



# southern lepidopterists' news



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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

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CHAIRMAN: JEFFREY SLOTTEN

SECRETARY-TREASURER: TOM NEAL

EDITOR: LEROY C. KOEHN

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## DR. HOWARD V. WEEMS 1991 ABBOTT AWARD RECIPIENT



Dr. Howard V. Weems is the 1991 Abbott Award recipient. The award was presented to him at the annual meeting.

Dr. Weems was born in Rome, Georgia on 11 April 1922. He received a BA in 1946 from Emory University, an MS in 1948 from the University of Florida and a Ph.D. from Ohio State University in 1953. He married Camilla Beth Bartley and they had five children.

He joined the Division of Plant Industry, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services in July of 1953 as a Taxonomic Entomologist and Curator of the Florida State Collection of Arthropods. He retired after nearly 38 years of service this past February as Head Curator. As a result of his leadership and direction, the F.S.C.A. has grown and is now the 5th largest arthropod collection in the United States. The Research Associate program was another of his innovation. Today there are currently 285 active Research Associates. Although he officially retired, Commissioner Bob Crawford has given him a staff appointment as Emeritus Curator (of the F.S.C.A.) and will continue to serve as a full Courtesy Professor of Entomology for the University of Florida, and as a courtesy Associate Professor in the Department of Entomology and Structural Pest Control for Florida A & M University.

Dr. Weems has been a member of the Lepidopterists' Society since the 1940's and a charter member of the Southern Lepidopterists'. He is also a member of 26 other societies. He has been the author and co-author of numerous articles and publications.

He has been an active entomologist throughout his entire career. Although not an ardent lepidopterist, he has been a good friend and counselor to the Southern Lepidopterists' Society and its members. He plans to continue to support our society in various ways for many more years to come.

Since his retirement he and Camilla have moved to their home on Redwater Lake near the community of Hawthorne east of Gainesville. We look forward to seeing him at our meetings.

#### SPRING 1992 FIELD MEETING IN TEXAS

ED KNUDSON

The second meeting of the Southern Lepidopterists' Society to be held in Texas will take place in Concan, Uvalde County, Texas, on the weekend of May 1 and 2, 1992. The location will be at Neal's Vacation Lodges on the Frio River. Many of you are no doubt familiar with Neal's Lodges, but for those who are not, this is one of the oldest resorts in the Texas hill country. It is a nature oriented resort, which caters to mainly birders, and the management has taken great pains to preserve as much as the natural habitat as possible. Scattered through several thousand acres of oak-juniper woodland and the baldcypress lined Rio Frio, are 60 cabins accommodating from 2 to 6 persons. Camping and trailer hookups are also available. Off season rates apply during this time, and are as low as \$10.00 per person depending upon occupancy.

The management has extended to our group, full collecting privileges, as long as we do not intrude upon the privacy or other guests, of course. The area is very rich in Lepidoptera species, including some that are rarely taken elsewhere. Nearby, are Garner State Park and Lost maples. The largest Bald Cypress Tree in Texas is located nearby.

I hope that you will plan to attend. It is a great opportunity to meet out of state members and enjoy a few days (and nights) of outstanding collecting, photography, or butterfly watching. If you are interested in coming, either one or both days, please make reservations as soon as possible, for it is likely the resort will be nearly booked by mid April. Call Mart Anna Rosa at 512-232-6118 for more information and reservations, between 8 AM - 5 PM daily. Limited accommodations have already been reserved at Hill House and Cabin 43. There will be no business session, but we will be having an informal get-together and refreshments at Hill House on Saturday May 2nd at 5 PM.

If you plan to stay with the group or need directions or other information, contact : Ed Knudson, 8517 Burkhart, Houston, Texas, 77055. Phone 713-242-5800 (weekdays) or 713-464-3529 (evenings and weekends).

#### 1991 ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

JEFFREY SLOTTEN

The 1991 annual meeting was held at the new Entomology and Nematology Facility of the University of Florida in Gainesville, Florida on the weekend of October 4th & 5th, 1991. The activities began at 9AM on Saturday. A well attended Genitalia Workshop was conducted by Debbie and Terry Lott, Dale Habeck and Robin Goodson. John Heppner was to conduct the workshop but a sudden serious illness prevented him from doing so.

John Kutis demonstrated his techniques for mounting and labelling microlepidoptera. The Florida State Collection of Arthropods was open for viewing. Those who did not participate in the planned activities gathered in the meeting room to meet old acquaintances and make new ones. Several displays were set up and provided numerous topics of discussion. Tom Neal provided a discount lunch at his Subshop at noon.

The meeting began at 1 PM by Chairman, Jeffrey Slotten. Leroy Simon presented a talk entitled "Photographing and Rearing Lepidoptera". Following a short break, the Business meeting began with the election of officers for 1992. The following were elected: Chairman, John Calhoun; Editor, Leroy C. Koehn; Secretary/Treasurer, Tom Neal; Editorial Assistant, Marc Minno. A nominating committee consisting of Dave Baggett, Jack Heinrich, and Lee Adair was formed. There will be no change in zone coordinators or Zones. Virginia and Alabama currently do not have zone coordinators. (cont. on Pg. # 43)

## PICTURES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING



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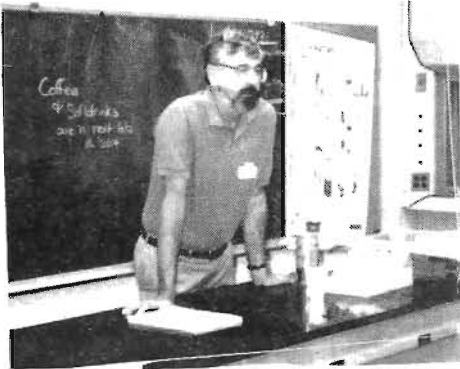
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1. Chairman Jeffrey Sloten opening the meeting. 2. Dr. Howard Weems with Abbott Award. 3. Debbie Lott, "Who, me?", she did a great job with the genitalia workshop. And the signs! Her hubby, Terry, also helped. 4. John Kutis demonstrates his micro mounting technique. Bob Berieger asks; "are micros that big?". 5. Vince Golia and Leroy Simon viewing the F.S.C.A. collection. 6. Paul Milner and Charlie Stevens. 7. Tom Neal and Dave Baggett. 8. Mary and James Adams. 9. Camilla and Dr. Howard Weems. 10. John Calhoun and Andy Anderson checking out skippers in the F.S.C.A. collection. 11. Debbie Lott and Jim Arbogast working on genitalia slides. 12. Lee Adair diligently searching through the micros at the F.S.C.A. 13. Genitalia workshop in session. 14. Group photo! 15. Jack Heinrich and Dale Habeck. 16. Dale Habeck speaks! 17. That fabulous cartoonist, Dr. Frances Anne Ecker. Photos by Leroy C. Koehn.

