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Butterfly Monitoring Program

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THE OHIO LEPIDOPTERISTS

LONG-TERM MONITORING OF BUTTERFLIES NEWSLETTER FOR JANUARY 2002

Highlights

- 2002 monitoring workshop (p.1, 3 and 4)
- Kit upgrade; new publication (p. 2)

2002 Monitoring Workshop March 9 at Dawes Arboretum

Saturday March 9, 2002 features the fifth annual Long-Term Butterfly Monitoring meeting and workshop at Dawes Arboretum, Newark, Ohio. In the morning session we will hear from Dave Horn on "What We Can Do with the Data" (answer: even more than last year!), Barb Coleman on "Highlights of 2001" and Jerry Wiedmann on "The Rare Ones." The afternoon will include sessions on identification, transect selection, butterfly interaction with habitat, and exciting, unusual or amusing experiences. Butterfly collections, books, supplies and other useful material will be available to examine. Books will be available for sale, and butterfly monitoring kits will be available for loan.

Dawes Arboretum is on State Route 13 (Jacksonstown Road) south of Newark and about four miles north of the rte. 13 exit off Interstate 70 (east of Columbus). From the Cleveland area, I-77 south to I-70 is probably the fastest route. Further information about the workshop including a map and a registration form are included with this newsletter (starting on page 3). We hope to see you there.

- *LTBM Steering Committee*

The Long-term Butterfly Monitoring Program is supported by the Ohio Division of Wildlife with funds donated to the Wildlife Diversity and Endangered Species Program.

Return Monitoring Kits for Renewal

With the next Butterfly Monitoring Workshop quickly approaching on March 9th, we are eager to obtain all the kits borrowed from prior years, so that they can be updated and distributed to other people who are starting a monitoring project or have not been able to obtain a kit in the past. Several new books have been added and a few replaced since the kits were initially created; therefore all kits need to be returned and renewed. Please return the box and contents including all the original books, instructions and tapes to the address below as soon as possible.

To mail the kit, wrap it in brown paper or pack it tightly in another box and mail it to the following address:

5283 Sundale Place South
Columbus, OH 43232

Please mail ASAP so that all the kits can be updated and made available for loan. Thanks again for your cooperation and participation in the Long-term Butterfly Monitoring survey. If you have any questions, please call me at (614) 292-5902, or e-mail me at *bloetscher.1@osu.edu*.

- *Barb Bloetscher*

Submit 2001 Results

Yes, there's time to submit your transect results for 2001, but please do it soon. Our crack staff of volunteer data entry folks eagerly await your results from the Year of the Red Admiral. Send data sheets to Curator of Entomology, Cleveland Museum of Natural History, 1 Wade Oval Drive, Cleveland OH 44106. (You can also bring transect results to the workshop in Newark.)

- *The LTBM Committee*

New Ohio Butterflies Publication

Just off the presses is a color photo guide, "Common Butterflies and Skippers of Ohio." Dave Parshall, Jim Davidson and John Watts, along with ODNR Division of Wildlife, have done a masterful job combining illustrations with text to produce this guide to 90% of the butterflies we are most likely to see. The price is right: it's *free* (funded by the state income tax checkoff and Wildlife Conservation license plate fees). We'll have a supply at the workshop, or you can get it directly from the Division of Wildlife (1840 Belcher Drive, Columbus 43224).

- *Dave Horn*

Ohio Butterfly Monitoring Fame Spreads

Dave Horn presented a poster titled: "The Ohio Lepidopterists' Long-term Butterfly Monitoring Program" at the national meeting of the Entomological Society of America in San Diego in December. He will bring the poster to the March workshop.

Fifth Annual Statewide Butterfly Monitoring Workshop

Some butterfly species are disappearing from Ohio. Of the butterflies endangered in Ohio in 1987, the Karner blue was extirpated by 1989, and the regal fritillary is disappearing from much of its range east of the Great Plains. Butterfly populations fluctuate, and although we don't know for sure, many folks state that there were more butterflies around years ago. We are concerned that species may decline towards extirpation without being detected.

More than twenty years ago, butterfly enthusiasts in England faced this same scenario. Their response was a national plan designed to monitor long-term changes in the abundance of butterflies. The changes in numbers are monitored at individual sites, and partly by comparisons with results elsewhere, are used to assess the impact of local factors, such as habitat change.

By 2001 there were more than 35 active Ohio butterfly monitoring sites. The Ohio Lepidopterists, Ohio Division of Wildlife, the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Dawes Arboretum, and the Ohio Biological Survey, are co-sponsoring the fifth statewide workshop to teach butterfly monitoring techniques to Ohio butterfly enthusiasts, wildlife area managers, and park naturalists.

The workshop will be held 9 March 2002, 9:30 am to 4:30 pm, at the Dawes Arboretum. Please refer to the map. We will meet in the Visitor's Center.

The workshop will be in two parts. The morning session will be an introduction to butterfly monitoring with an overview of the long-term butterfly monitoring program in Ohio. We will examine data from 6 years of monitoring to illustrate the type of information which can be derived from the database. In the afternoon, the workshop will feature concurrent sessions so more experienced persons can attend sessions reaching beyond basic information. Persons who are new to butterfly monitoring will feel very comfortable in sessions designed to introduce the concept of monitoring butterflies. Basic programs include butterfly identification and information about skippers and hairstreaks. Alternate sessions include discussion for experienced monitors, butterfly habitat associations, "How to start a transect." Participants will be able to attend sessions from either group as the afternoon progresses. Butterfly Monitoring kits will be available for loan.

