



# *Kentucky Lepidopterist*

*Newsletter of the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists*

*Volume 45 Number 1 29 October 2019*

## **2019 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY OF KENTUCKY LEPIDOPTERISTS 15 & 16 NOVEMBER 2019 INSECT MUSEUM OF THE UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY**

### **2019 ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE**

#### **FRIDAY, 15 NOVEMBER 2019**

**9:00 AM - 4:00 PM:** Insect Museum. Dimock Animal Pathology Building, 1081 V.A. Dr. Bldg #76, University of Kentucky - Campus Map on the UK web Site: <http://maps.uky.edu/printablemaps/VisitorMap.pdf>. The Insect Museum at the University of Kentucky is the home of the Kentucky Lepidoptera Collection along with the University of Kentucky Insect Collection. The collections are on a compactor which reduces floor space and has ample room for future growth. The collection will be open for viewing. During the week, parking on campus is restricted and enforced. Parking options: You can park in the University Hospital Parking Garage No.8, 110 Transcript Ave. at the 900 block of South Limestone. (Bldg #601, University of Kentucky -Campus Map on the UK Web Site: <http://maps.uky.edu/printablemaps/VisitorMap.pdf> Buses run continuously from the parking garage to the UK Chandler Hospital to shorten the walk to Dimock Animal Pathology Building.

**6:00 PM:** Friday Night Get Together, A Gathering of Lepidopterists: will be held in the Lobby Area of the Agricultural Science Center North on the campus of the University of Kentucky from 6:00PM until 10:00PM. Food and drink will be provided. This is a time to get together and enjoy the conversation and company of other Lepidopterists. The Lobby of the Agricultural Science Center North is just a short walk across the street from the University Inn.

The Agricultural Science Center North is located at- 1100 South Limestone, (Bldg #91, University of Kentucky. - Campus Map on the UK Web Site: <http://maps.uky.edu/printablemaps/VisitorMap.pdf> ).

#### **SATURDAY, 16 NOVEMBER 2019**

Insect Museum - Dimock Animal Pathology Building, 1081 V.A. Dr. (Bldg #76, University of Kentucky - Campus Map on the UK web site <http://maps.uky.edu/printablemaps/VisitorMap.pdf>.

**THE SOCIETY  
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LEPIDOPTERISTS**

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Richard Henderson - 2018\*  
Don Tangren - 2019\*  
\* term expires

**THE SOCIETY OF KENTUCKY**

**LEPIDOPTERISTS** is open to anyone with an interest in the Lepidoptera of the State of Kentucky. Membership dues are annual: \$15.00. Dues sent to the Treasurer: Les Ferge, 7119 Hubbard Avenue, Middleton, WI 53562

**SATURDAY, 16 NOVEMBER 2019 (Continued)**

If you would like a University of Kentucky Campus map, please email the Editor with you name and address and a map will be mailed to you.

**9:00AM** - Collection will be open for viewing. This is the time to meet old friends and make new ones. Bring your specimens for identification or some that you have collected for show and tell.

**10:00AM:** Board Meeting in the Second Floor Conference Room.

**12:00 NOON:** Lunch Break

**1:00PM:** We will move to the Agricultural Science Center North, Lecture Hall# N-12, 1100 South Limestone, (**Bldg #91, University of Kentucky -Campus Map on the UK Web Site: [http://maps.uky.edu/printablemaps/ VisitorMap.pdf](http://maps.uky.edu/printablemaps/VisitorMap.pdf)**)

We will move to the Agricultural Science Center North, Lecture Hall # N-10, 1100 South Limestone, (Building #91, University of Kentucky)

**1:00 PM - 2:00 PM:** Business Meeting.

**2:00 PM - 2:45 PM:** Featured Speaker Dr. Jason Dombroskie: "The Micromoths of Kentucky".

**3:00 PM - 5:00 PM:** Contributed Talks and Papers and Door Prize Drawing. Anyone wishing to present a talk or paper should contact: James Adams: via email: jadams@em.daltonstate.edu. or telephone: 678-767-5983.