(cont. from Pg. # 41) Other matters and business that were discussed included the following: 1.) Jeffrey Slotten, this years past Chairman, will form a committee to review the constitution. The results of the recent newsletter survey were presented. The membership indicated a strong opinion to continue the zone reports and that they should be part of each newsletter. 3.) John Calhoun is to investigate a Library of Congress Number for the newsletter and other future publications, including the Bulletin. 4.) Leroy Koehn and Dave Baggett to arrange a volunteer work day to help curate the lepidoptera in Florida State Collection Arthropods. 5.) Ed Knudsen will hold a spring field meeting in Texas. The business meeting was concluded at 2:30PM.

Following a short break, Tom Neal presented the Abbott Award to Dr. Howard Weems. Following the Abbott presentation, Jeffrey Slotten recognized Dave Baggett for his efforts in starting the Southern Lepidopterists' Society in 1978 and his continuing support.

The following papers were presented; "The effects of mosquito control spraying on the Lepidoptera in the Lower Keys" by Dr. Dale Habeck; "The life history of Apodemia mormo deserti" by Dr. James Adams of Dalton, Georgia; "Butterflies of the Florida Keys" by Marc Minno.

Following the papers, door prizes were presented and the meeting adjourned at 5:00PM. Following the meeting, members dined together at a local restaurant. On Sunday morning Tom Neal led a field trip to local collecting sites.

The following members and guests attended the meeting; Lee Adair, Mary and James Adams, Andy Anderson, Terry Arbogast and grandson Jim, Dave Baggett, Robert Beiriger, Bob Belmont, John Calhoun, Frances Ecker, Tom Emmel, John Filiatrault, Rick Gillmore, Vince Golia, Dale Habeck, Leroy Koehn, John Kutis, Debbie and Terry Lott, Ann and Paul Milner, Marc Minno, Tom Neal, William Nix, Jr., Deborah and William Nix, Sr., Leroy Simon, Jeffrey Slotten, Charlie Stevens, Tom Turner, Camilla and Howard Weems, and Robin Goodson.

It was a great and exciting meeting; don't miss the next one!

#### MUSING OVER LEPIDOPTERA

ROBERT CAVANAUGH

Outside of the Monarch Butterfly, the migration of butterflies is a poorly studied area. We know that many more species migrate, but we don't know why they migrate or where to. Every butterfly collector knows which species migrate through their area and which direction they are traveling as well as other important details which are seldom documented. I think it is time for an organization like ours to begin to collect and organize this kind of data. Eventually, we are going to learn something, and it is a project that each member can contribute to.

Being a non-professional Lepidopterist, I frequently find myself asking a lot of questions that I am unable to answer; I call it musing. In any event, I seldom pursue the answer because even my limited knowledge of scientific endeavors reveals a monumental undertaking for which I have neither the time, training, nor resources. Here is an example of some untrained musing:

Phoebis sennae eubule was very common as it migrated this year through eastern North Carolina. I live in the coastal county of Carteret which stretches east to west with the southern boundary being determined by the Atlantic Ocean. I have found it interesting that P.sennae migrates due east through my area of the county. I ask the question: "why aren't they headed south?"

The butterfly is a mid-summer visitor to North Carolina. It is first seen in early spring as product of the few chrysalids which may have survived the winter. Matings are observed but there are no suitable larval foodplants at that time of the year. The butterfly soon disappears and isn't seen again until July.



I noticed the same general pattern when I lived in Jacksonville, Florida. The literature reports that the butterfly's year round range is rather limited in the United States. The reason seems to be that the spring brood is unable to reproduce due to the lack of larval foodplant. In this manner the surviving butterflies die out over most of its range each year and is only re-established in those ranges as larval foodplant becomes available later in the year.

Obviously, the insect can survive the winter if the chrysalis is in a protected area; so, the stress which brought about the evolution of migration would seem to be the larval foodplant issue. Yet, migration begins when there is an abundance of larval foodplant, not a shortage.

The United States Department of Agriculture maps show climate Zone 10 as southern Florida and the extreme southern tip of Texas. It is probably these areas of the country where larval foodplant is available year round and where the butterfly as well as other Phoebis are truly native species. There are other things about Phoebis sennae eubule that puzzle me. For instance: where do all these butterflies migrate to? They seem to greatly outnumber the Monarch (Danaus plexippus), and one would expect an unimaginable yellow swarm eventually arriving at some geographical destination. This brings me back to the eastward migration I've observed here. Perhaps it's not a life saving migration but a "lemmings march to the sea". Phoebis neocypris is reported to fly out to sea in huge numbers. Perhaps like lemmings they collectively realize their numbers are too great for the food supply available. Even more far fetched, perhaps they as well as P.sennae are migrating to an area that no longer exists since the continents broke up millions of years ago. With no destination to arrive at, they would simply tire and fall into the sea.

End of musing.

This whole thing seems like a worthwhile investigation for the Southern Lepidopterists' for obvious geographical reasons and I would not mind being the collection agent for information on migrating lepidoptera provided by members. Anybody interested?

Please contact; Bob Cavanaugh, P.O.Box 734, Morehead City, N.C. 29445.

#### AUTOMERIS LOUISIANA REARED ON SPARTINA

MICHAEL LEFORT

Ever since the discovery of Automeris louisiana by Vernon Brou in the late seventies, the larval host plant of this unique moth has been unknown. Automeris io has been reared on a wide variety of plants and is considered a general feeder. The speculated host for A.louisiana included Quercus (oaks) and Spartina (salt marsh grass). I recently reared part of a brood entirely on a species of Spartina from ova to adults.

