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December 31, 2008

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 (WEBSITE: www.southernlepsoc.org/)

J. BARRY LOMBARDINI: EDITOR

UNUSUAL BUTTERFLY BAIT BY JOHN HYATT



The SL Society thanks Gilda Pafford for permission to use her photograph in the Newsletter.

On September 22, 2008, I tossed a leftover slice of tomato onto the lawn at our cabin on Kittles Island in coastal McIntosh Co., Georgia. By the next afternoon, the tomato slice was acting as a strong attractant for *Agraulis vanillae* (see attached photo taken by Gilda Pafford, who was visiting with us at the time). Despite the presence of many other butterfly species (*H. charitonius, P. sennae eubule, U. proteus, P. palamedes, etc., etc.*), only Gulf Fritillaries came to the tomato. We certainly were surprised by this.

Has anyone ever noted butterflies coming to tomato before? Surely Leroy Koehn must have tried this bait at some point! And has anyone ever seen *vanillae* coming to any sort of bait heretofore? I don't think that the tomato's moisture alone was the attractant; the butterflies showed no interest in a nearby birdbath, nor in the

wet areas where I had watered shrubs. And I have never found *vanillae* in conventional traps hung close to this spot and baited with fruit/sugar/beer.

(John A. Hyatt, Research Professor, Dept. of Chemistry, East Tennessee State University, Box 70695, Johnson City, TN 37614-1710; E-Mail: <u>hyatt@etsu.edu</u>)

TREASURER'S REPORT AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2008

Beginning Bank Balance at SunTrust Bank:	\$3,893.79	
Bank Fees:	0.00	
Interest Earned:	0.00	
Deposits:	\$4,545.60	
Total:		\$8439.39
All the above entries are donations and membership dues.		
Expenses:		\$3,722.56
Postage: Vol. 29 #4	301.73	
Printing: Vol. 29 #4	565.72	
Postage: Vol. 30 #1	243.78	
Printing: Vol. 30 #1	583.30	
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Postage: Vol. 30 #2	279.38	
Printing: Vol. 30 #2	644.32	
Postage: Vol. 30 #3	280.38	
Printing: Vol. 30 #3	700.68	
Special Award from Membership to our		
Editor, Barry Lombardini For Excellence	106.27	

Ending Bank Balance at SunTrust Bank:

\$4,716.83

Respectively submitted, Jeff Slotten Treasurer, Southern Lepidopterists' Society

MEMBERS ANTI UP TO THE BAR AND WRITE AN ARTICLE FOR THE SLS NEWS

The deal that I have with our current printer of the newsletter is basically a set price for a 44 page document with twelve 11 x17 inch color plates. So what this means, fellow members, is if we don't use the 44 pages and all the color pages we lose. I may be able to make some minor adjustments in the cost of the printing of the newsletter with the manager of the print shop, but it is not a given.

Some may say that this was not a good deal. However, other options were much worse. I contacted 3 other printers in the Lubbock area, one in a different state, and one on the internet. Each of these printers would charge 2-3 times as much. Thus, Texas Tech University is giving us a "great deal" and we should take advantage of it. And I wish to thank Texas Tech University for this "great deal" - The Editor.

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The Southern Lepidopterists' Society

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Lepidopterists' Society is published four times annually.

Information about the Society may be obtained from the Membership Coordinator or the Society Website: www.southernlepsoc.org/

OBITUARY: PAUL FREDERICK PFENNINGER MARCH 2, 1924 - AUGUST 27, 2008

Paul Frederick Pfenninger, 84, died unexpectedly Wednesday, August 27 in Boynton Beach, Florida.

Born March 2, 1924 in New Castle, Indiana, he was a son of Jacob John and Freda Rinke Pfenninger. He was a 1941 graduate of New Castle High School, where he was a champion golfer. He attended Indiana University and was a member of Pi Chapter of Beta Theta Pi Fraternity. He left college in his second year to work for Owen's Illinois Glass Company in California.

He was a veteran of the United States Air Force and was stationed north of London during World War II. He served as a waist gunner on a B24 airplane and flew 28 missions with the 453 Bomb Group. He was in charge of all turrets and machine guns on his airplane.

In 1945, he joined his father in The Pfenninger Agency and worked in the insurance agency for more than 40 years. He also was a director of First National Bank of New Castle for more than 20 years.

He was married to Mary Lee Edwards Buschmann for 43 years.

An avid outdoors man, he had traveled all over the world. He raised moths, butterflies and orchids and was a member of the Rare Fruit Council, Delray Beach Orchid Society, South Florida Orchid Society, Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens, Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens, International Wood Collectors' Society and the Southern Lepidopterists' Society.

He was interviewed by representatives of the "60 Minutes" television program during their feature on orchids years ago. He was a life member of the New Castle Elks and the National Rifle Association. He also was a member of the New Castle Alumni Association. He was a former member of the local Masonic Lodge and Independent Insurance Agents of America and was a former Master Gardener.

He is survived by two sons, Fred (wife: Charlene) Pfenninger of Indianapolis and Steven Eric (wife: Lisa) Pfenninger of New Castle, Indiana; four grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; a sister; a sister-in-law; and several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

The Southern Lepidopterists' Society sends their sincerest condolences to the family of Paul Pfenninger. It is noted and greatly appreciated that Paul served his country in the armed services during World War II - a member of the "greatest generation".

MANY THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS WHO HAVE GENEROUSLY CONTRIBUTED TO THE SL SOCIETY SINCE SEPTEMBER 2008

Joel Johnson (Sustaining) Ron Votaw Scott Wehrly (Sustaining)

THE TEXAS BUTTERFLY FESTIVAL 2008 BY ED KNUDSON

The 13th Annual Texas Butterfly Festival was held in Mission, TX, on 16-19 October 2008. The weather started off stormy, but after a few days the skies cleared and the weather was rather hot. Attendance was a bit down from last year, which was no surprise given the high gas prices that prevailed at that time. As usual there were guided field trips throughout the valley, an expo (somewhat scaled down from prior years), and a banquet, which was held at the Cimarron County Club, a few blocks from the host hotel (Hawthorne Suites), in Mission. The speaker at that event was Pat Sutton, who gave a (rather elementary) talk on butterfly watching. The festival is given by the Mission Chamber of Commerce and was graciously hosted by David and Jan Dauphin. There were three other scheduled speakers, Dale Clark, Roland (Ro) Wauer, and Mike Quinn. Two evening blacklighting events were hosted by Ed Knudson & Charles Bordelon. For this, we returned to Bentsen State Park, since the La Lomita Mission Park was too difficult to access, due to levee construction.

Our readers probably realize that this event is not for collectors, although an increasing number of attendees do collect, just not at the festival events. A few more collectors tend to arrive in the weeks after the festival. The main target for the butterfly trips is most of the larger butterfly gardens that have been developed, throughout the valley, as well as known "wild" stands of *Eupatorium sp.* (Blue Boneset or Crucita). The larger gardens are located at Bentsen State Park, Falcon State Park, Estero Llano Grande State Park, Edinburg Wetlands, Audubon Sabal Palm Grove, Frontera Audubon, Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge, NABA International Butterfly Park, and a new one at Hidalgo Pumphouse City Park. All these are off limits to collecting. Most collectors seek out the "wild" stands of *Eupatorium* that can still be found along public right-of-way, mostly in western Hidalgo and Starr Co's. Only a few of the most accessible of these are visited by festival participants.

Our readers may also want to know about the status of the border fence, and its impact on this and other events. Extensive levee work is underway in the valley, which some may mistake for Fence construction. This is unrelated, and in response to the Hurricanes that occurred this year. In short, little has been done on the border fence so far. According to my sources, the fence will skip certain vital natural areas, such as Audubon Palm Grove, Santa Ana NWR, Bentsen State Park, NABA IBP, Anzalduas Co. Park, and others. Border Security will be increased around these "*funnels*". However, there are multiple lawsuits now pending by various interests in the valley, to halt or modify the construction of the fence. We will see what the Obama administration does about this.

BUTTERFLIES

Officially, 147 species of butterflies were observed during the festival, from Brownsville to Falcon Lake and north to Edinburg and Laguna Atascosa. No new US records were found during this time. Several formerly "rare" species appeared to be prospering, including: *Chlosyne rosita browni*, and *Heliopyrgus sublinea*. A few rare hairstreaks were found including *Cyanophrys miserabilis* and *C. herodotus*, and *Oenomaus ortygnus*. *Rekoa marius* was uncommon, as usual. Nymphlids were in good evidence, including many Malachites (S. stelenes), Anartia fatima, Myscelia ethusa, Biblis hyperia, Doxocopa pavon & laure, Adelpha fessonia, and Marpesia petreus. Two interesting skippers, Astraptes anaphus, and A. alector hoppferi were sighted. The most interesting butterflies were either before, or after the festival (see the zone report at the end of this issue).

MOTHS

The festival started with a surprise. At the meeting of group leaders at Hawthorne Suites, at poolside, on October 15, a perfect specimen of *Xylophanes pluto* flew in to a lighted wall. At the blacklighting trips there were many common valley moths, which impressed the attendees. Two interesting Arctiid species came in including: *Agaraea semivitrea* and *Purius superpulverea*, the latter known previously from three records. About a dozen specimens were found during the blacklighting and afterwards at other localities in the Mission area. *Agaraea semivitrea* appeared first in the US in 2004 and has been found in increasing numbers since the [see News. Lep. Soc. 50 (2)]. One new US record moth was found before the festival and will be mentioned in the zone report.

SOME FACTS ABOUT BATS AND THEIR *MOTH* FEEDING HABITS BY J. BARRY LOMBARDINI

- 1. Major species of bat in Texas is the Mexican free-tailed bat (Tadarida brasiliensis).
- 2. It is estimated that there are 100 million free-tailed bats in the major cave systems of Central Texas.
- Radar studies on the free-tailed bats from Bracken Cave (60 miles southwest of Austin, Texas) demonstrate that they fly as high as 10,000 feet (do not know the elevation of Bracken Cave). However, usual altitude of bat flight is 600 to 3,200 feet.
- 4. These bats fly as fast as 60 mph.
- 5. One million nursing free-tailed bats eat 10 tons of insects every night. (No information as to how many insects the males eat?)
- 6. Thus, 100 million bats feed on 1,000 tons of insects/night.
- 7. Question arose as to why bats flew so high? Is there food (insects) at this altitude 10,000 ft?
- 8. Old assumption was that bats flew at high altitudes so that they could use prevailing winds to travel to their feeding areas.
- 9. In early June, billions of corn earworm moths hatch in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Mexico.
- 10. These moths travel, aided by winds, as much as 250 miles/night north into the US.
- 11. Moths deposit eggs on corn, cotton (other crops) that occur around Uvalde, Texas.
- 12. Within three weeks the next generation of moths travel further north. And the cycle continues.
- 13. Theses moths comprise approximately 30% of the diet of the bats.
- 14. Indication is that the bats are feeding on the corn earworm moths at high altitudes.
- 15. Data presented in the article by McCracken indicated that bats were observed as high as 3,900 feet.
- 16. In the same article, bats were monitored feeding at 2,400 ft.
- 17. So, do the Mexican free-tailed bats feed at 10,000 feet, implying that the moths are also flying this high? No data were given for the extreme 10,000 ft elevation, but it appears that these moths are found at high elevations and that the bats do seek them at these high elevations.

Sources

McCracken G. F. 1996. Bats Aloft: A study of High-Altitude Feeding; http://www.batcon.org/batsmag/v14n3-3.html Tuttle, M. D. 1994. The Lives of Mexican Free-tailed Bats; http://www.batcon.org/batsmag/v12n3-3.html

SLS MEMBERS - JUST A REMINDER

Membership Dues for 2009 are now due! Please remember that we have 5 categories for our annual membership dues:

Regular	\$20.00
Student	\$15.00
Sustaining	\$30.00
Contributor	\$50.00
Benefactor	\$70.00 and above!!

