

Kentucky Lepidopterist

Newsletter of the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists Volume 42 Number 2, 20 August 2016

COMPTON'S TORTOISESHELL BUTTERFLY SIGHTED IN JEFFERSON COUNTY, KENTUCKY BY RICHARD A. HENDERSON, SR.

On July 9, 2015, I sighted Compton's Tortoiseshell Butterfly (Nymphalis vau-album) in my front yard fly up from the soil area behind the foundation shrub and in to the maple tree as I stepped out of my front door. I saw the same butterfly do the same thing on July 12, 2015. I did not see it again until July 30, 2015 The next day afterward, I hung up my bait trap in the backyard, but I never saw the butterfly again.



A JOURNEY TO BUTTERFLY, KENTUCKY BY LEROY C. KOEHN

I do not know how or when I learned of Butterfly, Kentucky. I do know that it is in Perry County along the North Fork of the Kentucky River. I Googled the name "Butterfly, Kentucky". The only thing I learned was that the Post Office was closed and the town was once named Leonard. The GPS: Latitude 37.287946 - Longitude 83.2720677, Elevation 853'. That is all I could find.

I thought that it would be interesting to have some butterflies in my collection labeled from Butterfly, Kentucky.

It was Sunday after church on 12 June 2016, when my wife Betty and I began our journey to Butterfly, Kentucky. From Georgetown we journeyed east on I-64 to the Mountain Parkway, but first a stop at a Waffle House Restaurant near Winchester for some great food. We had greasy Steak & Eggs, medium rare and over light, hash browns scattered and whole wheat toast (Got to watch the diet) and a Pecan Waffle. Washed it down with lot's of Black Coffee.

Once back on the road we continued east on the Mountain Parkway to Campton where we turned south on Route 15. It was a gorgeous day and the mountains were beautiful. There was virtually no traffic as we drove south. About an hour later we crossed into Perry County and found Second Creek Road. This led us down towards the river and to Butterfly.

KENTUCKY LEPIDOPTERISTS

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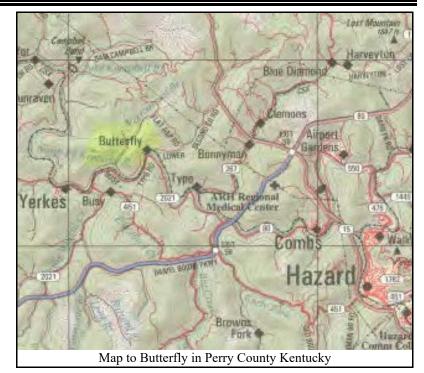
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THE SOCIETY OF KENTUCKY LEPIDOPTERISTS is open to

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

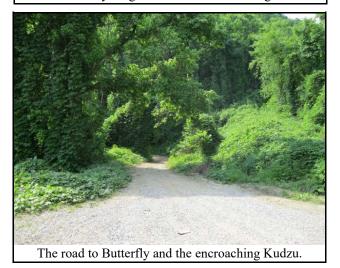


The road was paved until we came to a fork in the road. We turn right onto a gravel road. Amazingly, it was a smooth and pleasant road and we soon came to a wide spot where we encountered Kudzu. Almost everything within sight was completely engulf with Kudzu. A nasty evasive vine and it grows up, over and under everything. You did not want to leave your car parked in one place too long where Kudzu grows. There appeared to be a trail of some sort straight ahead. I decided to take a look around and walked about 500 feet down the trail. At this point the Kudzu almost covered the trail. I decided not to venture across the sea of Kudzu. As I began walking back towards the car, I heard the sound of ATV's coming up trail behind me. In short order we all met at our car. They stopped to check us out and see if we were lost. Betty and I had a pleasant conversation with three young men, local boys from Flat Gap which was up "yonder a bit". (I located a Flat Gap Road on the Gazetteer, but not the community). I ask how to get to the Town of Butterfly. Sadly we were to learn that the Town of Butterfly was back up the trail and thru the Kudzu and that the town had been abandoned 10 or 15 years ago and all that remained were some foundations. The entire area where the town was located was covered over with Kudzu. The Town of Butterfly was no more. As they drove off to up "yonder", I got out my net and looked around for some butterflies. I only saw one butterfly, a Strymon melinus (Gray Hairstreak). The Kudzu covered everything, and I mean everything. This was the first time I encountered Kudzu since we left Mississippi in 1999.

We returned home via the Daniel Boone Parkway, another beautiful drive through the mountains of eastern Kentucky. When I got home I wanted see if there was a Moth, Kentucky! There isn't!



The Kudzu covered the Mountain side, the road, the trees and anything else that was not moving.





