

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

CHAIRMAN-EDITOR : DAVE BAGGETT SECRETARY-TREASURER : THOMAS M. NEAL

MAJOR CHANGES IN STORE FOR 1980 FOR SOUTHERN LEPIDOPTERISTS

The first annual meeting of the Southern Lepidopterists was held the weekend of October 27-28 on the University of North Florida campus, with a field trip to several north Florida localities following the meeting. The turnout was lighter than anticipated, but those who made it enjoyed the camaraderie : in attendance were Dr. Dale Habeck, Jeff Slotten, Debbie McSwain, Dr. Hermann Flaschka, Charlie Stevens, Chuck Zeiger, Tom Neal, Steve Roman, Rick Gilmore, John Watts, Ernie Martin, Woody Dow, Dr. Lee Adair, and myself.

A brief summarization of 1979 goals and achievements was presented, and we remarked on the rapid growth of the new group. Eventually we can achieve all of our aspirations, but this will take time. Our biggest and most obvious gain has been in the area of improved communications between members living in the south. We have achieved very workable links in most states within the region, and have received encouragement and support from members living outside the original Zones. Our first season has been largely experimental and organizational in scope. At the meeting we decided on Zone re-arrangement as provided in the charter. In 1980 we will have only five Zones : Florida will be reduced to a single Zone, and Georgia and Texas (a westward expansion) will be independent Zones. South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia will serve as a new Zone, and we will combine the states of Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee (additional expansions.) This arrangement will allow for maximum input from members in the southern U.S., and will strengthen areas weak in member support. We now encompass all of the Zone 6 region of the Lepidopterists' Society, plus Texas, and anticipate little future expansion. We will again call for changes at the 1980 meeting; channel opinions to the staff.

Members present at the meeting opted for retention of the current staff and coordinators during 1980. Plans are now underway for holding the next meeting during August in the mountains of northern Georgia to allow for more member participation outside of the Florida membership stronghold. Each future issue will contain some details as they become more definite, which should allow for more advance planning concerning members wishing to attend and participate. We look forward to meeting more of you next season there; try to contact others in areas you are interested in visiting for spring and summer outings. Let's get rolling in 1980 !

Tom Neal provided a complete financial breakdown for the group as follows :

		1979	1980	1981
Income :	Dues	\$ 309.00	9.00	3.00
	Donations	162.00		
Total Income :			\$ 483.00	
1979 Expenditures (October)	Postage		43.00	
	Printing		132.85	
	Checks		10.61	
	Serv. Chg.		.53	
Total Expenditures			186.99	
Current Assets			296.01	
Liabilities			0.00	
Net Worth			\$ 296.01	

All things considered, it is remarkable to find ourselves "in the black" at this stage to this degree. Discussion following the financial report indicated that the Lepidopterists' Society will become the beneficiary of all assets should the group falter in the future. A worthwhile secondary proposal suggested by Gilmore called for the purchase of useful communal equipment which might be utilized by any member of the group on a first-come, first-served basis with limitations. The first wise suggestion will be the purchase of a decent camera and accessories necessary for recording life histories or making photos suitable for publication. Of course we do not yet have this sort of excess funding, but feel it will be a worthwhile future consideration. The Secretary-Treasurer will be guardian of such equipment. The matter will be brought under careful discussion at the next meeting, when we can review other possible suggestions or objections. Only items which could provide service to the group at large should be entered.

A number of 1979 members were awarded full charter status with the group as a gesture of appreciation during the inaugural season for their support. We need to show support for those who acknowledge that their input is a necessary part of making our publication useful and informative. Charter certificates will be mailed with this issue to those respective individuals so recognized. We will continue to recognize contributors with annual certificates of appreciation, and an award will be developed for presentation to the member making the most significant contribution to the knowledge of Lepidoptera in the South, the recipient to be voted upon via nomination at future meetings.