Donations are most welcomed and we thank the SLS membership for their past generosity. Everything is getting more expensive as we all know in these troubled economic times (except gasoline - but don't count on it staying this low!) Postage is supposedly going up again in January. The cost of printing this Newsletter would be prohibitively expensive if it was not for the good will and graciousness of the Texas Tech University Press - The Editor.



Image: William Wordsworth -Project Gutenberg eText 12933.jpg.

To a butterfly BY WILLIAM WORDSWORTH

Stay near me - do not take thy flight! A little longer stay in sight! Much converse do I find in thee, Historian of my infancy! Float near me; do not yet depart! Dead times revive in thee; Thou bring'st, gay creature as thou art! A solemn image to my heart, My father's family! Oh! Pleasant, pleasant were the days, The time, when, in our childish plays, My sister Emmeline and I Together chased the butterfly! A very hunter did I rush< Upon the prey: - with leaps and springs I followed on from brake to bush: But she, God love her, feared to brush the dust from off its wings.



Description: A portrait of William Wordsworth. This is apparently an 1873 reproduction of an 1839 watercolor by Margaret Gillies (1803-1887). "Courtesy of the University of Texas Libraries, The University of Texas at Austin."

William Wordsworth, an English Romantic poet, was born April 7, 1770, in England and died April 23, 1850. Wordsworth was Poet Laureate in England

from 1843 until his death. It was he along with Samuel Taylor Coleridge, a close friend, and another important English poet, who were responsible for establishing the Romantic Age in English literature.

Wordsworth attended St. John's College, Cambridge, and graduated in 1791 with a B.A. degree. As a freshman he published his first sonnet in *The European Magazine*. His first major literary contribution of poetry was *An Evening Walk and descriptive Sketches* published in 1793. In 1795 he received a legacy of 900 pounds from Raisley Calvert, a long-time friend who Wordsworth cared for during his terminal illness. These monies enabled Wordsworth to devote time to his primary pursuit of writing poetry.

Wordsworth was married 4 times and had 7 children. He met his first wife in revolutionary France in 1791, had a child, and then left France because of tensions with England. He did not see his wife and child for more than 10 years due to the Reign of Terror during the Republican movement and the war between France and England. It is said that he was probably depressed, most likely due to hard times, deaths of two his wifes, two of his children and other family members, and temporary termination of his friendship with Coleridge because of an opium addiction (1810) of Coleridge. Many of his poems starting in the late 1790ties had themes of death and grief.

Wordsworth and his close friend, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, published together. One of their best joint projects was "Lyrical Ballads" (1798), however, strangely, neither of their names was on the book.

His most famous work "*The Prelude*" which was an autobiographical poem was published posthumously in 1850 by his widow. Though not recognized as an important contribution to English literature immediately after his death, "*The Prelude*" is now considered to be his masterpiece.

Wordsworth was honored by both Durham University (1838) and Oxford University (1839) with an honorary Doctor of Civil Law Degree. And then in 1843 his most prestigious honor - Poet Laureate of England.

Source

William Wordsworth - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Wordsworth



Image: William Wordsworth -Project Gutenberg eText 12933.jpg.

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Source

William Wordsworth - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Wordsworth

THE SPIDERLING PLUME MOTH MEGALORHIPIDA LEUCODACTYLUS (FABRICIUS) (PTEROPHORIDAE) IN FLORIDA AND TEXAS BY D. L. MATTHEWS

The family Pterophoridae includes more than 1,139 species worldwide (Gielis 2003) with at least 167 species occurring in the Nearctic Region (Matthews 2006). The spiderling plume moth, *Megalorhipida leucodactylus* (Fabricius, 1794) [= *defectalis* (Walker, 1864)] is a common pantropical species. In the southeastern United States it is recorded from Florida and Texas.

Larvae feed on plants from several families (Matthews & Lott 2005) but occur most frequently on species of the fouro'clock family, Nyctaginaceae. The most common host in our region is *Boerhavia*, including *B. diffusa* L. (Fig. 1), and *B. coccinea* Mill., commonly known as spiderlings. Larvae bore into the unripe fruits to feed on the tender ovules, leaving behind empty fruit casings with a single hole visible (Fig. 1). Spiderling is a familiar lawn and garden weed, also found in unkept urban planters and cracks and seams of sidewalks and driveways. The clusters of tiny burgundy flowers are inconspicuous but the ribbed fruits, up to about 5 mm in length, are equipped with rows of sticky glandular trichomes, so they readily adhere to socks and pant legs. A single larva feeds on multiple *Boerhavia* fruits but does not feed on the leaves. In South Florida larvae also feed on beach peanut, *Okenia hypogaea* Schltdl. & Cham. (Nyctaginaceae) (Fig. 2), in Dade and Broward counties, in this case skeletonizing the leaves.

Final instar larvae (Figs. 3-4) reach up to about 10 mm in length and are variably colored, usually with cream, olive and reddish markings, including dorsal and lateral stripes. Clear to brown primary and secondary setae are present. Most primary setae arise from light to moderately sclerotized tubercles and are long with hollow or inflated tips that exude a viscous, sticky secretion.

The pupa (Figs. 5-6), reaching about 8 mm in length, is light green and tan to brown, with darker markings on the head, thorax and appendages, and covered with rows of short to minute recurved setae. They are fastened to the slender branched inflorescence stalks of the host, anchored to a silken pad by two patches of hooked setae on the ventral surface of the caudal segment. The cast larval skin is stretched out behind and remains attached to the plant, as opposed to being bunched up and falling away as in most other genera.

Adults (Figs. 7-8), with wingspans about 12-18.5 mm, are easily found on or near the host, flying for short distances and perching on the host or nearby vegetation in the characteristic "T"-shaped resting posture of the family. Adults may also be collected at lights but are easily confused with a composite (Asteraceae) feeding species, *Dejongia californicus* (Walsingham) (Fig. 9). Both species are similar in size and maculation, and have the second lobe of the forewing with an acute apex and no tornus. *Megalorhipida leucodactylus* is distinguished by the smaller more obscure patch of dark scaling in the anal fringes of the hindwing third lobe, without scattered dark scales basad of the patch, as well as by subtle color and banding differences of the forewing, and by characters of the male and female genitalia (Matthews 1989).

This moth has multiple broods with both larvae and adults present most of the year in Florida, especially July through January, and occurring in the winter months, despite moderate freezes. A more detailed account of the life history and descriptions of the larvae and pupae are given in Matthews (2006).

Boerhavia occurs in many counties throughout the southeastern United States (USDA plants database, http://plants.usda.gov/), but available records for these moths include only two counties in Texas and 19 of Florida's 67 counties (Fig. 10). While adults from lights may be difficult to distinguish from related taxa, and should be confirmed with comparative material and/or genitalia dissection, I encourage our members to include state and county records for adults and immatures collected in association with *Boerhavia* in our zone reports.

Acknowledgments

I thank Terry A. Lott for assistance in field work involving this species, and Charles V. Covell, Jr. for helpful comments on the text.

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- Matthews, D.L. & Lott, T.A. 2005. Larval Hostplants of the Pterophoridae (Lepidoptera: Pterophoroidea). Memoirs of the American Entomological Institute 76: 1-324.



Life history of the spiderling plume moth, *Megalorhipida leucodactylus*: 1) larval hostplant, *Boerhavia diffusa*; 2) larval hostplant, *Okenia hypogaea*; 3) lateral view of final instar larva showing reddish lateral stripe and fruit with exit hole (arrow); 4) final instar larva showing lighter color just after molt; 5) pupa, lateral view; 6) pupa, dorsal view with larval skin stretched out below; 7) live freshly emerged adult clinging to pupal skin; 8) pinned adult; 9) wings of *Dejongia californicus*, illustrating differences in forewing maculation and dark scale tuft in anal fringes of hindwing third lobe.



Figure 10. Distribution of *Megalorhipida leucodactylus* (blue) and hostplant, *Boerhavia* spp. (gray) in the southeastern United States. Hostplant county records according to data available on the UDSA plants website.

JAMES ADAMS' CONTINUING CHALLENGE (2009) FOR ARTICLES ON THE FOLLOWING TWO SUBJECTS:

A) DANGERS OF LEPPINGB) FIRST ENCOUNTERS

The challenge is \$10.00 per article up to \$100.00 for the year which will be added to the SL Society's Treasury.

For the year 2008 thus far, James has contributed a grand total of \$50.00 for 5 articles which means that the SL Society treasury may lose out on \$50.00 unless David Fine's article "*My Personal Greatest 'Hazard of the Field*" passes mustard from James and he coughs up another \$10.00.

Members - please take up James' challenge for the coming year - 2009.

Many thanks - The Editor.

WILL'S WORD OF THE WEEK: BUTTERFLY BY WILL MARI

Hello again, my fellow wordsmiths. For those of you who do not know me, or for some inexplicable reason, cannot recall who I am: It is I, Will Mari, The Daily's resident etymologist.

After a summer hiatus, I am honored to return to these storied pages. Each week I shall endeavor to tease out the often colorful backgrounds of English words, as suggested by you, my loyal readers.

Reflecting the advent of fall quarter and the subsequent change in seasons, it is time to examine the origins of the word "butterfly". Indeed, that creature that undergoes a metamorphosis has its own unique, if somewhat vague, past. Thanks are due to my former colleague, Sara Bruestle, for suggesting it. Our modern word "butterfly" comes to us from the Old English "buttorfléo," a descendent of the Dutch word "botervlieg," which, in turn, comes from the older "botervlieghe," a synonym of which is "boterschijte." Some etymologists believe butterflies were so named because of their butter-colored, well, poop.

But according to the American Heritage Dictionary, an old folk belief also holds that butterflies "stole" butter. This theory finds validation in the relationship between words such as the German "schmetten," meaning "cream", and the flying creatures that were attracted to it. Other etymologists theorize that the shape of a butterfly's wings or the sound that those wings make when they flap are the inspiration for the butterfly's name.

As noted by the Oxford English Dictionary, "butterfly" actually appeared for the first time in a form of early English around the year 1000, but made one of its first recognizable appearances in about 1386, in Geoffrey Chaucer's "Canterbury Tales" — specifically, "The Nun's Priest's Tale," if you are really curious, the one that involved that proud rooster, Chanticleer.

We have met Chaucer before, and for good reason; as "the first finder of our language," he ranks among the most accomplished of English writers. But before we get too carried away, let us return to the line in question, which is, "Swich talkyng is nat worth a boterflye," (to use the original Middle English).

A later, and altogether more understandable form of "butterfly" can be found in John Gay's 1727 novel "Fables," with the line, "And what's a Butterfly? At best he's but a caterpillar, drest." According to the Encyclopedia Britannica, Gay was an early English journalist, poet and playwright, known best for "The Beggar's Opera," a political satire, but also for his thoroughly adroit use of English. He was a member of the Scriblerous Club, a feisty literary group that included figures of no less renown than Alexander Pope — a good friend of Gay's — Jonathan Swift and John Arbuthnot. In recognition of his linguistic genius, Gay is buried in Westminster Abbey next to Chaucer, a high honor indeed.

In closing, another meaning of "butterfly" is figurative, referring to "a vain, gaudily attired person, or a giddy trifler," in the words of the Oxford English Dictionary. Think of a goofy courtier "fluttering" about and you have a "butterfly." Shakespeare was the first to use the word in this sense, in act five, scene three of "King Lear," with the line uttered by Lear, "We'll ... tell old tales, and laugh at gilded butterflies."

So, there you have it: a brief sketch of where "butterfly" came from, thanks to Chaucer, Gay and Shakespeare. The fluttering creatures will no doubt be rare between now and next spring, but as the leaves begin to fall, you can rest assured that your butter is safe.

Please feel free to send your word ideas to me, and until next time, cheerio!