This story begins the weekend of 16-17 March, 1991 when Jim Tuttle of Troy, Michigan visited the area near my home in southern Louisiana in search of A.louisiana. We traveled to Leesville, Louisiana to the fish camp of Mr. & Mrs. Hilton Gaspard who have collected A.louisiana at their camp lights for the past 2 or 3 years. They have taken A.louisiana in December and January. The weekend of 8-9 March 1991 they collected a long series of males. When Jim and I visited the fish camp the following weekend, 16-17 March, the weather conditions were terrible and precluded taking any adults which were on the wing. In desperation, Jim donned some boots to wade in the "sea" of Spartina grass to look for cocoons. Jim soon found an empty cocoon fastened to the top of Spartina grass (The predominant species of Spartina around the fish camp grows waist high and is above normal high tides.). A short time later he found another cocoon with a still green caterpillar inside. Since it was a very large larva, hopes were high that it was a female. An interesting note here is that this fully grown larva must have been feeding in February and perhaps January, the middle of winter. However, the winter of 1990-1991 was extremely mild for southern Louisiana which would help provide an explanation. I am convinced that A.louisiana breeds through the winter months.

The cocoon that Jim Tuttle found that weekend emerged 10 April 1991 and was a female. I returned to Leeville with it. The first two successive nights of attempted mating were unsuccessful, but on the third night mating occurred when I placed an attracted male with the calling female. This happened at 4:30 AM. Because of this occurrence and observation by Jim Tuttle and work which I have conducted with successive females, mating of A. louisiana seems to occur in the early morning hours, or even at day break.

The viable ova hatched two weeks later. I placed twelve individuals on a Spartina species and the remaining individuals on live oak (Quercus virginianensis). I limited the number of individuals that I reared on Spartina to twelve only because of the logistics of providing host plant. The individuals reared on Spartina developed at a slower rate than those reared on live oak. This is perhaps because of the inherent toughness of this particular species of Spartina. There are smaller and more delicate species of Spartina that occur together at Leeville which may be utilized more readily than the species I selected.

All the individuals that were reared on Spartina matured at the same time as those that were on Live Oak. However, the average rate at which they reached maturity was one week later than those reared on Live Oak. I also noted that individuals feeding on Spartina were more docile and did not aggressively attempt to sting. I have pulled Spartina from the salt marsh and chewed the stems and found that it has a salty taste. I noted that males of A. louisiana are tan in color; this provides an excellent protective color match to the sea of Spartina as seen from a distance. Speculation could lead one to conclude that A. louisiana has evolved to utilize these plants which may have resulted from the development of the Mississippi River delta which is thought to have occurred in the last ten thousand years.

#### SOME CATOCALA MOTHS COLLECTED IN GEORGIA

RICHARD GILLMORE

The following species of catocala moths were collected in northern Georgia by Dave Baggett (DB), Hermann Flaschka (HF), Richard Gillmore (RG), Lucien Harris (LH), Steve Roman (SR), and Jeffrey Sloten (JS). According to "A Field Guide to the Moths of Eastern North America by Dr. Charles Covell", these particular species range southward to North Carolina.

The species are listed below (Serial numbers are as given by John G. Franclemont in the MONA checklist (Hodges, Editor) 1983).

8782 Catocala flebilis (Grt., 1872): Decatur, Dekalb County, July 8, 1956 (LH); Vogel State Park, Union County, rainy night at a light pole, July 9, 1979 (SR) (\*\*); Buford, Gwinnett County, August 7, 1980 (HF) (\*\*); near Sequoyah Lake, Pickens County, tapping trees during the day along Rt. 108, August 24, 1980 (RG); Woody Gap, Union/Lumpkin Counties, at 175 watt MV light trap, August 17, 1983 (RG).

8778 Catocala habilis (Grt., 1872): Mt. Ogelthorpe, Dawson County, at mountain summit-tapping hickory trees during the day, August 25, 1980 (RG-DB-JS) (\*).

8784 Catocala obscura (Stkr., 1873): Buford, Gwinnett County, July 30, 1979 (HF) (\*\*).

8785 Catocala residua (Grt., 1874): Atlanta, Dekalb County, June 30, 1927 (LH); Suches, Union County, at night by a 175 watt MV security light pole, July 10, 1977 (RG); Buford, Gwinnett County, July 23, 1979 (HF) (\*\*).

8797 Catocala subnata (Grt., 1864): Cooper Creek State Park, Fannin County, tapping trees near the summit of Mt. Clements during the day, July 9, 1977 (RG); Dahlonega, Lumpkin County, on a light at a motel, August 28, 1981, (RG).

8802 Catocala cerogama (Gn., 1852): Cooper Creek State Park, Fannin County, tapping trees near the summit of Mt. Clements during the day, July 9, 1977 (RG); Dahlonega, Lumpkin County, on a light at a motel, August 28, 1981, (RG).

Other important records, although not range extensions establish the fact that these species of Catocala reside in northern Georgia.

8780 Catocala robinsoni (Grt., 1872): Atlanta, Dekalb County, September 10 & 26, 1926 (LH).

8804 Catocala marmorata (Edw., 1864): Atlanta, Dekalb County, August 15, 1964(LH); near Sequoyah Lake, Pickens County, tapping trees along Rt. 108 during the day, August 24, 1980(SR).

\* Records briefly mentioned in the Southern Lepidopterists' Newsletter, Vol. 2, No. 3, pg. 14, 1979.

\*\* Records in the season summary of News of the Lepidopterists' Society, No. 2, Mar/Apr, 1980, pg. 22, Georgia.

#### References:

Covell, Charles V., Jr. 1984. "A Field Guide to the Moths of Eastern North America"; Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston. 496 pp.

Hodges, R.W., et al. 1983. "Check List of the Lepidoptera of America North of Mexico"; E.W. Classey Limited and The Wedge Entomological Research Foundation, London. 284pp.

