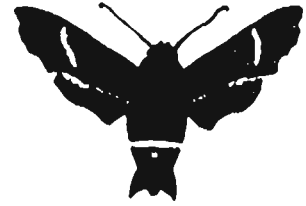




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THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SOUTHERN LEPIDOPTERISTS' SOCIETY, ORGANIZED TO PROMOTE SCIENTIFIC INTEREST AND KNOWLEDGE RELATED TO UNDERSTANDING THE LEPIDOPTERA FAUNA OF THE SOUTHERN REGION OF THE UNITED STATES.

CHAIRMAN: JEFFREY R. SLOTTEN

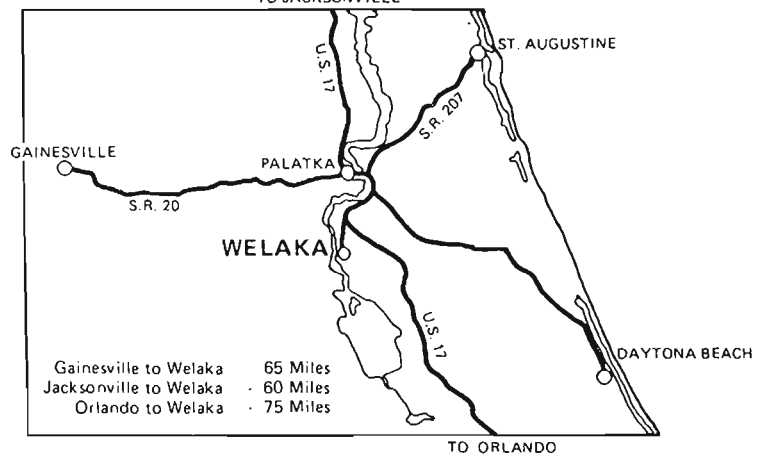
SECRETARY-TREASURER: THOMAS M. NEAL

EDITOR: RICHARD M. GILLMORE

1987 MEETING PLANS

The 1987 Southern Lepidopterists' Society Field Meeting will be held on the weekend of September 19th-20th, 1987 at Welaka Research and Education Center—Institute of Food and Agricultural Science, University of Florida at Welaka, Florida. The Center, which is managed by the University of Florida for research and educational purposes, is located approximately 65 miles southeast of Gainesville, FL and 20 miles south of Palatka, FL.

Sandhills and scrub, flatwoods forest and clear blue springs...cypress filled river swamps and hammocks ...These are some North Florida ecosystems that can be found on the 2,267 acre Welaka Research and Education Center. The Center includes 2-1/2 miles of river front on the east bank of the St. Johns River. The Ocala National Forest and the mouth of the spring-fed Oklawaha River are directly across the river from the Center. A U. S. Department of Interior Fish Hatchery with an Aquarium Museum borders the Center.



We plan to meet formally at the facility at 9:00 a.m. Saturday, September 19, 1987. Collecting groups can start out probably within an hour and should be able to get in a full day of field work. Also, moth collecting at lights will be happening, for sure.

The Saturday evening picnic will start at 6:00 p.m. followed by the meeting.

Since the Center has sleeping facilities as low as \$2.00 per person per night and stoves/refrigerators in the apartments, we believe everyone can stay at the Center. However, there are many motels, cabins, and restaurants near bay, since this area is a fishing paradise.

FEE FOR NON-UNIVERSITY USE OF THE CENTER

We plan on people sleeping at the Center both Friday and Saturday nights.

Checkout Time	1:00 PM	Total Accomodation	78
Apartments (6).....	5 sleeps 9, 1 sleeps 5		
	each apartment rents for \$10.00 per day minimum or		
	\$2.00 per person		
Dormitory — sleeps 28.....	\$28.00 per day minimum		
	or \$2.00 per person		
Mess Hall — with cooking equipment, seats 60			
Conference Rooms (3).....	Capacities 12 to 30		

Most housing units are equipped with beds, chairs, tables, refrigerators, stoves, window fans, and heaters. Blankets, pillows, linens, towels and food are not furnished.

