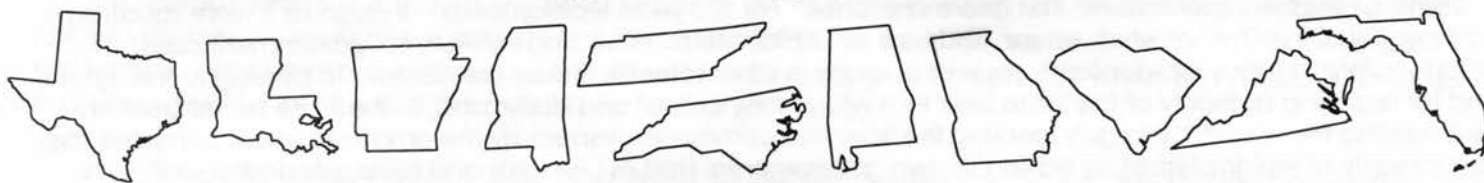


Southern Lepidopterists' News



The official newsletter 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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The SEARCH Project: A Declaration of Dependence

PROBLEM

For the last 200 years virtually all the "work" on Lepidoptera (and insects in general) has been done by professional (paid) and amateur (unpaid) scientists. Great collections have been amassed by Universities, Museums and private workers. Societies were formed on national and international levels. These societies and the Museums have published nearly the whole of our scientific knowledge on Lepidoptera. Yet, there is still a vast amount of information and knowledge to be acquired -- even in long inhabited areas as the southern United States.

Over this period of time these individuals and organs of academia largely came to forget there was a massive entity which held prime authority, and thus had the prime responsibility over every living thing and every piece of geography from which this knowledge was being gleaned. This was easy to forget, because for all practical purposes, this giant had abdicated through disinterest when it came to Lepidoptera. In the 1970's this giant began to awake. It was the colossus of State and Federal government.

Up to that time the giant's interest in "insects" was solely focused on whether or not they were "pests" -- which in 1957 the USDA lumped them all potentially as. Up to the 70's, and in some areas the 80's, if a Lepidopterist went into a National/State Reserve he could often get the local rangers to help in pointing out areas where he/she could "collect." Rangers assisted.

Things have changed so dramatically in the last 10 years that many professional and amateur scientists are suddenly in the dark about **what** they can or can not do, and **where**. Now rangers arrest. Some collectors are bristled to the degree that they are openly saying they are the "endangered species!"

At the same time, Federal and State wildlife personnel are overwhelmed by the vast amount of species which have suddenly been given such high priority, and for which they have total responsibility. State biologists are overwhelmed because they are in the dark about **what** species exist within their geographical area of responsibility, and **where**. Wildlife agents are overwhelmed by ballooning volume of work (they can't even keep up with the bear bladder poachers or marijuana growers), and usually know nothing about the **what** and **where** of bugs.

Pause.

From the above, we should be able to observe and conclude several things objectively. First, the primary responsibility for natural America has always been government's -- still is. Second, it is unfortunate that for over two centuries the government has only fulfilled this responsibility, in virtually every area, only after it almost was (or was) too late. Whether in the areas of regulation of mining or dumping, or protection of biota, government seems to only show up "at the eleventh hour." Third, government has finally taken its proper place to oversee, and where necessary protect, Lepidoptera. However, this has happened suddenly, thoroughly, and so much to the exclusion of the vast majority of lepidopterists that it is not

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overstatement to say this new working reality has put both the traditional Lepidopterist and governmental wildlife worker into future shock. It seems we've all been thrust from 1970 to 2000 in just a couple years! Too many on both sides are overwhelmed to some degree, and correspondingly confused.

Some subjective observations. First, there are "sides." For 200 years lepidopterists -- though as it were squatters -- had control of the "turf" of **what, where, and how** of Lepidoptera. Now, and rightfully so, government does. Unfortunately: 1) many lepidopterists (as well as many in other scientific fields) are resistant to bowing to the rightful and far reaching authority of the State over that which they collect and study; and 2) the State seems bent on "re-inventing the wheel" by largely ignoring the scientific community (especially the amateurs which compose the vast majority of lepidopterists) by having its own governmental staff of biologists and zoologists do the work.

