

southern lepidopterists'



news

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THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SOUTHERN LEPIDOPTERISTS,
A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION PROMOTING SCIENTIFIC INTEREST
IN THE LEPIDOPTERA FAUNA OF THE SOUTHERN UNITED STATES

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SECRETARY-TREASURER : THOMAS M. NEAL

FIRST ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD IN OCTOBER

The first annual meeting of the Southern Lepidopterists will be held during the weekend of October 27-28 at the University of North Florida campus in Jacksonville. A brief and informal business meeting will begin the gathering, summarizing the past season's activities and setting forth plans for next season. The meeting will be held in room 2221, upstairs building 4 (Natural Sciences Department,) and will begin at 2:00 P.M. If you are planning to attend, please contact the Editor at 8442 Thor Street, Jacksonville, FL. 32216 or call Dave at (904) 646-2614 (work) or at (904) 724-8597 (home) after 9:00 P.M.

The UNF campus is a unique place to visit if you have not been in Jacksonville, and the campus is centered in the middle of a wildlife sanctuary in the middle of nowhere between Jacksonville and Jacksonville Beach, with easy access via the J. Turner Butler cutoff from I-95, or going south on St. Johns Bluff Road from Beach Blvd. Maps will be provided if you are not familiar with the area.

After the business meeting, we will go on some of the numerous nature trails on campus, and species/habitat discussions will keynote the walks. Foodplants will be pointed out for a number of species. John Watts and your editor have compiled a list of butterfly species present on campus, now numbering 86, for the "Sawmill Slough" Conservation Club on campus. The campus has a terrific plant diversity, and four well-defined environmental habitats, all within easy walking distance of one another, including swamp boardwalks. This should be interesting not only to members, but their families as well, and you are encouraged to bring them or other visitors with you. Refreshment will be provided, and if we have enough interest, we will hold a cookout on Saturday evening, followed by a blacklight party. A field trip will be scheduled for Sunday, pending weather, of course.

Don't miss this opportunity to meet many of those whom you have heard from or about during the past season - we only hold one annual meeting to get together! The opportunity to view many types of wildlife in the natural state is also possible, since the campus harbors a deer herd, wild hogs, alligators, fox squirrels, bobcats, and well over 100 species of birds. Armadillos are so common they were almost selected as the campus mascot (fortunately, we opted for the Osprey !)

CURRENT ZONE REPORTS

ZONE I : Coordinator, Abner Towers, 3260 Rilman Road., Atlanta, GA. 30327

Irving Finkelstein found a single Erora laeta along Duncan Ridge Road in the Cooper Creek Recreation Area on July 1st. As I currently understand, the area in which it was taken may be a new county record- regardless, a super find. On a trip with Hermann Flaschka July 3-4, Irving reported taking a male S. diana around midnight at a gas station light near Cumming. They stopped at a car lot near Buford, Gwinnett Co., and found numerous moths attracted by the lights there, including Hermann's first Catocala nebulosa, which probably is a new state record.

Steve Roman, Charlie Stevens, and Baggett stopped at Vogel State Park in Union Co. on July 9 en route home from a trip to Virginia, where we were admirably hosted by Leroy and Betty Koehn and joined by Denny Currutt, John Hyatt, Charles Watson, and Kevin Leonard and where we had hoped to find E. laeta & S. diana; unfortunately, the weather turned terrible, and we decided to stay at Vogel and try our luck at Cooper Creek. At Vogel, we found Lapara bombycoides, Paonias excaecatus, Catocala flebilis, C. gracilis, and C. micronympha at blacklight during the rainy evening. The following morning we managed a few hours of collecting at Cooper Creek before the rain resumed, and found S. diana (including a female), Lethe appalachia, Cercyonis pegala, Satyrium kingi, and S. c. falacer.

Hermann returned to the Buford spot several evenings during late July and early August, and recorded Catocala cerogama, C. residua, C. obscura, C. dejecta, C. ulalume, C. serena, C. illecta, C. palaeogama, and C. insolabilis among others, all of which are excellent moths and several of which probably represent range extensions and new records for Georgia.

