

# The Kentucky Lepidopterist

The Newsletter of the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists

Volume 48 Number 1 March 2022



Little Wood-satyr (*Megisto cymela*) Photo by Tony Merkle

## Congratulations to

**Dr. Donald Wright**

**2021 Recipient of the William R.  
Black Jr. Memorial Award**



## Announcements

**2022 Spring Field Trip**

**May 6-7, 2022**

**Gritter Ridge, Powell County, KY**

**(See Page 24 for Details)**



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## Letter from the President

Spring of 2022 is already upon us! Loran Gibson, SKL Field Trip Coordinator, has been busy planning field trips for the year, so if you are anxious to get back out in the field with SKL members it's time to start making preparations.

The SKL Annual meeting was held at the University of Kentucky November 12-13, 2021. It was great to see many familiar faces for the first time in at least two years. Thanks to all who attended and thanks to those that gave presentations! Here are some of the highlights.

Our keynote speaker for the meeting was Mr. Michael L. McInnis. Mike did an excellent job summarizing the results of more than a decade of extensive sampling of the butterfly fauna of the Cosñipata Region in Peru. It was great to see pictures of some of the species and places that make this area so special. What an unbelievable place and tremendously diverse butterfly fauna! If you missed his presentation, and the others, abstracts are included later in this newsletter. A big "Thank You" to Mike for his keynote address!

Leroy Koehn talked about the effectiveness of his slotted pan bait trap. As his trap demonstrates, experimentation can often lead to more useful equipment for collecting butterflies and moths. Dr. Julian Dupuis discussed the astonishing number of techniques that he and Dr. Eric Chapman investigated for databasing the UK insect collection. Who knew there were so many ways to capture and record data. The UK insect collection is clearly in very capable hands. Dr. James Adams gave an overview of what happens when a moth collector with cabin fever due to COVID-19 is finally unleashed on a collecting trip west of the Mississippi River (hint: it wasn't pretty for the moths!). Thanks to all these gentlemen for their presentations!

The William R. Black, Jr. Memorial Award was presented to Dr. Donald J. Wright. Don spent his nearly 40-year professional career as a faculty member in the Department of Mathematical Sciences at the University of Cincinnati. He is a longtime SKL member, and has devoted much of his time since retirement to several Tortricid genera. The one-of-a-kind plaque was hand-made by Loran Gibson using wild cherry wood that Don had given Loran many years ago. The text on the plaque states: "With our thanks, the award is presented to Donald J. Wright, Ph.D. for significant contributions to the knowledge of the Lepidoptera of North America, especially within the Olethreutine tribe Eucosmini. Don's skills and tenacity at solving taxonomic problems within this group are exemplary, as are his many publications reporting his findings." Congratulations to Don on a fine "second career" contributing to our knowledge of the Tortricidae of North America.



Photo by James Adams

## Letter From the President

(Continued)

This year's meeting also gave us an opportunity to formally thank Leroy Koehn for his many years of serving as newsletter editor and arranging annual meetings for the SKL. We presented Leroy with a plaque that states: "Appreciation Award Presented to Leroy C. Koehn in Sincere Appreciation for your Outstanding Service to Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists. Thank you for Everything!"



The SKL Board had one change. Steve Johnson's term expired and he graciously agreed to give someone else a chance to serve. Dr. Julian Dupuis was voted in to serve as his replacement. Thanks to Steve for serving and I hope he will be ready to serve again in the near future. On behalf of the SKL, we welcome Dr. Dupuis to the board and look forward to his contributions.

Finally, I need to correct something I wrote in the last newsletter. Board appointments are for three years and not two as I stated. If you are interested in serving on the board, please let me know.

Enjoy the upcoming field season! I hope many photos and collection notes from this year will find their way into future newsletters.

Ellis L. Lauder milk

## Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists Board Meeting Minutes 2021

By Tony Merkle

The meeting was brought to order by President Ellis Lauder milk. Others in attendance were: James Adams, Member-at-large, Shelby Fulton, Member-at-large, Loran Gibson, Field Trip Coordinator, Steve Johnson, Member-at-large, Raymond Little, Newsletter Editor/Website Coordinator and Tony Merkle, Secretary.

An initial informal discussion took place regarding board representation, membership dues and newsletter production. No final decisions were made at this time. All of the board members present agreed to continue in their current positions if needed. Steve Johnson who had completed the three year term given to members-at-large indicated that he would be willing to either stay on or step down. Regarding the membership dues and newsletter production it was suggested that they could continue to be handled as had been done previously given there were no compelling reasons financially or otherwise to make changes to them.

The first item formally discussed was the organization's financial status. A written report of the finances covering the previous year as compiled and sent to all of the officers by Society Treasurer Les Ferge was reviewed. President Ellis Lauder milk summarized it by indicating that the organization was in good shape with an increase of about \$244 in cash reserves resulting in a total reserve of approximately \$6,477. He also reported a membership of seventy four (74) individuals representing a decrease of two (2) from the previous year.

The next topic of discussion was the board meeting minutes from 2020. A brief discussion confirming that they had been published in the newsletter earlier in the year took place. Discussion also took place regarding the approach that should be taken to their review prior to publication. No changes or significant concerns were raised. A motion was made to accept them as published. The motion was seconded and passed without objection.

The third item considered was the organization's media outlets. Aspects related to the website, database, newsletter, and social media (i.e. Facebook page) were discussed. Website coordinator Raymond Little indicated that the status of the website was the same as it had been at the previous year's meeting. Aspects related to the cost of implementing it were discussed. During the course of the discussion, in order to clarify the conversation, it was stated that the website had not yet been published. A motion was then made to move forward with doing so. The motion was seconded and passed without objection.

The fourth item considered was organization recognition awards presentations. The first discussed was the William R. Black Award which would go to Don Wright as had been previously agreed upon by the board through email communications. A second award which had not been discussed previously by the full board was discussed at this time and agreed to unanimously. It would be given to Leroy Koehn in recognition of his many years of service to the organization especially as newsletter editor.

**Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists  
Board Meeting Minutes 2021  
(Continued)**



The fifth item discussed was the make-up of the board of officers for the upcoming year. The discussion resulted in all who were present agreeing to remain in their respective positions if needed. Les Ferge, who was not in attendance, had agreed previously through an email communication to the other board members to continue as treasurer. After it was mentioned that Julian Dupuis had expressed an interest in serving on the board if needed and that Steve Johnson's term was due to expire, Steve agreed to step down in order to allow Julian an opportunity to serve. It was then agreed that the slate of officers that would be presented to the membership to serve for the coming year would be the same as for the previous year except that Julian Dupuis would occupy the member-at-large position being vacated by Steve Johnson.