#### MEGALOPYGIDAE AND LIMACODIDAE OF MISSISSIPPI

BRYANT MATHER

Serial No.	Species Name	A**	B**	Counties	Months
<u>MEGALOPYGIDAE *</u>					
4642	<u>Lagoa pyxidifera</u> (J.E.Smith)	17	12	Forrest, Harrison, Hancock.	Mar-May, Jul-Aug.
4644	<u>L.crispata</u> (Pack.)	129	66	Clay, Forrest, Grenada, Hancock. Harrison, Hinds, Jackson, Lafayette, Lee, Newton, Oktibbeha, Rankin, Stone, Tishomingo, Warren.	Apr-Jul. Dec.
4647	<u>Megalopyge opercularis</u> (J.E.Smith)(1)	299	241	Adams, Clay, Hancock, Harrison Hinds. Forrest, Jackson, Jones, Newton, Oktibbeha, Rankin, Stone, Tishomingo, Warren.	Apr-Sep.
4650	<u>Norape ovina</u> (Sepp) (2)	244	170	Grenada, Hinds, Lafayette, Oktibbeha, Warren.	Jun-Sep.
<u>LIMACODIDAE *</u>					
4652	<u>Tortricidia testacea</u> Pack.	33	27	Lowndes, Warren.	Mar-May, Aug.
4653	<u>T.pallida</u> (H.-S.)	3	3	Harrison, Oktibbeha.	May, Aug, Sep.
4654	<u>T.flexuosa</u> (Grt.)	6	6	Oktibbeha, Rankin, Warren.	May, Jul, Sep.
4655	<u>Slossonella tenebrosa</u> Dyar	3	3	Clay, Oktibbeha, Warren.	May, Jun, Aug.
4657	<u>Heterogenea shurtleffi</u> Pack.	12	12	Harrison, Hinds, Oktibbeha, Warren.	Apr- May, Jul, Sep.
4659	<u>Packardia geminata</u> (Pack.)	1	1	Warren.	May
4664	<u>Lithacodes gracea</u> Dyar	3	3	Harrison, Rankin.	May, Jul, Aug.
4665	<u>L. fasciola</u> (H.-S.)(3)	86	78	Clay, Hancock, Harrison, Hinds, Jackson, Lauderdale, Oktibbeha, Warren.	Mar-Aug.
4667	<u>Apoda y-inversum</u> (Pack.)	80	68	Clay, Forrest, Hinds, Oktibbeha, Warren.	Apr-Sep.
4668	<u>A.rectilinea</u> (G.&R.)	3	3	Forrest, Hancock, Oktibbeha	May, Aug.



4669	<u>A.biguttata</u> (Pack.)	48	43	Grenada, Hancock, Harrison, Hinds, Lafayette, Oktibbeha, Rankin, Warren, Wayne.	Apr-Aug.
4671	<u>Prolimacodes badia</u> (Hbn.)	90	86	Hancock, Harrison, Hinds, Jackson, Lafayette, Lee, Oktibbeha, Rankin, Warren.	Apr-Sep.
4675	<u>Isochaetes beutenmulleri</u> (Hy.Edw.)	112	85	Clay, Grenada, Hancock, Harrison, Oktibbeha, Rankin, Warren.	Apr-Sep.
4677	<u>Phobetrion pithecius</u> (J.E.Smith)	22	22	Hancock, Harrison, Hinds, Oktibbeha, Rankin, Warren.	Apr-Aug.
4679	<u>Natada nasoni</u> (Grt.)	5	5	Harrison, Warren.	Apr, Jul.
4681	<u>Isa textula</u> (H.-S.)	64	55	Harrison, Hancock, Hinds, Jackson, Newton, Oktibbeha, Warren.	Mar-Sep.
4685	<u>Adoneta spinuloides</u> (H.-S.)	37	35	Clay, Hancock, Harrison Hinds, Oktibbeha, Warren.	Apr-Aug, Oct.
4691	<u>Monoleuca semifascia</u> (Wlk.)	16	16	Forrest, Hinds, Lafayette, Oktibbeha, Tishomingo.	Jun-Aug. Oct.
4693	<u>M.subdentosa</u> Dyar	2	2	Oktibbeha	Jun, Oct.
4697	<u>Euclea delphinii</u> (Bdv.)	189	162	Bolivar, Grenada, Hancock, Harrison, Hinds, Jackson, Lafayette, Madison, Oktibbeha, Rankin, Warren, Wayne.	Mar-Sep.
4697.1	<u>E.nanina</u> Dyar	5	5	Jackson, Hinds.	Apr, Jul, Sep.
4698	<u>Parasa chloris</u> (H.-S.)	20	18	Hancock, Harrison, Hinds, Lafayette, Warren.	Apr-Aug.
4699	<u>P.indetermina</u> (Bdv.)	4	4	Hinds, Warren.	Jun-Aug.
4700	<u>Sibine stimulea</u> (Clem.)	51	46	Hancock, Harrison, Hinds, Holmes, Jackson, Lee, Noxubee, Oktibbeha, Rankin, Tishomingo, Warren.	Apr-Sep.

\* Most of this material was determined or determinations confirmed by Marc Epstein, Department of Entomology, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

\*\* A = Numbers of Specimens, B = Number of records.

- (1) Several specimens were determined as M.lapena Schaus (4645), but later redetermined as M.opercularis (J.E.Smith).
- (2) Some of these may be 4649, N.virgo (Butler).
- (3) Many of these were determined as L.fiskeanus (Dyar) (4663), but later redetermined as L.fasciola (H.-S.)

#### BULLETIN OF THE SOUTHERN LEPIDOPTERISTS' SOCIETY

LEROY C. KOEHN

There has been a renewed interest to publish the Bulletin of the Southern Lepidopterists'. An announcement was made at the annual meeting in Gainesville and was met with unanimous approval. There are sufficient funds available and providing that there are sufficient manuscripts and articles, we would like to publish two bulletins in 1992. A progress report will be presented at the 1992 annual meeting. Depending on the interest, the number of issues could be increased to four. This would also require a Bulletin Editor and amending the constitution. We are currently soliciting manuscripts and articles, with or without illustration for the Bulletin. Only manuscripts and articles relating to the Lepidoptera of the southern region of the United States will be considered. Manuscripts for consideration should be sent to the Editor: Leroy C. Koehn, 2946 N.W. 91st Ave. Coral Springs, Florida 33065.

**Materials Required**

1. Poster board - 6 ply
2. 15 cm (6") ruler
3. Razor blade knife
4. Clear adhesive tape
5. Aluminum screen 24 X 24 mm each box