Second, "the work" begins by surveying. That is, by documenting the **what and where**. This work is largely already done and most of the data from it is in the heads, and drawers, of amateur lepidopterists. (This is known by the average Lepidopterist and is exactly why he fears the government wishes to confiscate all private collections rather than simply ask for the information. This is not an unreasonable fear.)

Third, 99% of all biologists, zoologists, and even most entomologists are unqualified to make the type of conclusions on Lepidoptera that need to be made simply because it is too large an Order. In fact, most butterfly workers are not qualified to speak on moths, and workers on some moths not qualified to speak on other families or genera. Conversely, the greatest expert on Lepidoptera is not independent of botanists, environmentalists, etc.

This job of **what, where and how** is a BIG one. It has taken 300 years of the combined efforts of the scientific community to just rough in the basic systematics and expose the tip of the environmental dynamics iceberg. Certainly, the Government's skeleton crew of broadly based biologists, sea turtle experts, and entomological specialists in "product storage," and "gypsy moth control" can not begin to do the Job their employer is thrusting upon them. Our Federal government is asking the impossible of its agencies, and has made no real effort to form a broad and grass roots coalition with the Lepidopterist (collecting) community.

We, all of us who deal with the natural world, must no longer be on "sides." The turf war must cease. It can only stop when those in the scientific-museum-collecting camp surrender, by cooperation, the turf to the state and federal governments: **for it is their turf**. The government must incorporate the scientific-museum-collecting camp into full partnership in its accumulation of data documenting species, their location/range, need for protection and recovery strategy: **for they are the experts** -- they've been on this turf a long time.

SOLUTION

Thus, the 200+ member Southern Lepidopterists' Society proposes the Species Evaluation And Regionally Coinciding Habitat (SEARCH) Project as a joint cooperative effort of Federal and State wildlife agencies, Museums and Universities, and lepidopterists (professional and amateur) within the 11 state area of the Southern Lepidopterists' Society as the vehicle to accomplish the above unification and facilitation.

The USFWS, a few states within this area, certain institutions and some individuals already have some surveys/research underway. However, it is a goal of the SEARCH Project that even these existent, but independent, undertakings be linked via the SEARCH Project for the purpose of transfer of information, both up and down the jurisdictional ladder -- individuals and institutions to State DNRs and the DNRs to the USFWS and vice versa.

The members of the Southern Lepidopterists' Society are to be available as field workers (as volunteers or subsidized workers depending upon the scope of work required). All collections of all parties are to be open and available for scientific purposes.

The USFWS region 4, and state DNRs should be liberal in issuing both general and specific collecting permits to museum staff and Southern Lepidopterist members. The sole reason for applying for a collecting permit in restricted areas is for the gathering of information. Specimens are only collected as vouchers of such information. Wildlife officials receiving permit requests from individuals unknown to them should contact the individual's S. Lep. State coordinator for reference. Individual collectors should be allowed to retain some of their voucher specimens. Permit collected specimens are not to be sold, exchanged or given (except as a donation to 501 (C) 3 organizations). The oversight of the SEARCH Project is to be by committee composed of two representatives of the Southern Lepidopterists' Society (one of which will be the chairman), one USFWS official from region 4 and two state wildlife officials (from two of the eleven area states). The integration and distribution of collected information will be the responsibility of one of the committee members. This member will be selected by a vote of the committee.