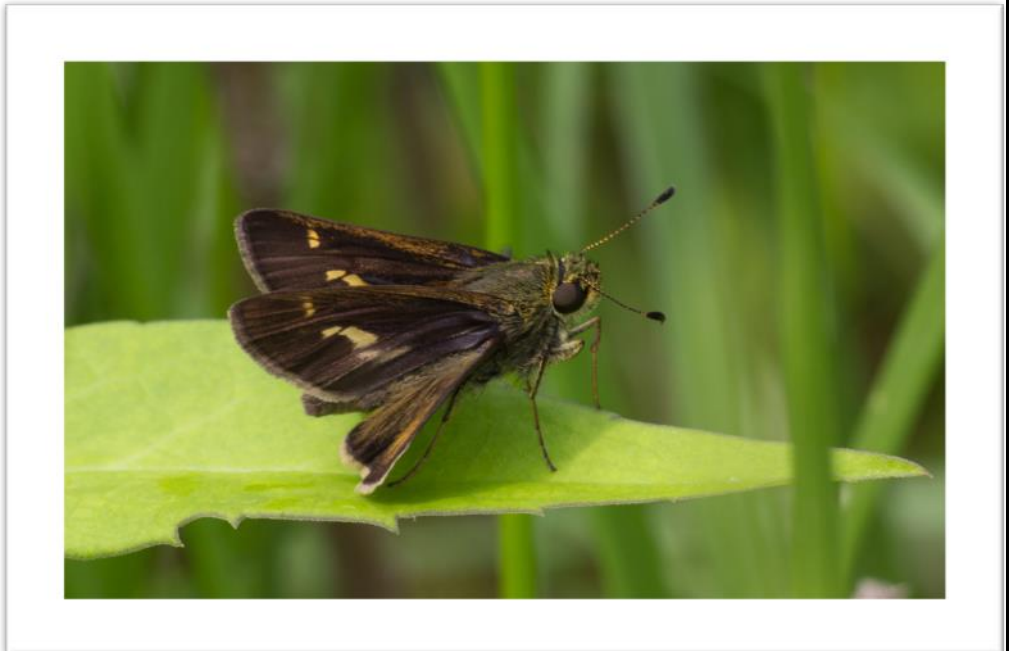
The sixth item considered was field trip activity for the coming year. Various aspects of planning trips were discussed. Suggestions were made regarding how they could be handled and where they might be conducted as well as what the best times for them might be. It was indicated that the plan would be for reinstating them for the coming year.

At this time because no other items of discussion were left to be considered or presented, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was then seconded and passed without objection.

## Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists Business Meeting Minutes 2021

By Tony Merkle

The meeting was called to order by Society President Ellis Lauder milk. The first order of business was the financial report. President Lauder milk presented the report as had been prepared and forwarded to board members by Treasurer Les Ferge in advance of the meeting. Key aspects presented were a membership of seventy four representing a decrease of two individuals from the previous year and a cash balance in the organization's bank account of \$6,477.39 representing an increase of \$244.96 from the previous year.



Little Glassywing Skipper (*Pompeius verna*) Photo by Tony Merkle

The second order of business was recognition of the minutes from the previous year's annual meeting. After a brief discussion regarding their appearance in the organization's newsletter earlier in the year, a motion was made to approve them. The motion was seconded and carried without objection. A motion was also made to accept the treasurer's report that had been presented. The motion was seconded and approved without objection.

The third order of business was the organization's media outlets. Newsletter Editor/Website Coordinator Raymond Little gave a report on the status of the website that was being developed including the cost of its implementation. He also reported on aspects of the organization's newsletter publication and encouraged submissions for it. Mention was made that the board of directors in their meeting earlier in the day had agreed that implementation of the website should proceed. A motion was made to allow Raymond in consultation with Les Ferge regarding expenses associated with it to go ahead with the website's implementation. The motion was seconded and passed without objection. President Lauder milk then made some other comments about the newsletter indicating that it would continue to be published as it had been previously with an option for receiving it as both a hard copy and electronic copy or as an electronic copy only. He further indicated that because the organization's finances were good, no dues increase or reason to change anything in the way the newsletter was produced would be necessary at this time.

**Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists  
Business Meeting Minutes 2021  
(Continued)**

The fourth order of business was the organization's board representation. A brief discussion on this took place whereby it was mentioned that all of the officers from the previous year were willing to return but that member-at-large Steve Johnson, whose term was expiring, had agreed to step down to allow another individual to serve with the board. Nominations were then accepted for the position. Julian Dupuis was presented. No others were forthcoming. A motion was made to cease nominations. The motion was seconded and carried without objection. The board membership was then presented by position as follows:

Ellis Lauder milk, President

Les Ferge, Treasurer

Raymond Little, Newsletter Editor/Social Media/Website Coordinator

Loran Gibson, Field Trip Coordinator

Tony Merkle, Secretary

James Adams, Member at-Large

Shelby Fulton, Member at-Large

Julian Dupuis, Member at-Large

A motion was made to accept the slate of officers for the upcoming year as presented. The motion was seconded and passed without objection.

The last order of business was field trip planning and implementation. It was mentioned that the hope was for reinstating them in 2022. A brief discussion took place whereby suggestions for sites/locals to visit were solicited. Some ideas were discussed but no definitive plans were made at this time. Members were encouraged to contact Field Trip Coordinator Loran Gibson with ideas about where they might be conducted.

At this time President Lauder milk indicated that he had no other items for consideration. No others were presented. A motion was made to adjourn. The motion was seconded and passed without objection.

**2021 Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists  
Annual Meeting  
Presentation Abstracts**

**Cosñipata Butterfly Survey  
Cuzco and Madre De Dios, Peru**

Michael L. McInnis

Peru's Cosñipata Region in Cuzco and Madre De Dios Departments is a valley between Manu National Park and the Amarakaeri Communal Reserve that ranges from 400 to 4,000m elevation. The Region's habitats include Puna grasslands, elfin forest, upper/lower montane forest, and lowland forest. A team of experienced lepidopterists sampled the butterfly fauna of this valley for more than a decade (7,440 field person-hours). The survey team included representatives from Brazil, France, Peru, Switzerland and the USA (including six members of the Kentucky Lepidopterists). 45% of survey person-hours were devoted to both low elevation (400 - 1,000 m.) and mid-elevation (1,000 – 2,000m) sites, with the remainder (10%) spent above 2,000 m. Survey methods included use of nets, traps, bait and lures. We surveyed all families with particular emphasis on the Lycaenidae.

Observation data has been documented for more than 41,000 specimens and vouchers have been deposited with the survey sponsors (Museo de Historia Natural, Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos (Lima, Peru) and the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution (Washington, DC)). After adding data on the Region's fauna from museums and the literature, 2,544 species and 2,578 taxa have been observed in the Cosñipata. Field observations included 990 new records for Cuzco Department and 238 undescribed species. Maximum species diversity occurred below 600m (1,539 species) and remained fairly constant to 1,500m (1,449 species). Diversity decayed rapidly above 1,500m, with only 69 species observed above 3,500m. Maximal adult species richness occurs during the transition from dry to wet seasons (September to November) at all elevations, but there is little evidence that adults of many species occur only during this transition period. Further sampling in the Cosñipata Region is expected to increase the species total to more than 3,100, demonstrating that this Region is home to one of the richest butterfly faunas in the world.