**6:00 PM:** We will have dinner at a local Restaurant.

**MOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS - 2019  
ANNUAL MEETING**

The Red Roof Inn (South) has set aside a block of 15 double rooms (two full beds per room) for the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists' for \$65.00ish a night. These are special rates which will be held open until October 30, 2019. To make reservations, call the General Reservation Line at 1-800-733-7663.

**THE LABOR DAY WEEKEND FIELD  
TRIP TO THE FALL LINE  
SANDHILLS WILDLIFE  
MANAGEMENT AREA, WESTERN  
SECTION, TAYLOR COUNTY,  
GEORGIA  
BY  
JAMES K. ADAMS**

This field trip was anticipated to give people from the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists' (SKL) a chance to visit some of my stomping grounds here in Georgia, as well as an opportunity to rub elbows with colleagues from the Southern Lepidopterists' Society. Although the field trip had been planned as early as last year's meeting, and tentatively announced in the Spring issue of the News, the actual date was not set until July. Announcements on Facebook, and an e-mail blast by me was still met with some enthusiasm, and initial responses suggested that as many as 14 people might attend. 3 people bowed out quickly leaving me with an expected 11 people. But as the weekend approached, the number dropped from 11 to 9, then to 7, then 6, and then, with the approaching storm Dorian, 3 more possible attendees from Florida dropped out leaving us with just the four people: me, Leroy Koehn, Denny Currutt, and Lance Durden. So, I'd like to try this again, but I'd like to make sure to provide two or three possible different dates well ahead of time, and allow the membership to choose among them. Chances are I'll pick dates during which I will actually go collecting anyway, and members of the SKL could choose to come to whichever trip(s) they so desire. Having said that, the choice of places to visit was relatively easy for me, as I have recently been collecting at a relatively newly acquired (by the GA DNR) piece of property, the Fall Line Sandhills WMA, Western Section, in Taylor Co., GA, west of Butler by about 9 miles. If you want easier landmarks, then it is about halfway between Macon and Columbus, GA. This area is attractive for several reasons. First, it is just a three-hour drive for me. Secondly, the area has several different habitats in close proximity (see photos), and I have been remarkably impressed with the diversity of moths there, picking up new state records EVERY visit I have made there.

And what makes it more convenient is that there is a research house (the "Juke Joint"; see photo) as well as a bunk house, in which visiting researchers can stay for free. Both are air conditioned, fully furnished, with kitchen facilities – just bring your own food. As of this August, I had made six trips, and, as indicated, besides the state records, I also continued to get other moths that were new to me. You may recall that I presented on the moths I had encountered there in 2018 at last year's SKL meeting. As of this year, Lance Durden, Brian Scholtens and I have decided to do a long term project at this location to try and document the entire Lepidopteran diversity over the next several years. Hopefully, some of you may join us and help us with that documentation process in the future.

Last year, on Labor Day weekend, Jeff Sloten and I had visited the WMA and encountered a great flight of Schinia and other heliathines, with species like arefacta, meskeana and sanguinea being common, and picking up a new state record, Schinia bimatrix (see the images from the most recent SKL News, Vol. 44:3, June 2019). So this seemed like a good time to visit the area this year as well. However, the area had been dry this year, and the season apparently was delayed a bit, and, as such, the Schinia were just starting to emerge. It appears as though a bit later in September is probably a good target most years, just to give the Fall flowers and bit more time to bloom and the Schinia and other heliathines to emerge. Leroy Koehn had briefly stopped at the eastern section of the WMA and noticed that the flowers were ahead of the western section, and a trap placed there on the third night did produce a nice number of Schinia, including the targeted The Labor Day Weekend Field Trip to the Fall Line Sandhills Wildlife Management Area, Western Section, Taylor County, Georgia.

I arrived at the Juke Joint at about 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 29, and Leroy and Denny, with the short side trip at the entrance to the eastern section mentioned above, arrived about 6:00 p.m. Lance arrived by about 6:30 p.m., just in time to set all our traps as the sunset time was around 8:00 p.m.