(Will Mari, E-Mail: features@dailyuw.com)

[Mr. Will Mari writes for The Daily of the University of Washington and has kindly allowed the SL Society to use his column in our newsletter. His article on the origin of the term butterfly appeared in The Daily on September 24, 2008 - The Editor]

DIANAS IN SOUTHWEST ARKANSAS AT RICK EVANS/GRANDVIEW PRAIRIE WMA BY CRAIG W. MARKS

In the mid 1990's I learned from Gary Ross about Mount Magazine State Park near Paris Arkansas and its population of Diana Fritillaries, *Speyeria diana*, (for more information see Gary's article in the 1998 summer issue of NABA's *"American Butterflies"*, Vol. 6: No. 2). Living in Lafayette LA, I figured Mount Magazine was my closest opportunity to see this unique fritillary. So, in July of 1996, my family and I drove up to the Park to camp and participate in the annual 4th of July Count Gary Ross was conducting at that time. Over the 4th of July weekend, my son, Brett, and I were able to see numerous Dianas including two of the incredible females.

The drive to Mount Magazine was an all day affair so, even though I wanted to study the Diana further, the length of that drive prevented me from returning. Then, in the October 2002 issue of, "*The Journal of the Lepidopterists' Society*," I learned there was a closer population of Dianas to me at the Rick Evans/Grandview Wildlife Management Area. See: "Distribution of the Diana Fritillary, Speyeria diana (Nymphalidae) in Arkansas with Notes on Nectar Plant and Habitat Preference," by Moran M. and Baldridge C., Vol. 56 No. 3.

In the east, the Diana is primarily a mountain bug. Even to the west in Arkansas, most of the known populations occur at higher elevations within the Ozark and Ouachita Mountains, such as Mount Magazine. But then there is the population at Rick Evans/Grandview, possibly the southern and western-most population of Dianas in the US.

Rick Evans/Grandview is comprised of 4,885 acres of blackland prairie. Blackland prairie is a special mixture of soil and mineral deposits that distinguishes the blackland ecosystem from other prairie and woodland types and supports its diverse array of plant and animal species. Described as "black velvet" when freshly plowed and moistened from a good rain, true blackland soils are deep, dark, calcareous deposits renowned for their high productivity. Scientists believe the richness of the prairie soils is derived from the abundant invertebrate fauna and fungal flora found in the soils themselves. Dominant native grasses of this type of prairie included big bluestem (Andropogon gerardii gerardii), switch grass (Panicum virgatum), little bluestem (Schizachyrium scoparium), and Indian grass (Sorghastrum nutans).

The Rick Evans/Grandview Prairie WMA is located in rural Hempstead County in Southwest Arkansas off Highway 73 near Columbus, Arkansas. The closest town with food, gas and other accommodations (including a Wal-Mart) is Hope Arkansas. Rick Evans/Grandview was purchased in May of 1997, is owned by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and operates as a Conservation Education Center and a Wild Life Management Area. The area is comprised of open prairie, woodlands, savanna, bottomland habitats and non-native grasslands and has four ponds. The diversity of habitat types accounts for the subsequent variety of animals such as songbirds, deer, butterflies, small mammals and reptiles year-round. Rick Evans/Grandview represents the most significant example of blackland prairie (which is characterized by a special deep dark mixture of soil and calcareous deposits) existing for management and restoration in Arkansas.

Due to the variety of habitats, the plant community presents a wide range of species. Trees include many kinds of oak, ash and elm, black cherry, maple, plum, Flowering dogwood, honey locust, shortleaf pine, loblolly pine, several kinds of hickory, osage orange and hackberry. The flowers present and blooming can be breath-taking at times, particularly in June. These include several species of milkweed, wild indigo, liatris, bonesets, sunflowers, tickseeds, goldenrods and vervain. Also present are New Jersey tea, queen anne's lace, Loosestrife, ox-eye daisies, white and purple clover, prairie asters, black-eyed and brown-eyed susans, pale and purple coneflowers and phlox. Other plants of interest to butterflies and butterfliers include passion flower vines, bee balm, sumac, mistletoe and giant cane.

An easy 5 hour drive from Lafayette, I first visited Rick Evans/Grandview on June 13 and 14, 2003. I was able to see 7 Dianas, including one female, which I reported to Gary Ross because, at the time, Gary was doing a study on Dianas. Gary returned to the WMA on 9/14/03 to do a NABA Count but saw no Dianas. My Dad, Ferrell Marks, and I took over the count the next year and have performed the Count yearly since with count dates of 8/28/04, 6/25/05, 7/15/06, 6/03/07 and 6/01/08. We have recorded a total of 73 species with a single day high of 48 species



Female Diana Fritillary (dorsal view).



Female Diana Fritillary (ventral view).



Pipevine Swallowtail (dorsal view).



Pipevine Swallowtail (ventral view). The male is smaller than the female, but still larger than the Great Spangled Fritillary, S. Cybele. This latter bug is really the only other butterfly with which a male Diana can be confused. In

in 2006 and 771 individuals in 2008.

Gary has written an excellent article about the life history and habits of the Dianas as well his experiences with this incredible bug which can be found in the March 2008 issue of "*Natural History*" (Vol. 117 No. 2). I would strongly recommend that anyone interested in learning more about Dianas obtain a copy of that magazine. This article is my effort to share what I've learned about the Diana and Rick Evans/Grandview over the last five years.

I'll start with the female. She is the largest non-swallowtail butterfly I've seen in the U.S., rivaled only by late season female Monarchs. She is reported to be one of several butterflies that mimic the Pipevine Swallowtail, *Battus philenor*, an example of Batesian mimicry. The Pipevine, of course, is unpalatable to avian predators due to toxins ingested in the larval stage. This mimicry, from the dorsal aspect, can be clearly seen in the photographs to the left. Ventrally, the female Diana lacks the bright orange-red spots that are so distinctive with the Pipevine.

Gary Ross has indicated that he suspects her dark color may, in fact, serve two purposes. While her similar coloring to the Pipevine may provide her with a degree of protection, that coloration also serves a suspected thermal regulation purpose as well, allowing her to absorb solar heat in late fall as she begins to lay eggs (per personal conversations with Gary Ross).

Rick Evans/Grandview is the only place I've seen all members of this mimicry complex in one day. In the area of the WMA where the Dianas are so prevalent, Pipevines; female black Tiger Swallowtails, *Papilio glaucus*; Red-spotted Purples, *Limenitis arthemis astyanax*; and an occasional female Spicebush Swallowtail, *P. Troilus*, are also regularly seen flying in the same immediate area along side the Dianas. Although these five butterflies are apparently similar enough to fool a bird (see photographs to the left and next page), because of her distinctive size, a female Diana could only be confused with a black female Tiger Swallowtail, and with a little closer inspection, even those two can easily be distinguished based on the tails on the latter.

The female, more so than the male, frequents the shade, flying about 8-10 feet off the ground in the open woods of the blackland Prairie area. She will alight on leaves at about the same height in sunny spots, sitting with her wings open, absorbing the sun's heat. Her flight is direct but leisurely unless disturbed. Once disturbed, her flight becomes swift as she disappears into the trees.

The best time/place to see her is while she visits purple coneflowers along the tree-lines. Dianas love purple coneflowers but not so much the pale coneflowers growing in the same area. In fact, no butterflies seem to be particularly attracted to the pale coneflowers. If you find a female Diana on a Purple Coneflower, relax and enjoy because unless you disturb her she will stay there, moving from flower to flower, indefinitely. She seems to prefer sunning in the morning and then feeding in the afternoon between 4:00 and 6:00 p.m. In fact, at least twice when I left around 6:00 p.m., a female was still feeding with no apparent intent to leave.



Female Spicebush Swallowtail (dorsal view).



Female Red-spotted Purple (dorsal view).



Female Eastern Tiger Swallowtail black form (dorsal view).



Female Black Swallowtail (dorsal view).

flight, it can be difficult to tell them apart, but the male Diana's orange is brighter, and the black basal band can be visible as he goes by you. Of course, the male Diana has no ventral silver spots. The following photographs (next page) reflect these distinctions.

Male Dianas appear to fly a route most of the day at Rick Evans/Grandview. Repeatedly, they fly along the tree-line, visiting neighboring patches of purple coneflowers in a consecutive fashion. Each year, I have sat under a tree by the road in the "*Diana area*" next to a large patch of coneflowers to watch as the same males visit that patch about every 10 minutes. Males will often be seen out in the open areas, crisscrossing from one wooded area to the next in search of females. The males will also pause to visit the numerous flowering common butterflyweed plants that are so prevalent here. I've not seen any females doing the same, as they prefer to stay in the shade. As with the females, in the late afternoon the males will stop patrolling and feed on the same purple coneflowers along side the females.

I always enter the WMA from Highway 73 via the side entrance shown at the bottom of the drawing (pg. 140). I start the count at the first parking area on that end. I've marked the first area canvassed with the number "1". Some of the butterflies seen in this area include Variegated Fritillaries, *Euptoieta Claudia*; one Harvester, *Feniseca tarquinius* (in a dry creek bed to the left of the road); White M Hairstreaks, *Parrhasius m-album*; Little Wood Satyrs, *Megisto cymela*; and Wild Indigo Duskywings, *Erynnis baptisiae*. With all of the wild indigo growing in this area, I would expect Frosted Elfins, *Callophrys irus*, to be present in the early spring. We then move up the road to area "2". This area usually has a large amount of flowers in bloom. Typical sightings here include Black Swallowtails, *P. polyxenes*; Orange Sulphurs, *Colias eurytheme*; Southern Dogfaces, *C. cesonia* (in large numbers at times); Dainty Sulphurs, *Nathalis iole*; Grey Hairstreaks, *Strymon melinus*; Eastern Tailed Blues, *Everes comyntas*; lots of Common Buckeyes, *Junonia coenia*; and Monarchs, *Danaus plexippus*.

Area "3" is a new area just added. Here I've located a stand of hickory trees and hope one day to find Hickory Hairstreaks, *Satyrium caryaevorum*, in this area. Others seen here include Question Marks, *Polygonia interrogationis*; Hackberry and Tawny Emperors, *Asterocampa celtis* and *A. clyton*; Hoary Edges, *Achalarus lyciades*; and Silver-spotted Skippers, *Epargyreus clarus*. Area "4" is adjacent to a well and an archaeological "*dig*." In addition to many of the butterflies already listed, this area has produced Cloudless Sulphurs, *Phoebis sennae*; Little Yellows, *Eurema lisa*; Banded Hairstreaks, *S. calanus*; Striped Hairstreaks, *S. liparops*; Juniper "Olive" Hairstreaks, *Callophrys gryneus gryneus*; and Common Wood Nymphs, *Cercyonis Pegala*. The hairstreaks are particularly attracted to the boneset that blooms in profusion in this area. There is also a lot of Common Butterfly weed in this area, and I still have hope of one day finding Coral Hairstreaks, *S. titus*, here.

Area "5" is my favorite area, the area I refer to as the "*Diana area*". It is here that I have seen Dianas each year of the count, and this is the only area in which I have seen females. Although I've seen Dianas in each month I've done the count, the numbers have been higher in early June than any other month. The females are much more secretive and are never seen in near the same numbers as the males. In the first four years of the



Male Diana Fritillary (dorsal view).



Male Diana Fritillary (ventral view).



Female Great Spangled Fritillary (dorsal view).



Female Great Spangled Fritillary (ventral view).

count, Dianas were only seen in the "Diana area"; however, in the last two years we've started seeing male Dianas in other areas of the WMA which I interpret as a strong sign of a healthy population. Those other areas of the WMA in which male Dianas have been seen are marked on the drawing with yellow shading.

In June 2003, we saw seven Dianas (one female); in August of 2004, we saw one female; in June of 2005, seven were seen with one female; in July of 2006, three were seen, two males and one female; in June of 2007, 18 were seen with two females; and in June of 2008, eight were seen, again with two females. I believe the lower numbers seen in July reflect the Diana's habit of estivating during the extreme heat of summer. I believe the low number and lack of males seen in August is also a reflection of this estivation as well as the probable demise of most males by that time of the season.