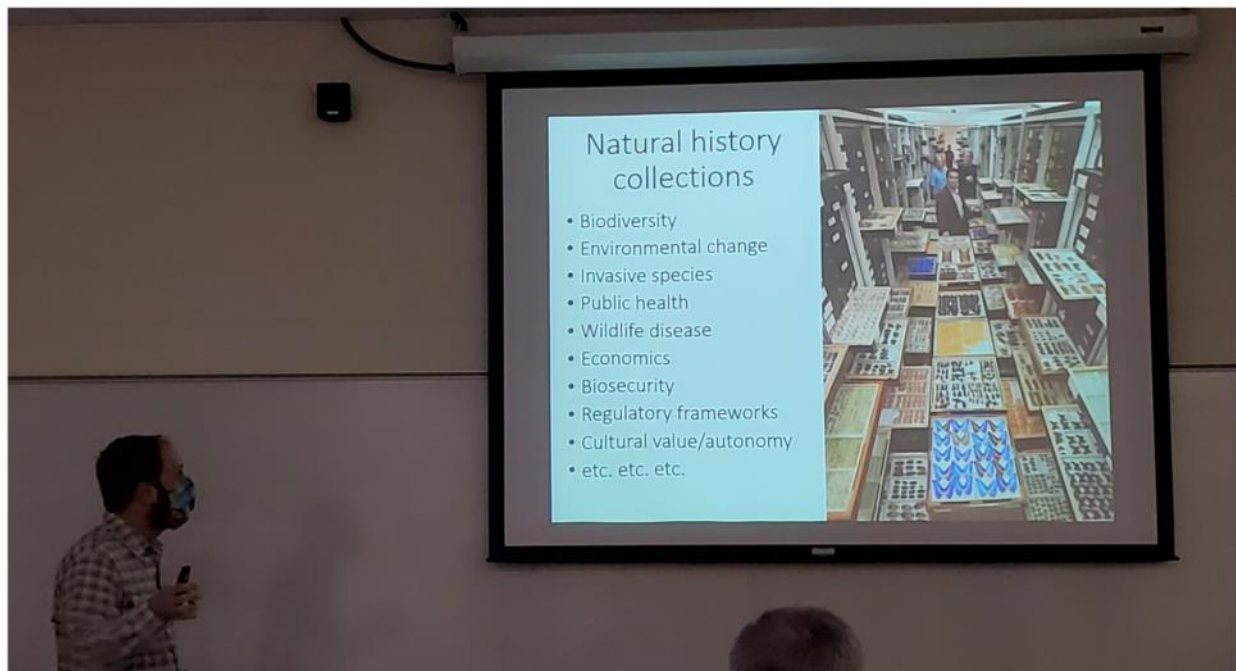


**2021 Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists  
Annual Meeting  
Presentation Abstracts  
(Continued)**

**Digitizing and Databasing the University of Kentucky Insect Collection:  
Progress and Prospects**

Julian R. Dupuis, Eric Chapman

The University of Kentucky Insect Collection (UKIC) is the largest entomological collection in Kentucky and a major collection in the east-central USA. The collection houses somewhere between 750 thousand and one million pinned specimens in 1,868 drawers and major strengths include leafhoppers (>250 drawers) and Lepidoptera (730 drawers). Despite its importance for documenting the biodiversity of Kentucky, there has been little curatorial effort in the collection during the past several decades. I will discuss recent curatorial efforts, including digitization and databasing of specimens via the Symbiota Collections of Arthropods Network, and future prospects including an automated photography and label reconciliation system that will greatly increase databasing throughput. These efforts make the UKIC globally accessible via data aggregators like GBIF and facilitate local projects on Kentucky Lepidoptera and other groups.



**2021 Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists  
Annual Meeting  
Presentation Abstracts  
(Continued)**

**“The first long trip since Covid – Collecting moths in the Plains States July 2021”**

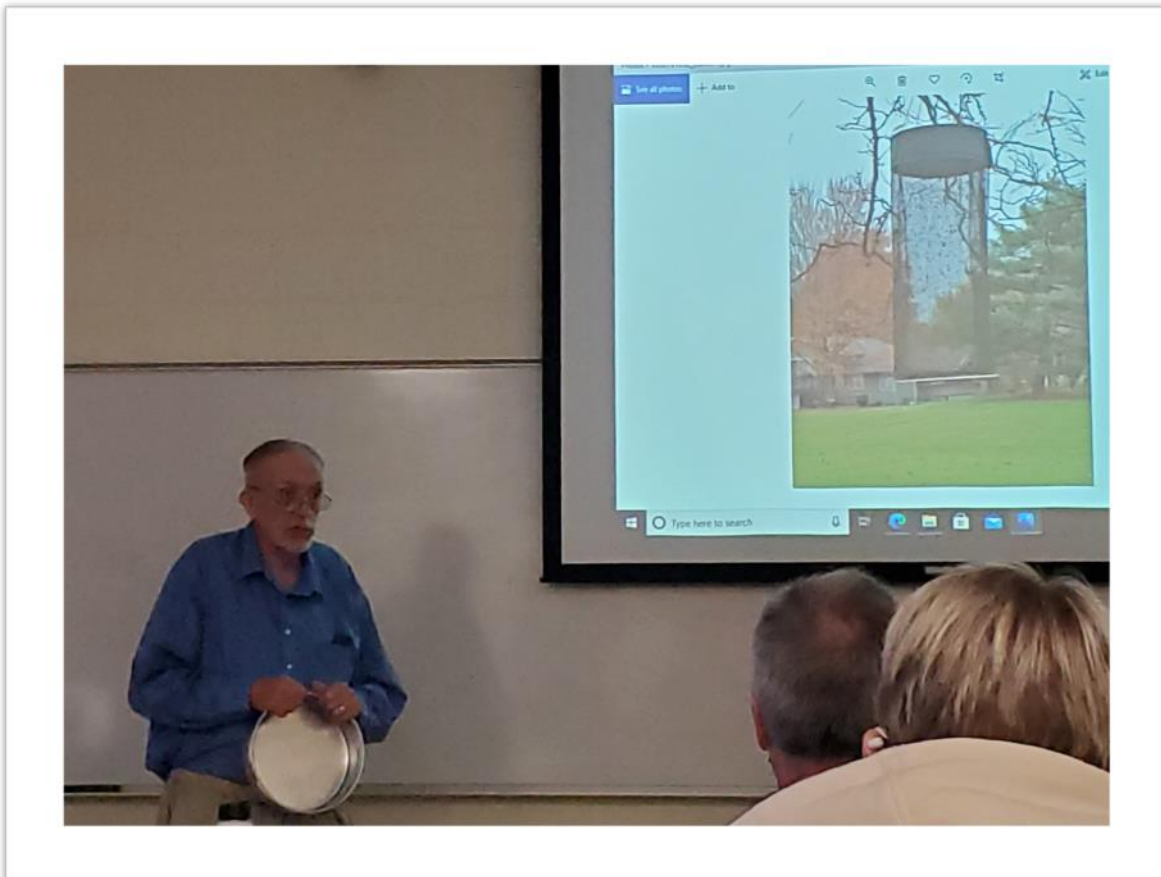
**Dr. James Adams**

Abstract: This presentation is a travelogue, with leps, for a trip I took with my son through Kansas, Nebraska and South Dakota, July, 2021. There were three stops in Kansas (Red Hills in Barber Co., Cimarron National Grasslands in Morton Co., Arikaree Breaks/Devil’s Gap in Cheyenne Co.), two main stops in Nebraska (Nebraska National Forest [Cliffs area] SE of Chadron in Dawes Co. and Merritt Reservoir State Rec Area in Cherry Co.) and the Black Hills in South Dakota. Leps encountered included rare species, such as the Arogos Skipper in the Red Hills and *Catocala luciana* in the Merritt Reservoir area, and state records for all three states -- *Helotropha reniformis* in Cheyenne Co., KS; a number of noctuids and geometrids in the Nebraska National Forest outside of Chadron (*Diachrysia aeroides*, *Protodeltote albidula*, *Hydraecia perobliqua*, *Polia purpurissata*, *Abagrotis bimarginalis* and *forbesi*, and *Eriplatymetria grotearia*, just to name a few); and *Autographa bimaculata*, *Syngrapha viridisigma*, and *Anaplectoides prasina* in the Black Hills. Other wildlife encountered was also discussed.