The final topic of discussion at the meeting was the presentation of a prototype of the new group logo, which will be unveiled to all members with the March issue. This particular issue is late in development, partially due to the Christmas season mail problems, and partially due to the fact that I felt it would be nice to include the results of several trips to South Florida during the holiday period.

Following the business meeting, the group spent some time enjoying the UNF nature preserve, where a number of habitat associations were explained, and a number of host plants were pointed out to the members present. A cookout followed on the campus green beside the lake, where we enjoyed further socializing and a fine sunset. The prospect of blacklighting was cut short due to unseasonably cool weather and a very clear evening; most came over to the Editor's home for more discussion. On Sunday, we visited several north Florida localities in the Gainesville and Williston areas,

during which period we recorded 38 butterfly species, including Hesperia attalus, Hesperia meskei, Poanes viator, Polites baracoa, Atlides halesus, Parrhasius m-album (formerly Panthiades), and Lethe portlandia, with the latter the only species of any number. Also recorded were Cosmosoma myrodora, Utethesia bella, and several species of the Noctuid genus Schinia. All things considered, an enjoyable gathering for all who attended - try to make next year's meeting!

Dr. Dale Habeck notified the group of the planned events concerning the 1980 Lepidopterists' Society Meeting in Gainesville, which is shaping up as an event you will not want to miss! Following the business calendar and special topic symposiums, a trip is being organized to Ecuador to collect in both lowland and mountain habitats, under the leadership of Dr. Tom Emmel. There are over 600 species of butterflies and skippers known from the region, and great promise exists for those with interests in moths as well. The tentative cost for the expedition will be in the neighborhood of \$500.00, including air fare, local transportation, meals, and lodging; a very exceptional package, so begin laying plans now for mid-June.

CURRENT ZONE REPORTS

Zone I, Abner Towers, Coordinator

A number of Atlanta area members achieved good success at rearing Speyeria diana from ova obtained from specimens captured in August. The Diana Fritillary requires special techniques to "trick" the diapausing larvae into believing that spring has arrived in order for them to complete the larval stage. Done properly, one can obtain adults around the New Year period. Hermann Flaschka revealed that he has had some success with artificial diets for raising several species, including Megathymus yuccae. (We enjoyed Hermann's wit and conversation at the meeting !) Charles Watson turned in the state confirmation for Celastrina ebenina in Tennessee, and called to my attention that Harry Clench had mentioned that Edwards had rather vaguely attributed the species to both Tennessee and Georgia. One down, and one to go ! Based on current efforts by Atlanta members, the probability looks promising.

Zone II, Ron Gatrell, Coordinator

Rick Gilmore visited Ron during mid-July , and successfully located some fine underwing moths, including Catocala sappho, C. ulalume, C. robinsonii, C. agrippina, C. cara, and C. muliercula, but complained that he had missed a probable C. marmorata, a prize among eastern collectors. Most were flushed from trees, taken at bait, or found at a sapping oak tree after dark. John Coffman reported he had taken three Sphinx franckii and three Sphinx kalmiae, and that visitor Howard Romack from New York had taken a Sphinx pinastri , all during July in Rockingham County, Virginia. John bemoaned the fact that the S. pinastri may be the only one he sees in his entire lifetime !

Zone III, Chuck Zeiger, Coordinator

Jeff Slotten continues to amaze the north Florida locals, this time with Euphyes dukesi on 23 September at Shell Bluff Landing, Flagler County, one of your Editor's favorite collecting localities for a number of years. This is one of two new county records for the species in this issue. He also reported Autochton cellus during August and September in the ravine areas around Gainesville.

Jeff also reported that he had taken Darapsa versicolor in Gainesville during both July and August, and that he had found cocoons of Callosamia securifera on Sweet Bay ; he found adults of Hemileuca maia on the wing near Melrose on December 23rd. Look for the Buck Moth during the winter months in Turkey/Myrtle Oak scrub areas. Tom Neal provided a fine list of moths taken in Gainesville, including Eubaphe mendica (Geometridae) on 23 October; Pseudosphinx tetrio on 11 November (a probable northern record for Florida); Melipotis acantiodes on 6 November; and Oreta rosea on 23 Oct. and 19 Nov. Baggett took a series of a moth tentatively believed to be Sunira bicolorago at bait during early December in Jacksonville.

