



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

CHAIRMAN: JOHN V. CALHOUN

SECRETARY-TREASURER: JEFFREY R. SLOTTEN

EDITOR: LEROY C. KOEHN

A NEW YEAR AND A NEW START BY JOHN V. CALHOUN, INTERIM CHAIRMAN

The Southern Lepidopterists' Society was created in 1978 with the idea of bringing people who shared a common interest in Lepidoptera together for fellowship and information exchange. We greatly anticipated annual meetings where we could become acquainted with members whom we had not seen since previous meetings. It was an opportunity to catch up on the success of others and learn from their experience. The organization has seen many changes since its inception. Some of these changes have been highly beneficial, while others have been increasingly destructive. Particularly in recent years, the constructive atmosphere of the meetings and newsletter have been increasingly tainted by negativity. Rumors, finger pointing and paranoia associated with purported illegal collecting activities became rampant. Disturbing letter writing campaign of "dooms day" diatribes were waged against the organization and some of its members. Misunderstandings and misconceptions about wildlife laws caused many members to tremble in their boots and drop their nets where they stood. As a result, specimens were destroyed and information was discarded. To say the least, much valuable data was forever lost. Many of us had become afraid and ashamed to participate in our science. After my departure as Chairman in 1993, our newsletter was exploited as a personal sounding board for slanderous allegations and egocentric posturing which denigrated the integrity of this quality publication and impacted the credibility of the organization as a whole. So deeply felt was my dissatisfaction that I made the difficult decision to not renew my dues for 1995.

I rejoined the Southern Lepidopterists in January of 1996 with a new perspective. Soon after, I was contacted to serve as interim Chairman following the resignation of Ron Gatrell. I will serve in this capacity until the executive council elections at the 1996 annual meeting. I readily accepted the challenge because I believe we can return to the fundamental ideals of the society enjoyed while embarking on the progressive ideas introduced by Ron Gatrell. Under the worthy guidance of returning editor Leroy Koehn, our newsletter will contain the interesting and informative articles that our members have come to expect. We should strive to organize informative and entertaining meetings in a relaxed atmosphere, but try to make them more affordable. I am confident that our membership has much more to contribute. State surveys and other data gathering by members serve an important purpose and should continue to be pursued. The membership should also continue to be kept abreast of laws that effect our activities. The Southern Lepidopterists must always work to cooperate with local, state and federal agencies in all such matters. Most importantly, we must return to our grass-roots, redefining our organization with our entire membership in mind under a democratic system. In addition, we must not forget two of our founders, Jeff Slotten and Tom Neal, who never failed to provide their unselfish and unwavering support, even during our most trying times. Without them, our organization would not exist today.

In the spirit of this attempt to return to the basic foundations of our organization, I have proposed a new masthead for the News. The stylized tiger swallowtail is reproduced from a photo graph of the first drawing of a North American butterfly. W.J. Holland (in The Butterfly Book) gives an interesting and detailed account of the colorful history associated with this figure. It was rendered in watercolors in 1587 by John White, commander of the legendary and tragic "lost colony" of Sir Walter Raleigh's third expedition to what is now Roanoke Island, North Carolina. Written on the original drawing, in what appears to White's own hand, are the words "Mamank anois." This is believed to represent the local native American name for "butterfly." As Holland described, "We can fancy White,.... receiving the butterfly from the hands of an Indian hand, seating himself with a scrap of paper, rapidly painting the picture and interrogating the boy for its name, which White scribbled upon the margin of his sketch." Thus, this specimen may have been collected by one of the very first and true southern lepidopterists, a native American, over four hundred years ago. I look forward to again serving the Southern Lepidopterists' Society and greatly anticipate working with you all to achieve a productive year in 1996.

A NEW BEGINNING: NEW OFFICERS TO REVITALIZE THE SOUTHERN LEPIDOPTERISTS

It is with the deepest regret that the officers of Southern Lepidopterists' Society have accepted the resignation of Ron Gatrell as Chairman-Editor effective immediately. Ron has served the organization during a very difficult period and due to personal and family obligations is unable to devote the time necessary to fulfill his duties to the society. Ron will remain the coordinator for South Carolina.