With more than 10 light traps and two bait traps, we were able to blanket the western side of the WMA Thursday night, which included some early successional habitat, field/edge habitat, creekside habitat along Black Creek, and the “famous” sand prairie habitat on Hal’s Hill (no, I don’t know who Hal is/was). Friday night we trapped the eastern section of the WMA, which includes some cane habitat, bog habitat, scrubby oak habitat, and some denser forest around a pond, as well as more habitat along another part of Black Creek. On Saturday night, we had to wait out some early rain. We had set Leroy’s trap at the eastern section of the WMA and then gone to the one Chinese place in Butler for dinner (which is probably one of about three places to eat in Butler total). We enjoyed good company and good food. We returned to the Juke Joint around sundown and had to wait about another half hour after that for the rain to subside. At that point, we were all game for setting traps in the dark and did so, largely along the western side of the WMA similar to Thursday night. All in all, it was a productive weekend, with some new records for the area. Highlights included a couple of interesting bagworm (psychid) moths, Prochalia pygmaea and a new one for Lance, Basicladus tracyi. We found two of the Gopher Tortoise burrow detritus specialist moth Idia gopheri. We enjoyed continued flight (from early August) of the saturniid Anisota consularis, and the Notodontid moth Hyparpax aurora seems to be always in flight at the WMA, along with the to-be-described grayish Notodontid that is associated with waterways and wetlands (and so we see it most frequently in the traps near Black Creek, although it does fly well and ends up in other parts of the WMA as well). The tortricid Sparganothis mcguinnessi, first found in June at the WMA, and a state record at the time, was found in practically every trap, though seemed most strongly associated with the early successional area. Sparganothis niteolinea was new for the area, and found for only the second time (and place) in the state. And some other southern moths showed up as well, such as the sphingids Agrius cingulatus and Manduca rustica, as well as the noctuid Spodoptera latifascia. The entire list of moths is below, though Denny is still identifying some of the pyraloids found over the weekend.

Leroy indicated that he was impressed with the area as he saw several moths over the weekend that he had never encountered before. And, besides some rather angry Bald-faced hornets at one of the bait traps, the

weekend was a thoroughly enjoyable experience. If you are interested in visiting this area (or other areas in Georgia), you should feel free to contact me at: [jadams@altonstate.edu](mailto:jadams@altonstate.edu) and see what we can work out!!

## LIST OF SPECIES

**PSYCHIDAE:** Prochalia pygmaea, Basicladus tracyi.

**SESIIDAE:** Synanthedon exitiosa.

**DEPRESSARIIDAE:** Antaeotricha leucillana, A. schlaegeri.

**ATTEVIDAE:** Atteva aurea.

**ZYGAENIDAE:** Harrisina americana.

**LIMACODIDAE:** Heterogenea shurtleffi, Lithacodes biguttata, Euclea nanina (**COUNTY**).

**TORTRICIDAE:** Sparganothis mcguinnessi (40+ specimens) S. niteolinea, Microtheoris ophionalis, Gymnandrosoma punctidiscanum, Platynota flavedana, Choristoneura obsoletana, Cydia toreuta.

**CRAMBIDAE:** Elophila gyralis, E. icciusalis, Paraponyx allionealis, P. maculalis, Pyrausta signatalis, Achyra rantalis, Lineodes integra.

