



THE OHIO LEPIDOPTERISTS

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10 December 2003

LONG-TERM MONITORING OF BUTTERFLIES

NEWSLETTER FOR DECEMBER 2003

Highlights

- 2004 Monitoring Workshop (pages 3 & 4)
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2004 Monitoring Workshop March 27 at Wegerzyn MetroPark, Dayton

The seventh annual Long-Term Butterfly Monitoring workshop will be held Saturday, March 27, 2004 at the Wegerzyn Horticultural Center, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark, Dayton. At press time we are still finalizing the program, but we expect sessions on butterfly identification, setting up transects, highlights of the past year and insights into biology and conservation from the accumulating data. There will be sessions of interest to first-time monitors as well as seasoned veterans. Collections, books, videos and supplies will be on display, and monitoring kits will be available for loan. Further information on the workshop is on pages 3 and 4 of this newsletter, along with a pre-registration form. We hope to see you there.

Wegerzyn MetroPark is at 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave., Dayton. From I-75, take exit 57B and follow the signs to Siebenthaler Ave. The MetroPark is about 1 ½ miles from I-75. There is a map on the last page of this newsletter.

2003 Data Due

Now that the monitoring season is ended, please get your 2003 data sheets and updated information forms to the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. If you have any voucher specimens or photos, please send these also. We are ready to begin data entry for 2003. Thanks

Transect Tips #6

At the bottom of your recorder's form are 2 lines that are frequently neglected. "Energy Sources" and "Flowers currently in bloom" are two categories of supplementary information that are easy to skip over. Some of us do real well to identify the butterflies and did not sign on to do botany as well. Some folks probably just forget to fill it out. Some folks do not bother with it because they do not understand the importance of this information. For the first excuse I can only respond that knowledge of the plants that butterflies depend on is helpful for locating and identifying butterflies so we all should work harder to learn our plants. I can't do much about the second excuse either, except to remind you to look over your form at the end of the walk and address any blank spaces including these two.

The third excuse I will try to address in this article. First, what is the difference between energy sources and flowers currently in bloom? Energy sources include flowers that butterflies are nectaring on, but also include other energy sources such as tree sap, rotting fruit and animal dung. Notice that the sources are numbered so you can indicate which sections have each energy source. Mud puddling could be indicated here or in the field notes. Tree sap in April may correlate with the presence of angle wing butterflies for example. If section 8 has a large patch of sneezeweed that Pearl Crescents use as a nectar source it is not surprising if that section has 90% of the observed Pearl Crescents when sneezeweed is blooming. The category "Flowers currently in bloom" is used for an entirely different purpose. Entries in this category are used to determine how fast the season is progressing. A more difficult to obtain but more definitive measure would be degree days. The emergence of flowers and insects correlates with degree days. Given which flowers have emerged this week one could calculate degree days or compare a transect in southern Ohio with one in northern Ohio by checking which week flowers bloom. Lilacs for example might bloom 3 weeks earlier in southern Ohio some years and only one week earlier in other years depending on how uniformly Ohio has been warmed. If I try to make sense out of when European Skippers fly in Ohio I will need to use this data to interpret the results.

One further comment. If you have listed dandelion as an energy source there is no need to list it also as a flower in bloom. I do try to list flowers that bloom over a short time period in the flowers in bloom category. For example: pear, apple, black locust, cherry, brambles, multiflora rose, buttercup, crocus etc. are not necessarily good nectar sources but are good seasonal indicators.

- Jerry Wiedmann

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.

LTBM Website: <http://www.ohiolepidopterists.org/bflymonitoring/>

Seventh Annual Statewide Butterfly Monitoring Workshop

In 1995, The Ohio Lepidopterists, the Ohio Division of Wildlife, the Cleveland Museum of Natural History and the Ohio Biological Survey started an imaginative and ambitious project to learn more about Ohio's butterflies, by counting butterflies every week of the summer! What once was a daunting task is now routine for more than 200 persons who spend some time weekly in the field, binoculars and field guides in hand, to enjoy Ohio's out-of-doors and contribute to our knowledge of Ohio's butterflies. Begun by staff from the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, the Long-Term Butterfly Monitoring project has grown to over 60 transects in 22 counties in all parts of the state.

Sponsoring agencies (usually park, preserve, wildlife managers) recruit volunteers to regularly visit an area and become involved in agency activities. The sponsoring agencies also get expert advice and training from experienced butterfly monitors.

Participants adopt transects within a study area. They become familiar with the area, help the agency learn about the wildlife in the study area, and support the agency's efforts to develop management plans best utilizing the resources.

At the same time, monitors and agencies alike learn about the seasonal, annual, and long term fluctuation of butterfly populations, both in response to natural processes, and to management practices.

We need your help to maintain and expand Ohio's butterfly monitoring project. The Ohio Lepidopterists, Ohio Division of Wildlife, Cleveland Museum of Natural History, and the Ohio Biological Survey, Inc. are co-sponsoring the 2004 statewide workshop to teach butterfly monitoring techniques to Ohio butterfly enthusiasts, wildlife area managers, and park naturalists with the intent of having additional monitoring locations in operation in 2004. The workshop will be held 27 March 2004, 9:30 am to 4 pm, at the Wegerzyn Horticultural Center in Wegerzyn Metro Park, Dayton, Ohio.