Institutions, like individuals, tend to want benefits without responsibility. In our situation, government seems to want the benefit of information without the responsibility of broadly sharing power with the scientific community. The scientific community seems to want the benefit of information without the responsibility of submitting to government authority. The SEARCH Project functions without confusing the jurisdiction, nor dividing the benefit of information.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), Division of Wildlife, in cooperation with The Ohio Lepidopterists, announced a change in the Ohio Wildlife Regulations that will allow Lepidopterists to retain specimens of butterflies and moths that are declared to be endangered in Ohio. The announcement recognizes the close cooperation of the ODNR, Division of Wildlife and The Ohio Lepidopterists in providing the data that contributed to the Division of Wildlife's understanding that some species are imperiled in Ohio. The change in the Ohio Wildlife Regulations was made to encourage members of The Ohio Lepidopterists to continue their research in Ohio.

In making the announcement, Richard B. Pierce, Chief of the Division of Wildlife, said "I consider the information provided to the ODNR, Division of Wildlife by The Ohio Lepidopterists, on the status of moth and butterfly populations, to be vital in managing and protecting this important segment of Ohio's wildlife. It is certainly in the Division's best interest to facilitate the collection of information by those who are qualified and motivated to do so. A second key factor is ensuring that there is close cooperation in the sharing of data and development of protective strategies."

Ohio's Division of Wildlife and The Ohio Lepidopterists society continue to be leaders in recognizing the mutual benefits of working together. It is not easy to chart a course that appears to contradict popular thinking pertinent to protecting endangered species, but the rules of protection, that were not developed with insects in mind, can be recreated to encourage participation by the persons most capable of monitoring populations of butterflies and moths, lepidopterists. Although it is not easy to recast long held ideas, openness to new ideas, while recognizing the sincerely held beliefs of traditional thinking, can lead to a new way of doing things.

The new rules for Ohio took effect on 15 May 1994. The revised language states: "It shall be lawful for any persons to collect and possess the following wild animals for their own personal use. It shall be unlawful to sell, barter, trade, or offer for sale any wild animal, or parts thereof, listed in this paragraph:" The paragraph proceeds to list most of Ohio's endangered butterflies and moths. Of course, federally protected species are not effected by the change in Ohio's regulations.

"We've made a lot of progress toward conservation of lepidopterans in Ohio," said Pierce. "There is still a tremendous amount of work still to be done. With our united efforts, I am confident that progress will continue to be made." The action by the Division of Wildlife to modify their regulations are part of the partnership.

The Ohio Lepidopterists society conducted a six year Comprehensive Survey of Moths and Butterflies in Ohio for the ODNR, Division of Wildlife. During the survey, which ran from 1986 through 1992, The Ohio Lepidopterists accumulated nearly 100,000 individual records of butterflies and moths in Ohio. The Ohio Lepidopterists discovered that several species of butterflies and moth were endanger of being extirpated from Ohio due to threats to critical habitats. Two major publications, *Butterflies and Skippers of Ohio*, and *The Owlet Moths of Ohio*, also came from the six year effort. As part of the survey, The Ohio Lepidopterists also own and curate a synoptic collection of Ohio's butterflies and moths at The Ohio State University Museum of Biological Diversity.

For more information, you may contact: The Ohio Lepidopterists, 1241 Kildale Sq. N., Columbus, Ohio 43229-1306.

New Chairman's Profile

At our 1993 annual meeting Reverend Ronald R. Gatrell was elected Chairman of this society. Ron was born in Marshalltown, Iowa, January 27, 1946, and grew up in Davenport. In 1966 he married his wife Marilyn. They have three children, Tammra (26), Ben (24), and Katie (5).

Ron joined the Navy in 1967 as a medical corpsman but soon transferred to Dental where he graduated first in his class from two Navy Schools as a prosthetic technician. In 1970 he and his family moved to Charleston, S.C., where they have remained. After leaving the Navy, Ron was licensed by the SC State Board of Dentistry (again 1st) as a Prosthetic tech and opened his own lab. He retired from dental in 1982.

In 1978 Ron was ordained into the ministry and started Kingdom Ministries, a multifaceted outreach organization which today operates a Crisis Pregnancy Center, a food/helps program for the needy, a coffeehouse/concert ministry, and publishes *The Good News*, a newspaper with a nation-wide circulation of about 14,000. In 1982 Ron also became Pastor of Emmanuel Christian Fellowship in North Charleston, SC, where he still is full time pastor.