ZONE II : Coordinator, Ron Gattelle, 126 Wells Road, Goose Creek, S. C., 29445

J.D. Christy and Irving visited the Savannah River Wildlife Refuge and found Problema bulenta on the wing in early August, and then drove to Savannah and located a dozen or so male Phyciodes texana seminole at the Agonic Road dump area. The area where Terry Arbogast showed me the colony of P.t.seminole was nearly overgrown with Kudzu several seasons ago, so this report is encouraging; a continuing investigation of this species indicates there are fewer than 25 active colonies of this butterfly throughout its known range at present. The species probably uses Ruellia caroliniensis as its southeastern host plant, based on surveys made at known colony sites, but this needs confirmation.

Leroy Koehn added the second state record for Georgia butterflies this season with Euphyes dukesi taken along with the Poanes viator mentioned in the last issue near Brunswick during May. Careful checking should turn up E. dukesi in more areas of South Carolina and coastal Georgia.

Ron recently determined a series of Coenonympha inornata taken near Westminster West, Vermont by Baggett on 22 August. The species was abundant in lower elevation pastures, and seems to be continuing its spread into New England, where it appears to be double-brooded.

Jim Maudsley of Athens, Ga. reported Papilio palamedes from Clarke Co. on April 15th., a new locality record for this species, and C. angulifera, E. imperialis, and A. luna at lights during August. Best mention was of a specimen of Erebus odora taken in Athens on 22 August, with the note that C. palaeogama was abundant on store fronts in the downtown area at the same time. Jim also mentioned that he had seen an orange Saturniid in daytime flight in the Okefenokee Swamp; this almost certainly was a female C. securifera; I have seen this on two occasions in Jacksonville, and David Ivey had earlier remarked to me that he had seen a female securifera in daytime flight in Seminole Co., Florida. Such observations are important.

ZONE III : Coordinator, Chuck Zeiger, 3751 Sommers St., Jacksonville, FL. 32205

Watts and Baggett each took a specimen of E. obscura during early September for a probable new county record, though E. ello appears frequently in the fall months in Duval Co. A check of Tom Neal's spot for Philosora catullus near Quincy, Gadsden Co., yielded specimens on August 11-12 for Baggett, Jeff Slotten, and Charlie Stevens in the soybean fields near the Agricultural Research Station.

Ben Gregory reported a female C. sepulchralis from Gainesville in late July, and at last word was rearing these from ova obtained. Watts found numerous Euphyes dion alabamae, E. arpa, and several male Poanes yehl at the UNF campus in early September, and is maintaining a close watch for E. dukesi.

Trips to Torreya State Park during July and August produced Catocala amatrix, C. ulalume, C. neogama, C. sappho, C. nebulosa, and about a dozen other species. Watts took a male Ceratomia amyntor in July on one trip. Haploa clymene was fairly common for Watts at checks of lights in Jacksonville during August.

Howard Weems informed me that the state legislature had approved a 1.2 million dollar package slated for improvements at the Division of Plant Industry, which will provide room for additional offices for entomologists and result in nearly tripling the current size of the arthropod museum. Our hearty congratulations to Dr. Weems, for this is something he has been working very hard for, and deserves.

Baggett took two Polites origines on Sept. 12 in Jacksonville on Pontedaria, along with a male Euphyes berryi.

ZONE IV : Coordinator, Steve Roman, 117 Masters Blvd., Winter Park, FL. 32792

Congratulations are in order for Steve, who tied the knot on August 4th. to the former Deborah Ann Decker. I understand that Debbie is a real "rock hound" with an avid interest in salamanders, so these two will make quite a pair! It's hard to get Steve in the woods these days without him turning over logs or rocks or wading through ditches searching for a new salamander species. The couple honeymooned in Mexico, and Steve managed to find time to chase down some 100 species of butterflies, though none in quantity. The trip was "definitely not intended as a collecting trip," to quote Mr. Roman.... best wishes from the staff to both.

"Woody" Dow reported he was rearing a Datana species on oak, probably D. major; Tom Neal and Jeff Slotten visited Terra Ceia, just south of St. Pete, on Sept. 9 and managed a couple of P. statira before getting rained out. The trip was intended as a search effort for possible tents or evidence of Megathymus cofaqui, but they were probably late for the second brood. Tom is convinced that one has to be a "masochist" to search for Yucca skippers, and anyone who has searched for them in tents may be inclined to agree, as it is like playing Russian roulette with the Yuccae spears, and sooner or later, they let you have it when you least expect it.

ZONE V : Coordinator, Terry Dickel, P.O. Box 385, Homestead, FL. 33030.