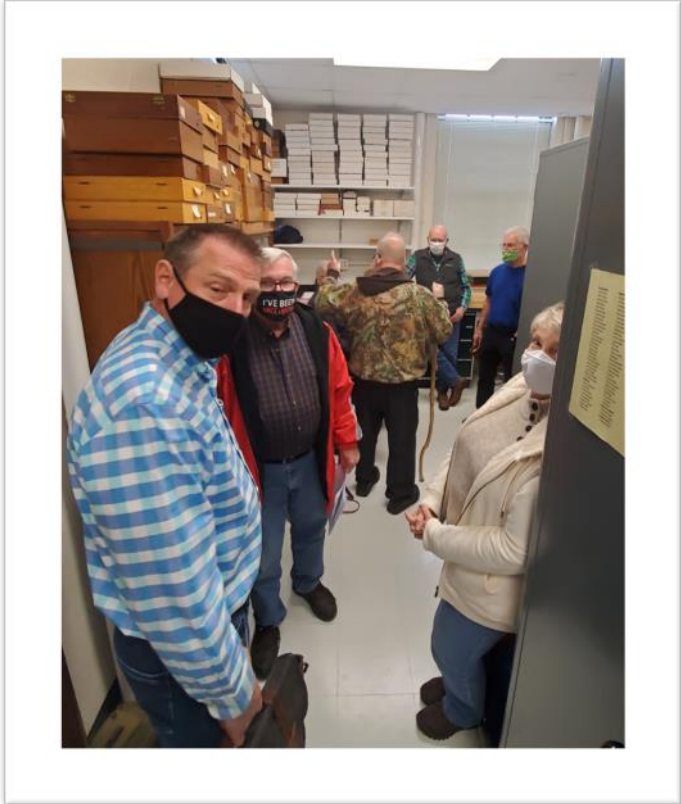
**2021 Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists  
Annual Meeting  
Presentation Abstracts  
(Continued)**

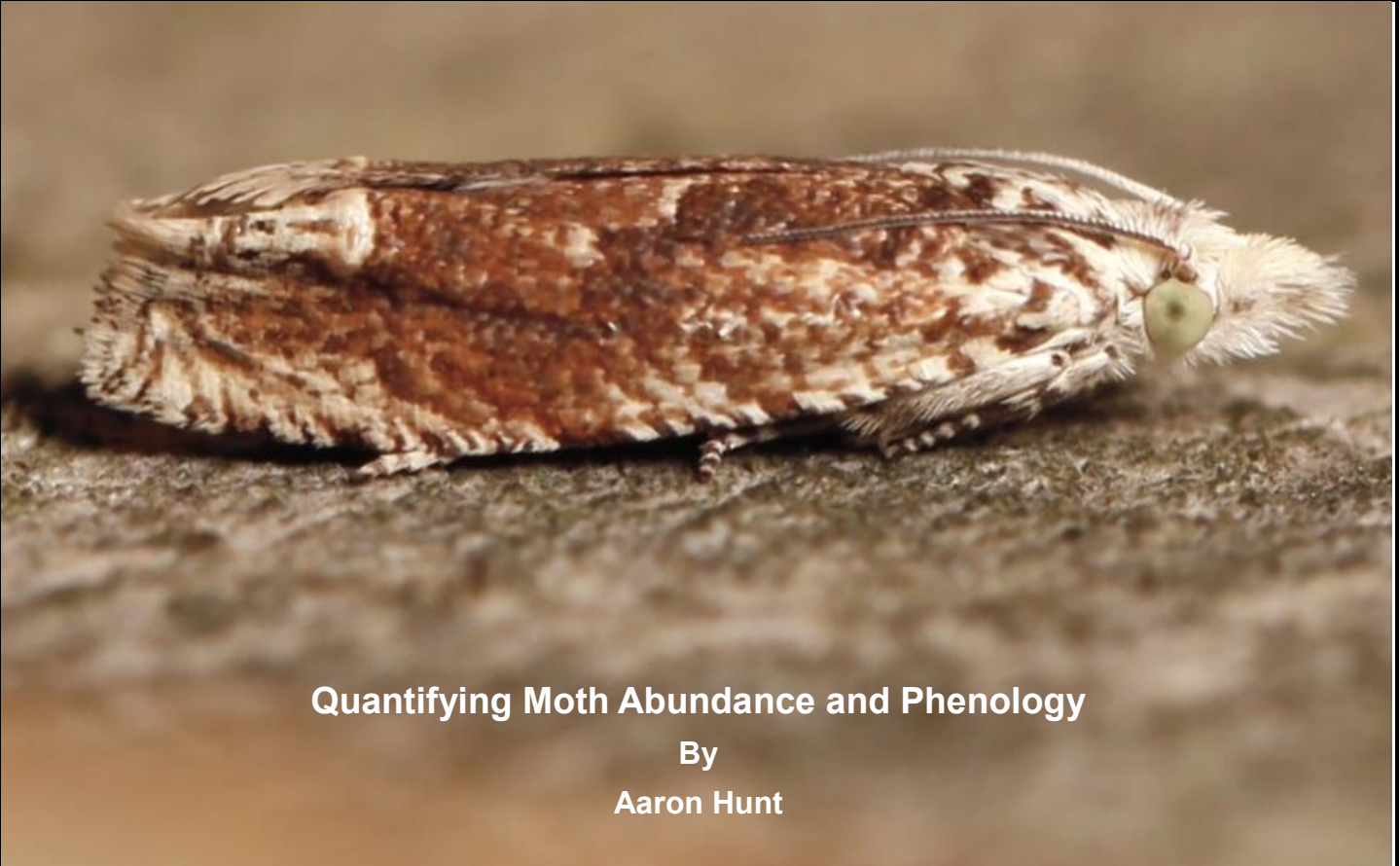
**The Slotted Pan Bait Trap  
A New Design  
Leroy Koehn**



### 2021 Annual Meeting







## Quantifying Moth Abundance and Phenology

By

Aaron Hunt

Photo by Aaron Hunt

I first became interested in moths in 2014 and began nightly surveying at my porch lights on Block Island the following year. Since then, I have surveyed for moths nightly whenever I have been on Block Island, weather permitting. Since 2017, I have also surveyed with sheets and black lights on dozens of nights in all habitats on the island. I have recorded more than 1,000 species of moths in 49 families.

Since 2018, I have estimated the numbers of all species at lights nightly at my porch lights and additionally every few days at one or two sheets with black lights at several locations across Block Island, mainly May to August (Fig. 1). I begin each survey with sheets at dusk and make continuous observations of species present until roughly 01:30–02:30 when moth activity typically drops off. I turn on my porch lights every night by dusk, and I usually record the moths present starting around 02:00 or 3:00, typically taking 45–90 minutes on warm summer nights. On nights when I survey with black lights elsewhere on the island, I check the porch lights after returning home, usually after 03:00. I have recorded over 40,000 individual moth sightings in four incomplete seasons of observation and collected a few thousand specimens for identification and vouchers.

I identify over 90% of the individual moths I see to species on sight, usually at a glance, and record a few taxa identified only to species complex or genus. Some others I always collect for eventual identification. This minimizes the need for collection while still permitting complete recording of all taxa. The few taxa I don't identify to species are species complexes often or always requiring dissection for identification. Some species I identify in my notes only as morphospecies until I collect and identify a few individuals. The commonest of the taxa I don't identify on sight are *Pero anectararia*, *honestaria*, and *morrisonaria*; *Eulithis gracilineata* and *diversilineata*; and *Hellinsia glenni* and *kellcottii*. I have collected a number of *Pero* and a few *Eulithis* to confirm the local presence of all the species found in the region.

## Quantifying Moth Abundance and Phenology

(Continued)

In 2019, I collected nearly all the *Hellinsia* spp. I saw and got 153 *H. glenni* and 11 *H. kellicottii*, giving me one year of data on the relative abundance of the species. This collection contributed to my first publication using my survey data, a collaboration with Debbie Matthews, who identified the specimens, on the plume moths of Block Island (Hunt and Matthews, 2020). The most trying genus is *Coleophora*, of which I have collected several hundred specimens that will eventually be identified by Jean-François Landry.