Pre-registration Form: Registration Fee of \$ 15.00. (\$ 5.00 without lunch.) Includes box lunch (see choices below), snacks, and instructional materials. Pre-registration is required to guarantee lunch. Pre-registration must be received by March 21, 2004.

Name & organization: _____

Address: _____

City, State & Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ e-mail _____

Check lunch choice: chicken pecan salad

ham & swiss croissant

roast beef on onion roll

vegetarian salad

(all have veggies or fruit, drink and dessert)

No lunch, just meeting

Turn form over for payment and mailing instructions.

Each attendee will receive the revised edition of the recorder's handbook for Ohio, a checklist of Ohio butterflies and skippers, and several other excellent handouts. Butterfly Monitoring kits will be available for loan.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

We are finalizing our list of presenters, so some of the specific topics may differ from the following list. We expect the sessions will be scheduled as follows:

Saturday, 27 March 2004:

9:30 - 10:00 AM Registration, Coffee, treats and socializing

10:00 - 12:00 noon Two Concurrent Sessions:

 Skipper identification
 Setting up a transect
 How to recruit help
 Immature stages of butterflies

12:00 - 1:00 PM Lunch and visit exhibits

1:00 - 4:00 PM Concurrent and General Sessions:

 Data analysis and vouchering
 Finer points of identification and documentation
 Highlights from 2003
 Endangered butterflies
 Reference materials

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

Persons registering the day of the event may not receive a lunch.

Please respond to the following to help us plan a better workshop:

_____ Years of monitoring experience _____ Number of workshops attended

What are you most interested in learning more about? _____ identification
_____ transects _____ previous results _____ aids _____ immature stages

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

Make check payable to The Ohio Lepidopterists, and mail with form to Jerry Wiedmann, 12764 Huntoon Rd., Painesville OH 44077. Phone (440) 254-4230, FAX (440) 357-4661. wiedmannb@aol.com
Purchase orders are welcome.

Lake Metroparks Announced Butterfly Identification Series

The butterfly ID series is a 3-part training on butterfly identification. The sessions are free, start at 2 p.m. and are each typically 1.5 hours long. Presenters in 2004 will be Susan Wiedmann on February 15 covering the basics of butterfly identification, Kevin Metcalf on February 22 will focus on the identification of the common to uncommon butterflies in NE Ohio and Jerry Wiedmann on February 29 with the less seen butterflies and skippers. Sessions 1 and 3 will be at the Penitentiary Glen Nature Center; 8668 Kirtland-Chardon Road; Kirtland, OH 44094. Session 2 will be at the North Chagrin Nature Center. North Chagrin Park is located at the corner of 91 (SOM Center Road) and 6 (Chardon Road).

To register for any or all of these sessions please call (440) 358-7275 or 1 (800) 669-9226. If you have any questions, call Susan Wiedmann at (440) 256-2115 or E-mail at swiedmann@lakemetroparks.com.

- *Susan Wiedmann*

In Praise of Prose

Most of us who monitor are brief in our comments, but among us are literary persons who entertain us, the entry team, with their colorful comments. Jim Ciha writes very descriptive notes on his records. One example entered on July 21, 2002, from Caley Wildlife Area is as follows: "Here, on the hot scorched plains of Africa the grasses are brown and crunch under my footsteps. Flowers that should be bright and cheerful are wilted and gasping for rain. Rain? It hasn't rained for months. The creek is standing still, reduced to occasional puddles of stagnant water. In the heat of the day very little moves. All creatures great and small have sought out shelter from incessant rays of the African sun. But wait! In the bushes. Something moved! Is it a crocodile? Is it a water buffalo? Is it an elephant? No, it's just a black swallowtail because this place just looks like the scorched plains of Africa. We're in the scorched plains of Caley Wildlife Area in Lorain County, Ohio, counting butterflies." Ruth and I have really enjoyed reading Jim's extensive descriptions set down as he walks his transects.

- *Barb Coleman*

Chrysalis in Time Meetings

Meetings take place at the Tallmadge Library and start at 2 PM. The library is located at 90 Community Road off of East Ave., east of the Tallmadge Circle (in Tallmadge, OH). If you need directions, please call the library at 330-633-4345. The meetings will continue to be open to the public and refreshments will be served. Upcoming programs are on the next page [because I'm out of room].

(Chrysalis in Time continued)

Upcoming programs (all at 2 pm):

Saturday, January 10th - Carl Johnson - "Nature Images" slide show

Saturday, February 14th - Carol Sutek - Slide show on Monarchs in Mexico

Saturday, March 13th - Jerry Wiedmann - Slide show on confusing skippers

- *Judy Semroc*

[Chrysalis in Time is a butterfly-and-dragonfly appreciation group affiliated with NABA, the North American Butterfly Association.]

Travel Tip for March Workshop

Siebenthaler Bridge over the Stillwater River will probably still be closed. If approaching from the west and using Riverside Dr., use the Ridge Ave. bridge (south of Siebenthaler Ave.), then turn left onto DeWeese Parkway, and left onto Siebenthaler Ave. at the stop sign, then right into Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark.

The Computer Ate My Homework

If you were looking forward to more information from the database, well ... I had an issue with my computer, delaying this newsletter and some other things. Whether it was solar flares, earthly power surges, international masters of deceit, I don't know, but discussion of data will reappear in the next LTBM newsletter. Thanks for your patience.

- *D.H.*

For more information:

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