Ron began collecting butterflies when he was eight. Some of his more interesting Iowa records include *Atides halesus*, *Lethe creola* and *L. portlandia*, all Scott county. He also recorded the first Iowa specimen of *Thymelicus lineola*. From Iowa he moved to San Diego, CA, 1967-68, where his most notable record was a strong colony of *Euphilotes bernardino allyni* on Point Loma near his apartment. He then was transferred to Pensacola, FL, 1968-69, where he logged the first Florida (and then western most) record of *Satyrrium kingi* from Escambia County. In 1970 he was transferred to Charleston, SC, from which state he has personally documented 128 species. His most recent SC new state records are *Urbanus dorantes*, Colleton county, and *Boloria bellona*, Oconee county.

He is a leading taxonomic authority on southern butterflies, and has published the only modern scientific surveys on SC butterflies. His collection encompasses all of North America and contains all described (and several undescribed) butterfly and skipper species/subspecies of the eastern United States. Yet, his collection is rather small in terms of actual specimens as his philosophy is to keep only two pairs of topotypes (or as near as possible) of all taxa, unless it is a poorly known species in a given area, or a taxa he is researching -- even then relying heavily on specimens borrowed from other individuals or museums.

He is a research associate with the Florida Dept. of Agriculture and Florida State Collection of Arthropods (1980 -), and a past member of the executive council of The Lepidopterists' Society (1977-80). He is a charter member of the Southern Lepidopterists' Society and the society's name was adopted from his motion at the initial meeting -- over "Florida" or "Southeastern."

His more notable published scientific articles are:

A New Subspecies of *Lethe Appalachia* (Satyridae). J. Lepid. Soc., Vol.28:359-363, 1974.

The Hesperioidea of the South Coastal Area of South Carolina. J. Lepid. Soc., Vol. 29, No. 1, 1975.

The Papilionoidea of the South Coastal Area of South Carolina. Bul. S. Lepid. Soc., No. 2, 1985.

The Taxonomic Implications of the Discovery of *Incisalia irus* in Florida. News of the Lepid. Soc., No. 4:1-2, 1991.

Notes on the Occurrence of Two Rare Lepidoptera in South Carolina. J. Lepid. Soc., Vol. 25:143, 1971.

Observations on the Habitat of *Satyrrium Kingi* (Lycaenidae). J. Lepid. Soc., Vol. 28:33-37, 1974.

TEXAS FIELD TRIP PLANNED

Dr. Ed Knudson is trying to get a fall collecting/watching field trip together for the weekend of October 22-23. The sight will be ConCan (Neal's Lodge).

For those at the western end of our societies range who can't make the Florida meeting, this will provide ya' all a great opportunity for collecting and camaraderie. It will also be a good time for those who are strictly butterflyers to get some illumination on how great mothing is. Perhaps even some of us Easterners will make it. And for our members in Mexico, come on up. You won't need a permit, just check through customs. (Hum, why don't this work for us going south?)

State Coordinators, a New Approach

With this issue, we have gone from "zone coordinators," with some covering several states, to "state coordinators," with one coordinator for each of the 11 states in our area. Eventually, our goal is for each state coordinator to also be a State DNR invertebrate wildlife specialist in their respective state. This is for 3 reasons. First, as we move into the 21st century, states will take as much responsibility over how their Lepidoptera are doing as they now take for higher animals. Thus, the documentation of what species and where will also become of prime interest to the state DNRs. Second, since the states will be perpetually keeping and updating these records, all workers in the field should be reporting their information to their state agency. Three, for the Southern Lepidopterists' Society (or any group) to be independently doing the same thing would be needless duplication of effort and contrary to the spirit of cooperation and partnership our science and government need to develop.