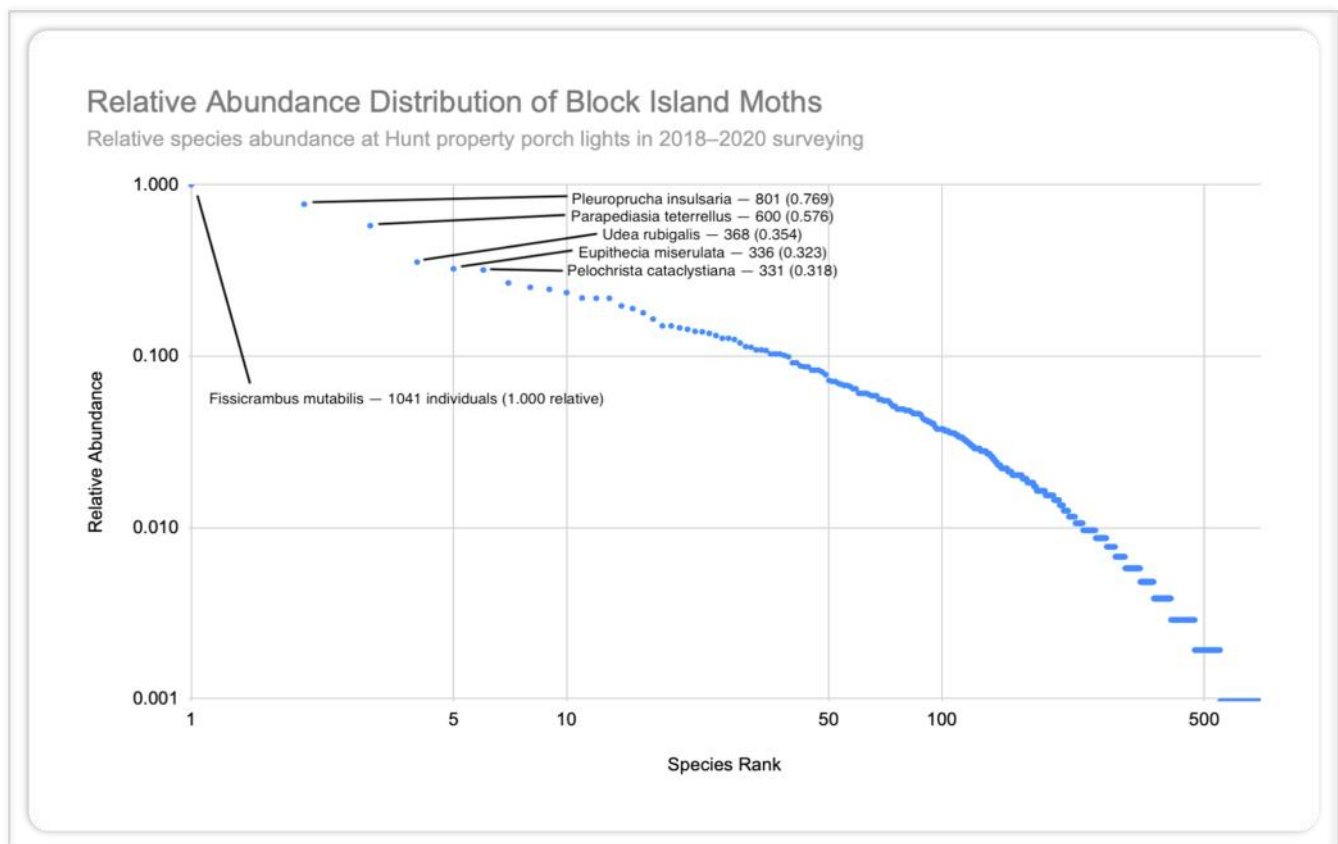


Figure. 1

As far as I am aware, no one else has surveyed moths using my methodology, presumably because of its difficulty and the time commitment it requires. I have heard of only one other person who records all individual moths at lights, John Pickering, in Georgia, but he photographs all moths present at his lights, whereas I identify nearly everything by sight. Photographing all individuals requires multiple hours each night and of course generates tens of thousands of photos that must be catalogued. Our data sets represent perhaps the only attempts at a comprehensive record not only of species presence but also relative abundance and phenology at a single site. Additionally, my frequent observations at other nearby sites permit detailed comparisons of community composition in different habitats and can point to likely host plants for species with unknown life histories.

## Quantifying Moth Abundance and Phenology

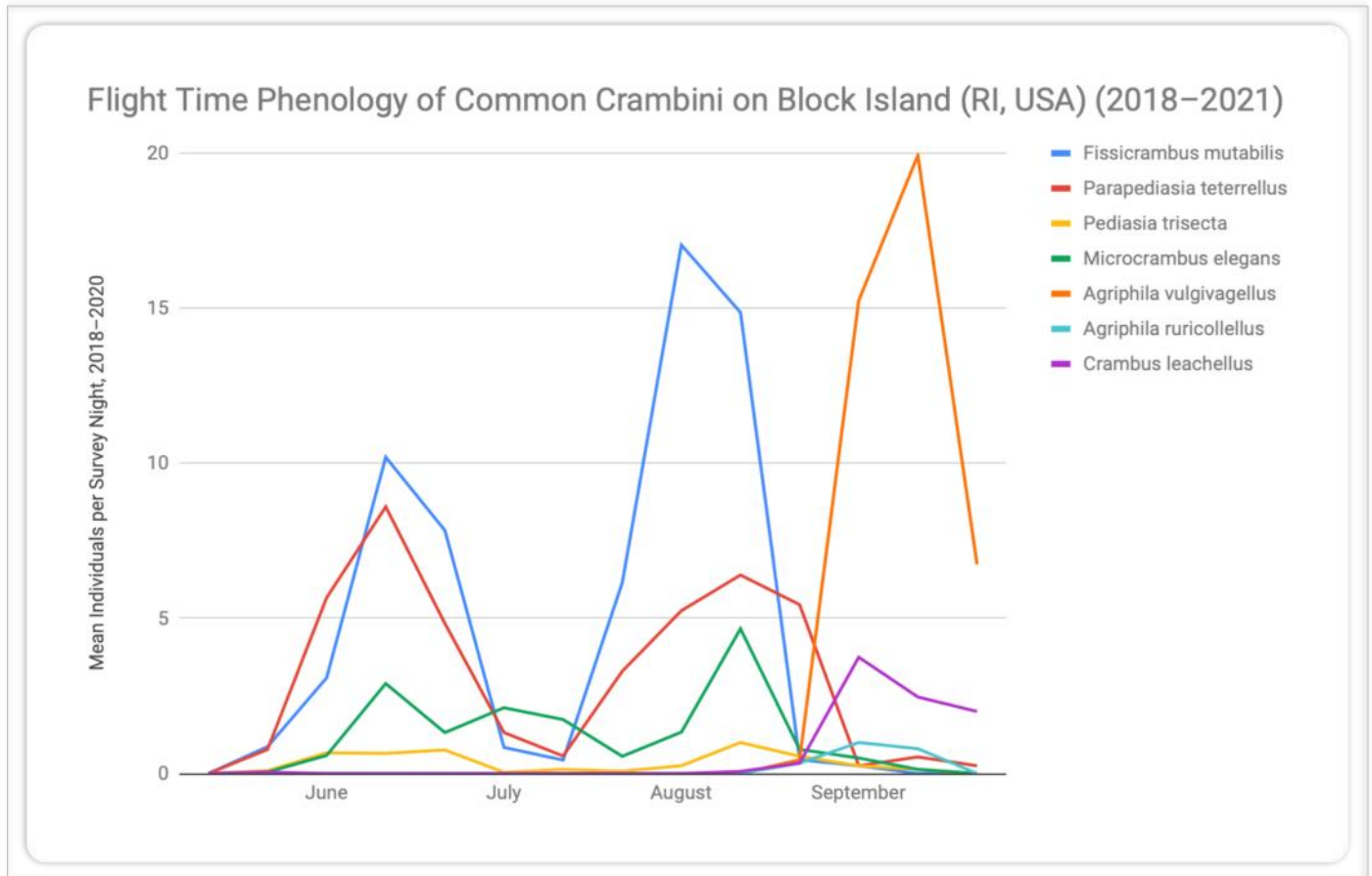
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The greatest barrier to anyone who might want to replicate my study elsewhere, aside from the thousands of hours it requires (hardly a serious impediment to the most dedicated naturalists!) is the difficulty of identifying everything. It took me three summers (2015–2017) of nightly observation at my porch lights to be able to sight identify practically everything that showed up. Unfortunately, my survey methodology requires youth: a fast mind able to recognize 1,000+ species and sharp eyes able to distinguish the markings of minute leafminer moths. That said, there is no reason others could not replicate my survey elsewhere with a reduced taxonomic scope. I would imagine some people have done so, but more should try it!