Zone IV, Steve Roman, Coordinator

Ernie Martin took a fine specimen of Pseudosphinx tetrio at Walt Disney World on 24 September. Woody Dow also provided an excellent list of specimens taken this fall, including the second new county record for Euphyes dukesi : 30 September and 2 October near Winter Springs, Seminole County; also taken at the same locality were Poanes zabulon on 6 October (southern record) and Staphylus hayhurstii on 30 Sept. Other moths he reported included Protambulyx carteri at Terra Ceia, Manatee County, on 13 October; Cisthene subjecta and C. plumbea (Arctiidae) at Kelly Park in Rock Springs and in Ocoee between August and October; Pyrausta tyralis, Ascoides gordius, and Hymenia recurvalis (Pyralidae) during the same period. It is difficult to include all records listed by contributors, but these lists provide a lot of information useful in compiling overall records. Such lists will be forwarded to the appropriate record keeper, where applicable.

Zone V, Terry Dickel, Coordinator

Chuck Zeiger and Bob Godefroi visited the Ross and Castellow Hammock located near Goulds (I've seen no less than 4 different spellings of Castellow since the last issue, including my version, which was wrong....) during mid-November and reported finding Eurema dina helios, Siproeta stelenes, Chlorostrymon simaethis, Parrhasius m-album, and Electrostrymon angelia. During the Thanksgiving holidays Rick Gilmore, Lee Adair, Charlie Stevens, Jeff Slotten, and Baggett recorded 63 butterfly species in Dade and Monroe Counties, including Danaus eresimus tethys near Florida City and E. angelia at Castellow Hammock, Bauer Hammock, and on Stock Island; also recorded were 13 Sphingid species, including Perigonia lusca, Eumorpha labruscae, and Madoryx pseudothryeus over flowers at dawn and dusk on Key Largo, as well as a number of Aellopos tantalus over flowers of Ernodea littoralis on Big Pine Key.

Richard Boscoe, John Coffman, Irving Finkelstein, Chuck Zeiger, Terry Dickel, and Baggett collected in the same general areas between Christmas and New Years, and recorded 59 butterfly species. Irving commented on the abundance of Phyciodes frisia and Dryas julia on Key Largo ; also found on Key Largo were the Pericopid moth Composia fidelissima, Chlorostrymon maesites (one specimen taken by Zeiger on 27 December, the first from Key Largo in several years), C. simaethis, Staphylus hayhurstii, Asbolis capucinus, and Phocides pigmalion okeechobee. We found Sphingid collecting off on this trip due to cool temperatures, with the exception of Cautethia grotei over Eupatorium flowers before dusk. We did find one Erebus odora at lights, and Lymire edwardsii, Melipotis acantiodes, Automeris io lilith, and Eupseudosoma involutum floridum. Two significant things occurred on the last trip, with Richard Boscoe obtaining ova of Electrostrymon angelia on Brazillian Pepper (Schinus sp.), now larvae, unveiling another previously unknown life history and helping explain the expansion of this species in south Florida. The second observation was watching Siproeta stelenes ovipositing on Blechnum brownei in Homestead, confirming this a host plant in Florida.

Zone VI, Bryant Mather, Coordinator

Bryant provided a list of the 44 species of Catocala moths known from the state of Mississippi, complete with breakdown via Lorenz curve of each respective species taken. He reported that Sthenopsis auratus had been taken by Charles Bryson near Reliance, Polk Co., Tennessee on 9 May. New state records for Mississippi include the moths Mooralia tinctoides, Zale unilineata, Horama panthalon texana, and a species of Afrida, probably ydatodes. He complained of the lack of good specialists capable of performing routine determinations of Microlepidoptera, the biggest headache for all moth collectors. If you know of others out there somewhere who can help out in this regard, don't hesitate to contact us.

