

# Kentucky Lepidopterist

Newsletter of the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists

Volume 24, Number 2 April 1998

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# President's Message

As this is being written (in mid-March), it seems like winter is having one last fling before yielding to warmer spring weather and the start of the Lepidoptera season. In my neck of the woods, January and February were in mildest on record, with high temperatures getting well above 50 degrees F. toward the end of February. Had it not been so rainy, I surely would have been out doing one of my favorite things, baiting for adult-overwintering Noctuid moths.

I thought spring had arrived for sure on March 1, when I found an unusually early Spring Cankerworm moth (*Palecrita vernata*) under the porch light. However, March can be a cruel month in Wisconsin, and this one certainly lived up to its reputation, by dumping almost a foot of heavy, wet snow on the 7th, and then turning sharply colder, with low temperatures hovering just above zero. The prospects of an early season don't seem too good at this point, but anything can happen with this unusual weather.

As you may have surmised by now, I'm eager to get out into the field. One of the attractions of studying moths is that the field season can be two or three months longer than that for butterflies. The extremely early and late parts of the season are poorly documented in many areas, and a number of interesting and infrequently encountered moth species may be found in otherwise well-known areas. Also, early spring or late fall are very pleasant times to be outdoors, free of mosquitoes, blackflies and other pesky critters.

The genera *Lithophane* and *Eupsilia* belong to the *Noctuid* sub-family *Cuculliinae*, in which a large portion of the species emerge in late fall and spend the winter as adults, laying their eggs in early spring. They are best attracted to sugar bait, and generally become active when the temperature is at or above 50 degrees F.

Eupsilia species are particularly cold-hardy. I have found them to be active even before all the snow has melted. The most extreme experience I've had with these moths was on 25 January 1981 near Madison, WI. Ordinarily, this is the coldest part of winter, but it had been abnormally warm for a couple of days, so I decided to see if any moths could be active. I had to wade through a nearly knee-deep snow drift to get to the bait trail, and as I was applying the bait, the temperature was already dropping the mid-40s. Amazingly, several specimens of Eupsilia vinulenta and E. morrisoni did manage to find my bait.

By going out when these unusual winter thaws occur, I've been able to document moth activity in my area in every month of the year. Incidentally, these moths can become somewhat of a nuisance in maple syrup producing areas like

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Wisconsin, as they are attracted to the sap buckets on the tapped trees, and sometimes become stuck inside them. Fortunately, I've never heard of anyone having a drowned moth show up in their pancake syrup.

Les Ferge, President

# New Members

Elizabeth E. Boyd, 8502 Shelbyville Road, Louisville, KY 40222; Phone 502-425-0442 (w), 394-0179 (h). She is interested in butterfly gardening and watching; conservation and preservation of habitat are her major interests.

Keith Summerville, 319 North Elm Street, Oxford, OH 45056; hone 1-5130529-5811 (w), 524-8996 (h). "I like to collect insects from a variety of groups. My favorite Lepidoptera groups are butterflies, skippers in the genus *Erynnis*, and noctuid moths (especially genus *Papaipema*."

## Correction of Address

Les Ferge, **7**119 Hubbard Avenue, Middleton, WI 53562, e-mail: lesferge@jun**o**.com Please note the highlighted street address and e-mail area correction. The Editor typo'ed.

## Change of Address

Loran and Pat Gibson, 2727 Running Creek Drive, Florence, KY 41042; Phone 1-606-382-0083

# Book Review

## Caterpillars of Eastern Forests

by David L. Wagner, Valerie Giles, Richard C. Reardon, and Michael L. McManus, USDA-Forest Service, FHTET-96-34, Nov. 1997.

The Forest Health Technology Environment Team publication has 113 pages and paper cover. The color figures are superb, representing 210 of the 245 moth and butterfly species treated in the work are illustrated. Sections on the importance, collecting, rearing, preserving, photographing, etc. of Lepidoptera caterpillars are included.