**Instructions**

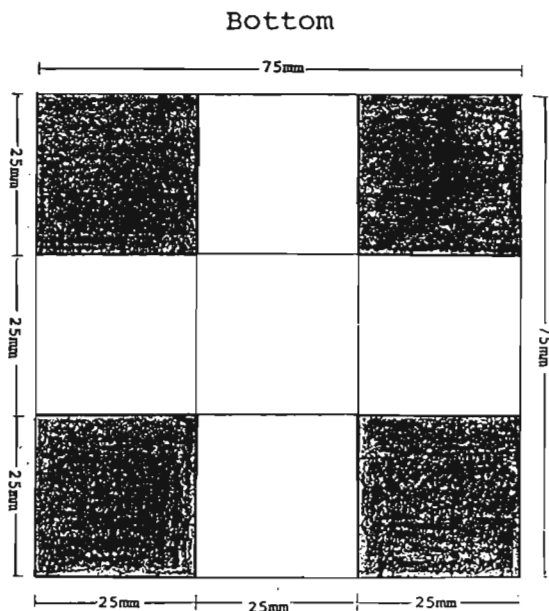
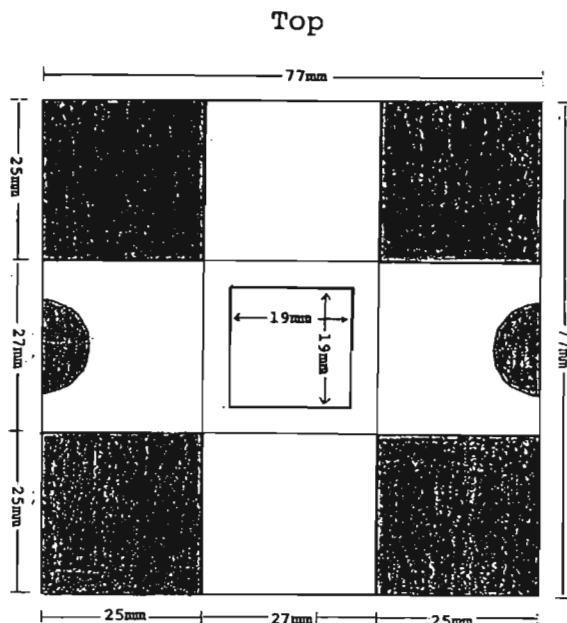
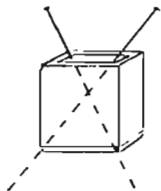
Mark and cut according to drawing dimensions. Initially score (cut to a thickness depth of 50-75%). Then completely cut through heavy black lines, discarding shaded areas shown. Only score center square lines in both top and bottom piece.

Bend 4 flaps of each piece at scoring and tape on outside neatly, one corner at a time to form box. After box is formed, wrap one 12 cm continuous piece of tape on the outside all around to strengthen each box.

Hold aluminum screen in with a drop of glue.

Final box dimensions are: 29 X 29 X 29 mm.

Hold box in corner of specimen case using long crisscrossed insect pins.

**CHANGES IN THE MEMBERSHIP**

TOM NEAL

**NEW MEMBERS**

Jonathan Kemp, Rt. 1 Box 153-A, Roseland, LA 70456 Video and still photography of butterflies.

Michelle W. Jensen, 1011 N.W. 21st St., Gaineville, FL 32605 Butterfly gardening.

Gene T. Drummond, 1614 Evans St., Arkadelphia, AR 71923 Lepidoptera habits and host plants.

Harry E. LeGrand, 1109 Nichols Dr., Raleigh, NC 27605 Lepidoptera distribution and ecology, Esp. NC.

John Filiatrault, 4608 Fabric St., Laval, Quebec, H7C 1C8, Canada Butterflies, Esp. Papilio and Pieridae.

Rick Kergosien, 116 Buena Vista Dr., Long Beach, MS 39560 U.V. Light trapping, including "cold trapping".

Thomas L. Ashby, 667 Halifax Dr., Mobile, AL 36609 Morpho, Ornithoptera, Troides, Trogonoptera, Agrias, Alcides and Urania.

#### 1992 JOHN ABBOTT AWARD NOMINEES

Enclosed in this issue is the John Abbott Award ballot. The officers of the Southern Lepidopterists' Society have nominated the following candidates to receive the John Abbott Award. These nominees have made major contributions to the knowledge of the Lepidoptera of the southern region of the United States. The following candidates have been nominated;

**Dr. Douglas C. Ferguson**, Research Entomologist with the Systemic Entomology Laboratory, Agricultural Research Service, located at the National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D.C. Dr. Ferguson is author or co-author of about 90 publications. These include large works on Geometridae, Arctiidae, Lymantriidae, and Saturniidae. Dr. Ferguson is actively involved in the MONA project and has been one of its major contributors.

**Vernon Brou**, researcher and collector for over 30 years of all Louisiana insects, especially moths. Special interest in designing, fabricating and testing of various insect traps and equipment. Contributor to entomological museums world wide and a major contributor to the Florida State Collection of Arthropods. Author and co-author of several articles on Lepidoptera. Employed as a Registered Nurse, Southern Baptist Hospital, New Orleans, Louisiana.

**Dave Baggett**, one of the founding members of the Southern Lepidopterists' Society. He served as the initial Editor and Chairman for five years in the trying early days of the organization. He served the Lepidopterists' Society as the SE Zone Coordinator for the season summary between 1978-83. He helped develop the "Lepidopterists' Society Statement of the Committee on Collecting Policy". His collecting ethics and conservation efforts are demonstrated for selected species as expressed in the Invertebrate Volume of the Rare and Endangered Biota of Florida series, which is currently being revised. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Biology in 1975 from the University of North Florida. He was employed with the State University System in Florida for 11 years before joining the St. Johns River Water Management District, where he is an Environmental Specialist engaged in photographic interpretation and mapping of NE Florida wetland plant communities.

Please vote for only one and return the ballot with your 1992 dues before February 15, 1992 to; Tom Neal, Secretary/Treasurer, 1705 N.W. 23rd Street, Gainesville, FL 32605

#### THIS-N-THAT & OTHER TIDBITS

**NEW BOOK:** A new book has been published on the butterflies of southern Arizona. The Sonoran Arthropods Studies, a membership support organization in Tuscon, Arizona, has published the book, **Butterflies of Southern Arizona** by Richard A. Bailowitz and James P. Brock. The book covers the 264 species recorded from southeastern Arizona and provides details on their habits, distribution, flight periods and foodplant preferences including previously unpublished information. It includes four color plates featuring 90 beautiful butterflies and 624 custom printed, life size black and white photos clearly showing diagnostic characters. With two maps and descriptions of "hot spots" in rich mountain islands of southeastern Arizona and indices to butterflies and larval foodplants, the work is a must for both novice and experienced butterfly watchers.

The book may be ordered directly from the publisher for \$32.95 postpaid (\$29.95 + \$3.00 p/h). Send to SASI, P.O. Box 5624, Tuscon, AZ 85703. MasterCard and Visa orders are welcome (602) 883-3945.

**GUIDED INSECTS TARGET WATER LETTUCE IN FLORIDA:** Water Lettuce, an introduced plant that crowds out other aquatic plants, clogs waterways and provides breeding grounds for mosquitoes, has been a serious problem in Florida. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has recently released the Water Lettuce Moth, Namangana pectinicornis, a native of Thailand to attack Water Lettuce. The moth avoids other native vegetation and the larvae feed exclusively on the noxious Water Lettuce.