Terry and wife Lucie spent a considerable portion of their summer vacationing in Colorado and other areas of the country, and has come to the conclusion that teaching isn't so bad after all when one has nearly the entire summer off.

Chuck Zeiger, Baggett, and Stevens were down over the Labor Day weekend (we have to take our vacations when we can get them) in time to monitor Hurricane David, which promptly chased us all the way back up the east coast of Florida before smashing into the Savannah and Charleston areas. While in Homestead, we did manage to visit several areas, and found that Siproeta stelenes was again abundant in the grove areas, though somewhat local. On Zeiger's suggestion, we decided to search for the area where he had found the only U.S. record for Eurema chamberlaini some years ago; we did not find them, but did find Tmolus azia, Electrostrymon angelia, and Eurema dina helios near Costillow Hammock on Sept. 2nd.

While in Homestead, I noticed that Terry had added a few more Undulambia rarissima to his cabinet during August; Terry has been actively pursuing the S. Florida Micros, an area which truly needs more investigative effort.

Paul Tuskes (now in California) is preparing a paper discussing the life history of Aellopos tantalus. The life histories of several S. Florida Sphingids need clarification, another area which needs more close attention.

ZONE VI : Coordinator, Bryant Mather, 213 Mt. Salus Drive, Clinton, Mississippi 39056

The question of Callosamia securifera seems resolved, on confirmation by Ric Piegler at Texas A&M. An error concerning this in the last issue is corrected, as this represents a new county record, not a state record, since C. securifera has been reported from several counties in Mississippi. Presence of a known host plant does not necessarily confirm the presence of a specific species, but does indicate the possibility occurs. This was a little ambiguous in the way stated in the last issue.

Charles Bryson confirmed the host plant for Euphyes dukesi in Mississippi as Carex hyalinolepsis; hope he'll eventually put out a paper on this.

ZONE VII : Coordinator, Vernon Brou, Route 1, Box 74, Edgard, Louisiana 70049

Vernon reported that mothing in general is down from past seasons, but the state faunal list continues to grow. He recorded the 40th Sphingid species with Sphinx kalmiae, and added Catocala neogama, C. nebulosa, C. crataegi, and C. mesalina. Have you got a number on the current total, Vernon ?

He is working in conjunction with Doug Ferguson on the description of a new Saturniid species from Louisiana, and I understand some of the types were found on an offshore drilling rig in the Gulf !

I understand that Texas is being considered as the eighth Zone, and since we have several members in that state at present, we're all for hearing from Texas! Ed Knudson has offered his services, according to Tom Neal. How about it, Ed ? All we'll need is a brief report every three months. We'd like to hear from all of you.

Member Rob Dirig called to my attention that a limited edition print of the Karner Blue Butterfly (Lycaeides melissa samuelis Nabokov) has been issued by the Pine Bush Historic Preservation Project, Inc. and the Xerces Society. The painting shows two butterflies landed on the host plant, Wild Blue Lupine (Lupinus perennis), and is an excellent quality work suitable for framing.

Each print is signed and numbered by the artist, Ryland Loos, whose works have appeared in many periodicals and texts. The publication of the print was made possible through the generous assistance of member Marvyne Betsch of American Beach, Florida, who is extremely active in wildlife and habitat preservation efforts.

The price \$21.50, which includes postage and handling, with your check or money order made out to Pine Bush Historic Preservation Project, Inc., and mailed to P.O. Box 22820, 1400 Washington Avenue, Albany, N.Y. 12222.

Many of you are familiar with Rob through his efforts with T.I.E.G. in years past and through his recent activities with the Xerces Society.

Another new group dedicating itself to the study of the Lepidoptera of Ohio has been formed : the Society of Ohio Lepidopterists. For information regarding the

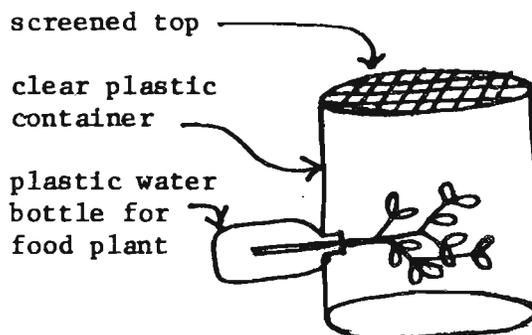
group, you may contact Eric Metzler, 1241 Kildale Square N., Columbus, OH 43229. Dues for the quarterly newsletter are \$5.00.