**PYRALIDAE:** Pococera scortealis.

**DREPANIDAE:** Oreta rosea.

**GEOMETRIDAE:** Scopula limboundata, Idea taturata, Idea demissaria, Lobocleta peralbata, Lobocleta ossularia, Lophosis labeculata, Cyclophora packardi, Eupithecia miserulata, Disclisioprocta stellata, Synchlora frondaria, Nemoria lixaria, Eumacaria madopata, Macaria distribuaria, M. transitaria, M. bicolorata, Digrammia eremiata, Glena plumosaria, Exelis pyrolaria, Anavitrinella pampinaria, Protoboarmia porcellaria, Iridopsis defectaria, Hypomecis umbrosaria, H. buchholzaria, Epimecis hortaria, Melanolophia signataria, Hypagyrtis unipunctata, H. esther, Lomographa vestaliata, Ennomos magnaria (**EARLY**), Pero morrisonaria, Euchlaena madusaria, E. obtusaria, E. amoenaria, Euchlaena pectinaria, Probole amicaria, Patalene olyzonaria, Besma quercivoraria, B. endropiaria, Lambdina fiscellaria, Eutrappela clemataria.

**SATURNIIDAE:** Anisota consularis, A. viginensis pellucida, Dryocampa rubicunda, Eacles imperialis, Actias luna, Antheraea polyphemus.

**APATELODIDAE:** Apatelodes torrefacta, Olceclostera angelica.

**LASIOCAMPIDAE:** Tolyte notialis, T. minta, Heteropacha rileyana (COUNTY).

**SPHINGIDAE:** Agrius cingulatus, Manduca rustica, Ceratomia catalpae, Lapara coniferarum, Paonias myops, P. excaecata, Enyo lugubris, Darapsa myron, Xylophanes tersa, Hyles lineata.

**NOTODONTIDAE:** Nadata gibbosa, Datana major, D. integerrima, Paraeschra georgica, Macrurocampa marthesia, Heterocampa biundata, H. guttivitta, H. umbrata, H. varia, H. astarte, Peridea angulosa, Hyparpax aurora, Baltodonta brouana (*New species, new Genus to be described in the second MONA notodontid fascicle*), Symmerista albifrons Ianassa (*formerly Oligocentria*) lignicolor, Schizura unicornis, S. ipomoeae.

**EREBIDAE:** Hypoprepia fucosa, Cisthene packardii, C. subjecta, Virbia laeta, V. aurantiaca, V. opella, Hyphantria cunea, Apantesis phalerata, Apantesis figurata, A. placentia, Leucanopsis longa, Pygarctia abdominalis, Dasychira meridionalis, D. tephra, D. manto, Orgyia definita, O. leucostigma, Idia americalis, I. aemula, I. rotundalis, I. lubricalis, I. gopheri, Zanclognatha cruralis, Z. lituralis, Tetanolita mynesalis, Palthis angulalis, P. asopialis, Bleptina caradrinalis, Renia nemoralis, R. discoloralis, R. salusalis, R. fraternalis, Hypena palparia, H. scabra, Sigela eoides (COUNTY), Abablemma brimleyana, Nigetia formosalis, Redectis vitrea, Arugisa lutea, Metalectra discalis, M. tantillus, M. richardsi, Hyperstrotia flaviguttata, Hemeroplanis habitalis, H. scopulepes, Hypsoropha hormos, Scolecocampa liburna, Phyprosopus callitrichoides, Pangrapta decoralis, Lesmone detrahens, L. hinna, Caenurgia chloropha, Mocis texana, M. marcida, M. latipes, Panopoda carneicosta, P. rufimargo, Anticarsia gemmatalis, Parallelia bistriaris, Gondysia smithii, Allotria elonympha, Catocala lacrymosa, C. ulalume, Pseudanthracia coracias, Zale lunata, Z. metatoides,