Here is what I would recommend. Record all individuals (estimating numbers as well as possible for common species when exact counts are impossible) of at least: (1) a few of the species commonest each time of year, (2) a few species known to go through boom and bust population cycles, (3) a few species either at the extreme northern or extreme southern margin of their respective ranges, (4) a few species feeding on each of the locally commonest plants, and (5) any species not recorded at the site in the first few years of observations. Recording species common at each time of year provides detailed data on phenology for a set of representative species. Documenting changes in flight times between years, between locations, and across decades and correlating these with differences in weather and climate provides information on the effects of climate change on moth populations and can be used to predict phenology at locations never surveyed based on local climate. Recording species known to have outbreak years, such as *Malacosoma* spp. and *Spodoptera* spp., can improve understanding of the environmental factors behind population booms and the level of geographic synchrony in population levels. Species can be expected to become commoner at the northern edge of their ranges and to decline or disappear at their southern margins with climate change; tracking these species provides important detailed data on how quickly moths can adjust their ranges as the world warms. Tracking representatives of important local feeding guilds, such as oak feeders, especially when paired with quantitative surveys of local plants, can provide an indication of the effects of seasonal weather and invasive species on host plant quality. Finally, recording any species not seen in the first few years of observation ensures the population growth of any species newly colonizing the area is recorded.

The massive growth in moth photography over the last 20 years has yielded great benefits to the study of Lepidoptera, but incomplete, opportunistic photographic documentation of local faunae can't replace comprehensive recording of moth communities. Photographic records on iNaturalist and BugGuide provide many thousands of new distribution records for uncommon and rare species, but they permit only general characterization of species phenology. Without more complete data on flight times, slight, gradual changes in phenology will be impossible to detect. Citizen science websites record range changes as well, but they poorly document the speed of local population growth following colonization.

## Quantifying Moth Abundance and Phenology (Continued)



Figure

I plan to launch a website soon to host my summarized Block Island survey data. Each species page will include a graph of average abundance at my porch lights over the course of the year and data on occurrence at other locations on Block Island. I also plan to publish a series of papers reporting my findings for portions of the island's fauna. The first paper, on Zygaenoidea, came out last fall.

Hunt, A.S., 2021. Moths of Block Island (Rhode Island, USA) I: Zygaenoidea. *Northeastern Naturalist* **28(4)**: 497–510.

Hunt, A.S., and D.L. Matthews. 2020. Pterophoridae recorded on Block Island (Rhode Island, USA), 2018–2019. *News of the Lepidopterists' Society* **62(2)**: 68–74.

## Kentucky Sesiid Trapping 2021

Raymond Little and Loran Gibson

During the 2021 season, Loran Gibson, Ellis Laudermilk, and Raymond Little decided to make an extra effort to trap for Sesiids. Ellis initially jumped ahead of Loran, but soon had to bow out due to other projects, leaving Loran and Raymond for the season. Trapping was conducted in Franklin, Gallatin, Harlan, Laurel, McCreary, Owen, Rowan, and Whitley Counties.

Raymond monitored six Sesiid pheromone traps placed at two locations (Three each) in McCreary County. His traps were left out for most of the season and monitored daily to once a week.

Loran trapped during various day trips to Gallatin, Laurel, Owen, Owsley, Rowan and Whitley Counties. Loran and Raymond placed several traps out in various locations on Black Mountain (Harlan County) in July .

### Traps

Green Universal Bucket Traps were used from Great Lakes IPM (Item# GL/IP-2351-03).

### Pheromone Lures

The L-103, Dogwood Borer L-119, Grape Root Borer L-945, and Squash Vine Borer L-946 pheromone lures from Scentry Biological were used. Additional lures from Alpha Scents were used, Western popular borer - ZZ 3,13OH/EZ 3,13 OH (50:50) and Lesser Peachtree Borer (SKU SYNPIC) lures.

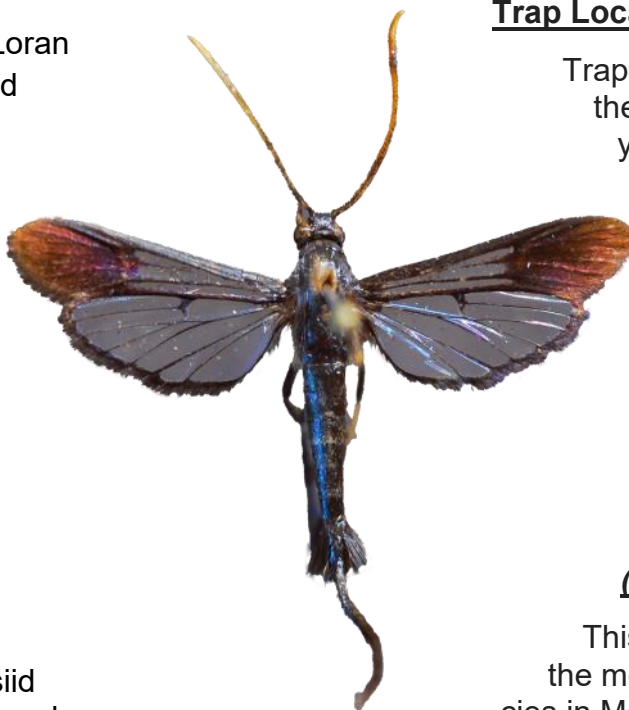


Fig. 1

### Trap Locations

Traps were typically placed in the edge of wood lines of yards, powerline cuts, and other open areas sites.

Raymond placed three traps in vicinity of a creek with abundant rhododendron to target *Synanthedon rhododendri*, as well as three traps in the wood line of his residence for the season.

### Peachtree Borer (*Synanthedon exitiosa*)

This species was found to be the most abundantly trapped species in McCreary County. Loran Gibson collected additional specimens in Harlan, Owen, Rowan, and Whitley Counties. Specimens were collected from May through September utilizing the L-119 pheromone lure .

### Clematis Clearwing Moth (*Alcathoe caudata*)

This species was only collected in McCreary County and was not abundant in traps. Specimens were collected from the end of August into the beginning of September, 2021. Traps utilizing the L-119 pheromone combined with the Western popular borer - ZZ 3,13OH/EZ 3,13 OH (50:50) lure were successful in attracting this species. One specimen was found to be unusually dark colored (See Figure 1).

### Grape Root Borer (*Vitacea polistiformis*)

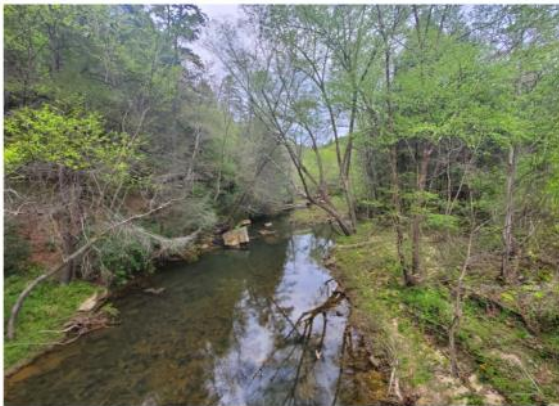
This species was only collected in McCreary County. A single specimen was collected on August 11, 2021, utilizing the L-945 pheromone lure.