Currently, few states in our area have DNR or Natural Heritage personnel knowledgeable enough to fill such a position or, they are unknown to the leadership of this society. If you know of a qualified individual from your state, or feel you are one, notify the chairman, Ron Gatrell, to discuss the job. You will note that Tennessee and Alabama do not have a coordinator (any "volunteers?").

STATE REPORTS

Individual state reports are to be sent to the coordinator of the state to which the information pertains. The coordinator's job is to validate the information (insure proper identification etc.) and assimilate it into his report which is published in this section of every issue. Sight records for skippers are largely not accepted since misidentification is too easy. Sight records for most of the larger well know species, as swallowtails, are acceptable if from an experienced observer. REPORTS ARE TO BE SUBMITTED VIA THE PROPER STATE COORDINATOR. The name and address of each state coordinator is on the cover of each issue. Reports from states without a coordinator may be sent directly to the Editor.

ALABAMA. No report.

ARKANSAS.

Mack Shotts' medical practice work load has kept him out of the field for some time. However, as a crossroads and tourist state, a number of out of state lepidopterists often visit Arkansas and Mack strongly encourages anyone collecting or observing butterflies and moths in Arkansas to please relay their information.

Gene Drummond reported a sight record of a male *Speyeria diana* visiting her butterfly garden at her home in Arkadelphia, Clark County.

FLORIDA. No report.

GEORGIA. Ron Gatrell supplied the following report.

RABUN CO.: Area along Hwy 28 between Burrell's Ford Road and mile 4, April 8: *Amblyscirtes hegon*, various *Erynnis*, *Cyllopsis gemma*, *Paramidea midea annickae*, *Phyciodes tharos*, *Incisalia augustinus*. Pasture near base of Rabun Bald, May 30: *Polites peckius* (common), *Atalopedes campestris huron*, *Colias eurytheme*, *Pieris rapae*, *Eurema lisa*, *Strymon melinus*, *Everes comyntas*, *Celastrina ladon*, *Lycaena phlaeas americana*, *Papilio glausus*, *P. troilus*, *Vanessa virginiensis*, *Junonia coenia*. Same area June 10: *P. peckius*, *Boloria bellona* (NEW COUNTY, 2nd STATE), *Speyeria cybele*, *S. aphrodite* ssp. Same area June 17: *Papilio polyxenes asterius*, *Battus philenor*, *Polites origenes*, plus others as before.

BURKE CO.: Near Georgia Power plant, April 21: *Charidryas gorgone gorgone*, *Phyciodes tharos*, *J. coenia*, *Thorybes confusus*, *Erynnis juvenalis*, *Achalarus lyciades*. Same area June 9: *Harknclenus titus mopsus*.

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SCREVEN CO.: Millhaven Plantation, June 9: *H. titus mopsus* (topotypes), observed many *Megathymus yuccae* tents.

LOUISIANA. No report.

MISSISSIPPI. No report.

NORTH CAROLINA. Ron Gatrell supplied the following report.

MACON CO.: Jones Knob, May 30: *Phyciodes batesii* ssp., *Charidryas nycteis nycteis*, *Basilarchia arthemis astyanax*, *Megisto cymela*, *Poanes hobomok* ssp, *Erynnis* species, *Colias eurytheme*, *Papilio glaucus*, *P. troilus*. Same area June 10: ova of *P. batesii* ssp found on *Aster undulatus*, *S. aphrodite* ssp. Same area June 17: *S. aphrodite* ssp males abundant, *P. batesii* ssp still flying. Same area July 2: *Autochton cellus* (NEW COUNTY), 1 male *S. diana*, females of *S. aphrodite* ssp beginning emergence. Same area July 15: females of *S. aphrodite* ssp in fair numbers and fresh, males fresh to very worn, *S. cybele*. *Speyeria* were very abundant in 1994 having their best flight in seven years.

