regarding this, in spite of my limited talents. The society has grown during five years from about two dozen founding members to more than 150 today. Most of you also realize that I also serve the Lepidopterists' Society as the southeastern (Zone 6) Season Summary coordinator; a few of you know that I am also on the Board of Directors for the Xerces Society. I find that each of these roles has helped me learn a great deal, and has kept my enthusiasm high.

One of my primary personal goals regarding the Southern Lepidopterists has been to help "bridge the gap" between professional and amateur lepidopterists. I am flattered that this and other roles mentioned have led some of you to believe that I am a professional - but - I am in actuality an amateur enthusiast just like most of you, and I am equally certain that many of you have been at it far longer than I have. Although I collected randomly as a kid growing up, I never developed a serious interest in leps until I had finished my obligation to Uncle Sam and had re-enrolled in college as an undergraduate biology major during the early 1970's. Up until that point in time, I never even realized that there was such a thing as the Lepidopterists' Society. I am equally sure that there are a number of people still out there with interests in lepidoptera who remain equally ignorant. During the past five years, the roles I have found myself in have served to stimulate my own interests, and I can at this time proclaim myself as a serious student of lepidoptera. I see no reason why any amateur enthusiast, no matter how far down the ladder they might be, should not also be encouraged to become serious students in this endeavor to learn more about lepidoptera. We all have at our disposal a fabulous wildlife resource, and we can all contribute to the general knowledge, even as rank amateurs. Distributional records, host plant information, and good general observations are badly needed for many species, and in all honesty there are too few of us around to "do it all", but each of us can certainly help put some dents in the unknowns. All of us are capable of making significant scientific observations, and in this, are capable of contributing to the knowledge of the lepidoptera of the "south" and other regions. Our newsletter provides the means for contributing records of interest to all members, and is not designed to compete with scientific journals, nor is the proposed Bulletin. What they are designed for is to allow the amateur collector means of making a contribution, and means of communicating with others about YOUR discoveries.

I am certain that there remains a lot of very useful information "locked up in the heads" of many members. Why not begin developing your own area checklists - we can use the newsletter to provide a means of publishing your county lists, and can also use the proposed bulletins as a means of establishing new and updated checklists for individual states. Thanks to Paul Opler's efforts, there is a reasonable starting base for all of the eastern states. Many of you probably have home computers; why not develop some programs to help keep records? Records are important, even for common species. All of us have individual talents and abilities, and since we share the same basic interest, why not start using them with your avocational interest?

I regard this issue as a special edition, and I hope you do as well. Our intentions should be clear, and if they aren't, ASK ! One thing our constitution does not make clear, and this is the specific duties of each of the officers. In essence, this is intentional, trying to keep things "simple", but these roles can be clarified to some extent. I believe the role of Chairman is obvious, as are those of Editor and Secretary-Treasurer. However, with the impending separation of duties for Chairman and Editor, perhaps a statement is appropriate. The Chairman should preside over each annual meeting and should be made responsible for initiating business-related discussions with the other Board members. The Chairman should also have responsibility for the planning of the annual meeting. The role of Editor and Assistant Editor are primarily to prepare and edit the publications; for our purposes, this also includes laying out publication format, proofing rough copy, getting things to the printer, addressing and applying postage, and mailing duties. The role of Secretary-Treasurer is to maintain an up-to-date membership list and to communicate this regularly to the Editor prior to each publication; to handle all payments expeditiously; to prepare the biennial membership list; and to provide an accurate report of finances and record of minutes for all future meetings to all Board members. The role of Zone Coordinator is to contribute regular reports of information for the newsletter through contact with constituents and/or personal initiative, and to aid with logistics when an annual meeting occurs within their zone. Their responsibilities as Board members should be clear, but their role as leaders and examples for their constituents is not so clear. Members residing in their zones will do well to meet the Coordinators, and to help with contributions for the newsletter. After all, this is YOUR newsletter, and you can help us improve content.

SUMMARY OF MEETING-RELATED FIELD TRIPS AND ACTIVITIES :

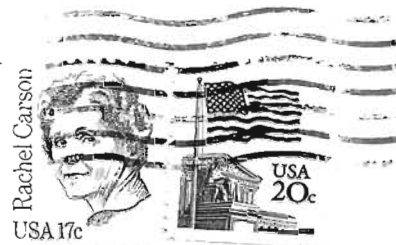
As expected, participants turned up a number of new county records regarding butterflies and skippers, and several new state record moths were recorded. We had a record turnout, with almost 50 in attendance including friends and family members. Records for 66 spp. of butterflies were reported, including new county records for Hesperia attalus slossonae, Euphyes alabamiae, Neonympha areolata, Cercyonis pegala abbotti, Calephelis virginiensis (Liberty Co.) and Euphyes alabamiae, E. pilatka, and Poanes viator (Franklin Co.); other choice species reported to me included Hesperia meskei, Euphyes arpa, Enodia portlandia floralae, Asterocampa celtis, Heliconius charitonius tuckeri, Vanessa cardui, Anthanassa seminole, and Wallengrenia egeneret, with positive sight records for Anaea andria and Nymphalis antiopa. Ed Knudson provided new state records for the following Noctuidae : Trichoclea ruisa, Polia detracta, and Zanclognatha atrilineela. Among the macros of interest were the Sphingids Eumorphia fasciatus, Lapara coniferarum, Paonias myops and P. astylus; the Arctiid Apantesis placentia; the Noctuids Catocala amatrix, piatrix, lacrymosa, maestosa, and agrippina, Schinia nundina,

Schinia saturata, fulleri, siren, inclara, sordida, petulans, tuberculum, and scissoides (a number from Crestview by Knudson); the Notodontids Schizura badia, Oligocentria semirufescens, Dasylophia thyatiroides, and Peridea basitriens; the Pyralids Pyrausta shirleyae and P. panopealis; the Cosmopterigid Euclimensia bassetella; and the Oecophorid Callima nathrax, the latter a significant northward extension. We did not find Euphyes berryi or Megathymus harrisi, although we did find freshly deposited ova of the latter on Yucca filamentosa, indicating the adults were indeed on the wing. A number of moths still await determinations, and I have not heard final reports from all of the participants yet, so there will probably be some interesting addendums to include in the next issue, along with photos of the activities.

Included with this issue is a letter from Dr. Howard V. Weems, Jr. of the Florida State Collection of Arthropods informing you of the proposed compilation of Insect and Spider Collections of the World, a copy of a reprint from the Bulletin of the Entomological Society of America regarding the same, and a copy of the proposed registry form to be utilized by the F.S.C.A. in aiding compilation. I urge all of you to consider this, and if you'll read Article 10:7 in the group constitution again, I also encourage all of you to develop and establish affiliations with museums and educational institutions. The F.S.C.A. is without doubt the major reference museum in the Southeastern U.S. today, and coupled with the Florida State Museum and professional holdings by faculty at the University of Florida, Gainesville can lay claim to some of the best holdings in the country today as a major reference locality for lepidoptera.

The Southern Lepidopterists' News is published four times annually, open to anyone with interests in lepidoptera of the region, with membership dues of \$3.00 annually. Anyone wishing to join should write to Tom Neal, 3820 NW 16th. Place, Gainesville, Florida 32605.

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