Pre-registration Form: Registration fee of **\$15.00 (\$5.00 without lunch)** includes box lunch (with vegetarian option), snacks, and educational materials. Workshop space is limited. Pre-registration is required to guarantee a lunch. Please send one registration form for each person. Pre-registrations must be received by 1 March 2002. Purchase Orders are welcome. Late registrations please by email: WiedmannB@aol.com

Name and Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work: _____

FAX: _____ E-mail: _____

Lunch choice: Ham sandwich _____ Chicken sandwich _____ Vegetarian _____

Make checks payable to: The Ohio Lepidopterists. Mail pre-registration to: The Ohio Lepidopterists, Jerry Wiedmann, 12764 Huntoon Road, Painesville, Ohio 44007. Home phone:(440) 254-4230, Day phone (440) 357-4646: FAX (440) 357-4661: e-mail: WiedmannB@aol.com

Each attendee will receive the recorder's handbook for Ohio, a full color guide: " The Common Butterflies of Ohio," a checklist of Ohio butterflies and skippers, and several other excellent handouts about books and binoculars.

The support of The Ohio Division of Wildlife and The Ohio Lepidopterists helps to ensure this is an activity that will be with us for a long time. We hope to see you there.

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Saturday, 9 March 2002:

9:30 - 10:00 AM	Registration, Coffee and Treats
10:00 - 12:00	How to use the Monitoring Data Highlights of 2001 Rare Ones, and More
12:00 - 1:00 PM	Lunch and Exhibit Viewing
1:00 - 4:00 PM	Concurrent Sessions: Butterfly Identification More Butterfly Identifications Hairstreaks and Skippers How to Set up a Transect General Discussion for Experienced Monitors Butterfly/Habitat Associations

Note:\$ 15.00 registration fee pays for coffee, breaks, on-site box lunch (vegetarian available) snacks, and educational materials for each participant.

Preregistration by 1 March 2002 is required to guarantee a lunch. Persons registering the day of the event *may* not receive a lunch.

Please respond on the convenient form below (and note that it has two sides)

Please respond to the following in order to help us plan a more successful workshop:
For how long have you monitored a transect?

_____ Never before _____ One year only _____ Two or more years

Of the two afternoon sessions are you interested in?

_____ Identification _____ Monitoring _____ Both

What can we do to make the workshop meaningful for you?_____

For more information:

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A Tale of Two Transects

As you may know, in 2001 your Newsletter editor got his feet wet (literally) monitoring butterflies at two locations in south central Ohio. Two more different sites are hard to imagine. Calamus Swamp, in Pickaway County, is a seasonally flooded glacial kettle of about 20 acres, mostly cattail and buttonbush swamp surrounded by wetland forest (ash, maple, elm) in turn surrounded by thousands of acres of corn and soybeans with a woodlot here and there. The site is owned and managed by the Columbus Audubon Society and is worth a visit. Deep Woods, Hocking County, is a privately-owned, topographically challenging melange of ecological communities and the LTBM transect goes from managed habitat (mowed field, lawn, vegetable garden) through riparian forest (wet feet again), then uphill through beech-maple-hemlock “northern” forest into oak-hickory “dry” forest. Thanks to an oil pipeline right-of-way there is an open glade through the dry forest, ending in a ridge-top pine forest. Deep Woods has great of diversity, and the transect is a good workout. What did I find in ‘01?

- The more diverse site (Deep Woods) had more species: 50 vs. 32 at Calamus. The total number of individuals was 1191 at Deep Woods and 1159 at Calamus; these are remarkably close totals.

- The “Top Ten” species were quite different. At Calamus: cabbage butterfly (648), spring/summer azure (77), red admiral (67), pearl crescent (50), alfalfa butterfly (48), least skipper & hackberry butterfly (45 each), monarch (39), silver-spotted skipper (26) and question mark (16). At Deep Woods: little wood satyr (162), tiger swallowtail (126), red admiral (76), great spangled fritillary (74), pipevine swallowtail (58), silver-spotted skipper (53), spicebush swallowtail (49), cabbage butterfly (40), Carolina satyr (39) and spring/summer azure (37). Four of the Deep Woods “Top Ten” (little wood satyr, pipevine swallowtail, spicebush swallowtail and Carolina satyr) were *never* encountered at Calamus, while the hackberry butterfly was found only once at Deep Woods. With 50 species, Deep Woods obviously had many species that did not occur at Calamus, whereas Calamus had only three species (bronze copper, American snout and buckeye) that I did not find at Deep Woods.

- Of species I encountered only once, Deep Woods had 11 and Calamus, 6. An ecologist would anticipate this, because areas that have more total species are expected to have more rarely-found species. I'll have more to say about this in a future newsletter. Jerry Wiedmann will address "The Rare Ones" at the March workshop. For the record, my six "rare ones" (found but once) at Calamus were: Zabulon skipper, little sulphur, buckeye, red-spotted purple, northern pearly eye and common wood nymph. At Deep Woods my 11 singletons included: hoary edge skipper, fiery skipper, zebra swallowtail, red-banded hairstreak, gray hairstreak, Henry's elfin, eastern pine elfin, meadow fritillary, silvery checkerspot, hackberry butterfly and tawny emperor. (I confess that I rigged my transect to swing past the host plants of the two elfins: redbud and pine.)

Finally, I walked my Deep Woods transect on Saturday, 26 Jan. 2002 and saw a mourning cloak and a comma. Can spring be very far ahead?

- *Dave Horn*