Due to the resignation of Ron Gatrell, a new slate of officers has been selected and appointed to direct the society until elections can be held at the annual meeting this fall. John Calhoun has agreed to become the interim Chairman, Leroy Koehn will once again become the (interim) Editor of the newsletter. Jeffrey Slotten will remain as Secretary-Treasurer, and Drew Hildebrandt will become Membership Coordinator, a new office which is intended to increase membership.

All have agreed to continue if elected at the 1996 Annual Meeting.

The State Coordinators are Dr. Mack Shotts: Arkansas, open: Alabama, Tom Neal: Florida, Dr. James Adams: Georgia, Vernon Brou: Louisiana, Bryant Mather: Mississippi, Steve Hall: North Carolina, Ronald Gatrell: South Carolina, Dr. John Hyatt: Tennessee, Dr. Ed Knudsen: Texas, and Harry Pavulaan: Virginia.

The Southern Lepidopterists' Society has experience a tremendous amount of internal turmoil. The change in attitude about collecting in general has added additional pressures from the outside. These conditions have taken their toll on the Society. If we are to remain an active and viable organization, we as officers must set the course that is in the best interest of the membership, determine the goals and then move the society in that direction.

The most important asset of this organization is its members. Your help and input are essential to the its health and well being. Your officers will be soliciting your help. We ask that if your help is sought, that you will step forward and accept the challenge.

JOINT STATEMENT OF THE OFFICERS

It is the intent of the officers that we will rejuvenate and revitalize this organization. The past is the past, we can do nothing to change it. However, we will make the Southern Lepidopterists fun again! We plan to have a field meeting again in 1997 where our members can share in fellowship in the field. Many a field technique can be shared. The annual meeting will have quest speakers and work shops to help our members learn more about our field. We will encourage young people to join us and get involved. The newsletter will once again be informative and entertaining, and published on time. We will promote the society and represent it to other Lepidopterists' functions.

We will encourage the publication of local and regional checklist and field notes. A long rang plan for 1998 is to begin publishing the "Bulletin" again. Your officers are active collectors who spend a great deal of time in the field, and devote time to research in their respective fields and interest. If you are not active in this organization, please get involved. We need your help.

EDITOR'S NOTE: WE NEED YOUR HELP AND INPUT

This is your society and your newsletter. If you want it to be informative and interesting, we need you to send in articles, notes and tid-bits, field reports to your state coordinator, pictures and announcements of forth coming meetings and events. There will be a sections Research Request, Members Notices, This-N-That & Other Tidbits, Changes in the Membership, and Field Reports. This newsletter will only be as good as you make it. Your help is required.

The deadline for the remaining newsletters of Vol. 18 are; No. 2: May 31st, No. 3: August 31 and No. 4: November 30. D The dead line dates will be followed. The Newsletter will be on time. The content depends on you!

MEET THE OFFICERS OF YOUR SOCIETY



John V. Calhoun
Chairman



Jeffrey R. Slotten
Secretary/Treasurer



Leroy C. Koehn
Editor

CHAIRMAN

John Calhoun is a charter member and has previously served as Chairman. John has also served the Ohio Lepidopterists Society as President and has written many articles on lepidoptera for numerous publications. He is also the co-author of the Lepidoptera of Ohio, an outstanding regional work. John is an avid collector. His contributions to the knowledge of the butterflies and skippers of Florida and Ohio are truly great. John is a Manager with Johnson & Johnson and makes his home in Palm Harbor, Florida.

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Jeffrey Slotten is a charter member and has served the society in many capacities. Prior to becoming Secretary/Treasurer, Jeff has been Chairman and the Zone Coordinator for Florida. Jeff has stuck it out through thick and thin and has always had the best interest of the society at heart. He is an avid collector of North American Lepidoptera and has a special place in his heart (and collection) for Catocala. He is a Dentist by profession, an eligible bachelor and makes his home in Gainesville, Florida.