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NEW MEMBERS

Mark Meyers, 6456 N. Seeley, Chicago, Illinois 60645
 Julian J. Levasseur, 2113 Chadburn Rd., Huntsville, Alabama 35803
 Frank R. Bodnar, Box 52, Spring Church, Pennsylvania 15686
 Address Change : Linwood C. Dow, 803 Sullivan St., Ocoee, Florida 32761
 *** ***** ***

REARING TECHNIQUES FOR BUTTERFLIES, : Frank Fee & Richard Boscoe

Construct a container as shown in the illustration, and follow the instructions: Place the container containing one or two females near a window which gets the late afternoon sun. The females should become active, flying about and coming in frequent contact with the food plant, which generally will stimulate oviposition behavior. Be careful not to overheat them, or they will die. The confined females should be fed AM & PM daily with a sugar water or honey water solution.



For species overwintering as ova or pupae, the following procedures are recommended: shave eggs off food plant twigs (to reduce mold) and place on moist paper towelling in a clean margarine tub. Refrigerate in fall and keep moist until you bring out the eggs in spring. For pupae, the same procedure is followed, making sure to keep the pupae moist to prevent dessication. To artificially break diapause, you can remove pupae from cold storage after 3-4 months, place them on moist soil (potted plants work well) in an aquarium or other container. Use a 75-100 watt light bulb for heat and keep the light on for at least a 14 hour photoperiod. The adults will eclose in a week or so.

As newly hatched larvae come forth in the spring, you should try to provide only fresh new growth of tender leaves. Often larvae will refuse more mature growth in the early instars, particularly hairstreaks. New buds just breaking open with new growth are favored for both larval nutrition and concealment. All cuttings should be carefully washed and dried, and fresh food should be offered daily. Food plant material may be kept fresh indefinitely if stored in Zip-loc bags with a minimal amount of moisture. Zip-locs also make handy rearing containers for the larvae, and help prevent dessication of cuttings, and maintain a humid atmosphere. They are easily discarded for cleaning purposes and inexpensive. If you have petri dishes, these make excellent containers for first and second instar larvae.

In cases where the foodplant is not known, you can offer a variety of cuttings to the females for oviposition, or do likewise for the larvae if ova are obtained.

New moth records for Florida include Euthyatira pudens (1 April 1979, Torreya State Park, Liberty Co.), Psaphida grotei (Gainesville, Alachua Co.; Jacksonville, Duval Co.; Torreya State Park, Liberty Co.), Chorizagrotis auxilliaris agrestis (Gainesville, Alachua Co.), and Eutolyte grandis (Gainesville, Alachua Co.).

Additional records for Cerma cora : (Torreya State Park, Liberty Co., March and April). New butterfly record : Callophrys h. henrici, (17 March, Torreya State

Park, Liberty Co., in association with Redbud, leg. Robert Godefroi.)

The fall period could bring forth some surprises for the Gulf State members, especially after the recent hurricanes, which drove through the Dominican Republic, Cuba, and the Antilles.

I have records this September for Anartia jatrophae guantanamo, Battus polydamas, and Phoebis philea for Jacksonville, species which have been scarce in north Florida for the past several seasons, though previously established here before the two bad winter seasons several years ago. I hope to get down to S. Florida during the fall months on several occasions, when the local Leps begin to fade for the season.

Rick Gilmore informed me that the plant on which the Deidamia inscriptum larvae were found was later determined to be Sourwood, Oxydendrum sp., not persimmon as earlier reported. Thanks for the correction. An effort will always be made to emend or update any erroneous information, and it is certainly not our policy to put forth bad information: call any mistakes to our attention! I suppose I could plead temporary insanity (one has to be partially insane to even attempt putting together such a publication), but will leave it at that. Only after you have tried doing this sort of thing can you truly appreciate the effort required. Sometimes I think this could be called a crash course in premature senility. Hopefully, the editing will improve.

I have done some work recently and have already begun to lay out ideas for a new and improved format for the News beginning with the March 1980 issue. There have been several excellent suggestions from members, and I am grateful for these. I appreciate any constructive criticism which in turn will result in making our publication better. Got any more suggestions? I'll be glad to respond.

The SOUTHERN LEPIDOPTERISTS' NEWS
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