All persons planning to attend should call Jeff Slotten at (904) 733-9281 or write him prior to September 7, 1987, so we can get an idea of how many people will be attending. Jeff Slotten, 4083 Sunbeam Rd., Apt. 1215, Jacksonville, FL 32217

1987 ABBOT AWARD NOMINATIONS

Dr. Tom Emmel University of Florida
 Dr. Dale Habeck University of Florida
 Dr. Howard Weems Department of Agriculture, Florida

We need you, the membership, the vote — now. Write Dr. Jeff Slotten at 4083 Sunbeam Road, Apt. 1215, Jacksonville, FL 32217.

Dr. Jeff needs your vote before September 7, 1987, so please write him right now — before you do anything else. Thank you!

*****GENERAL NOTICES, MEMBER REQUESTS*****

Deborah Matthews - Wants live eggs and pupae of Florida Pterophoridae (Flume Moths) and preserved larvae and pupae. May through August 1987 will be at the Allyn Museum, 3621 Bayshore Drive, Sarasota, FL 33806. After August, Department of Entomology, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32601. Sarasota telephone: 813-355-8475, Gainesville telephone: 904-392-4901.

Rick Gillmore - 146 Clear Lake Circle, Sanford, FL 32771, will determine species of Genus *Catocala* from the Southern Lepidopterists' area free, but will need postage, to and from, paid.

Division of Plant Industry, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services recently received Vernon Brou's complete sphingoidea collection.

As most of you know, Vernon's collection is world wide and contains many **rare** specimens.

BUTTERFLIES IN CAPTIVITY

Brian Pasby, Ph.D.

The appeal of butterflies is universal. Imagine a miserable gray wet day, a typical English summer's day in fact, you are walking through a patch of tropical forest surrounded by all kinds of spectacularly-colored tropical butterflies right in the suburbs of London.

Butterfly houses are becoming all the rage in Britain. I had the pleasure of visiting the prototype of them all, the London Butterfly House, last summer. They are so popular that two new ones opened that year, one in Edinburgh, and the other at Stratford-on-Avon.

They each consist of a large heated greenhouse planted with nectar-producing flowering plants to feed the adult butterflies and food plants for their caterpillars. Butterflies are imported from all over the world and many complete their life cycles under glass. Britain's laws on the importation of insects are far less strict than those of the United States for obvious climatic reasons. A similar enterprise in the United States would only be able to exhibit native U. S. butterflies since insects which might escape have a much better chance of survival here than in Britain.

Butterflies are on exhibit from many of the areas of major interest to tropical biologists and not coincidentally, many of these areas used to be parts of the British Empire, such as Malaysia, Borneo, New Guinea, and Australia.

Obviously, the butterflies on display are large and spectacular species from the major tropical families: the Papilionida (there are, of course, many striking U. S. swallowtails and it was a touch of home to see the green pipevine swallowtail Battus philenor flying in the butterfly house), the Heliconidae, a major South American family that extends into Florida and Texas, the Danaidae, the family to which the famous monarch butterfly belongs, and a large variety of nymphalids.

Food for the adult is provided naturally in the form of flowering herbs and shrubs. Plants such as Lantana, Buddleia, and Heliotrope supplemented with sugar solution and very ripe fruit. The heliconid butterflies are of interest in this respect as they live for many months which is highly unusual. This is due to the fact that their diet consists of large amounts of pollen which provides them with a protein source.