The moth completes its life cycle in about a month. Higher temperatures speed up the cycle. Eggs are laid in clusters (94 per cluster) at the tips of the leaves. The female covers the cluster with a cap of silk the size of a pin head. Incubation lasts 4-8 days. More than half of the life cycle (about 20 days) is spent as a ravenous caterpillar. First instar larvae hatch and begin feeding on the leaves' surfaces. The larvae molt six times. Third instar larvae bore into the thick stalk of the plant, destroying the bud and lateral branches. Pupation occurs in the plant stems and the adults emerge in 4-10 days. Within 24 hours of emergence the adults mate and the females will lay up to four clusters of eggs. The adults only live a few days. Sources: Ted Center & Willey Durden, Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture.

**MORE MEMBERS IN THE NEWS:** The San Antonio, Texas newspaper, The Light, recently featured an article on member Roy Kendall and his wife Connie entitled "A Classic Collection". The article discussed the situation with Roy's collection and the necessary funding to keep it in Texas. If the funds cannot be raised by December 31, 1991, the collection will go to the Florida State Collection of Arthropods. We'll keep you posted!

**BUTTERFLY CALENDAR:** Butterflies 1992 Wall Calendar with outstanding close-up photos and text by Ann B. Swengel of Baraboo, Wisconsin, this new wall calendar pictures 12 different butterflies which are found in regions throughout the U.S.

Butterflies 1992 is available at bookstores and gift shops nationwide or direct from the publishers. To order direct, send \$9.95 check or money order, including \$3.50 per shipping location, to: Tide-Mark Press, P.O. Box 280311, East Hartford, CT 06128-0311. MasterCard and Visa orders welcome: call toll-free 1-800-338-2508.

**VERNON BROU UP-DATE:** Vernon suffered another heart attack in mid-August and was scheduled for triple by-pass surgery in November. We wish him a speedy recovery and a quick return to the field.

#### **NEWSLETTER UP-DATE**

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I still need your input to make this an informative and interesting newsletter. Any articles and items of interest are needed. Remember, this is your newsletter. It will be only as good as you help make it.

The deadline dates for the Volume 14 are as follows: No.1, March 15; No. 2, June 15; No. 3, September 1; and No. 4, December 1. All articles and items for inclusion must be received before the deadline.

If you prepare your articles or zone reports on a computer, I would like to receive them on a 5 inch floppy in an ASCII file if possible. I use Word Perfect for the newsletter and it would save a lot of data entry time. All floppies will be returned.

A list of regional Lepidopterists' Societies in the United States, Canada, Mexico, as well as Central and South America was planned for this issue. However, due to space limitations, it will appear in the next issue, Vol. 14, No. 1 in 1992. If you are a member of such an organization it can still be included. Please send your Editor any information you may have.

I would like to include photos in with the zone reports. Many of you take your cameras into the field and take many interesting pictures, especially unique photos of other collectors. Photos can be sent to the zone coordinators or directly to your Editor. Let's see some of those great shots!

## RESEARCH REQUEST & MEMBERS NOTICES

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**FOR SALE:** Light Traps, 12 volt DC or 110 volt AC with 15 watt or 8 watt black lights. The traps are portable and easy to use. Rain drains and beetle screens protect specimens from damage. For a free brochure and price list contact; Leroy C. Koehn, 2946 N.W. 91st Ave., Coral Springs, FL 33065.

**RESEARCH REQUEST:** Any butterfly records from the Florida Keys, even for common species. Data for Key Largo and Big Pine Key are rather extensive. For many of the other Keys very limited information on species composition and distribution exists. Any and all information would be greatly appreciated. Contact; Marc Minno, 303-18 Diamond Village, Gainesville, FL 32603.

**LATEST ILLUSTRATED 12-PAGE WORLD WIDE LEPIDOPTERA CATALOG** includes Lepidoptera specimens from South America, Europe and the Far East Regions. Serving lepidopterists worldwide since 1976. Beginners to experienced collectors will find species of interest. Examples include Morpho rhetenor, M/F, M.titie, M/F, M.godarti, M/F, Perpona buckleyana, Papilio warscewiczii, Papilio cecilius, Graphium stresemanni, Papilio antimagus and more. Books and entomological pins. **WE OPERATE PERSONALIZED ENTOMOLOGICAL, NATURALIST, BIRDER TOUR PROGRAMS.** Latest catalog \$1.00 or one year's monthly list via airmail \$6.00. **TRANSWORLD BUTTERFLY COMPANY.** Apartado 6951, 100S San Jose, Costa Rica, Central America.

## CURRENT ZONE REPORTS

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(Editors note: I received many lengthy and informative zone reports; due to space limitations I could not print all of them. Those that sent reports which do not appear in this issue will appear in their entirety in the next issue.)

**ZONE I TEXAS;** Coordinator, Ed Knudson, 8517 Burkhart, Houston, TX 77055

Dr. Hoe Chuah of Houston filed the following report:

Freestone County, 5 miles west of Buffalo. 30 March 1991: Erynnis brizo brizo, Hesperia metea licinius, Megathymus coloradensis stallingsi, Incisalia irus hadra (Coordinator's

note: This habitat, well known for decades to Texas collectors as one of a few localities for Hesperia meskei and H. attalus, has been largely destroyed due to mining activities.).

Jeff Davis County, Davis Mountains, 20-23 April 1991: Stinga morrisoni, Atrytonopsis vierecki and A. pittacus were taken.

Brewster County, Black Gap Management Area, 20-23 April 1991: Apodemia mormo mejicanus was found. It was also taken at this locality in early September.

Kinney County, 6 Miles west of Spofford, 3 Sept. 1991: Dr. Chuah and Mike Rickard collected Erynnis tristis, Gesta gesta, Dryas iulia moderata, Mestra amymone, and Danaus eresimus montezuma.

Since his last report, Knudson has made three more visits to the Guadalupe Mts and has found the following species of interest:

10-11 Aug. 1991: Grapholita hieroglyphana, Anomis editrix, Alypiodes bimaculata, Schinia regia, S. balba and S. coercita.

6-8 Sept. 1991: Menestomorpha oblongata, Diaphania elegans, Synclera jarbusalis, Eupithecia fredericki, Stibadium curiosum, and Schinia accessa.

1-2 Oct. 1991: Pyrausta arizonensis, Bertelia dupla (very common), and Rostrolaetilia minimella.

Knudson collected the following around convenience store lights in the eastern outskirts of El Paso on 9 Sept. 1991: Lithostege marcata, Plagiomimicus triplagiata, Copablepheron album, and Schinia luxa (apparently new for Texas).