EDITOR

Leroy Koehn is a charter member and has served the society in the past as the Zone Coordinator for Virginia and Editor of the Newsletter. In the late 80's, Leroy and Jeffrey Slotten helped bring the society back from near extinction. Leroy promoted the Southern Lepidopterists' where ever he went and was the Editor of the Newsletter from 1988 until he relocated back to the land of the cold and snow in Ohio in 1991 when he resigned. He is an avid and addicted collector of North American Lepidoptera. His travel exploits are well known. He also designs and builds all types of collecting equipment. He is a Plant Manager by profession and currently makes his home in Greenwood, Mississippi.

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

Drew Hildebrandt has agreed to become the Membership Director. The intent of this a new office is to increase the membership and to provide positive exposure to potential and former members. Drew and his wife Maria have been long time members of the Southern Lepidopterists. Drew's interest are in Coleoptera but will collect moths for Maria who is a Lepidopterist. We look forward to Drew's support and input.

THIS-N-THAT & OTHER TIDBITS

A new organization, The International Scientific Collectors' Association (ISCA), has been formed. The purpose of ISCA is to unite avocational scientific collectors together and educate the public and Congress regarding the true facts of invertebrate biology as well as ease the collecting restrictions in the current versions of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 and the Lacey Act.

Regular dues are \$15.00 and contributing membership is \$25.00 per year. Dues should be sent to the Treasurer, Jack L. Harry, P.O. Box 25752,

1996 ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD IN MISSISSIPPI

The Southern Lepidopterists' annual meeting will be September 6 - 8 at the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory in Ocean Springs, Mississippi. This will be a very important meeting. There will be an election of officers and proposed changes to the constitution. There is an exciting program, including a guest speaker. There will be a slide fest Saturday night for all the non-moth'ers. If you are interested or planning to present a paper or a short talk, please contact John Calhoun, 977 Wicks Drive, Palm Harbor, FL 34684-4656 Tel: 813-785-0715, to enable us to provide time for you.

Dormitory space as been reserved at \$15.00 per person per night. Anyone wishing to stay through Sunday night may do so. There will additional information and reservation forms in the next newsletter. We must have confirmed reservation by August 10, 1996. Please make plans to attend now!

CALENDER OF EVENTS

LEPIDOPTERISTS' SOCIETY

The Lepidopterists' Society Annual Meeting will be the 13, 14, 15 and 16th of June, 1996, at the Houston Museum of Natural Science in Houston, Texas. The Cockrell Butterfly Center is hosting the meeting. For more information on the meeting, contact : Nancy Greig, Director, Cockrell Butterfly Center; Tel: 713-639-4678 or John Watts, Entomologist, Cockrell Butterfly Center; Tel: 713-639-4750. Mailing address and FAX for both are the same: Houston Museum of Natural Science, One Hermann Circle Drive, Houston, Texas 77030-1799; FAX: 713-523-4125.

RESEARCH REQUEST & MEMBERS NOTICE

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, 207 Quail Trail, Greenwood, MS 38930-7315: Tel. 601-455-5498

CHANGES IN THE MEMBERSHIP

NEW AND RE-INSTATED MEMBERS

Glassberg, Jeffrey; 4 Delaware Rd., Morristown, NJ 07960 : Field identification, distribution, & conservation

Iftner, David C.; 8 Alpine Trail, Sparta, NJ 07871: Tel. Hm. 201-729-1350

Ludtke, Alvin F.; 6524 Stoneman Drive, North Highlands, CA 95660 : Tel.. Hm. 916-344-1626 Fax 916-344-8478 : Riodonidae, Choreutidae, Central America, Esp. Honduras, California and western U.S.A., Trap design, collecting techniques

Metzler, Eric H.; 1241 Kildale Square N., Columbus, OH 43229-1306 : Noctuoidea, Cochylini, moths of prairie habitats

STATE COORDINATOR REPORTS

We are in need of a coordinator for Alabama. If you are interested in becoming the state coordinator for Alabama, contact the Chairman: John V. Calhoun, 977 Wicks Drive, Palm Harbor, FL 34684-4656, Tel: 813-785-0715.