The larvae also must be fed. Another interesting fact, epitomized by the monarch (Danaus plexippus), is that the larvae of some butterfly families gain protection by storing the toxin that they obtain from their food plants. In some cases, it has been demonstrated that this protection is passed over into

the adult. Food plants of this type are so poisonous that they can present a problem to people. Examples of the highly-toxic plants utilized by caterpillars are: Orleander (Nerium), a highly dangerous and commonly cultivated subtropical plant, the Milkweed family (Asclepias) feed upon the danaiids and rendering them inedible to birds, the passion flower family (Passiflora) which seems to have co-evolved with the heliconids, and Aristolochia, or Dutchman's pipe.

As you walk around this huge greenhouse, you are surrounded by masses of the most gloriously-colored butterflies. They all seem so tame and many can be approached closely enough to touch. If you have a close-up lens on your camera and it is one of the few summer days when the sun shines, you can take some magnificent photographs.

The whole concept of maintaining butterflies in captivity interests me very much. I plan to attempt to raise Heliconius charitonius and some of the swallowtails under butterfly house conditions.

If you are fortunate enough to visit London and you feel like some spectacular biology, visit the London Butterfly House and Kew Gardens, which is close by. It would make a nice day trip.

ANDRE BLANCHARD

Renowned Texas Lepidopterist and 1985 Abbott Award recipient Andre Blanchard passed away in October at the age of 90. He had been hospitalized for the previous two months with a broken hip. Andre began his study of Texas Lepidoptera after retirement from a long and successful career in petroleum research. He is the author of over 65 scientific papers on Lepidoptera, in which over 90 new species were described. His large collection now resides at the Smithsonian Institution. A detailed obituary is in preparation for the Journal of the Lepidopterists Society.

CURRENT ZONE REPORTS COORDINATORS

Zone I – TEXAS. Coordinator, Ed Knudson, 804 Woodstock, Bellaire, TX 77401.

Zone II – ALABAMA, LOUISIANA, MISSISSIPPI, and TENNESSEE. Vernon Brou, 137 Jack Loyd Rd., Abita Springs, LA 70420; Bryant Mather, 213 Mt. Salus Dr., Clinton, MS 39056; John Hyatt, 439 Forest Hills Dr., Kingsport, TN 37663.

Zone III – GEORGIA. Irving Finkelstein, 425 Springdale Dr. NE, Atlanta, GA 30305.

Zone IV – FLORDIA. Dave Baggett, 14406 N. 22nd St., Apt. 169, Lutz, FL 33549.

Zone V – VIRGINIA, NORTH AND SOUTH CAROLINA. John Coffman, Rt. 1, Box 331, Timberville, VA 22853; Bo Sullivan, 200 Craven St., Beaufort, NC 28516.

CURRENT ZONE REPORTS

Zone I – TEXAS. Coordinator, Ed Knudson, 804 Woodstock, Bellaire, TX 77401.

May 1, 1987. After a very mild winter, SE Texas experienced an unusual cold spell in early April, with freezing temperatures as far south as Victoria. Visits by Knudson to several east Texas localities in late April showed some evidence of mild damage to new growth on some vegetation, with some Oaks and Hickories just beginning to re-leaf. It is expected that emergences will be delayed for some species, esp. Catocala.

Notable moths collected by Ed include: Ceratomyx satanaria at Columbus, Colorado Co., April 27, a western range extension.

At Double Lake Campground, in the Sam Houston National Forest, San Jacinto Co., on March 22, A. luna was exceedingly abundant, with over 50 attracted to 30 watts of UV. 7 Zale sp. were present, including phaeocapna, aeruginosa, and bucholzi. Other interesting noctuids included Cerma cora, Elaphria georgii, and Agriopodes fallax. The geometrid, Episemasia solita was collected for the second time in Texas and one Caripeta aretaria was collected.

A return trip to the same area on April 19 was quite unproductive.

New areas were investigated in east Texas on April 25 and 26, the first being Bouton Lake in Jasper Co. near the Upland Island Wilderness Area in the Angelina National Forest. Here, along with a fine old stand of Longleaf Pine, are some truly magnificent bottomland hardwoods, including some of the tallest trees in Texas. At Bouton Lake a new geometrid of Texas, Lytrosis sinuosa, was collected.