Zone VII, Vernon Brou, Coordinator

Vernon is still awaiting word on the determinations of some 200 species presumed to be new from the state of Louisiana, and also commented that he now has in the neighborhood of 725 species and subspecies of worldwide Sphingidae. He included photos of several Catocala species, including one which I believe will be later positively determined as C. lincolnana, which is currently known from few specimens taken in Texas, Florida, and North Carolina. The C. crataegi complex is poorly known from the south, and understood even less. He also included photos of the Sphingids Eumorpha posticatus and Eumorpha intermedia. E. posticatus was erringly reduced to synonymy with E. satellitia by Hodges (1971); it is obviously quite distinctive, and has been recorded from Miami, Florida. E. intermedia has been a subject of considerable debate in recent years; a paper by Brou discusses genitalic differences and compares the species with its sibling, E. pandorus, which it very closely resembles. E. intermedia is approximately 10% smaller in wingspan, more suffused with dark scaling on the upper HW, and the underside is generally pink-to-beige in coloration compared to the distinctive green of E. pandorus. The known range extends from Texas to South Carolina, and Southeastern collectors should carefully examine specimens of pandorus.

Ed Knudson has confirmed that he will assist in providing records and information from eastern Texas during 1980 for the group. Ed is primarily interested in moths, but is in close contact with a number of Texas butterfly collectors as well. Texas can boast of some very fine Lepidopterists, and we hope to benefit from more new memberships in that state during the next season. Certainly this is a state of high interest to many Lep. enthusiasts, and we look forward to new acquaintances there.

Charlie Covell commented on a highly successful annual meeting and fall field trip to SW Kentucky. The group recorded 46 butterfly species, including a new state record with Poanes yehi, as well as adding to the very limited records for the following from Kentucky: Lethe portlandia missarke, Lethe appalachia, and Euphyes dion. Look for one of the Kentucky Lepidopterists to locate a colony of Euphyes dukesi in the near future. One can best seek out new species by attempting to compare various known habitat associations with new localities.

Terry Dickel and I are looking forward to visits from Charle Kimball upon his return from Uruguay in February. He reported the following new Florida state records for moths: Pyrrhia umbra, Acronycta rubricoma, and Coleophora manitoba.

Changes in both style and format are in store for the 1980 season, to be effective with the March issue of the News. All contributors should send information directly to the Editor or channel information through appropriate Coordinators. All new changes of address and dues should be sent directly to the Secretary-Treasurer, Tom Neal. This reminder for 1980 dues, the only dues notice for this season, is now in effect. Dues are retroactive to the first of each calendar year; back issues are available through the Secretary. Please take note and comply before the March issue, or you may not make the new mailing list. A clip-and-mail form is included on the back page.

RESEARCH REQUEST : Needed: viable ova or pupae of Papilio glaucus and Callosamia promethea from any portion of their known range. Precise geographical locations and local host plant information should be included. Correspondence welcome. contact Dr. Mark Scriber, c/o Dept. of Entomology, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin 53706. Dr. Scriber is also interested in Hyalophora cecropia, Callosamia angulifera, and Callosamia securifera.

NOTICE : The Pupaper is back in circulation on a monthly basis, based on demand. This is a service provided by John Coffman, Rt. 1, Box N153, Timberville, Virginia 22853 for those having live material for exchange wishing to advertise, and for those seeking specifics. Contact John if interested. Member fees are \$5.00, and members may devise their own ads for circulation. The Pupaper acknowledges USDA import/export regulations.