Order your FREE copy by writing:

Allen T. Bullard, Director, FHTET Morgantown, 190 Canfield St., Morgantown, WV 26505, or phone 1-304-285-1563, or FAX 1-304-285-1505.

(ed. note: Charlie Covell sent the above and before including it, I thought it wise to FAX for it to check the FAX number, how FREE it was, and what the turn around time was. It is all that it is advertised to be, plus. It is a wonderful 8 1/2" x 11" book of magnificent color. Caterpillars for the most part were hand raised and are show in appropriate leaves. And Charlie was one of the advisers on the book.)

# Spring Field Trip

The Spring Field Trip will be held in Laurel County, southeastern Kentucky on the weekend of April 17-19, under the leadership of Loran Gibson.

Saturday, April 18,Loran said that we will spend the day searching for spring butterflies in the Laurel Lake area. Anyone interested in locating larvae of small moths, especially Olethreutes species is welcome to accompany Loran on his wanderings.

Butterflies which should be present include the Swallowtails, Erynnis skippers, Hesperia metea, Elfins (I. henrici, I. augustus). West Virginia whites and Gemmed Satyrs are usually common in this area. There is always the possibility of seeing a White M Hairstreak.

Loran advised. "Photograph all you want, but collectors, as always, should be conservative!"

Blacklighting for moths will be available for anyone interested on Saturday evening. Join Loran at one of several of his alltime favorite collecting sites. Details for blacklighting and for the following day's activities will be made on Saturday.

If you are planning on going, Loran would like to hear form you and will send a map. Call, after 5:00 pm Eastern time) at 606-384-0083, or e-mail at: kymothman@juno.com.

When: Saturday, April 18, 9:00-10:00am Eastern time, gather.

Where: Bald Rock Picnic Area, KY Route 192, Daniel Boone National Forest. Exit I-75, exit 38, west on Ky Route 192 for approximately 11 miles. The picnic area is at the site of the old Bald Rock Fire Tower (on the right).

**Food:** Lunch will be in the field, so bring what you need. A couple of small country stores are located in the immediate area, but little else.

**Lodging:** There are many locations from which to choose.

### Motels:

Best Western, I-75 & KY Rte. 80, exit 41, 1-800-528-1234 \$51-single; \$70-double

Hampton Inn, I-75 & KY Rte. 192, exit 38, 1-800-HAMPTON \$60-king/1 person; \$70 -king/2 persons; \$72 2 doubles

Days Inn, I-75 & KY Rte. 192, exit 38, 1-800-DAYS-INN \$50 single; \$61 double

Budget, I-75 & KY Rte. 80, exit 41, 1-800-283-4678 \$37 single; \$44 double

(This is Loran's choice and he added that it was clean, good value and to CALL EARLY!")

### Camping:

Holly Day Rec. Area (USDA-Forest Service)...very nice!

Tent per night - \$7: Full hook-up per night - \$14

Call 1-800-280-CAMP for reservations and Information

First Name La	Last Name	Dues	Dues Address	City, State, Zip	Home Phone	Work Phone I	E-mail address
Keith. Su	Summerville,	pd98,	pd98, 319 North Elm St.,	Oxford OH 45056.	H-(513)524-8996, W-(513)529-5811	W-(513)529-5811.	
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Roger A. Ze		pd98,	pd98, 675 B Sprague Rd.,	Wilmington OH 45177.			
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Library. A	Acquisitions,	pd98,	pd98, Smithsonian Institution, 10th & Constitution Ave.,	Washington DC 20560.			
	Society,	EX,	4828 SE Hawthorne Blvd.,	Portland OR 97215-3252.			
Sociedad. M	Mexicana,	Ę,	de Entomologia, Apartado Postal 63, 91000 Xalapa,	Veracruz MEXICO.			
-		Ę,	Allyn Museum of Entomology, 3621 Bay Shore Road,	Sarasota FL 34234.			
			PLEASE SEND CORRECTIONS TO JOHN ENZ ABOVE				