The "Diana area" has other interesting butterflies as well. In the open woods south of the pond Northern Pearly Eyes, Enodia anthedon; Gemmed Satyrs, Cyllopsis gemma; and Common Wood Nymphs fly. Along the tree-lines, Pipevine Swallowtails; Eastern Tiger Swallowtails; Summer Azures, Celastrina ladon neglecta; Great Spangled Fritillaries; Red-spotted Purples; Goatweed Leafwings, Anaea andria; and Zabulon Skippers, Poanes zabulon, fly with the Dianas, often pausing at the same Purple Coneflowers used by the Dianas. Juniper "Olive" Hairstreaks are common in numbers here in mid June. Cross-line Skippers, P. origenes; Southern Broken-dashes, Thorybes bathyllus; and Delaware Skippers, Anatryone logan, dash in and out of the sunny spots inside the open wooded area. It is a magical place to be, even in the heat of July or August.

Area "6" has always been checked in the later afternoon. We walk an old road around the field immediately in front of the parking area. Back in the cuts between the trees look for Gulf Fritillaries, *Agraulis vanilla*; Question Marks; Red Admirals, *Vanessa atalanta*; Viceroys, *L. archippus*; and Horace's Duskywings, *E. horatius*. White M and Redbanded Hairstreaks, *Calycopis cecrops*, can be seen on low oak branches along the tree-line, and Carolina Satyrs, *Hermeuptychia sosybius*, fly in the grass. It is here that I've seen one of two Checkered Whites, *Pontia protodice*, recorded here (the other was along the road between area "1" and "2"). Further down the main road toward the main entrance, area "7" was added to the count this year. It is mostly open prairie with some trees along old creek-beds. It is a great place to look for all 6 of the sulphurs recorded here as well as grass skippers like the Southern Broken-dash; Northern Broken-dash, *T. pylades*; Fiery Skipper, *Hylephila phyleus*; and Dun Skipper, *Euphyes vestris*.

Again, the time frame of our count extends from 5/31 to 9/14. I'm sure the total number of species to be found at this WMA is more than the 73 reported as part of the count. I am aware of a study done in 1999 for the Nature Conservancy by James Bess, an Insect Ecologist with OTIS Enterprises. Based on that study, a "*Final Report on Insect Surveys at Three Arkansas Natural Area Complexes*," was issued in March of 2000. One of the 3 areas studied was Rick Evans/Grandview. The study included the following surveys of that WMA: April 12-16, 1999; May 13-17, 1999; June 11-15, 1999 and September 13-17, 1999. Butterflies noted during those surveys that have not been seen during our count included the Cabbage White, P. rapae; Coral Hairstreak; 'Northern' Oak Hairstreak, S. favonius ontario; Gorgone Checkerspot, Chlosyne gorgone; Eastern Comma, P. comma; Common Sootywing, Pholisora catullus; Peck's Skipper, Polites peckius; Tawny-edged Skipper, P. themistocles; and Dusted Skipper, Atryonopsis hianna. This study also reported Reakirt's Blue, Hemiargus isola, as present. That bug has been seen one time during our count.

I have had help in acquiring the data generated by this count. As reported, the count was initiated by Gary Ross. In the first 3 years of the count, my efforts were significantly supplemented (and improved) by the efforts of member of BEST (Butterfly



Diagram of areas covered as part of annual NABA 4th of July count.

Enthusiasts of Southeast Texas), and, in particular, Ednelza and David Henderson. Over the last two years, I've received enthusiastic assistance from a group of butterfliers from Shreveport, including Rosemary Seidler and Jean and Jeff Trahan. As I am "*skipper-challenged*," their help has been invaluable. And finally, every year since I took on this count, my Dad has been there to share it with me. These people, and all of the others who have come to walk, count and sweat, are responsible for the value of our count results.

We plan to return to Rick Evans/Grandview in 2009. I've not decided on the count date yet. One part of me wants to set the count in mid May to see if any Dianas are flying at that early date. This would also allow us to see what late spring butterflies might be flying such as Edwards, Coral and/or Hickory Hairstreaks. Conversely, I also see a need to go back on a July date to better evaluate the Diana population in that month. Finally, maybe it is time to go in mid October and see if I can find any females in the process of laying eggs.

I hope this article generates additional interest in the count. New faces, new input and new knowledge, all are welcome. As such, this is submitted as an open invitation to anyone interested in Dianas, Rick Evans/Grandview, butterflies in general and/or blackland prairie habitat to join us this coming year. I doubt anyone will be disappointed with this unique location in southwest Arkansas.

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A NEW MEMBER OF THE SL SOCIETY

WELCOME TO:

Don Olhausen 19415 Haude Rd. Spring, TX 77388

STIRIA RUGIFRONS GROTE, 1874 (LEPIDOPTERA: NOCTUIDAE) IN LOUISIANA BY VERNON ANTOINE BROU JR.



Fig. 1. Stiria rugifrons phenotypes: male (a-b), female (c-d).

The pretty noctuid moth with yellow and brown forewings, *Stiria rugifrons* Grote (Fig. 1) appears to have first been reported in Louisiana in the vicinity of Baton Rouge by Chapin and Callahan (1967). The whitish hindwings may exhibit varying amounts of fuscous shading, sometimes especially intense and broad along the outer margin from the apex to the anal angle as illustrated in (Fig. 1b,d).

Forbes (1954) stated *rugifrons* is sporadic in the east, occurring in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, North Carolina, west to Alberta, Colorado and northern Mexico, with dates June to September, chiefly August.



Fig. 2. Adult Stiria rugifrons captured in Louisiana. n = 218.



Fig. 3. Parish records for S. rugifrons.

Heitzman and Heitzman (1987) reported *rugifrons* is locally common in central Missouri, especially near the Missouri River, and on the wing from mid-July into September.

Poole (1994) revised the North American subfamily Stiriinae. Poole stated *rugifrons* is one of the few species of Stiriinae occurring in the eastern United States and apparently rare along the east coast. Poole listed the range of *rugifrons* in eastern North America and the Great Plains region to include the Florida panhandle to Virginia and Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois, north to Saskatchewan and Alberta, south to northern Texas.

Knudson & Bordelon (1999) listed *rugifrons* in their checklist of Texas lepidoptera. Heppner (2003) listed *rugifrons* as occurring in Florida and stated the range of *rugifrons* in North America includes Pennsylvania to Florida, west to Alberta and New Mexico with dates in October. Several

authors have stated that the host plant of *rugifrons* is *Helianthus microcephalus* Torr. & Gray (Asteraceae), probably based on the documented rearing of *rugifrons* in Ohio by Eric Metzler (Poole, 1994). This species was not addressed by Covell (1984).

In Louisiana, I have captured *rugifrons* from late August to mid-October (Fig. 2), indicating a single annual brood peaking late September, using ultraviolet light in twelve parishes across the state (Fig. 3).

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ZALE HORRIDA HÜBNER, 1818 (LEPIDOPTERA: NOCTUIDAE) IN LOUISIANA

BY VERNON ANTOINE BROU JR.



Fig. 1. Zale horrida study site phenotypes: males a-b, females c-d.

The noctuid moth *Zale horrida* Hübner (Fig. 1) is a fairly common resident at the Abita Springs, St. Tammany Parish study site (Fig. 2), though I have taken it at only four other locations in the state, Evangeline and East Baton Rouge, Grant, and Vernon Parishes (Fig. 3) according to my records. This species was first reported in Louisiana by von Reizenstein (1863) without specific locality.

Covell (1984) states *horrida* occurs throughout our area (eastern North America) in the months May-July. Heitzman and Heitzman (1987) state



Fig. 2. Adult Zale horrida captured at sec.24T6SR12E, 4.2 mi. NE Abita Springs, Louisiana. n = 2044.

horrida is uncommon, but multi-brooded, occurring early April to late August in Missouri. Heppner (2003)

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states the range of *horrida* in eastern North America includes: Quebec to Florida and Manitoba to Colorado and Texas, with records in Florida to include the months: January to June and August to September. Heppner lists *Viburnum* species (arrow wood) as the foodplant of *horrida*. Two *Viburnum* species occur abundantly at the Abita Springs study site.

Forbes (1954) lists dates for *horrida* to be late May till August, without clarifying the location of this flight period, though the presumed area would be in and around the state of New York. Knudson and Bordelon (1999) include *horrida* in their checklist for the state of Texas.

Although adults have been taken in all months of the year in Louisiana using ultraviolet light traps, there are five primary annual broods, the largest populated and first brood peaking around

mid-March, second peaking beginning of June, with remaining subsequent broods peaking at approximately 30-day intervals.

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BOOTS FOUND



These boots were found last month along the railroad tracks at Madero, south of Mission, TX. They were abandoned at a well-known rendezvous point frequented by visitors to the Rio Grande Valley. Appears that the individual had gotten over his head in mud. (Photograph sent to the Editor by Terry Doyle.)

"All that remains of our hard-working Treasurer, Jeff Slotten, as a result of job stress."

PURIUS SUPERPULVEREA (DYAR, 1925), ARCTIIDAE; PHAEGOPTERINI, IN TEXAS BY ED KNUDSON & CHARLES BORDELON

Purius superpulverea was described by Dyar in 1925, in the genus *Spodarctia* Dyar. Type locality: Colima, Mexico (see Watson, 1973). It was later placed in *Purius* Walker, 1855, by Watson & Goodger, 1986. The first US record of this species was a worn female specimen, collected by the senior author in Hidalgo Co., TX, Yturria National Wildlife Refuge, March 8, 1999. This was later illustrated and reported in the *Jour. Lepid. Soc.*, 2000. 42 (1). Subsequently, two males were collected in Hidalgo Co., Mission area, in 2003 and 2007. One of these was also illustrated in Knudson & Bordelon, 2004. In Oct. & Nov. 2008, a total of 8 fresh specimens were collected in Mission, TX., and at Bentsen State Park. The life history is unknown, but it would seem that this moth is breeding locally.



Purius superpulverea, male, Hidalgo Co., TX, Bentsen State Park, 17 October 2003.



Purius superpulverea, male, Hidalgo Co., TX, Bentsen State Park, 17 October 2008.

The main purpose of this article is to illustrate several specimens of this moth, showing some of the variability in markings, and to assist lepidopterists who may have recently collected or photographed this, perhaps unfamiliar species. All Texas specimens were collected at either blacklight or incandescent light. The moth, sitting on the substrate, with wings closed can resemble a noctuid, especially *Spodoptera exigua*, which is often common in the habitat. The female is much larger than *S. exigua*. Conditions in extreme south Texas have been favorable for establishment of stray butterflies and moths from Mexico. Above average rainfall, warm winters, and extensive use of both native Texan and Mexican plants in landscaping have likely benefitted these species.

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DEFINITIONS:

Alluvial (adj.), Alluvium (n.) - sand, clay, etc. gradually deposited by moving water, as along a river bed or shore of a lake.

Batture - An elevated river bed or sea bed; alluvial land between river at low-water and a levee.

Source: http://www.thefreedictionary.com/

DEFOLIATION OF THE INVASIVE WEED PARAGRASS (UROCHLOA MUTICA) (POACEAE: PANICOIDEAE) BY MOCIS LATIPES (NOCTUIDAE: CATOCALINAE) IN EAST - CENTRAL, FLORIDA BY MARC C. MINNO AND KEN SNYDER

In early October 2008, Ken Snyder was traveling on the Fellsmere Grade, an unpaved road separating Indian River County, Florida, to the south and Brevard County to the north in east-central Florida. Along the southern end of the T. M. Goodwin Waterfowl Management Area he noticed large stands of some unusual vegetation. When he examined the plants more closely, they proved to be the common weed paragrass (*Urochloa mutica*), but caterpillars had eaten most of the leaves (Fig. 1). Ken sent Marc Minno photos and some live caterpillars on the grass. The larvae pupated within a few days and within two weeks adults of the small Mocis or *Mocis latipes* (Guenée) began to emerge.

Paragrass (formerly known as *Brachiaria mutica, Brachiaria purpurascens, Panicum barbinode, Panicum muticum*, and *Panicum purpurascens*) is a sprawling invasive grass that has become naturalized in Florida. Although native to Africa (Wunderlin and Hansen, 2003), paragrass is now a pantropical weed. It was originally introduced into Florida as a pasture grass, but it grows especially well along canals and ditch banks where the stems form floating and rooted mats in the water, impeding water flow and navigation. Paragrass is a common weed in central and southern Florida.