Knudson visited the lower Rio Grande Valley on 6-8 Oct. 1991: Although conditions seemed good, there were many butterflies out. The best catch was Dynamine dyonis in the Santa Ana NWR. A few interesting moths were collected in Bentsen State Park on 6 Oct. 1991: Hypargyria sp. (apparently not slossonella), Synanthedon phorodendri (at light) and an Itame sp. (not recognized).

In Santa Ana on 7 Oct. 1991, the following moths were taken at bait: Bendisodes aeolia (super-abundant), Latebaria amphipyrioides, Ephyrodes cacata, Zale obsoleta or close. At light, the following were taken: Acrocecropis sideroxylonella, Chlamydastis habrolepis (very common), Ecpantheria muzina, Anomis impasta (or texana, or both), A. editrix, A. flava, and Ophisma tropicalis.

**ZONE II ALABAMA, LOUISIANA, MISSISSIPPI, & TENNESSEE:** Vernon Brou, 74320 Jack Loyd Rd., Abita Springs, LA 70420; Bryant Mather, 213 Mt. Salus Dr., Clinton, MS 39056; Mecky Furr, 7926 Cross Pike, Germantown, TN 38138.

Vernon Brou reported an extremely wet summer and that sphingids were very abundant. His collecting this season has been hampered by health problems.

Mecky Furr reported that the spring was exceptionally wet. There were only six days without rain in April and only three days in May. June was almost as wet. As a result butterflies were extremely scarce during the spring and early summer. July and August had near the normal amount of rain and butterflies, especially swallowtails, very abundant.

Chip Reed collected Feniseca tarquinius near Germantown, Shelby County on April 26, 1991. He also collected Agraulis vanillae nigrior on Trinity Rd., Shelby County on 22 June, 1991. This is a very early record.

Mecky Furr reported Zerene cesonia nectaring on Asclepias tuberosa, on 14 August, 1991. She found the larva of Automeris io on Partridge Pea on 13 August, 1991, both records from Shelby County. While visiting Big Hill Pond State Park, Hardin County, on 14 May 1991 Mecky found the larvae of Hemileuca maia were extremely abundant and virtually "falling" from the oak trees they were feeding on. The majority were parasitized.

Mecky Furr collected in an area under development near Cordova, Shelby County and found a large colony of Cercyonis pegala nr. abbottii on 22 June and 15 July 1991.

Mecky Furr collected at Indian Creek, Center Hill Lake, Dekalb County on 15 August 1991 and found the following; Satyroides appalachia, Pterourus troilus, P. glaucus, Heraclides cresphontes, Everes comyntas, Hermeuptychia sosybius, Cyllopsis gemma, Megisto cymela, Enodia portlandia, Vanessa atalanta, Nymphalis antiopa, Basilarchia astyanax, Asterocampa celtis, A. clyton, Speyeria cybele, Calycopis cecrops and Celastrina ladon.

5 May 1991, John Kutis visited near Aymett Town, Giles County, Tennessee and collected the following: Callima argenticinctella, Olethreutes fasciatana, Ecdytolopha instictiana, Apoda biguttata, Blepharomastix, Crambus laqueatellus, Heliomata cycladata, Semiothisa ocellinata, Lytrosis unitaria, Leptostales rubromarginaria, Callizzia amorata, Heteropacha rileyana, Ceratomia hageni, Cisthene plumbea, Plusiodonta compressipalpis, Euperthenos nubilis, Catocala illecta, Leuconycta diptheroides, Nedra ramosula, Homohadena infixa, Lacinipolia renigera, and Protolampra drunneicollis. He also collected the following butterflies at MV light Harkenclenus titus mopsus and Satyrium calanus falacer.

John Kutis reported the following from Alabama:

25 May 1991, SR 231 south of Hanover, Coosa County and took Harkenclenus titus mopsus.



26 May 1991, Talladega National Forest, NFR 633, Clay County; with MV light collected; Satyrium calanus falacer, Lytrosis unitaria, L.sinuosa, Callosamia angulifera, Apantesis anna, Synedoida grandirena, Catocala gracilis, and C.grynea. He took Oligia modica and Dipterygia rozmani at bait.

Bryant Mather reported three new records for Mississippi, they are:

Oligia chlorostigma (Harvey) Hodges #9402, McD #2553, B.M. #124708, collected by Mather at Vicksburg, Warren County on 9 June 1988. It was sent to Eric Quinter at the American Museum of Natural History mixed in a series of Paectes abrostoloides(Gn) and recognized by Quinter who expected it to be a new state record.

Nephoterix rubrisparsella(Rag) Hodges #5804, McD #6169, B.M. #127845, collected by Rick Kergosien at Fenton, Hancock County on 18 September 1971, sent to Ed Knudson, Bellaire, Texas who made the determination.

Croesia albicomana(Clem) Hodges #3520, McD #7469, B.M. #129001, sent to Ed Knudson and determined by him. Collected by Mather in Vicksburg, Warren County on 15 May 1990.

ZONE 111 GEORGIA; Irving Finkelstein, 425 Springdale Dr. N.E., Atlanta, GA 30305

12 & 18 August; Irving Finkelstein, Tom Dooley(12 Aug) and Dale Hoyt(18 Aug) visited the Cooper Creek Recreation Area, Chattahoochee National Forest, Union County. Due to far-above-average rainfall this year, the season was accelerated by approximately two weeks with Joe-Pye Weed, Ironweed, and Horsemint (even Goldenrod) was in full bloom before mid-August. Papilio glaucus (population explosion), Papilio troilus, and Battus philenor (down in numbers from previous years). Speyeria diana females were present and males were numerous and extremely worn.

James Adams collected an Enyo lugubris in Dalton on October 29 for a good northern record.

ZONE IV FLORIDA; Dave Baggett, 403 Oleander Dr, Palatka, FL 32077

23 July: Ozeilo, Citrus County - Cautethia grotei by John Kutis is a good northern limit record.

23 June: report of Crambodes talidiformis, Palm Beach County by William Nix is a southern range extension, and one of the few Florida records at present.

29 June to early July: John Calhoun and Andy Anderson found a new colony of Atrytone arogos in Citrus County. The colony not only is new, but the months are also new. Records for this skipper in Florida now completely span March through November! (But just try to find them at any one site in all those months here...). John and Andy also found Hesperia attalus and Euphyes arpa at the site, also somewhat "odd" months for capture in most of north-central Florida.