## Kentucky Sesiid Trapping 2021

Continued



McCreary County trap placement in rhododendron along creek.



McCreary County trap placement along creek. Same as location above.



McCreary County trap placement in wood line.

**Kentucky Sesiid Trapping 2021**

Continued

**Red Oak Clearwing Moth (*Paranthrene simulans*)**

This species was commonly trapped in McCreary County. Additional specimens were collected by Loran Gibson in Rowan and Laurel Counties. Specimens were collected in the end of May 2021. Traps utilizing the L-119 and L-946 pheromone lure were successful in attracting this species.

**Maple Clearwing Moth (*Synanthedon acerrubri*)**

This species was trapped in McCreary County and Harlan Counties. Specimens were collected from May through June 2021. Traps utilizing the pheromone lures L-945 and L-946 were successful in attracting this species.

**Lesser Peachtree Borer (*Synanthedon pictipes*)**

Seven specimens were collected in Gallatin County by Loran Gibson on May 19, 2021, utilizing Alpha Scents, Lesser Peachtree Borer (SKU SYNPIC) lure.

**Riley's Clearwing Moth (*Synanthedon rileyana*)**

Two specimens were collected in the middle of August 2021, in McCreary County, utilizing the L-119 pheromone combined with the Western popular borer - ZZ 3,13OH/EZ 3,13 OH (50:50) lure.

**Dogwood Borer (*Synanthedon scitula*)**

This species was trapped only in McCreary County. Specimens were collected on May 19 and August 23, 2021. Traps utilizing the L-946 pheromone lure were successful in attracting this species.

**Banded Ash Clearwing Moth (*Podosesia aureocincta*)**

A single specimen was collected in McCreary County on September 14, 2021, utilizing L-119 pheromone combined with the Western popular borer - ZZ 3,13OH/EZ 3,13 OH (50:50) lure. William Taft confirmed identification of this specimen with recommendation for dissection to confirm.

**Ash Borer (*Podosesia syringae*)**

This species was trapped in Franklin, Gallatin, McCreary, and Owsley Counties. Specimens were collected by Ellis Lauder milk in Franklin County and Loran in Gallatin and Owsley County. Specimens were collected from the end of April through the middle of June 2021. Traps utilizing the pheromone lures L-119 and L-945 were successful in attracting this species.

**Maple Callus Borer (*Synanthedon acerni*)**

This species was collected in Carlisle and McCreary Counties. Loran Gibson collected specimens on August 5 and August 17, 2021, in light traps in Carlisle County. A specimen was also collected on May 19, 2021, in McCreary County utilizing the L-946 pheromone lure.

**Kentucky Sesiid Trapping 2021**

Continued

**Ironweed Clearwing Borer (*Carmenta bassiformis*)**

A single specimen was collected in Rowan County by Loran Gibson on July 20, 2021, utilizing the L-304 pheromone lure.

**Acknowledgements**

Special thanks to William Taft for his assistance with several identifications and pheromone recommendations.

***Vitacea polistiformis******Alcathoe caudata******Synanthedon rileyana******Carmenta bassiformis******Podosesia aureocincta***

## Kentucky Lepidopterists Spring Field Trip

Loran Gibson

Hello all! The spring field trip of the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists will be held over the weekend of 6-8 May 2022. The location will be the Gritter Ridge Nature Preserve in Powell County, KY. The location is about four miles west of Natural Bridge State Park as the crow flies, but it is a longer drive. Directions to the preserve follow: drive east from Lexington on I64 and exit on to Kentucky's Mountain Parkway just east of Winchester; follow Mountain Parkway southeast to the Slade, Natural Bridge exit (a rest area is also at this exit); at the end of the exit turn left on to KY Rt. 11, go back under Mountain Parkway and turn left on to KY Rt. 15/11; follow Rt. 15/11 west for 3.9 miles and turn left on to Rt. 1639; follow Rt. 1639 for approximately 2 miles and turn right on to Rt. 1057; continue along Rt. 1057 for 2.9 miles and turn left on to High Rock Rd.; there is no road sign at High Rock Rd., but there is a "No Outlet" sign at the entrance to this gravel road; Follow High Rock Rd. for .15 mile and stay left at the fork in the road on to Gritter Ridge Rd. (also an unmarked gravel road); continue along Gritter Ridge Rd. for approximately 1.2 miles to the parking area for the preserve on the left (see attached photo). Coordinates here are 37d 46' 40.3" N / 83d 45' 27" W.

Gritter Ridge Nature Preserve is over 400 acres in size. It is accessible via Gritter Ridge Road and also by another gravel road near the parking area. A third gravel road leads to the Friends Cemetery which is near the preserve. The area is similar in character to Red River Gorge Recreation Area and Natural Bridge State Park. Most of the preserve is forested with typical upland species of the area including Oak/Maple/Beech and Oak/Pine communities. Heaths are common including large patches of Rhododendron, mountain laurel, huckleberry, and blueberry. Plant diversity is amazing so expect a nice wildflower display during the meeting. Shelby and I did not explore off road during our visit to the property on 3 March, but I would expect the ravines below the ridgetops to be very interesting as well. This is a very pristine spot, so I expect Lepidoptera diversity to be excellent. I hope our beetle guys will attend the meeting as well. Since this is a new nature preserve, no list of invertebrate species exists yet. Our efforts during the meeting should help to create a base-line database for the preserve, so please come and report what you find.

## Kentucky Lepidopterists Spring Field Trip (Continued)



Gritter Ridge parking area

We have five rooms blocked for our convenience at Natural Bridge State Park's Hemlock Lodge. These rooms have two queen beds in each room. The minimum stay at this resort park is two nights, so in order to reserve one of these rooms one must commit to staying both Friday and Saturday nights (6 and 7 May). The room rate is \$124.00 per night plus 9% tax. These rooms will be blocked for us until 1 April, so please make your reservation by calling the park at 606-663-2214. Ask for Troy, and tell him you are with the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists. If you need to cancel your reservation you may do so at least 48 hours prior to your scheduled arrival. So, if something happens and you will not be using your reserved room please cancel by 4 May, preferably 3 May. Shelby and I worked hard to find less expensive motel accommodations in the area, but few were available reasonably near the preserve. The State Park Lodge seemed to us to be the best value available even though rates are fairly high. There is also a restaurant in the Lodge.

Kentucky Lepidopterists Spring Field Trip  
Continued



Road to Friends Cemetery



Powerline cut along Gritter Ridge

## Kentucky Lepidopterists Spring Field Trip Continued

Those who wish to sleep in their vehicles on the preserve may do so. There are lots of good places to park and set up moth lights. The gravel roads are in very good condition, so access is very good. Miguel's Pizza is near the park on Rt. 11 as well as a Subway sub shop at the Slade Exit. I think there are a couple of small restaurants in the area that were not yet open for the season when Shelby and I were there checking things out on 2 March. Hopefully these will be open during early May. Meeting times and locations have not yet been set, so call Loran prior to the meeting (859-384-0083) for any updates, or check the Facebook page. I look forward to seeing you at meeting! Keep your fingers crossed for good weather. Call Loran if you have any questions.