Fig. 1. Mature larvae of *Mocis latipes* on paragrass (upper left). Paragrass at the T. M. Goodwin Waterfowl Management Area defoliated by larvae of *Mocis latipes*.

Mocis latipes, is mostly a grass-feeder, but Kimball (1965) reported broad beans and turnips as well as grass, rice, and corn as hosts. Covell (1984) also cited these plants. Tietz (1972) compiled records of additional grass hosts including Cenchrus brownii, Digitaria sanguinalis, Eriochloa punctata, Leptochloa nealleyi, Panicum

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Fig. 2. Mocis latipes cocoon (upper) and pupa (lower).

fasciculatum, sugarcane (Saccharum officinarum), Trichlorus pluriflora, corn (Zea mays), but also Hypericum sp. Heppner (2003) listed more grass species as hosts [Cortaderia selloana, Cynodon dactylon, Digitaria decumbens, Sorghum bicolor, Stenotaphrum secundatum, Tricholaena rosea, and Panicum maximum (now Urochloa maximum)] and the legumes Macroptilium atropurpureum and Vicia faba. The nongrass host plants reported in the literature may be valid or perhaps represent observations of starved larvae feeding on plants adjacent to defoliated grasses.

The caterpillar of *M. latipes* is known as the striped grass looper (Heppner 2003). The prolegs on abdominal segments three and four are not present, thus the larvae walk with a looping motion. Both the head and body have distinctive stripes. When mature, the caterpillar forms a cocoon by folding over the tip of a grass leaf and tying the overlapping parts together with silk (Fig. 2). Ghost spiders (*Hibana* species) make similar nests on grass leaves in Florida. The pupa is brown with a thin coating of whitish wax.

The small Mocis becomes very abundant in Florida during late summer and fall when the adults disperse northward in huge numbers. Other lepidopterans that feed on paragrass in Florida include the noctuid moths yellow Mocis (*Mocis disseverans*) and fall armyworm

(Spodoptera frugiperda) (Heppner 2003) and two skipper butterflies (Hesperiidae), the clouded skipper (Lerema accius) and three-spotted skipper (Cymaenes tripunctus) (Minno et al. 2005).

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(Marc C. Minno and Ken Snyder, St. Johns River Water Management District, P.O. Box 1429, Palatka, FL 32607)

DEFINITION:

Mottephobia - fear of moths.

Source: Sent in by Vernon Brou.

DIPHTHERA FESTIVA (FABRICIUS, 1775) (LEPIDOPTERA: NOCTUIDAE) IN LOUISIANA BY VERNON ANTOINE BROU JR.



Fig. 1. D. festiva phenotypes: (a-c) males, (d-f) females.

The strikingly beautiful noctuid moth **Diphthera festiva** (Fabricius, 1775) (Figs. 1,3,5) appears to have been first recorded in Louisiana as an adult by Jung (1950). Prior to very recent times, this species was known as **Noropsis hieroglyphica** (Cramer) and has numerous other past synonymies involving both genus and species names. This species was described from Central and South America and according to Dunford & Barbara (2004) occurs through tropical and subtropical areas of South America (south to Bolivia and Brazil), Central America, North America (South Carolina to Florida and along the Gulf Coast).







Fig. 3. Mature larvae of D. festiva (a-b).

Chapin and Callahan (1967) reported *festiva* from mid-May to mid-November for the vicinity of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. In Louisiana, I have captured adult *festiva* yearly since the late 1960's to the present year. The adult



Fig. 4. Parish records for D. festiva.

Fig. 5. Newly emerged adult D. festiva sitting upon its cocoon.

dates of capture range from late April till late November in six annual broods, the first peaking late May, and remaining broods peaking at about one-month intervals (Fig. 2). The largest populated brood is most often the fifth one occurring in the month of September. Covell (1984) reports *festiva* occurs South Carolina to Florida and west to Texas as well as unspecified tropical areas and occurring April to November in the Gulf States. Heppner (2003) reports the range of *festiva* to include: the southeast United States, South Carolina to Florida, Michigan to Texas, West Indies, and Mexico to Brazil. Parish records in Louisiana are illustrated in Fig. 4.

Numerous authors have listed various foodplants and these are reviewed by Dunford & Barbara (2004) who report that *festiva* larvae feed on numerous plants of the families: Arecaceae, Casuarinaceae, Convolvulaceae, Euphorbiaceae, Fabaceae, Juglandaceae, Labiatae, Malvaceae, Mimosaceae, Nyctaginaceae, Solanaceae, Sterculiaceae, and Tiliaceae.

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(Vernon Antoine Brou Jr., 74320 Jack Loyd Road, Abita Springs, Louisiana 70420; E-Mail: vabrou@bellsouth.net)

DEFINITIONS:

Apterous - having no wings or winglike parts.

- **Disjunct** disjoined, separated; in zoology an insect which has the body sharply divided by deep furrows or constrictions dividing the head, thorax, and abdomen.
- *Venter* belly, abdomen; a protuberance like a belly as on a muscle; a cavity or hollowed surface; corresponding to the abdomen of mammals in lower forms of life such as insects.

Source: http://www.thefreedictionary.com/

BASICLADUS TRACYI (JONES, 1911) (LEPIDOPTERA: PSYCHIDAE) IN LOUISIANA BY VERNON ANTOINE BROU JR.



Davis (1964) established *Basicladus*, a new genus and provided a key and description to two species *Basicladus tracyi* (Jones), new combination, and *Basicladus celibatus* (Jones), new combination.

Basicladus tracyi (Jones) (Fig. 1), was synonymized with **Eurycttarus** tracyi Jones, 1911, and **Psyche cacocnemos** Jones, 1922. This small fuscous colored species has a wingspan of 16-19 mm according to Davis, though my series measures generally 16-17 mm among 70 well spread male examples in my possession from the Abita Springs study site (Fig. 2).

Fig. 1. Basicladus tracyi, male.

Davis (1964), stated the type locality for *Basicladus celibatus* (Jones) is De Funiak Springs, Walton County, Florida, and is found from North

	Jan Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	number						h					

Fig. 2. Adult male B. tracyi captured at sec.24T6SR12E, 4.2 mi. NE of Abita Springs, Louisiana. n = 71.



Fig. 3. Parish records for B. tracyi.

Carolina to Florida. In his revision, Davis examined 26 males and 46 larval cases of *celibatus*. Females are unknown. Davis stated the wingspan of the much smaller in size *celibatus* ranges from 10.5 to 12.5 mm.

According to Davis (1964), *Basicladus tracyi* (Jones) type locality is Biloxi, Mississippi, and is found from North Carolina to Mississippi. In his revision, Davis examined 17 males and 43 larval cases of *tracyi* adorned with grasses, leaves and stems. Females of *tracyi* are unknown.

Heppner (2003) listed the range of *tracyi* in the southeast United States includes North Carolina to Florida and Alabama to Texas with dates from April, September and October.

In Louisiana, I have taken only male adult *tracyi* in ultraviolet light traps from early May through early August, and only at the Abita Springs study site in St. Tammany Parish (Fig. 3) where the yellow

pitcher plant *Sarracenia alata* Wood occurs. Davis (1964) listed the recorded host of *tracyi* included the pitcher plant *Sarracenia sledgei* Macfarl., as well as grasses, sedges, rushes and palm. *B. tracyi* is listed by Knudson and Bordelon (1999) as occurring in the state of Texas. This genus was not addressed by Covell (1984). I thank Don Davis for his invaluable suggestions and critique.

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BROU AND FRIENDS

"I WONDER WHO CAN EAT THE MOST MOTHS?"



Jeff Slotten (left) and Howard Grisham (right) visiting Vernon Brou (Middle) at his property in Abita Springs, Louisiana, on October 17, 2008.

Howard Grisham and I rendezvoused at Vernon Brou's property on October 17th, 2008. There we were greeting by Vernon and his nice wife Charlotte. Vernon graciously invited us on a tour of his many acres of natural property to see the aftermath of hurricane Katrina. He said it was a miracle that his house and collection were not destroyed since almost every tree (and there were lots) were knocked down by the high winds. He told us that he will be cutting trees down for many more years. The only good thing that came out of this event is that now he will be able to see what changes in Lepidoptera populations occurred following the

hurricane. The opening up of the canopy allows new plants to flourish and others to die off or become much less of a presence. We saw examples of Vernon's methods of collection. He has several light traps that stand very tall. Moths are attracted to the ultraviolet lights and fall down a tube where they are captured and are brought into his facility to identify, pin and label. His bait traps are of his own design as are the sesiid traps (modified to increase the quality of the catch).

Vernon then took us on a tour of his magnificent collection which is carefully curated and represents probably the largest collection of Louisiana Lepidoptera. He is a wealth of information and is extremely knowledgeable of the local Lepidoptera fauna. It was a long goodbye since there is always something to talk about. We thank Vernon for his hospitality and generosity with information. Though he has been affected by many health problems, Vernon is always quick with the smile and goes out of his way to make guests feel welcome. We were honored to be invited to visit Vernon who has contributed so much information to the study of Lepidoptera. His articles in the Southern Lepidopterists' News are truly a gift to our membership.

Sincerely, Jeff Slotten

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BUTTERFLY WINGS USED TO PRINT SELF - CLEANING WINDOWS NEW SCIENTIST (DECEMBER 9, 2008) MAGAZINE ISSUE 2685

ANY child can make a butterfly print, but doing so on an industrial scale is far from child's play.

Butterfly wings - and lotus leaves - are able to repel water with ease because of the microstructures on their surface. The densely packed microscopic bumps of the lotus leaf and the waffle-like structures found on butterfly wings both make it difficult for water droplets to spread out. As a result, the drops roll off, and they take dirt with them. This makes the surfaces ideal as the basis for self-cleaning windows and windshields.

However, creating such surfaces is tough because it means creating a template using lithographic techniques usually reserved for chip making. This makes it costly and slow, and limits the size of surfaces that can be produced, says Christophe Peroz at the French National Centre for Scientific Research in Aubervilliers.

So he and his colleagues developed a cheaper and quicker technique that involves pouring a silicon-based polymer liquid over an actual wing or leaf and leaving it to dry. They then peeled off the solid polymer and used it as a mould for methyltriethoxysilane (MTEOS) - an agent used in glass-making which can be changed from a liquid to a gel by spinning it. The MTEOS is poured onto the mould and spun, forming a 900-nanometre-thick film (*Bioinspiration and Biomimetics*, DOI: 10.1088/1748-3182/3/4/046004).

To create a large water-repellent surface for a window, for example, many films can be combined.

WEBSITE: http://www.newscientist.com/article/mg20026855.900-butterfly-wings-used-to-print-selfcleaning-windows.html

[The SL Society thanks the New Scientist for allowing us to reprint their article in our newsletter - The Editor.]

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Photographs from our camping trip that three biochemists (Chuck Garner, Gwynne Little, and Barry Lombardini) have been doing annually for the last 25 years or so. This time we went to Portal, Arizona (southeast corner of Arizona), in the Chiricahua Mountains at the beginning of September (2008). Gwynne Little is the photographer. Row 1 & 2: Scenes form the area; Row 3: Dull Firetip [Apyrrothrix araxes (Hewitson, 1867)]; Row 4: Dull Firetip [Apyrrothrix araxes (Hewitson, 1867)].

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More photographs by Gwynne Little of our September camping trip to Portal, Arizona, in the Chiricahua Mountains. Row 1: California Sister (*Adelpha bredowii* Geyer, 1837); Row 2: Ares Metalmark [*Emesis ares* (W. H. Edwards, 1882)]; Row 3: Sulphurs puddling on wet sand and Red-spotted Purple [*Limenitis arthemis* (Drury, 1773)]; Row 4: Scenes from the area. A great trip to an area that I had not collected in the past. Hopefully, before we get too old we will make some more of these trips.

MY PERSONAL GREATEST 'HAZARD' OF THE FIELD BY DAVID FINE

To answer the call of Dr. James Adams that calls for us to describe some hazards that have occurred to us while in the field collecting Leps, although probably not quite what he was looking for, I would like to describe one of my greatest hazards that had just happened to me.