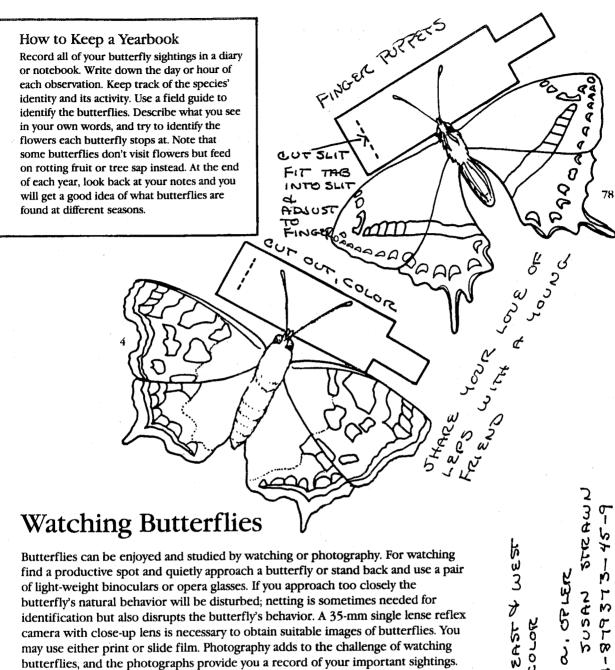
Kentucky Society of Lepidopterists
Dr. Charles Covell, Treasurer
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Louisville, KY USA 40292-0001

I value my membership in The Kentucky Society of Lepidopterists and want to continue as a member in good standing. I am enclosing my membership dues of \$10.00, which are payable November of each year.π