On April 26, collecting near Six Mile in Sabine Co., near the shores of Toledo Bend Reservoir, produced several very fresh Catocala clintoni, at bait and UV light. Unfortunately, there were so many midges, that the aperture of my traps were quickly blocked. I plan to revisit this interesting area later, as it should be prime territory for Blueberry and Hawthorn feeding Catocala.

On May 5, collecting in the Sam Houston National Forest near Big Creek Scenic Area produced one Arugisa watsoni, the first definite record for Texas. Baiting was very poor, with only one Catocala probably a pretiosa, which was missed.

Zone II – ALABAMA, LOUISIANA, MISSISSIPPI, and TENNESSEE. Vernon Brou, 137 Jack Loyd Rd., Abita Springs, LA 70420; Bryant Mather, 213 Mt. Salus Dr., Clinton, MS 39056; John Hyatt, 439 Forest Hills Dr., Kingsport, TN 37663.

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Dr. Doug Ferguson was at the Florida University research station in Welaka, FL during March, 1987. Dave Baggett, Ann Chambers, and Rick Gillmore met Doug and his wife.

Dave set up two MV light stations powered by a portagable genenor. Some species collected were S. obtusa, N. formosalis, D. graphica, Zale unilineata, Zale calycanthata, C. spadix, P. decoralis, P. atomaris, M. jucunda, S. distribuaria, N. quernaria, A. velutinana, M. confusa, F. marthesia, O. devotana, N. lixaria, and one I. henrici margaretae.

Woody Dow and Dave Baggett collected Collier-Seminole on May 2, 1987, and the following are reported: Saturniidae : A. polyphemus, D. rubicunda, A. io lilith; Sphingidae : M. rustica, A. cingulata, P. strigilis, P. caicus, D. myron, C. undulosa, I. cupressi, and E. obscura. Noctuids included Gonodonta nutrix and unica, Massala obvertens, Phuphena obliqua, Meropleon cosmion, Boryzops purissima, X. timais, Isogona tenuis, Arugisa latiorella, Ledaea perditalis, Epidromia fergusonii, Rivula propinqualis, Phytometra ernestinana, Hypsoropha hormos, Doryodes bistriaris & Bellura densa; Geometrids include Nemoria elfa, Dichorda iridaria, Phrudocentra centrifugaria, Idae taturata, Semiothisa gnophosaria, S. distribuaria, S. aquiferaria, Anacamptodes defectaria, & Eusarca confusaria. Micros included Phylctenia coronata, Desmia funeralis, Desmia tages, H. indicia, Pyrausta tyralis & phoenicialis, Diaphania nitidalis, Palpita kimball & P. magniferalis, Galleria mellonella, Scirpophaga perstrialis (Pyralidae); Euclea delphinii, Megalopyge opercularis, and the Sesiids Synanthedon sapygaeriformis & V. scepiformis. Notodontids included Heterocampa cubana, Stalea eutalanta & indiana, Clostera inclusa, & Schizura unicornis; Lymantriids included Dasychira tephra & Orgyia leucostigma. There are others but I haven't even finished spreading all of them yet - about 300 specimens by me and an equal number of smaller things by Dow. Butterflies seen (none collected) included Papilio glaucus australis, P. palamedes, and P. polyxenes asterius; Anartia jatrophae quantanamo, Phyciodes phaon, Junonia coenia, Heliconius charitonius, Phoebis sennae eubule, and C. cecrops; skippers included P. vibex, P. leo, E. horatius, H. phyleus, and U. proteus. Butterflies were in low densities - probably only about 30 seen altogether. Mosquitoes and deerflies made both diurnal and nocturnal collecting miserable, even with good repellants. I'm sure both Woody and I were glad we were there when they weren't BAD!

THE SOUTHERN LEPIDOPTERISTS' NEWS

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