It began about 12 years ago when I began to get serious into collecting butterflies and began to look for places to collect. I have described in brief my frustration in collecting in the over populated South Florida and simply not having locations to legally swing a net. I live in Delray Beach, a city of almost 70,000 people in the southern portion of Palm Beach County. From the Atlantic Ocean west to the western limits of the city, one will be hard pressed to find even the smallest stand of trees that can hold colonies of just about any Lepidopteran species. My best locations as of 10 years ago were the sides of irrigation canals where the lawn mowers couldn't reach. Here, there could be enough White Vine to maintain colonies of *Danaus eresimus* and *Danaus gilippus*. There also could be enough *Passiflora suberosa* to attract all three Heliconids without a problem. Other "weed" feeders like both long tailed skippers, *Pyrgus oileus*, Buckeyes, *Vanessa virginiensis* and *Vanessa atalanta, Leptotes cassius, Hemiargus ceraunus, Strymon istapa, Eurema nicippe, Eurema diara, Nathalis iole* and *Ascia monuste* could be commonly found in any area with even the smallest and most unimpressive amount of habitat imaginable. Every once in a while, viceroys, *Phoebis philea* and *Papilio cresphontes* could be taken as well. Even the boarders of small farms like "the farm", a very small eggplant patch that my dad used to take me when I was a youth would be enough to have a good time hunting simple species like those I listed above.

One by one, however, these little spec-habitats have been plowed depleting even the simplest of species from our city limits. "*The farm*" that I mentioned previously, is now a highly manicured neighborhood with zero-lot-lines homes. The city even mows its canal banks now, and even sod many of them. I guess St. Augustine grass is more desirable than our native flora. It was just last year when I read an article in the paper declaring every lot in the city of Delray Beach has been sold and there is literally no more land left standing that contains any mentionable amounts of habitat. It literally is not possible to swing a net in this town any more. There is nothing natural left from the coast west to the western city limits. At this point you wind up in Loxahatchee State Wild Life Refuge and are obviously not allowed to collect there.

Most of the Southeast Florida coast is like this until you get into the agricultural areas of Dade County and there are still spec hammocks in the Keys that are not protected. These areas are at least an hour drive for me. To find any bugs North of me, I have to go to at least Jupiter in Martin County where one begins to see trees again. The rate of development in Martin County, however, will surely send me further north to find the nearest "wilderness" where I can find bugs without a permit. It has been for these reasons that I have focused my attention over the last few years in the Keys and Northern Florida. I am sure that there are small, out of the way, spec habitats to visit within an hour's drive of Delray Beach, however, none of which contain species that vary from the common (back-yard) variety.

My tragedy begins with a lack of enthusiasm for swinging a net in Palm Beach County. Because of the thought of explaining what I am doing to **EVERYONE** that sees me with a net as well as "*wasting*" time looking in a small lot of ground with some flowers and finding zebras and gulf fritillaries only has discouraged me over the years from examining small habitats that remained with possibilities of holding Leps. This factor played into the following story. There was an old Corporate Park that had been abandoned for some 20 years ago in the heart of Delray Beach on Congress Ave between Linton Blvd. and Atlantic Ave. In the center of the plot stood a large strangler fig tree which made for good shade as well as *Marpesia* food. Weaving in and through the park is a paved path. The west end of the park backs up to the E-4 canal where one can do some good bass fishing. On the other side of the canal is the Delray Beach Golf course where you can watch the golfers. It must have been a quaint little place when it was taken care of.

Since my childhood, however, it has been overgrown with weeds and I have never seen another human being

there. I always told myself that one day I would go and check it out. Year after year passed though and I never made my way through the park. In December of 07' I got off from work early one day and got a tall cup of coffee from Dunkin Doughnuts and decided to swing in and sip on my steamy beverage while walking the old weedy path. It was a "chilly" Florida day with high temps around 70 degrees but the sun was out and it made for a most enjoyable walk.

To my amazement, this small weedy field contained a healthy number of butterfly species including some that I rarely encounter in Palm Beach County. There were literally hundreds of *Strymon istapa* all over stands of host plant. Also present was a colony of *Pyrgus (communis/albescens)* which I have never seen in Delray. In fact, the only specimens that I have found in Palm Beach County have been on the Northern ends of the county. Other species encountered were: *Papilio cresphontes, Eurema nicippe, Eurema diara, Nathalis iole, Phoebis sennae, Phoebis philea, Ascia monuste, Agraulis vanillae, Phyciodes tharos, Heliconius charithonius, Vanessa atalanta, Hemiargus ceraunus, Leptotes cassius, Urbanus proteus, Urbanus dorantes, Hylephila phyleus, and Lerema accius.*

I was so excited to have a location within 2 miles of my parents house to go and look for bugs or be able to send fellow lepsters to when visiting. I returned to this location the next week with a camera with intent to write an article on "visiting those little obscure areas that you always drive by and say to yourself 'One day I should check that place out.' (But never make time to do)." This is exactly what I said to myself every time I saw this place for 10 years! When I arrived, to my absolute disgust, the entire park had red construction fencing around it and there were big earth movers in the field, well, moving earth. Just like that, my new location no longer exists!

I was absolutely disgusted at what I had just seen. Not because some rare, exotic species was taken from my greedy little paws, but simply because it is becoming more and more obvious to me that no good thing on this earth lasts forever. This simple pleasure has been ripped from under my feet. One by one, these little areas where I could get away for a half an hour and enjoy some bugs disappears from in front of my face. This is my tragedy. This is my "hazard". Someday, perhaps, I will live in a place where I can escape on my lunch break and enter a wooded area and eat my sandwich listening to birds singing rather than the wheels of thousands of automobiles. I don't believe I ask for much. I was pleasantly content exploring a weedy field that most would consider a "waste-land" where the noise from surrounding highways drowns out my own thoughts. Where I can, while standing in the middle of the field, be seen by people in their offices on the north and south sides of the field, by passers-by walking on the sidewalk of Congress Ave to the east of the field, and by golfers on the 7th green of the Delray Golf Course on the west side of the field **ALL AT THE SAME TIME!** This even brought me a feeling of peace, where I could admire the smallest fraction of the Lord's work.

Now it's gone, fallen victim to a strip mall or another gray office building. At this point, I can't even visit with my fishing pole any more without seeing signs on the side of the canal saying "No Fishing" or "No Trespassing" or "Private Property". The life-giving "weeds" (we know them as host plants) herbicided and replaced by palates of St. Augustine Grass. Now do not get me wrong. I am not a pessimist. I enjoy life and love every day that I have on this earth. I just let the disappearance of places like my little field remind me of what our reality is in urban America. It is not a pleasant reality and I appreciate the fact that I have fellow enthusiasts to "vent" to who understand my frustration. So now I submit to you all; think about your commute home from work. Is there a small spec of habitat that you have seen that tickles your fancy that you have been telling yourself "One day I am going to check that place out," but never wind up stopping? Make it a point to stop, check it out and lay aside the wonder. Find out whether it is a waste of time so you can stop wondering about it or encounter the possibility that awaits you there before you find it gone the way of the dodo bird! Now I ask if you do visit this little area (I know you all have one in your minds that fits the description that I am giving) please write in to this News Letter and let us know what you have found!

STATE OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR 2009 BY JOE RIDDLEBARGER

As you may have noticed, the Southern Lepidopterists' News changed in appearance starting with Volume 30 No. 3. This is due to our previous printer going out of business. From newspapers to mom and pop shops, printers are having trouble making ends meet due to the Internet and desktop publishing. Our Editor, Barry Lombardini, had to do some quick searching to find a reasonably priced replacement. I think that you will agree that the quality of the print and the clarity of the photography have improved. Unfortunately, this has resulted in a cost increase for the publication of the newsletter. We appear to be able to cover the cost of publication and postage in the near term due to carry over from previous years (see the financial report elsewhere in this issue), however, in the next year we could be operating at a deficit unless we come up with some novel ways to reduce costs or increase funds. Postage alone accounts for forty percent of the cost. Our sustaining, contributing and benefactor members are helping and greatly appreciated, but any additional donations would be welcome. We would prefer not to increase the dues as this is usually counterproductive to the overall number of active members. I will be asking the Board Members to consider application for tax exempt status. This would save 8.5% that is presently going to our publisher for state taxes. I'm sure that we will revisit the idea of an online edition as well.

As approved by the attending members at the 2008 Annual Meeting, a plaque has been presented to Barry Lombardini in appreciation for the fine work he is doing as our Editor.

Plans are in the works for a Board Meeting early in 2009 to discuss tax exemption status for the organization, The John Abbot Award, election of Board Members for 2010, funding of the SL News and to set a date and place for the 2009 Annual Meeting.

Please consider volunteering to serve your organization as a Board Member in 2010. You may call me at (724) 443-5718, email to <u>alyfab@earthlink.net</u> or write to 610 Greenspring Dr., Gibsonia, PA 15044 to offer your services. A nominating committee will be formed in the near future to begin searching for potential Board Members. If you are not familiar with the job requirements, please visit the website: <u>www.southernlepsoc.org</u> and click on the Constitution.

REPORTS OF STATE COORDINATORS

Alabama: C. Howard Grisham, 573 Ohatchee Road, Huntsville, AL 35811, E-Mail: chgrisham@Comcast.net

Arkansas: Mack Shotts, 514 W. Main Street, Paragould, AR 72450, E-Mail: cshotts@grnco.net

Florida: Charles V. Covell Jr., 207 NE 9th Ave, Gainesville, FL 32601, E-Mail: covell@louisville.edu

Gainesville, Alachua Co., recorded by Charlie Covell:

Three common species of butterflies seen too often to enumerate, from Sept. 10: *P. sennae* - almost daily to Dec. 10; *A. vanillae* to Nov. 28; and *H. charithonia* to Nov. 14.

Other species of butterflies:

Urbanus proteus, Sept. 12, 16, 19, Oct. 21, 22, Nov. 9, 10, 12, 14. Urbanus dorantes, Sept. 18, Oct. 10, Nov.6, 14, 15. Lerema accius, Sept. 19. Wallengrenia otho, Oct. 10. Wallengrenia egeremet, Oct. 12.

Hylephila phyleus, Sept. 12, 13, Oct. 4, 10, 22, Nov. 6, 8, 10, 15.

Panoquina ocola, Sept. 12. Battus polydamas, Sept. 11, 14, 19. Papilio troilus, Sept. 14, Nov. 11. Papilio polyxenes asterius, Sept. 12, 17.

Heraclides cresphontes, Sept. 15, 16, 19. Phoebis agarithe, Sept 13, Nov. 28. Phobus philea, Sept. 12, 13, 18, 24, Oct. 2, 6, 9, 12, 13, Nov. 13. Eurema lisa, Oct. 22, Nov. 6, 9, 10, 11, 14, Dec. 9. Eurema nicippe, Sept 12, 13, 15, 19, Oct. 3, 4, 10, 13, 22, Nov. 8, 10, 14, 15.

Calycopis cecrops, Sept. 24. Parhassius —album, Oct. 2. Strymon melinus, Sept. 16. Hemiargus ceraunus, Sept. 29. Leoptotes cassius, Oct. 23, 26.

Vanessa cardui, Sept. 19. Junonia coenia, Sept. 18, 29, Oct. 1, 22, Nov. 7, 9, 11, 22, Dec. 3. Limenitis archippus form "floridensis", Sept. 13, 19, Oct. 1, 3, 22, Nov. 8, 15, 22. Limenitis arthemis astyanax, Sept. 24. Asterocampa celtis, Oct. 22 (female).

Danaus gilippus berenice, Sept. 13. Danaus plexippus, Sept. 14, 23, Oct. 10, 21, 22, Nov. 27, 28, Dec. 3.

Moths:

Hemaris thysbe, Sept. 16. Syntomeida epilaus, Sept. 17.

Marc Minno sent these records from Paula Cannon to Charlie:

Here are some records for the Southern Lepidopterists' News by Paula Cannon who lives on Big Pine Key, Monroe County, Florida.