TelephoneFAX	Address	Name

Dues   Address   City, State, Zip   Home Phone   Pho						
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rt W.         Schaumleffel, pd98, 417 E, State St.,         Olean NY 14760.           A.         Shuey, pd98, 1131 S. Harison,         Olean NY 14760.           A.         Sisto, pd99, 170 Skylark Drive,         Paducah KY 42001.           Ite.         Slocomb, pd98, 219 W 68th St.,         Paducah KY 4001.           It.         Slocomb, pd98, 219 W 68th St.,         Mansas City MO 64113.         H-(816)523-2948.           It.         Smith Jr., pd98, 531 Whippoonwill Dr., pd98, 1950 South Main St.,         Mansfield OH 44907.         H-(419)756-410.           E.         Smith, pd98, 1950 South Main St., pd98, 2193 Becks Knob Rd. SW,         Mansfield OH 43130-9204.         H-(614)653-9878.           A.         Stoops, pd97, 2412 Ashwood Drive.         Lancaster OH 43130-9204.         H-(502)454-5660.	Ġ.	pd9/		Charleston SC 29424	H-(803)856-0186	W-/803)953-5451 scholtensh@cotc.edii
Shuey,         pd98, 1131 S. Harison,         Shelbyville IN 46176.           Sisto,         pd99, 170 Skylark Drive,         Paducah KY 42001.           Slocomb,         pd98, 219 W 68th St.         Kansas City MO 64113.         H-(816)523-2948.           Smith Jr.         pd98, 51 Whippoorwill Dr.         Morehead KY 40351.         H-(606)784-7342.           Smith,         pd98, 1950 South Main St.         Mansfield OH 44907.         H-(614)653-878.           Ird.         Speer,         pd98, 2193 Becks Knob Rd. SW,         Lancaster OH 43130-9204.         H-(614)653-866.           Stoops.         pd97, 2412 Ashwood Drive.         Louisville KY 40205.         H-(502)454-5660.		pd98		Olean NY 14760.		,
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Address         City, State, Zip           1702 Crow Valley Rd., Alp. #704, 9255 Hemnepin County Rd. 6.         Dalton GA 30720.           9255 Hemnepin County Rd. 6.         St. Patersburg FL 33702.           4317 Brockhaven Ave., 1005 Hed Bud Drive.         St. Patersburg FL 33702.           8251 Steolier, 2017 Rave. Stv.         St. Patersburg FL 33702.           8219 Mocasain Trall.         Rottage MI 49024.           8219 Mocasain Trall.         Portage MI 49024.           8219 Mocasain Trall.         Portage MI 49024.           8219 Mocasain Trall.         Portage MI 49024.           821 Steibyille Rd.         Portage MI 49024.           Mississippi State MS 39762.         Rt Lauderdale FL 33334.           822 Old Circlard Rd.         Ballimore MD 21229.           Ballimore MD 21229.         Ballimore MD 21229.           1940 Dept. of Zoologis, Univ. of Louisville, Created of Parana Caixa, Postal 1902 81331 Curillar—Brasil.         Louisville KY 40326.           1904 Woodside Way.         Hornal Maller Respectives, 1762 Upper Twin Rock Rd.         Inchangen KY 40516.           1905 Ros 2810.         Hornal Rock Rd.         Inchangen KY 40218.           1905 Ros 2810.         Hornal Rock Rd.         Inchangen KY 40218.           1904 Ros XI 3309.         Louisville KY 40356.           1904 Ros XI 3309.         Ros XI 3309.	City, State, Zip   City, State, Zip   City, State, Zip   Dalton GA 30720.   Maple Plain MN   Maple Plain MN   Maple Plain MN   St. Petersburg FL 33702.   St. Petersburg FL 33702.   St. Petersburg FL 33702.   Coulswille KY 40220.   Portage MI 49024.   Portage MI 49027.   Portage MI 49028.   Portage MI 49	City, State, Zip   City   State, Zip   City   State, Zip   Maple Plain MN   Maple Plain M	Rudy.   Naprieke,   pd96,   2818 Hoo	C. Illiner, page,	Https://pusi.	L	Hutti nd97	Hummer pd97.	l, pd98,	Hooper, pd98,	+	Heppner, pd98,	A. Henderson, pd98,	Harrington, pd97,	pd98,	land E. Giradet, pd98,	-	d Pat. Gibson, pd98,	Gianelloni, pd98,	l awrence F Gall nd 01 Computer	v.M. Fraser, pd97,	Fonda, pd98,	Ferge, pd98,	ard. Fellows. pd98,	pd97,	K. Ettman, pd97,	Enz, pd98,	Thomas C. Emmel. pd98. Dept. of Z	A. III. Drummond, pas/,	Dixit, pd9/,	Dirig, pd98,	pd97,	Davidson, pd97,	s V. Jr. Covell, pd98,	Mirna Casarrande EX Dento do	Carr ndo7	nard L. Brown, pd97,	Boyd, pd98,	Ron, pd98,	Bodnar, pd97,	Bloch, pd 98,	am R. Black Jr., pd98,	Belmont, pd00,	Belcher. pd98.	George Balogh pd97, 4317 biookid	A. Anderson, pd 97,	Ahrenholx, pd 98,	Adams, pd 98,	rirst Name Last Name Dues Address	- Namo
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butterflies, and the photographs provide you a record of your important sightings. You should also maintain a notebook of your observations.

Butterflies can be found in most areas from April through September. Butterflies may be found in southern Florida and South Texas throughout the year, and in northern Canada the butterfly season doesn't begin until late May. Each kind of butterfly has its own flight time and habitat. During the day most butterflies may be found from 9 AM to about 4 PM.

To find all of the butterflies near where you live you will have to visit each of the different kinds of habitats at different times of spring, summer, and early fall. You will be rewarded by finding almost all of the local species. Use the knowledge learned near your home to more easily find butterflies when you travel around the U.S. and Canada.