ALABAMA: No coordinator.

ARKANSAS: Mack Shotts, 514 W. Main Street, Paragould, AR, 72450: No report!

FLORIDA: Tom Neal, 1705 NW 23rd Street, Gainesville, FL 32605: No report!

GEORGIA: James K. Adams, 1702-1005 Crow Valley Rd., Dalton, GA 30720: No report!

LOUISIANA: Vernon Brou, 74320 Jack Loyd Rd., Abita Springs, LA 70420: No report!

MISSISSIPPI: Bryant Mather, 213 Mt. Salus Dr., Clinton, MS 39056

A great deal of good information has been developed in recent months as the result of material from Mississippi having been examined and identified by experts.

Catocala praeclara charlottae Brou: six specimens collected by Rick Kergosien at Shepards State Park and Ocean Springs, Jackson County, and Long Beach, Harrison County, between 9 May and 3 June. Determined by Larry Gall

Catocala judith Strecker: Rick Kergosien collected the fourth known Mississippi record at Tombigbee State Park, Lee County, 9-19 July 1994. The three previous records were from the Gulf Coast, Hancock County and Warren County in central Mississippi. Determined by Larry Gall

Catocala coccinata Grt. : Rick Kergosien collected the fifth known Mississippi record at Tombigbee State Park, Lee County, 19-30 June 1993. The four previous records were from Lee County, Oktibbeha and Hinds Counties. Determined by Larry Gall

Catocala orba Kusnezov: Rick Kergosien collected three specimens at Tombigbee State Park, Lee County, June 1994. Two specimens determined by Larry Gall and one by Dale Sshweitzer. **STATE RECORD.**

Alcathoe carolinensis Englehard: Rick Kergosien collect two specimens at Tombigbee State Park, Lee County, 3-23 Sept. 1995. Determined by Tom Eichlin. **STATE RECORD.**

Pennisetia marginata (Harns): Bill Stock took one specimen at Clinton, Hinds County on 11 Oct. 1994, Determined by Tom Eichlin. The only previous record for Mississippi was a series of seven individuals collected by J.D. Solomon in Stoneville, Washington County on Sept.-Oct. 1976-1979.

1627 specimens of Geometrid were sent to Fred Rindge at the American Museum of Natural History that Bryant Mather had acquired in 1995. Among these were:

Ccaripeta aretaria Wlk: 28 Sept. - 21 Oct. 1994, J.P. Coleman State Park, Tishomingo County, collected by Rick Kergosien. He also determined a specimen taken on 14-27 May 1995 from Tombigbee State Park, Lee County collected by Rick Kergosien as "possibly Xanthotyps sospeta (Dru), which could be a new State Record.

Thaumtopsiss fernaldella Kft.: Bernard Landry determined three specimens collected by Rick Kergosien in Harrison and Hancock Counties. The only previous record was by F.H.A. Benjamin in Harrison County in 1920.

Thaumtopsiss floridella B&McD.: (listed in-correctly as "floridalis" in the checklist) Landry determined two specimens 10 May 1992 Long Beach, Harrison County and 15 June 1992 Ocean Springs, Jackson County, collected by Rick Kergosien. **STATE RECORD.**

NORTH CAROLINA: Steve Hall, NC Natural Heritage Program, Div. of Parks & Recreation, P.O. Box 27687, Raleigh, NC 27611: No report!

SOUTH CAROLINA: Ron Gattelle, 126 Wells Rd., Goose Creek, SC 29445: No report!

TENNESSEE: John Hyatt, 439 Forest Hills Dr., Kingsport, TN 37663

John Hyatt has not received a report from any of our Tennessee members in a long time and he would like to hear from all of you who are in the field.

TEXAS: Ed Knudsen, 8517 Burkhart, Houston, TX 77055: No report!