NOTICE : Plant samples will be identified on a limited basis, aside from grasses, if you can provide reasonable samples, meaning including flowers, seed pods, stems, and leaves . This will include locality and date information, and is restricted to states within the southeastern region of the U.S. Herbaceous plants, shrubs, and trees are included. Send prepared samples to Dave Baggett, 8442 Thor Street, Jacksonville, Fl 32216. I have two excellent botanists at my disposal for the next six months, so let's take advantage of their expertise. Plant specimens should be pressed if possible to preserve characters, mailed inside two sheets of heavy cardboard, boxed and padded with sufficient folded newspaper to insure reasonable arrival condition. All samples sent will go on permanent file. Native plants only, please.

We have much to look forward to during the 1980 season ; new places to visit, new people to meet, new Lepidoptera to find, and new information to provide. I should mention that those of you seeking limited collecting privileges on Florida State Parks, aside from those fully restricted, should renew your field permits with the Florida Department of Natural Resources. The permits last from 1 January to 31 December and must be renewed on request. To do so, you should contact Maj. Jim Stevenson, Chief Naturalist, Florida Division of Recreation and Parks, Department of Natural Resources, 202 Blount Street, Tallahassee, Florida, 32304. If you had a permit last season, please include a list of all butterflies recorded on Florida Parks last season, with appropriate notes. This is, after all, a cooperative venture with which relies on both parties. I'll take this time to thank those with DNR who have helped during the season, as well as those with the Florida Division of Plant Industry at Gainesville, which houses the Florida State Collection of Arthropods. By working together, we can accomplish a heck of a lot, but this is no easy task.

NEW MEMBERS AND CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Robert Belmont
3301 SW 13th. Street, S266
Gainesville, FL 32608

Nell Backus
2626 NW 12th. Avenue
Gainesville, FL 32605

Jeff Slotten
914 SW 6th. Avenue
Gainesville, FL 32601

Richard Boscoe
150 Ridge Pike, Apt. 201
Lafayette Hill, PA 19444

Frank Fee
308 S. Corl
State College, PA 16801

Ernie Martin
803 Sullivan Street
Ocoee, FL 32761

Dr. J. Mark Scriber
Dept. of Entomology
University of Wisconsin
Madison, Wisconsin 53706

Dr. Larry N. Brown
Dept. of Biology
University of South Florida
Tampa, FL 33620

Thomas W. Carr
10430 Airport Highway, Lot 184
Swanton, OH 43558

James M. Dupes
2832 Arapahoe Avenue
Jacksonville, FL 32210

Robert Godefroi
2101 Brickell Avenue, Apt. 315A
Miami, FL 33129

Roger Heitzman
3405-13 Tulane Drive
Hyattsville, MD 20732

Abner Towers
Box 127
Powder Springs, GA 30027

L. Joseph Melton
925 6th. Avenue SW
Rochester, Minnesota 55901

Rob Dirig
Pine Bush Historical Preservation Project
P. O. Box 22820
Albany, NY 12222

I will again call to members' attention the fact that the Florida State Collection of Arthropods is engaged in building a representative collection of preserved immature stages of Lepidoptera. You can obtain limited quantities of glass shell vials in 3 and 10 dram sizes from the Editor for the cost of mere postage. Requests will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis until the supply is exhausted. You will have to provide your own corks or stoppers. The current supply is 24 Gross picked up at a fire sale for the incredible fee of 50¢ - far more than I will use in some time. Take advantage of this while the offer exists. The only stipulation will be that you will be willing to donate a portion of your future immatures to the FSCA.....not a bad deal. We need many of even the common species, and through the course of rearing, often you can spare a larvae here or there for posterity. I'll enclose directions.

CLIP AND MAIL NOW : 1980 DUES NOTICE. Please take heed and return this along with your check or money order for \$3.00 to Tom Neal, 1416 NW 2nd. Street, Gainesville, FL 32601.

Name _____

Dues _____

Address _____

Contributions _____

Interests _____

Comments concerning the newsletter _____

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c/o the Editor, Dave Baggett
8442 Thor Street
Jacksonville, FL 32216