During mid-November 2008 she found on Big Pine Key 1 adult *Ministrymon azia* nectaring on Joewood flowers (*Jacquinia keyensis*), 1 adult *Enyo lugubris* in her garden, and 1 larva of *Manduca sexta* feeding on a tomato plant in her garden. She reared the larva to adult and sent me photos to confirm. She also found 5 *Vanessa cardui* adults on Big Pine Key on December 3, 2008.

On December 4, 2008 she visited Bahia Honda State Park and found 9 Vanessa cardui, at least 30 Ascia monuste, Leptotes cassius (very abundant), Agraulis vanillae (common), Strymon melinus (a few), and Strymon martialis (common). Although she did not find any adults of the endangered Miami Blue (Cyclargus thomasi bethunebakeri), she did find a probable larva on gray nicker (Caesalpinia bonduc) flowers.

<u>Georgia:</u> James K. Adams, 346 Sunset Drive SE, Calhoun, GA 30701, E-Mail: <u>jadams@em.daltonstate.edu</u> (Please check out the GA leps website at: http://www.daltonstate.edu/galeps/).

This summary includes reports for several outings with outstanding results, and is therefore one of the longest for Georgia in years. The contributors include James Adams (JA or no notation) and Irving Finkelstein (IF), Other contributors are spelled out with the appropriate records. Most records presented here represent new or interesting records (range extensions, unusual dates, uncommon species, county records, *etc.*), or more complete

lists for new locations/new times of year. All dates listed below are 2008 unless otherwise specified.

This fall saw a HUGE flight of the southern geometrid *Cymatophora approximaria*, in several places where it is not typically common.

<u>Calhoun, Gordon Co. (JA residence)</u>: <u>GEOMETRIDAE</u>: Cymatophora approximaria, mid Oct.

Adairsville (1314 Plainview Rd.), Gordon Co., Oct. 11: <u>NOCTUIDAE</u>: Homophoberia apicosa (LATE). <u>GEOMETRIDAE</u>: Cymatophora approximaria (hundreds!!).

Salacoa Road at Salacoa Creek, 4 mi SE of Fairmount, Bartow Co (NE corner of county): <u>NOCTUIDAE</u>: Papaipema polymniae, Oct. 12; Papaipema cataphracta, Oct. 25; Pyreferra pettiti, Oct. 12; Abagrotis magnicupida, Oct. 12. GEOMETRIDAE: Cymatophora approximaria, Oct. 12.

Carbondale, Whitfield Co., exit 326 at I-75:

<u>NOCTUIDAE</u>: Catocala robinsoni, Sept. 23; C. lacrymosa, Nov. 14 (LATE!); C. residua, Sept. 28; C. nebulosa, Sept. 19; Bagisara repanda, Oct. 1 (few in STATE); Papaipema furcata, Oct. 6, Oligia fractillinea, Sept. 23 (COUNTY); Lithophane signosa, Oct. 20; Lithophane lemmeri, Oct. 22. <u>GEOMETRIDAE</u>: Cymatophora approximaria, Oct. 2, 4, 7 (second+ for Whitfield Co.).

Just east of Blue Ridge, Junction Hwys. 76 & 60 (Marathon gas station), at lights, JKA & IF: Sept. 18: NOCTUIDAE: Catocala sappho. Oct. 17-18, 2008: NOCTUIDAE: Agnorisma bollii, several, including many females.

Cooper's Creek WMA in Fannin County, Oct. 17-18, JKA & IF: NOCTUIDAE: Papaipema impecuniosa, P. cataphracta, Lithophane signosa, Agnorisma bollii.

Dahlonega, Lumpkin Co., Oct. 16, 2008, JKA & IF: NOCTUIDAE: Papaipema furcata, Lithophane patefacta (COUNTY).

Cane Creek at Hightower Church road, 7 miles NW of Dahlonega, Lumpkin Co., Oct. 16-17, 2008. NOCTUIDAE: Papaipema maritima, P. cataphracta, P. cerrusata, Leucania callidior (COUNTY).

Atlanta, Fulton Co., IF: NOCTUIDAE: Papaipema nebris, Oct. 28 (COUNTY, LATE).

Decatur, Fulton Co., Ahmad Gaither, Oct. 18: NOCTUIDAE: Black Witch, Ascalapha odorata.

Western Bibb Co., Oct. 2, 2008, Jerry and Rose Payne: **NYMPHALIDAE**: Heliconius charitonius (3rd record ever from this location).

Nongame Wildlife Office in Forsyth, Monroe Co., John Jensen, Todd Schneider, and Terry Johnson (in that order):

<u>NYMPHALIDAE</u>: Zebra Longwing (*Heliconius charitonius*), Oct. 6, Oct. 9, and Oct. 10 (Terry reports that this may be only the fourth time the species has been recorded from Monroe Co.).

Kingsland, Georgia, barely across the FL-GA state line at I-95 on November 12, 2008. Bob Patterson: **PYRALIDAE**: Dioryctria ebeli.

Savannah, Chatham Co., Nov. 19, Don Roszak: NOCTUIDAE, ARCTIINAE: Syntomeida epilais. Louisiana: Michael Lockwood, 215 Hialeah Avenue, Houma, LA 70363, E-Mail: mikelock34@hotmail.com

Mississippi: Rick Patterson, 400 Winona Rd., Vicksburg, MS 39180, E-Mail: rpatte42@aol.com

North Carolina: Steve Hall, North Carolina Natural Heritage Program, Div. of Parks & Recreation, 1615 MSC, Raleigh, NC 27699-1615, E-Mail: <u>Stephen.Hall@ncmail.net</u>

Steve sends in the following selected butterfly records which were submitted by Harry LeGrand. Place names refer to counties unless otherwise stated, and records are not new county reports unless indicated. Rainfall was heavy in the eastern half of the state in September, but was rather light in the western portions (continuing the drought there); otherwise, weather conditions were benign, with no hurricanes or major storms. *Agraulis vanillae* was very widespread over the state this fall, one of its best showings ever, and *Atalanta cardui* was widespread though uncommon. Records are all from September - November 2008.

PIERIDAE:

Pontia protodice, at the same field in Wilkes where he had seen a few individuals in late August, Ted Wilcox counted a remarkable 14 adults on September 1, and 16 there on September 12. A few were seen later in the month. Singles were seen elsewhere in Forsyth, Iredell, Chatham, and Wake counties, with the latest on November 1.

Zerene cesonia, this rare stray was encountered at Riverbend Park in Catawba (COUNTY), where one was seen nectaring at close range by Lori Owenby on October 13.

NYMPHALIDAE:

Heliconius charithonia, the remarkable population explosion on Bogue Banks in Carteret continued into the fall, with observations at a number of sites on this island. However, the only reports off the island came from one in Croatan National Forest in that county on September 7 (Jack Fennell) and one photographed in neighboring Craven (COUNTY) on October 27 (S. Bruno).

Speyeria diana, the third state count in double digits in 2008 was of 15, nearly all females, seen by Harry King from a train (Great Smoky Mountains Railroad) in Swain, on September 24.

Polygonia faunus smythi, a number of observers followed up on Simon Thompson's discovery of the species at Mount Mitchell State Park (Yancey) in August with visits during the first half of September. Derb Carter, Paulette Haywood, Harry LeGrand, Jeff Pippen, and Will Cook had them through September 13, with a peak count being an excellent nine on September 7 by Haywood. This taxon is clearly declining throughout its southern Appalachian range, for reasons mostly unknown.

Polygonia progne, the first state record in at least five years was of one photographed by Ted Wilcox in Watauga (**COUNTY**) on September 13. This species is also in decline, at least in the state, possibly owing to a decline in *Ribes* populations from disease, habitat loss, or other factors. However, based on the reports of both of these two rare species of *Polygonia* in September, it seems that more field work needs to be done in the state's higher elevations during that month; most field work in the mountains occurs from April through August, and in the fall only at lower elevations.

Danaus gilippus, this species is mainly seen only along the coast in the fall; thus, predictable though scarce were two seen by Carl Rothfels at Shackleford Banks in Carteret on September 13 and one noted by Mike Turner at Baldhead Island (Brunswick) on October 12.

HESPERIIDAE:

Hesperia leonardus, Ted Wilcox hit a goldmine of a wet meadow in Watauga (COUNTY) this fall, where he saw (and documented with photos) a state record total of 18 on September 7 and 15 there on September 13. He also saw one in neighboring Ashe on September 2. Downstate, the only report was of one photographed at Jordan Lake in Chatham on September 20 (Will Cook, Carl Rothfels).

Hesperia meskei, Jeff Pippen photographed two males and a female at two sites near Boiling Spring Lakes in Brunswick (COUNTY) on October 4. This is the first state report from a coastal county in several decades, though suitable longleaf pine habitats are present near the coast.

Problema byssus, there was just one previous state Piedmont report, so of great interest was one photographed at Jordan Lake in Chatham (COUNTY) on September 20 by Will Cook and Carl Rothfels. For the time being, it is best considered as a stray, though this species is not known to wander away from breeding areas.

Poanes yehl, the northwesternmost record for the state was of one photographed by Beth Brinson in Rowan (COUNTY) on September 21. There are several records from other counties to the south, also in the Piedmont, and it is still uncertain if there are any stable breeding populations outside of the Coastal Plain. In the central Coastal Plain, one photographed by Salman Abdulali was notable in Pitt (COUNTY) on September 20.

Euphyes berryi, one or two were seen in Croatan National Forest in Craven on September 4 and 8 by John Fussell, in the same general area where nine were seen in late August.

South Carolina: Brian Scholtens, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC 29424, E-Mail: scholtensb@cofc.edu

Brian sends in the following report:

Reversed Roadside Skipper - Berkeley Co., 7 Jun 2008, Hwy 45 @ Wambaw Creek.
Dusky Roadside Skipper - Berkeley Co., 18 Apr 2008, Hoover Rd.
Rare Skipper - Georgetown Co., 7 Jun 2008, Hwy 17 at North Santee River.
Texan Crescent - Berkeley Co., 7 Jun 2008, Hwy 45 @ Wambaw Creek.
Neamathla Skipper - Berkeley Co., 3 May 1995, off Hwy 41 near Huger (new STATE Record) - checked by genitalia.

Tennessee: John Hyatt, 5336 Foxfire Place, Kingsport, TN 37664, E-Mail: jkshyatt@aol.com

Texas: Ed Knudson, 8517 Burkhart Road, Houston, TX 77055, E-Mail: eknudson@earthlink.net

Ed sends the following report (September - November) for Texas:

Harris Co., TX, Spring Valley, July-October, 2008 (Bordelon & Knudson):

A large migratory influx of *Anteos clorinde*, occurred throughout much of east-central Texas, with up to 5 individuals observed daily here in Spring Valley, during the above period. Considerably fewer numbers of *Anteos maerula* and *Aphissa statira* were also observed. Large numbers of *Phoebis philea* continue to occur here, as well.

On a trip to Big Bend and the Davis Mts of West Texas, September 1-16, we collected or observed the following (All Bordelon & or Knudson):

Butterflies:

Uvalde Co., Concan, Sept 1: *Euiedes isabella* (Bordelon, it escaped the net!). Val Verde Co., Terrell Co., Sept. 4 : *Apodemia duryi* (eastern range ext.). Terrell Co., 10 mi. east of Sanderson : *Chlosyne fulvia* (fall brood). Brewster Co., Big Bend, Chisos Basin, Sept. 6: *Eunica tatila* (not able to collect). Jeff Davis Co., 5 m. east of Ft. Davis, Sept. 12: *Limenitis archippus obsoleta*, many fresh individuals.

Moths:

Heliodinidae: Lithariapteryx jubarella, Big Bend, Chisos Basin, Sept. 7 (New State Record). This diurnal moth was found near a blacklight.

Sesiidae: Carmenta welchelorum, C. englehardti, Chisos Basin, Sept. 6,7 (first records of C. welchelorum outside of type series from Uvalde Co., TX.); Euhagena emphytiformis (fm solituda) Jeff Davis Co., Ft. Davis, Sept. 12.