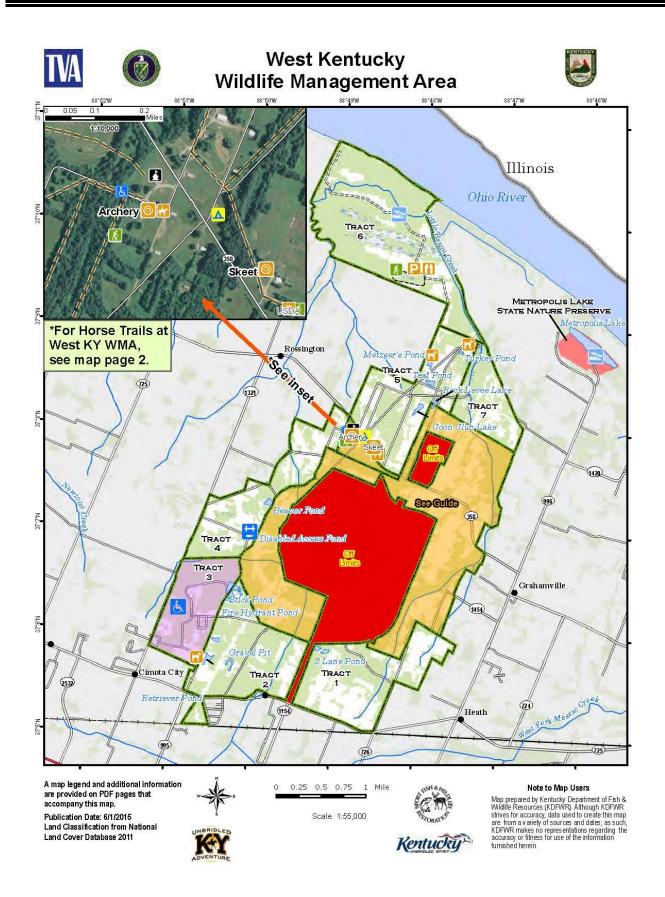
<u>Speyeria aphrodite</u> Photograph by Rita Adkins

LATE SUMMER FIELD MEETING WEST KENTUCKY WMA AUGUST 26, 27 & 28.

The Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists late summer field trip is scheduled for 26 August thru 28 August 2016 at West Kentucky WMA. This area has not been sampled in recent years and should yield some interesting records. There are remnant prairie plant communities as well as an old growth hardwood forest located within the boundaries (Possibly some good Catocala hunting). The area surrounds the old Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant operated by the DOE and is subject to some special regulations. We will have to sign in at the area headquarters every day(no sign out required) if we plan on exploring the "A" areas. Also, the area is famous for its concentration of ticks so everyone should come prepared to tick proof themselves(seriously, no joke, some of the worst tick numbers I have ever seen!). There will be primitive camping available and anyone interested in camping should contact the field trip leader (Gerald Burnett: Tel: 270-559-8214). Days Inn located in Paducah at exit 4 off I-24(3901 Hinkleville Road, Tel: 270-442-7500) has also agreed to a special nightly rate of \$49.99 for rooms for our members. Members should call as soon as possible and mention the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists group rate for this price.

The meeting will start on Friday at noon with participants meeting at the WMA area headquarters. We will spend the afternoon exploring and searching out possible light trap locations. You should drop me a note if you need directions to the WMA or if you are arriving late since we will not be back at the hotel until later that evening.We will meet back at the hotel parking lot at 7 pm Friday night for dinner at a local restaurant. Participants will meet again at the hotel parking lot at 8:30 both Saturday and Sunday mornings for the short drive(about 20 minutes) to the WMA. Participants can either pack a sack lunch to eat in the field or make a short drive to a local convenience store to eat lunch. Contact Gerald Burnett at: Tel:270-559-8214, if there are any unanswered questions regarding this field trip and remember to make your hotel reservations as soon as possible if you plan on attending. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Map of the Western Kentucky WMA on Page #14



UP COMING EVENTS OAK GROVE BUTTERFLY FESTIVAL

The 8th Annual Oak Grove Butterfly festival will be 24 September 2016 in Oak Grove, Kentucky. The Society will once again have a booth. We will have a display specimens and literature to pass out. This is a one day event that draws over 10,000 people. In the past our booth has been next to the Butterfly House and as a result we are a major attraction.

We will tag some of the Monarchs in the Butterfly House. Your Editor will set out a Light Trap and will demonstrate how specimens are prepared. If you would like to help, bring some spreading boards.

Please plan to attend and bring some specimens or drawers of specimens to display. Bring the family, there is food, games and activities for everyone.

2016 ANNUAL MEETING

Should the weather cooperate, your Editor will set out a Light Trap or two for late fall moths. If you are interested in participating, please bring your Light Traps and will visit the Kleber WMA in Owen County on either Thursday or Friday nightNovember 11 & 12, 2016: The meeting will be at the University of Kentucky, Lexington. KY. Friday and Saturday November 11 & 12. We will meet in the Insect Museum in the Dimock Animal Pathology Building. There will be a Gathering of Lepidopterist on Friday evening, The featured speaker will be Tony McBride. Tony's presentation will be on Papaipema moths. Ellis Laudermilk and Loran Gibson will have a talk on the Lepidoptera, especially the Moths, of Big Black Mountain. Plan now to attend.