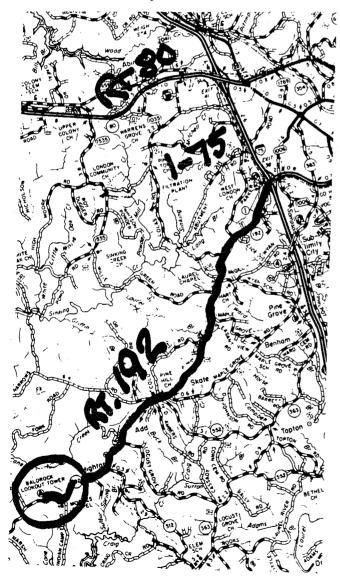
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Its Coming, really

Charlie Covell assured me that *The Butterflies and Moths* (Lepidoptera) of Kentucky is nearing preparation, after some editing and manuscript preparation by Ellis Laudermild, at the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission. This is a work that has been in the works for many, many years and will be well worth the few extra months.

At least 2,381 species in 65 families will be included. Charlies says to stay tuned for information on the release date and how you can obtain a copy.

## Laurel County & Bald Rock Site



# Other Trips

## Bernheim Forest

The Spring Butterfly Walk at Bernheim Forest on Saturday, April 11 (Easter Saturday)). Charlie Covell will lead a walk with effort on learning to identify butterflies without collecting them as long as there are people interested in attending.

Please contact trip leader Charlie Covell, Dept. of Biology, University of Louisville, Louisville, KY 40292; Phone1-502-852-6771; e-mail: cvcover01@ulkyvm.louisville.edu.

July Fourth Butterfly Count

The 15th Annual July 4th Butterfly Count will be conducted at the Horner Wildlife Santuary, July 4, 1998, 10:00 am-3:00pm eastern time.

Anyone wishing to participate - either as counter, recorders, or learners - please contact trip leader Charlie Covell, Dept. of Biology, University of Louisville, Louisville, KY 40292; Phone1-502-852-6771;

e-mail: cvcover01@ulkyvm.louisville.edu.

Charlie said that we will meet at the General Store in Brownsboro, one mile north of I-71, exit 14, at 9:30 am.

## Mammoth Cave Survey

The Kentucky Chapter-The Nature Conservancy is sponsoring a Lepidopter survey at Mammoth Cave National Park this year in cooperation with the National Park Service.

The survey will attempt to list the species of Lepidoptera in above-ground sites in the Park that are prairie remnants worthy of management by TNC. Involved are Margaret Shea of TNC, Charles V. Covell, Jr., and University of Louisville Ph.D. student Paul Florence.

## Pine Creek Nature Preserve

The Kentucky Chapter-The Nature Conservancy is sponsoring a Lepidoptera Field Trip to Pine Creek Nature Preserve, Bullitt County, June 13, 9:00 am-12:00 pm.

Contact trip leader Charlie Covel at the above numbers.

Fall Field Trip

Bill Black has planned, once again, a fall trip for us to the Hickman Bottoms, and other neat places, September 11-13. As always, we will meet at Pear Tree Inn, I-24, Exit 4, Paducah, KY. For more information call him at: 502-442-9587, or e-mail: black@pad-uky.campus.mci.net.

The Kentucky Lepidopterist Newsletter is published quarterly - January , April, July, and Ocotober. Membership dues are \$10.00 annually, payable at the Annual Meeting in November.

Check your mailing label as to membership status - a butterfly indicates you are in good standing.

## Calendar of Events

For more information see previous page. Send me your events to add to this new feature. Also your e-mail as well so that I can get late breaking news about trips and other things out to you with enough lead time to enable you to plan to go.

April 11 - Bernheim Forest
April 17-19 - Bald Rock Fire Tower
June 13 - Pine Creek Nature Preserve
July 4 - Homer Wildlife Sanctuary
September 11-13 - Fall Field Trip
November - Annual Meeting, Louisville\*

Contact Charlie Covell Loran Gibson Charlie Covell\* Charlie Covell\* Bill Black\*



Newsletter of the Society of Kentucky Lepidoptera 2015 Lone Oak Road, Paducah, KY 42003-5310

> Loran & Pat□Gibson 2727 Running Creek Dr. □Florence KY 41042.





<sup>\*</sup> More information in July and September newsletters