VIRGINIA: Harry Pavulaan, 494 Fillmore Street, Herndon, VA 22070

1995 season summary report for Virginia

Counties listed first. Note, all county and independent cities are bold. All records that are reported as a new county/independent city will fill blanks on the "official" Virginia checklist (See editors note below). Following the location are the initials of the person reporting; means of identification, S=sight, C=capture, P=photo; and any notes or observations.

CK=Clyde Kessler; MD=Michael Donahue; NI=Nate Irwin; RL=Robert Lyon; RS=Ray Stanford; TM=Tim McAvoy.

Erynnis icelus and Erynnis juvenalis, Allegheny County: 6/6/92, MD; Lerema accius, Clark County: 11/4/95, RL (S), nectaring on Impatiens. Hesperia leonardus, Bath County: 1995, TM (S), nectaring on Carduus discolor; Poanes hobomok Allegheny County: 6/6/92, MD & Fauquier County: 1995, RL & NI (S); Papilio polyxenes Allegheny County: 6/6/92, MD; Phoebus sennae, Wise County: 1978, RS; Prysitia lisa Loudoun (second county record): 10/6/95, Purcellville, RL (S) & Wise County: 7/13/95, 9/28/95, TM (S), nectaring on Heath Aster; Satyrium edwardsii

Wise County: 1978, RS; Erora laeta, Wise County: 1978, RS; Celastrina neglecta major, Allegheny County: 6/6/92, MD; Calephelis borealis, Radford city: 7/7/95, Wild Wood Park, TM & CK (several observed) nectaring on Coreopsis major in limestone barren habitat. Speyeria diana Arlington County: 1951, RS (details forthcoming); Nymphalis antiopa Wise County: 1978, RS; Vanessa cardui Wise County: 1978, RS; Basilarchia arthemis astyanax Wise County: 6/6/92, MD; Megisto cymela (type-II) Allegheny County: 6/6/92, MD.

The following butterflies were included in a 1995 summary of Accomack County butterflies, submitted by Julia Bristlow. No data or specifics were supplied, however, these comprise new county records and are here summarized: E. clarus, B. philenor, P. polyxenes, P. rapae, P. interrogationis, V. cardui, B. a. astyanax.

The following butterflies were included in summary listings for several Virginia counties, from surveys done for the Division of Natural Heritage by Michael Donahue. No data or specifics were supplied, however, these comprise new county records and summarized as follows:

Allegheny County: Battus philenor, Artogeia rape, Prysitia lisa, Incisalia augustinus, Strymon melinus, Nymphalis antiopa, Enodia anthedon, Atalopedes campestris.

Amherst County: Epargyreus clarus, Erynnis icelus, E. juvenalis, Thorybes bathyllus, T. pylades, Atrytonopsis hiana, Battus philenos, Eurtides marcellus, Pterourus glaucus, P. troilus, Incisalia niphon, Calycopis cecrops, Celastrina nigra, Speyeria cybele, Phyciodes tharos, Vanessa virginensis, Vanessa atalanta, Basilarchia arthemis astyanax, Megisto cymela.

Bath County: Pyrgus communis, Incisalia augustinus, & Incisalia niphon.

Craig County: Achalarus lyciades, Erynnis horatius, Ancyloxypha numitor, Pholisora cattullus, Polites themistocles, Poanes zabulon, Atrytonopsis hiana, Lerema accius, Amblyscirtes hegona, Calycopis cecrops, Strymon melinus, Everes comyntas, and Megisto cymela.

Nelson County: Everes comyntas.

Rockbridge County: Erynnis horatius, Atalopedes campestris, and Lerema accius.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Harry Pavulaan has an "Official" Virginia Checklist and State Atlas (Atlas similar to Paul Opler's) For information on the checklist and Atlas, contact Harry Pavulaan, 494 Fillmore Street, Herndon, VA 22070.

The Southern Lepidopterists' News is published four times annually. Membership dues are \$12.00 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, and dues may be sent to: Jeffrey R. Slotten, Secretary/Treasurer, 5421 NW 69th Lane, Gainesville, FL 32653

SOUTHERN LEPIDOPTERISTS' SOCIETY
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