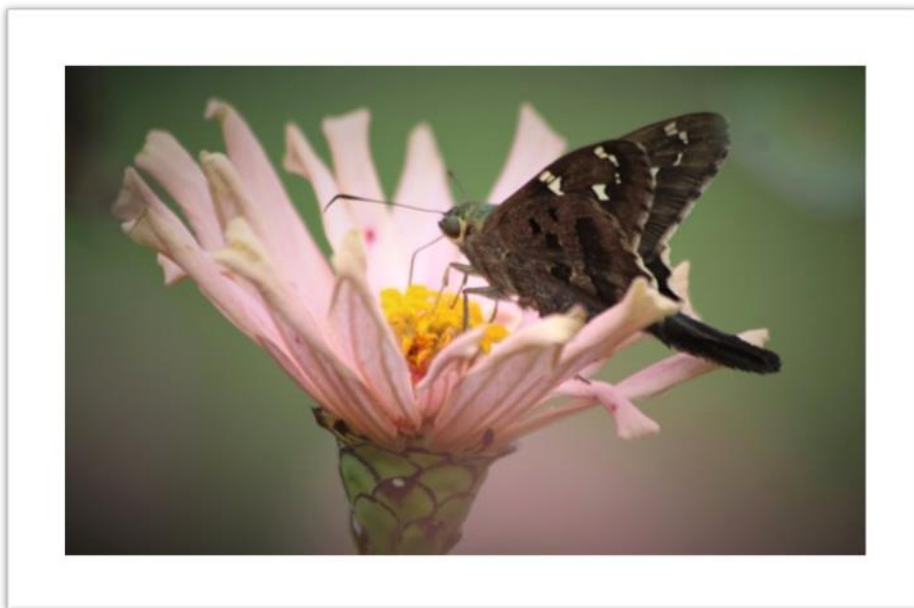


Rhododendron patch along Gritter Ridge Rd.

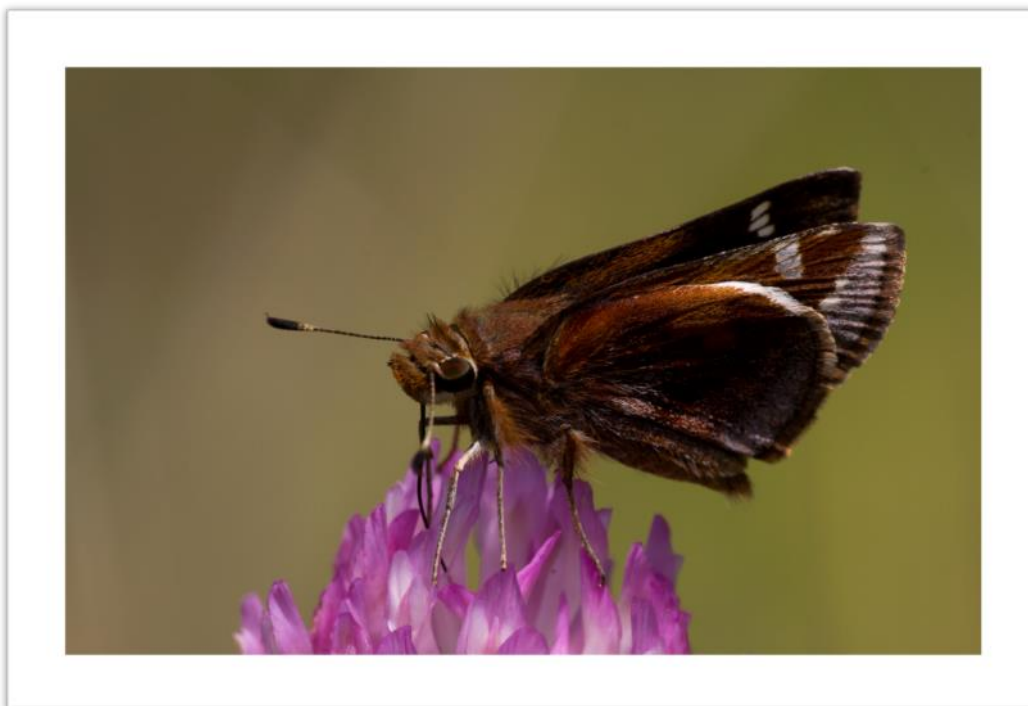


Rock outcropping near Friends Cemetery

Submitted Member Photos!



Long-tailed Skipper (*Urbanus proteus*) by Rita Adkins



Female Zabulon Skipper (*Poanes zabulon*) by Tony Merkle

Submitted Member Photos!



Four-spotted Angle Moth (*Trigrammia quadrinotaria*) by Tony Merkle



Male Zabulon Skipper (*Poanes zabulon*) by Tony Merkle

**Membership in the Lepidopterists' Society**

The Lepidopterists' Society is open to membership for anyone interested in any aspect of lepidopterology. The only criterion for membership is that you appreciate butterflies and/or moths! To become a member, please send full dues for the current year, together with your current mailing address and a note about your particular areas of interest in Lepidoptera, to:

Kelly Richers, Treasurer  
 The Lepidopterists' Society  
 9417 Carvalho Court  
 Bakersfield, CA 93311

The dues rates are as follows:

- Active (regular) \$ 45.00
- Affiliate (same address) \$10.00 (this is for relatives living at the same address as the primary member)
- Student \$20.00
- Sustaining \$60.00 (outside U.S., for above add \$5.00 for Mexico/Canada, and \$10.00 for other countries)
- Life \$1800.00

Students must send proof of enrollment at their educational institution (this can be at any level – grade school, high school, college). We encourage advisors/professors to sponsor students, and for students to seek sponsors if you don't have one. You may also inquire if we have any open student sponsorships to Chris Grinter at [cgrinter@gmail.com](mailto:cgrinter@gmail.com). Please add \$5.00 to your dues if you live in Canada/Mexico, \$10.00 for any other country, outside the U.S. to cover additional mailing costs. Remittances must be in U.S. dollars, payable to "The Lepidopterists' Soci-

ety". All members receive the **Journal** and the **News** (each published quarterly). Supplements included in the News are the Membership Directory, published in even-numbered years, and the Season Summary, published annually. Please visit <https://www.lepsoc.org/> for more information.

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**Want to Join the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists?**

**We welcome anyone with an interest in the Lepidoptera of the State of Kentucky.**

**Membership is \$12.00 annually. (Electronic Newsletter Only)**

**Sustaining Membership \$25.00**

**Please send payment to SKL Treasurer:  
 Les Ferge, 7119 Hubbard Ave,  
 Middleton, WI 53562**

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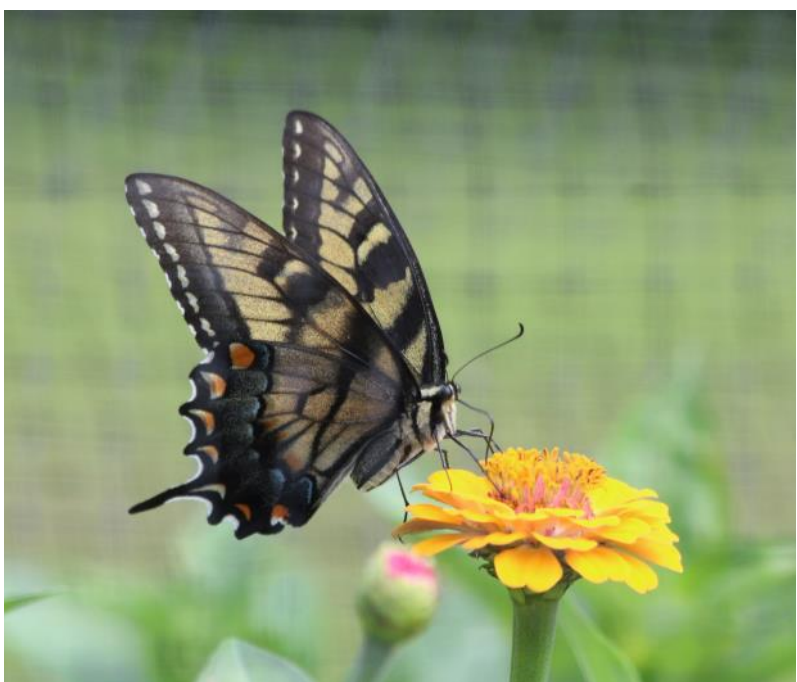
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Eastern Tiger Swallowtail. Photo taken by Rita Adkins