13 August: Jack Heinrich obtained specimens of the following at Koreshan State Park: Leucochroma corope, Herpetogramma phaeopteralis, Proroblemma testa, Prosoparia perfuscaria, and Patissa vestaliella.

1 October: John Calhoun and Dave Baggett collected at Hickory Landing, Franklin County. Highlights were several Nymphuliella daeckaealis, Exyra semicrocea, Pygarctia abdominalis, and Cercyonis pegala abbotti (taken at MV light!). Euphyes arpa and Polites origines were collected the following day.

17 September: Dave Baggett saw a single Calpodus ehtlius flying around the inside of a grocery store in Palatka, Putnam County. However, the potential county record eluded capture. Several days later, Palmer Kinser brought in several larvae that he had found on Canna plants growing outside a local Chinese restaurant, providing the necessary documentary vouchers (New county record).

Dave Baggett reported the first push of migrating monarchs arriving the weekend of 21-22 September, with huge numbers observed locally in Palatka during the next few days. For some time he has suspected that the St. Johns River was a major flyway in the state; it most certainly was this year. Dr. Robert Virnstein, with whom Dave works, reported that on the evening of September 24 the large live oak trees in his yard along the river were absolutely covered with resting adults seeking refuge for the night. Never has Dave seen such numbers arriving in synchrony. For about ten days they were everywhere, sailing overhead, and stopping for nectar wherever the opportunity presented itself. By early October they were virtually non-existent.

Rick Gillmore reported several Eucopocnemis dapsilis found in his yard in Seminole County during late October.

Charles Stevens reported finding Schinia bina in Jacksonville, Duval County, as well as the larva of this on "dandelion".

Dave Baggett has received many reports from many sources and these additional records will appear in next issue ( Volume 14, No. 1). He will acknowledge all who supplied reports.

Jeffrey Slotten collected Papaipema speciosissima, Parapamea buffaloensis, and an unidentified Papaipema on 22 October, Alachua County, Gainesville. He and Tom Neal visited Shired Island in Dixie County on 26 October.

Leroy Koehn reported the following:

The two year drought came to an end in early May and the summer rains were above normal. Many species which were scarce during the drought became common, (Marpesia petreus, Appias drusilla neumogeni, Eurema dina helios and Anartia jatrophae) and those species common during the drought became scarce (Phyciodes tharos, Anathanassa frisia and Atalopedes campestris). In early November there were population explosions of Siproeta stelenes boplagiata, Anartia jatrophae, Eurema daira daira, Urbanus proteus, Lerema accius, and Calpodus ehtlius. He also noted that the white hindwing form of Eurema daira(form? palmira) was abundant at times, especially at IFAS Station and Navy Wells Pinelands in Dade County. He also found it in Pasco, Martin, Broward, Collier, Monroe and Highlands Counties.

Leroy also reported that since the freeze of 1989 and the drought which followed, several species have been absent all together, (Eumaeus atala, Dryas iulia and Eunica monima) only D.iulia returned in great numbers this fall.

He visited the IFAS Station near Homestead on several occasions in September and collected the following: 7 Sept; Appias drusilla neumogeni, Colias eurytheme, Hemiargus thomasi bethunebakeri, and Siproeta stelenes biplagiata. 12 Sept; Battus polydama lucayus, and Basilarchia archippus floridensis. 22 Sept; Anaea floralis and Marpesia petreus. 24 Sept; Eurema dina helios and Anathanassa frisia.

**ZONE V VIRGINIA, NORTH & SOUTH CAROLINA;** Bob Cavanaugh, P.O. Box 734, Morehead City, N.C. 28557, Ron Gattelle, 126 Wells rd., Goose Creek, S.C. 29445.

Ben Williams visited in the George Washington National Forest, Amherst County, Virginia on July 8-10, 1991 and collected the following: ARCTIIDAE: Hypopepia miniata, H.fucosa, Ecpautheria scribonia, Holomelina aurnatiaca, and Apantes phalerata. SPHINGIIDAE: Manduca jasminearum and Sphinx franckii. SATURNIIDAE: Anisota senatoria, A.stigma, A.virginiensis, Dryocampa rubicunda, Citheronia regalis, C.sepulchralis, Eacles imperialis, Automeris io, Callosamia angulifera, Actias luna, and Antheraea polyphemus. NOCTUIDAE: Catocala amica, C.andromedae, C.coccinata, C.ilia, C.ulalume, Allotric ellonympha, Eudryas grata, Spragueia leo and Zale aeruginosa. MISC: Euclea delphinii, Isochaetes beutenmuelleri, Parasa chloris, Phobetron pinetum, Norape ovina and Sibine stimulea. (cont. on Pg.#56)



GET WITH THE PROGRAM, FENSTER!

(cont. from Pg.#54) Rick Gillmore and Darryl Willis visited the Jefferson National Forest, near Craig Creek at Caldwell Fields northwest of US 460 on CR 621, Montgomery County, Virginia. Using a 175 watt MV and a 15 watt black light, they collected the following: Manduca jasmineearum, Sphinx gordius, ceratomia amyntor, C.undulosa, Lapara coniferarum, Anisota stigma, A.virginiensis, Dryocampa rubicunda, Olceclostera angelica, Apatelodes torrefacta, Citheronia regalis, Eacles imperialis, Antheraea polyphemus, Actias luna, Automeris io, Callosamia angulifera, Malacosoma americanum, Hypoprepia fucosa, H.miniata, Artace cribraria, Halysidota tessellaris, Cisthene plumbea, Haploa contigua, H.reversa, H.lecontei, Calocasia flavicornis, Ecpantheria scribonia, Polygrammate hebraeicum, Eudryas grata, Cosmia calami, Galgula partita, Lithacodea synochitis, Catocala ilia, Macrarocampa, Nadata gibbosa, Eubaphe mendica, Semiothisa promiscuata, Hesperumia sulphuraria, Euchlaena serrata, Plagodis phlogosaria, Adoneta spinuliodes, and Parasa chloris.

ZONE VI ARKANSAS; Mack Shotts, MD, 514 W. Main St., Paragould, AR 72450.

### No Report!

The Southern Lepidopterists' News is published four times annually. Membership dues are \$10.00 annually. The organization is open to anyone with an interest in the lepidoptera of the southern United States. Information about the Society may be obtained from the Secretary-Treasurer, Tom Neal, 1705 N.W. 23rd Street, Gainesville, Florida 32605

The SOUTHERN LEPIDOPTERISTS' NEWSLETTER  
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