Hale Ridge Rd. town of Scaly Mtn., May 30: *P. peckius* (NEW COUNTY). Same area June 10 and 17: *S. aphrodite* ssp (new area), *S. cybele*, *J. coenia*, *P. glaucus*, *P. p. asterius*, *P. troilus*, *B. philenor*, *C. eurytheme*, *P. rapae*, *P. peckius* (common), *P. origenes*, *A. campestris huron*, *Lerema accius*, *Poanes zabulon*, *Ancyloxypha numitor*, *Hylephila phyleus*, *Erynnis icelus*, *E. horatius*, *E. comyntas*, *C. ladon*, *S. melinus*, *Calycopis cecrops*.

Jeff Slotten took *Erora laeta*, and *Boloria bellona* on July 4 in Mitchell County off hwy. 107 at Tennessee state line (NEW COUNTY?).

SOUTH CAROLINA: Ron Gatrell reported the following.

Spring was extremely dry. June was extremely wet.

ORANGEBURG CO.: Dirt road vic. Bull Swamp, Mar. 10: *P. midea annickae*, *I. henrici* ssp (on plum).

PICKENS CO.: Lake Issaqueena area, April 21: *Hesperia metea licinus*, *Amblyscirtes vialis*.

AIKEN CO.: Vic. Aiken St. Park, May 24: *Satyrium liparops cline*, *S. calanus cline*.

BERKELEY CO.: Francis Marion NF, May 26: (While doing USFWS survey work), an interesting area was noted which looked good for *Anthanassa texana seminole*, most butterflies out seemed to all visit colicroot (*Aletris*).

SUMPTER CO.: Manchester St. Forest, June 6: *Erynnis zarucco*.

CHESTERFIELD CO.: Sandhills St. Forest, June 21: *Hesperia meskei* (NEW COUNTY). Sandhills NWR, June 21, (doing USFWS survey work): *H. meskei*, and *H. attalus* (NEW COUNTY). This was a very hot day and virtually no flowers were available. The *Hesperia* were males perching on undersides of turkey oak leaves. They only flew out if another skipper passed by -- which was almost never.

TENNESSEE. No report.

VIRGINIA. Tom Allen sent in the following.

A few of the interesting species found so far this year in Virginia include: *Erora laeta*, *Pyrgus centaureae wyandot*, *Paramidea midea annickae*, and *Incisalia irus*, the latter at Black's Run, Rockbridge Co., April 24 and 26. Also, *Nymphalis vau-album* and *Libytheana bachmanni* are fairly common near Criders, Rockingham Co. on Shenandoah Mtns. Both *Asterocampa* and *Speyeria* are very abundant this year.

(ED. NOTE. Though outside our area, Tom found *I. irus* (*Baptisia* pop.) in West VA this spring for a NEW W VA STATE RECORD.)

TEXAS. Ed Knudson reports that Charles Bordelon has found *Poanes aaroni howardi* (very large like typical east and south Florida true *howardi*), and *Euphyes bayensis* near Sabine Pass, TX, in 1993 and 1994. Both are NEW STATE RECORDS and WEST.

PERSONALIZED OFFICIAL SOCIETY LETTERHEADS

We lepidopterists like to put butterfly pictures on our pre-printed return address stickers, cover our envelopes with wildlife stamps, and incorporate some type of butterfly or moth art onto our stationery -- and even our checks. This is well and good, but sometimes what is available to us is too trite, gaudy, or down right childish for our adult taste.

Well, if you're serious about leps, and want to be perceived as the serious student or worker that you are, here is a great offer. Good News Computers, of Charleston, SC, does all the art and graphic design for our new newsletter and furnishes us with the camera ready layout for our printer at cost. Mr. John Moody, president of Good News Computers, and graphics artist Mr. Scott Massey, have agreed to make a camera ready official personalized letterhead available to individual members of our society at the remarkable low price of \$7.95 each! If you were to go to a local printer to design, layout, and print this quality of a master it would usually cost a minimum of \$40.00!