Z. aeruginosa, Ptichodis herbarum, Argyrostromis sylvorum, A. deleta, A. flavistriaria, A. anilis.

**EUTELIIDAE:** Paectes abrostoloides.

**NOCTUIDAE:** Argyrogramma verruca, Enigmogramma basigera, Chrysodeixis includens, Ctenoplusia oxygramma, Autographa precationis, Ponometia semiflava, Protodeltote muscosa, Marimatha nigrofimbria, Acronicta americana, A. lobeliae, A. brumosa, A. inflicta, A. increta, A. retardata, A. vinnula, A. tritona, A. fallax, Polygrammate hebraeicum, Colocasia propinquilinea, Condica vecors, C. videns, Callopietria granitosa, C. cordata, C. mollissima, Pyrrhia aurantiago, Schinia meskeana, S. rivulosa, S. arefacta, S. nundina, S. sordida, S. trifascia, S. lynx, S. saturata, Emarginea percara, Nedra ramulosa, Iodopepla u-album, Dypterygia patina, Chytonix sensilis, Mesapamea fractilinea, Galgula partita, Elaphria chalcedonia, Spodoptera dolichos, S. ornithogalli, S. frugiperda, S. latifascia, Orthodes majuscula, Mythimna unipuncta, Dargida rubripennis, Leucania scirpicola, L. extincta, Agrotis ipsilon, Anicla infecta, Anicla lubricans.

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## PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE SANDHILL WMA FIELD TRIP TO GEORGIA



James Adams setting up a Light Trap

More photographs on Pages 7 & 8.

## 2019 ANNUAL BUTTERFLY COUNT BY DR. CHARLES V. COVELL

On July 6, 2019, we held the annual butterfly count at Brownsboro, Oldham Co. from 10 AM to 3 PM. About 40 people attended, Dan Rechter supplied 2 ATV's to help us get around, and also water and a canopy. People leading survey groups were Ellis Laudermilk, Loran Gibson, Richard Henderson Sr., Leroy C. Koehn and myself. "Scribes" included Jay Hutti, Jessica Hutti, and Jeff Masters (U.of.L Biology Dept). Others present included Bill Pearson, Megan McCarty, David McCarty, Richard Henderson Jr. and kids. The day was hot – high 90 degrees – and partly cloudy with wind from the West about 5 mph.

Species and numbers of each were: Epargyreus clarus, 7; Erynnis horatius, 1; Erynnis baptisiae, 34; Ancyloxipha numitor, 15; Polites peckius, 11; Polites themistocles, 1; Atalopedes campestris, 5; Euphyes ruricola metacomet, 2; Battus philenor, 4; Eurytides marcellus, 3; Papilio polyxenes asterius, 2; Papilio glaucus, 31; Papilio troilus, 28; Pieris rapae, 91; Colias philodice, 23; Colias eurytheme, 15; Strymon melinus, 1; Cupido comyntas, 67; Celastrina neglecta, 6; Libytheana carinenta, 11; Speyeria cybele, 6; Polygonia comma, 2; Polygonia interrogationis, 2; Vanessa cardui, 2; Vanessa virginiensis, 5; Vanessa atalanta, 1; Junonia coenia, 5; Phyciodes tharos, 68; Chlosyne nycteis (larvae only), 32; Limenitis rthemis astyanax, 3; Asterocampa celtis, 1; Asterocampa clyton, 1; Cyllopsis gemma, 11; Megisto cymela, 10; Cercyonis pegala, 12; Danaus plexippus.

Totals: 36 species and 521 individuals. The lower numbers of Sulphurs (Colias) and Eastern Tailed Blues seems to be explained by the fact that much of the big fields were in corn cultivation this year. Your Editor attended the Butterfly Count. It was a tad bit on the warm side. However, it was a great group.



2019 Butterfly Count Attendees.

As I departed the Butterfly Count early I stopped along side the road as I noticed a Catalpa Tree that had signs of recent chewing. I stopped and collected about three dozen fully mature larvae of Ceratomia catalpae. I assumed some of them would be parasitized. I filled a trash bag with leaves from another tree (There were virtually no leaves on the tree with the larva,) to ensure I had enough host plant to get them into pupa.

I returned home and placed the larva in a cage with some of the leaves. In the morning I had 28 pupae. However, the remaining eight (8) pupae were still feeding. The following morning all the remaining larvae were aimlessly wondering around the leaf litter on the bottom. When I checked the larvae just before bed, the larvae were in the leaf litter.

I waited several days before removing the pupae. Once in my collection room I sprayed them with water several times.

On the following Sunday on my return home from church, I went and checked the pupae and found seven (7) very large parasitic flies in the cage. I collected the flies and pinned them. The following morning I had six more flies along with a dozen Parasitic wasps (Ichneumon).