Tortricidae: Eucosma sierrae, Chisos Basin Sept. 6-8

- Saturniidae: Eupackardia calleta, Big Bend, various loc. Sept. 6-10: common, females at lights, males seen during the day.
- Noctuidae: Big Bend, Chisos Basin Sept. 6-9: Cobubatha hippotes, Cropia ruthaea, Cropia templada, Stiria dyari; Big Bend, Castelon, Sept. 8 Grotella tricolor, Oslaria pura. Terrell Co., Sanderson, Sept. 13, Redingtonia alba, Angulostiria chryseochilus, Gloanna hecate (big surprise!), and Schinia coercita.

Lower Rio Grande Valley, TX Oct-Nov, 2008:

In addition to the report regarding the Texas Butterfly Festival, Bordelon has spent nearly 2 months in the valley, and with the input of various others, has documented 170 butterfly species mostly in Hidalgo Co. Nymphalids have been the most prominent including one new US Record for *Hamadryas glauconome glauconome*, Starr Co., TX, Nov. 8, Bordelon. (The subspecies *H. glauconome grisea* was found once in Arizona). Another new US Butterfly was the Papilionid, *Mimoides phaon*, green banded form, Hidalgo Co., Santa Ana NWR, Oct. 23.

Other Nymphalids found by various collectors and observers during this period included: Euiedes isabella, Dione moneta, Dynamine dyonis, Dynamine postverta, Epiphile atrasta, Smyrna blomfildia, Adelpha fessonia, Adelpha basiloides, Siproeta stelenes (abundant), Anartia fatima (common), Hamadryas guatemalena, Biblis hyperia, Marpesia petreus, Marpesia chiron, Doxocopa pavon, Doxocopa laure, Chlosyne janais (superabundant), Chlosyne rosita, Chlosyne endeis, and Memphis pithyusa.

Interesting Lycaenids: Rekoa marius, Chlorostrymon simaethis, Electrostrymon hugon, Cyanophrys miserabilis, C. herodotus, Allosmaitia strophius, Strymon albata, S. yojoa, Ministrymon azia.

Some interesting Hesperiidae included: Astraptes anaphus, Astraptes alector hoppferi, Aguna alardus, Aguna metophis, Codatractus arizonensis (first valley record), Grais stigmaticus (also reported from San Antonio, TX by Terry Doyle), Anastrus sempiternus, Polythrix octomaculata, Rhinthon osca, Perichares philetes, Heliopyrgus sublinea, and Panoquina evansi.

One new US moth record was the Ctenuchine Arctiid, *Phoenicoprocta lydia*, taken at Falcon State Park, on Oct. 3. This is a variable species, unlike most ctenuchines. Another probable new US moth is a *Pantographa sp.* (Crambidae), different from *P. limata*, collected by Bordelon on Oct 28. Other interesting moths from the Mission area included:

Sphingidae: Pachylia ficus, Xylophanes pluto; Arctiidae: Agaraea semivitrea, Purius superpulverea; Notodontidae: Elymiotis notodontoides; Noctuidae: Lesmone formularis, Thysania zenobia.

One Schinia blanca male, collected by Knudson in Brooks Co., Falfurrias on Oct.4. No others seen.

Ro Wauer sends in the following list of butterflies found at Mission Valley, Victoria Co., TX, October -November 2008:

This report lumps two months because my wife and I were absence much of the time. We missed the peak of our crucita bloom, although flowering started before we left for the Butterfly Festival and some blooms were still present after we returned from a two-week butterfly trip to Veracruz, MX. The highlight species during this period was a Hammock Skipper on Nov. 2, a new county record and our 130th yard species. The full list for the two months included the following:

1. Pipevine Swallowtail (Battus philenor): few seen daily when home.

- 2. Giant Swallowtail (P. cresphontes): few seen daily when home.
- 3. Checkered White (Pontia protodice): one on 11/18.
- 4. Orange Sulphur (Colias eurytheme): 1-2 on 11/2-6, 8, 10-12, 16-20 & 22-26.
- 5. Southern Dogface (Zerene cesonia): few seen daily.
- 6. Cloudless Sulphur (Phoebis sennae): several seen daily.
- 7. Large Orange Sulphur (P. agarithe): several seen daily.
- 8. Lyside Sulphur (Kricogonia lyside): 1-2 on 10/1, 2, 10 & 11/19.
- 9. Little Yellow (Pyrisitia lisa): many seen daily.
- 10. Sleepy Orange (Abaeis nicippe): 1-4 on 10/1; 11/16-20 & 22-26.
- 11. Dainty Sulphur (Nathalis iole): 1-2 on 11/16-19, 22, 23, 25 & 26.
- 12. Gray Hairstreak (Strymon melinus): 1-3 on 10/1, 2, 9, 11; 2, 3, 5-11, 19, 25 & 26.
- 13. Lacey's Scrub-Hairstreak (S. alea): one on 11/24 & 25.
- 14. Mallow Scrub-Hairstreak (S. istapa): 2-5 on 10/8, 10 & 11/3, 11, 16, 17, 19, 20 & 22.
- 15. Dusky-blue Groundstreak (Calycopis isobeon): loners on 10/9 & 12.
- 16. Ceraunus Blue (Hemiargus ceraunus): loners on 10/11; 11/3, 7, 8, 11, 12, 16, & 23-25.
- 17. Reakirt's Blue (Echinargus isola): loners on 1/1; 11/2, 5-9 & 20.
- 18. American Snout (Libytheana carinenta): few seen daily.
- 19. Gulf Fritillary (Agraulis vanillae): several seen daily.
- 20. Variegated Fritillary (Euptoieta claudia): 1-4 on 11/18-20 & 23-26.

21. Julia Heliconian (Dryas iulia): 1-5 on 10/1-3, 6, 8, 10-12; 11/3-13, 19 & 26.

- 22. Zebra Heliconian (Heliconius charithonia): 1-2 on 11/3-9, 11, 12, 17, 22, 23, 25 & 26.
- 23. Bordered Patch (Chlosyne lacinia): 1-4 on 10/2, 3, 6-8, 9-12; 11/3-10 & 16.
- 24. Vesta Crescent (Phyciodes graphica): 1-3 on 11/2-5, 10, 11 & 23.
- 25. Phaon Crescent (P. phaon): 1-2 on 10/10; 11/2 & 5.
- 26. Pearl Crescent (P. tharos): 1-2 on 10/10; 11/22, 6-8, 16 & 20.
- 27. Question Mark (Polygonia interrogationis): one on 11/5.
- 28. American Lady (Vanessa virginiensis): 1-5 on 11/6, 16-18 & 26.
- 29. Painted Lady (V. cardui): 1-3 on 11/2-6, 9, 11, 17-20 & 22-26.
- 30. Red Admiral (V. atalanta): 1-2 on 11/9 & 18.
- 31. Common Buckeye (Junonia coenia): 1-2 on 11/2-3, 5-8, 16-18 & 23.
- 32. White Peacock (Anartia jatrophae): 1-2 on 10/1, 10 & 11/23-26.
- 33. Common Mestra (Mestra amymone): 1-6 on 11/2-12, 18-20 & 22-25.
- 34. Goatweed Leafwing (Anaea andria): loners on 10/2, 9-13; 11/6 & 10.
- 35. Hackberry Emperor (Asterocampa celtis): one on 11/5.
- 36. Tawny Emperor (A. clyton): 1-3 on 10/2, 6, 8, 12; 11/2-7 & 16.
- 37. Gemmed Satyr (Cyllopsis gemma): loners on 11/7, 8 & 11.
- 38. Carolina Satyr (Hermeuptychia sosybius): 1-4 on 10/3; 11/2-10, 16 & 18-20.
- 39. Monarch (Danaus plexippus): 2-25 on 10/3; 11/2-12, 16-19 & 22.
- 40. Queen (D. gilippus): several seen daily.
- 41. Soldier (D. eresimus): 1-15 on 11/2-12, 17-20 & 22-24.
- 42. HAMMOCK SKIPPER (Polygonus leo): one photographed on 11/2.
- 43. White-striped Longtail (Chioides albofasciatus): 1-3 on 10/2, 8, 12; 11/2, 3, 5-11, 19, 20 & 22-26.
- 44. Long-tailed Skipper (Urbanus proteus): 1-3 on 10/2, 9, 11, 12; 11/2-12 & 16-19.
- 45. Dorantes Longtail (U. dorantes): 1-3 on 11/312, 16-20 & 23-26.

46. Coyote Cloudywing (Achalarus toxeus): 1-20 on 10/1, 2, 6-12; 11/2-12, 16-26.

47. Sickle-winged Skipper (Eantis tamenund): several seen daily.

- 48. False Duskywing (Gesta invisus): one on 10/8.
- 49. Horace's Duskywing (Erynnis horatius): 1-4 on 10/1-3, 6-12; 11/8.
- 50. Funeral Duskywing (E. funeralis): loners on 10/3; 11/3 & 5.
- 51. Common/White Checkered-Skip. (Pyrgus communis/albescens): several seen daily.
- 52. Tropical Checkered-Skipper (P. oileus): several seen daily.
- 53. Laviana White-Skipper (Heliopetes laviana): loners on 10/6' 11/20, 23, 24 & 26.
- 54. Turk's-cap White-Skipper (H. macaira): 1-4 on 10/1, 2, 11; 11/9 & 24-26.
- 55. Julia's Skipper (Nastra julia): 1-2 on 10/10 & 11/7-11.
- 56. Clouded Skipper (Lerema accius): few seen daily.
- 57. Southern Skipperling (Copaeodes minimus): one on 11/18 & 19.
- 58. Fiery Skipper (Hylephila phyleus): few seen daily.
- 59. Whirlabout (Polites vibex): few seen daily.
- 60. Southern Broken-Dash (Wallengrenia otho): 1-3 on 10/1-3, 8, 11, 12; 11/2, 6 & 10.
- 61. Sachem (Atalopedes campestris): 1-2 on 10/2, 6, 7, 10, 11; 11/2-9, 11, 12, 17-19 & 24-26.
- 62. Dun Skipper (Euphyes vestris): 1-2 on 10/1, 6: 11/2, 7, 10, 11, 18 & 13.
- 63. Celia's Roadside-Skipper (Amblyscirtes celia): 1-4 on 10/1-3, 6-11; 11/8, 10 & 11.
- 64. Eufala Skipper (Lerodea eufala): several seen daily.
- 65. Ocola Skipper (Panoquina ocola): many seen daily

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The Southern Lepidopterists' News is published four times annually. Membership dues are \$20.00 anually. The organization is open to anyone, especially those with an interest in the Lepidoptera of the southern United States. Information about the Society may be obtained from Marc Minno, Membership Coordinator, 600 NW 34 Terrace, Gainesville, FL 32607, and dues may be sent to Jeffrey R. Slotten, Treasurer, 5421 NW 69th Lane, Gainesville, FL 32653.

SOUTHERN LEPIDOPTERISTS' SOCIETY

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TERASTIA METICULOSALIS GUENÉE (LEPIDOPTERA: PYRALIDAE) IN LOUISIANA BY VERNON ANTOINE BROU JR.



Fig. 1. Terastia meticulosalis: a. male, b. female.

Adults of the large pyralid moth *Terastia meticulosalis* Guenée (Fig. 1) have been captured quite uncommonly over 39 years of light trapping in Louisiana. Adults were taken during the months mid-May through early November (Fig. 2).

The parish records for captured adults are provided in Fig. 3, though it is probable that *meticulosalis* will be found to be more abundant



Fig. 2. Adult Terastia meticulosalis captured in Louisiana. n = 36.



Fig. 3. Parish records for Terastia meticulosalis.

at locations where the foodplant is more plentiful.

Heppner (2003) lists the range of *meticulosalis* in the southern United States from Florida to Arizona, and also West Indies and Mexico to Argentina, with dates in all months in Florida. The reported foodplants are species of *Erythrina*, a large tropical genus of over 100 species and are members of the Legume family. *Erythrina herbacea* L., one of the specific foodplant species documented in literature, occurs two to five feet in height as a showy erect plant commonly called Coral Bean with distinctive flame-like bright red elongated flower clusters *T. meticulosalis* was not addressed by Covell (1984).

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