Southern Lepidopterists' Society

Publisher of
Bulletin of the Southern Lepidopterists' Society
News of the Southern lepidopterists' Society

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This is the same official letterhead used by the officers of the Society. And it is now available with your name, address, phone #, and official "Member" status printed there on. Now, when you write schools, garden clubs, churches, or fellow enthusiasts, trite will be a thing of the past! And if you want to start a local chapter, a "local-coordinator" tag can be arranged by the Chairman, Ron Gatrelle.

For the \$7.95 you will receive a single camera ready 8 1/2 X 11 type set letter head on extra white 25 lb. paper. This will be mailed first class unfolded in a manila envelope with cardboard reinforcement. Once you receive your master, you may wish to take it to a printer to be reproduced on colored paper with colored ink. Or you may just take it to a local outlet with a quality printer and print only a few at a time. (Your editor uses a color printer with either red or blue on various papers -- though blue on white and red on gray are favorites.)

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Dr. Hal Mahan, Profile of a New Member

Dr. Hal Mahan was born in Michigan, attended high school in California and, after military service, returned to Michigan to complete his Master's and Doctorate degrees in zoology (ornithology) at Michigan State University and the University of Michigan.

For 16 years Dr. Mahan was a professor of Biology in Michigan where he created a campus museum, hosted a weekly TV program, authored a college textbook on ornithology and was named a National Science Foundation Faculty Fellow. During this time, Dr. Mahan also founded a private environmental planning company and organized a commercial wildlife travel business which enabled him to travel to wilderness areas throughout the world.

Following his academic career, Dr. Mahan was named Director of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. During his 13 year directorship, he developed an outstanding research facility and staff -- one of which, Dr. Don Johanson, discovered the 3.3 million-year-old hominid "Lucy." Dr. Mahan also wrote a weekly nature column for *The Cleveland Press*.

Hal Mahan's lifelong friendship and work with world-famous author and artist Roger Tory Peterson led to Dr. Mahan being named the first President of The Roger Tory Peterson Institute of Natural History in Jamestown, New York. In New York, he continued his newspaper columns and hosted a daily radio program.

Following this, Hal was appointed Executive Director of the San Diego Natural History Museum. In San Diego, he wrote for *The San Diego Tribune*, and hosted a weekly program for Public Radio.

During his career, Dr. Mahan has been elected an officer of numerous local, state and national environmental organizations. Two governors have appointed him to state environmental commissions and he has served as a consultant to several foreign countries in the field of environmental planning.

Dr. Mahan is a fellow of the Explorers Club of New York and of sigma Xi, a national honor society in science. His biography appears in *Who's Who in Ecology*, *Who's Who in America*, and *Who's Who in the World*.

In 1992, Dr. Mahan and his wife Laura (M.S. in Botany, UNC-Charlotte) left San Diego to create a unique store, "The Compleat Naturalist," for nature enthusiasts in Asheville's Biltmore Village. Not only a retail business, this venture offers nature classes, field trips, overseas tours, and consulting services.

Hal states he wants to center the rest of his life around butterflies, especially in the North Carolina area. He has begun a 5 year program, in concert with the NC Natural Heritage program, to systematically document the butterfly fauna of western NC, from Mt. Mitchell to Cherokee. He is holding regular workshops and through them has found some good helpers.

Through these workshops he teaches the basics of taxonomic field identification with an emphasis on capture and release -- though he also points to the need for voucher specimens and the place for a reference collection. Accordingly, Dr. Mahan offers instruction in the mounting and preservation of specimens. In addition to basic identification, workers are taught how to use a compass and record basic field data as temperature, wind direction, percent of cloud cover, altitude, and fill in a topo map. To date, Hal has incorporated 7 people into his network of surveyors.

Dr. Mahan, like many ornithologists, has had a life long interest in butterflies. He is a member of NABA, the Xerces Society, and most recently, our Southern Lepidopterists' Society. We are certainly honored to have such a distinguished "new member."

His address is: Dr. Hal Mahan, The Compleat Naturalist, 2 Biltmore Plaza, Asheville, NC 28803. Ph. 704-274-5430

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