For all my effort I was rewarded with two adults Sphinx moths of Ceratomia catalpae.



The ranch house where we were lodged. Hot showers, flush toilets and a great Kitchen.



There were roads throughout the WMA, none paved. Forging the creeks could be challenging.



Denny Currutt and Leroy Koehn setting up a Bait Trap.



Lance Durden, Denny Currutt & Leroy Koehn collecting *Catocala* moths from the Bait Trap.



Denny Currutt & Lance Durden at the High Point of the WMA: Hal's Hill.



*Hyparpax aurora*



Agrius cingulatus  
&  
Manduca rustica



Two Track roads throughout the WMA.  
Surprisingly all (most) were passable.



Soon to be described  
Notodontid



This is a Pond. It occasionally  
has water in it.



Idia gopheri



Pygarctia abdominalis &  
Dypterygia patina

## LETTER FROM YOUR EDITOR

### LEROY C. KOEHN

To all the members of the Society of Kentucky Lepidoptera I write this letter to apologize for not producing newsletters in a timely manner nor communicating with all of you concerning an extremely difficult period of time in my life.

In February of 2018 my wife Betty began to experience the affects of the Parkinson's disease she was diagnosed with in 2012. The disease was very slow in progressing and the medications that were prescribed were keeping the disease in check. However, she began to suffer a series of Heart Attacks and Strokes late in 2018. One of those strokes caused her to tumble down a flight of stairs in our home. She broke her heel and fracture several bones. On 2 January 2019 she suffered a massive stroke. She never fully regained consciousness. There was no chance of recovery and on 14 January 2019 she was placed in Hospice and on 19 January 2019 she past away.

After the funeral I could never get away from the loss. No matter how hard I tried, I was unable to overcome my grief.

We were married for 53 years, and since we both retired, we spent our lives together. The past twenty years we found each other living two lives together as one. I have still not recovered from my loss and I do not believe that I ever will.

I was alone in Kentucky, between my doctor, my Pastor and my oldest son Gregory and a life long friend, Denny Currutt, suggested that I should return to my home town of Cleveland, Ohio. I have family and friends who would "keep" and eye or two on me. I purchased a small ranch type home in Aurora, Ohio, it is in Portage County southeast of Cleveland. I moved to Aurora, Ohio on 15 July 2019.

However, life goes on. I have sought counseling for my grief and only recently began to find some relief. I began to actively collect Lepidoptera again and work at Leptraps, my little trap making business. I have began to experience life and began to enjoy life again. I have found a new Church home which happens to be the Church where I grew up in and where I met Ms Betty and would marry her 53 years ago.

I now asking the members of the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists to provide me with the opportunity to make amends. I would like to remain your Editor and I promise to do the very best I can to produce a great Newsletter. However, should you decide otherwise and it is time for a change, I will fully understand.

Thank you for all of you help, concerns and sympathy. All of you are a great group of people.

Sincerely,

Leroy C. Koehn  
Editor of the Newsletter

MORE PHOTOGRAPHS FROM SAND HILLS WMA FIELD TRIP



Collecting Light Traps in the morning



A little obstacle in the road.



Anisota consularis



Schinia nundina & Acronicta fallax



Spaganothis mcguinnessi

ATTENTION

More photographs from the Sand Hills field meeting in the next Newsletter.

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The Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists Newsletter is published four times annually. Membership dues are as follows:

- Regular Membership (Paper copy of Newsletter)\$15.00 per year
- Regular Membership (Email copy of Newsletter only)\$15.00 per year
- Sustaining Membership (Paper copy of Newsletter)\$25.00 per year
- Sustaining Membership (Email copy of Newsletter only)\$25.00 per year

The organization is open to anyone with an interest in the Lepidoptera of the State of Kentucky. Information about the Society may be obtained from and dues sent to: Les Ferge, Treasurer, 7119 Hubbard Ave., Middleton, WI 53562-3231

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