There will be a board meeting on Friday afternoon. Are you interested in serving the Society? Plan on attending the Board Meeting.

NEWSLETTER UP DATE

As always, your Editor needs articles, short or long or anywhere in between on any topic related to Lepidoptera and Lepidopterists'. Book reviews and book announcements, photographs of specimens and Lepidopterists' are always welcome.

Have you been someplace interesting? Have you found something new or unusual? We would like to hear about your journeys and field experiences. The Newsletter is only as good as the articles and photographs that you send to your Editor. Email: Leptraps@aol.com or SKLNewsletter@aol.com

JULY 4th BUTTERFLY COUNT RESULTS 2016 BY DR. CHARLES V. COVELL

The annual butterfly count was held at the usual place near Brownsboro KY. (Oldham Co.). Reporters were there from the Courier Journal and Oldham Era. High was 95, low 71; winds 5 mph from SW. Partly cloudy.

Leaders were Loran Gibson, Rich Henderson, Susan Reigler and me, with Susan departing after the first part of the survey. Bill Black arrived late and assisted in the rest of the count. Recorded as present besides these were Bill Pearson, Jessica Hutti and dad, Jay; Tom Fulda, Cora Carrico, Margarette Perkins, Kalia Pinkston, Judy Wulff, Steve Yanoviak, Brian Davis with Ben and Harry (sons), Art Cox, Michele Mazzei, Ann Bennett, Martha Hannifan, Pat Greer, Susan Nightingale, Kesha Luan, Beverly James, Nathan Skinner, Laura Baird, Josie Miller, Margaret Carreiro, Richard Henderson Jr. with kids Sabrina, Travon and Richard Henderson III, Charles Wright, Jeff Rogers and "Rich" of RogersGroup Inc.

We had 39 species and 965 total individuals, as follows: Epargyreus clarus, 2; Erynnis horatius, 1; Erynnis baptisiae, 12; Nastra Iherminier, 4; Polites themistocles, 1; Polites origenes, 2; Wallengrenia egeremet, 2; Pompeius verna, 1; Atalopedes campestris, 1; Anatrytone logan, 1; Battus philenor, 6; Eurytides marcellus, 9; Papilio glaucus, 2; Papilio troilus, 5; Pieris rapae, 28; Colias philodice, 22; Colias eurytheme, 68; Phoebis sennae, 1; Callophrys grynea, 2; Strymon melinus, 2; Cupido comyntas, 396; Celastrina neglecta, 1; Libytheana carinenta, 1; Euptoieta claudia, 6; Speyeria cybele, 31; Polygonia interrogationis, 1; Vanessa virginiensis, 1; Vanessa atalanta, 3; Junonia coenia, 1; Phyciodes tharos, 5; Chlosyne nycteis, 1; Limenitis archippus, 1; Limenitis arthemisastyanax, 1;Asterocampa celtis,5; Asterocampa clyton, 7; Enodia anthedon, 1; Cyllopsis gemma, 14; Megisto cymela, 6; and Cercyonis pegala alope, 211.

LIST OF MEMBERS

The Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists publishes a **List of Members** each year. The list is in alphabetical order and includes all current members as of 31 July 2016. On that date there were 73 members. The use of this list by members is encouraged. Report changes of addresses and typographical errors to the Treasurer, Les Ferge, 7119 Hubbard Ave. Middleton, WI 53562-3231: Email: lesferge@gmail.com

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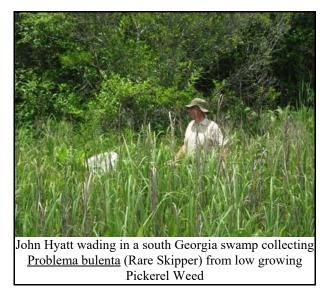
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WADING IN THE SWAMP!



Editors note: I have visited this area with John on several occasions and have waded in these swamps, the temperature at 90° +, humidity at near 100%, mud that will suck your boots off, blood thirsty mosquitos and deer fly galore, not to mention a few snakes including some very large Water Moccasins and numerous plants that will stick, stab and scratch you to death. And all to catch a small golden brown skippers.



Bill's new Hair Do.

If you want to learn about Bill's new hair style, you will need to ask him personally. He will be attending the late summer field meeting at West Kentucky WMA.

Is life great or what??



Photograph by Rita Adkins





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

DUES REMINDER

Please check your dues status, the year following you name on the address label indicates the last year for which dues were paid. Send payment to Les Ferge whose address is listed on the front cover. Those in arrears after 1 October 2016 will no longer receive the Newsletter.

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