

North  
American  
Butterfly  
Association



Viceroy  
Photo © By  
Ranger Steve (Mueller)  
Ody Brook Enterprises

## West Michigan Butterfly Association West Michigan Blues January 2010

<http://www.glsga.org/wmba.htm>  
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## Indoor Meetings

### January 30, 2010

### Year in Review Pictures, Stories, Displays

**Grand Rapids Community College Room 333 Time: 2 – 4 PM**

**Location:** 143 Bostwick Avenue, NE Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503 Grand Rapids – Rm 333 Calkins Science Center at Grand Rapids Community College Main Campus next to the Ford Fieldhouse.

**Year in Review program** with pictures from the year's activities and sightings by Linda Koning. Members bring images to share to on a flash drive or one CD or bring photographic slides. Photo albums were a hit last year as were live moth cocoons. Be creative and bring something to share.

### February 27, 2010

### Plant and Lepidoptera/Insect Relationships

**Location: Grand Valley State University Time 2-4 PM**

Niemeyer Hall room 220 on 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. Come onto campus from M-45 (Lake Michigan Drive). Follow Calder Drive and turn left into parking lot M to park. Coming from the west, turn south on 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue and left at the traffic light at West Campus Drive. When the road T's go right to Calder Drive and turn left in Lot M. Niemeyer Hall is directly across Calder Drive from Lot M.

**Plant and Lepidoptera relationships:** Plants as food, plant defenses, plant/insect dependence for mutual survival, plant protection by insects, specialized plant/Lepidoptera adaptations, and seasonal activity timing (phenology). Butterflies and moths will be displayed.

## ***Potential Field Trip Opportunities***

Butterfly field trip possibility to WA KE NA preserve near Glenn. This is a Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy Preserve. If interested please e-mail Dennis Dunlap or Steve Mueller. If we have five registrants, Dennis will request site use permission and a date for the trip.

Survey patterns of re-colonization of a wet prairie restoration site by butterflies in Mid Michigan at Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge manager is requesting help with gathering data for a research paper. With club participation we may be able to gather needed data. Please contact Ranger Steve if you might be able to assist. This may involve repeated visits.

## **Monarch Survey**

By Denny Brooks

As a citizen scientist and photographer I have become involved with various Monarch butterfly research agencies. This all started in 2001 with Monarch tagging with Monarch Watch (<http://www.monarchwatch.org/>) at the University of Kansas. This involves netting a Monarch butterfly and placing a small, 10-millimeter alphanumeric adhesive sticker on the underside of the wing. This in no way inhibits the flight of the butterfly. This activity is done during fall migration, which starts in our area around the end of August as the monarchs making 2000-mile trip to south central Mexico. If this butterfly is located, the number is reported to the University of Kansas and location of where the butterfly was tagged is noted. The tagging program is vital to study of the migration patterns of the Monarch butterflies.

In 2004 I added the Monarch Larva Monitoring Program (MLMP) (<http://www.mlmp.org/>) to my projects list. This is a study done by the University of Minnesota that involves counting and recording Monarch eggs, caterpillars and adults in a specific location once a week through the season. This past year I checked over 2000 milkweed plants on the Chippewa Nature Center site and another 900 milkweeds as a casual survey. We are fortunate that the only plants that the Monarch caterpillars will eat are Milkweeds.

In 2006 I started doing the Monarch Survey, which involves, netting Monarch butterflies and determining the sex, measuring the wings, and testing for parasites. In late 2009 I obtained a reliable 10-gram x.01 scale to do weights of the butterflies and caterpillars. This year I surveyed 53 Monarchs over 123 days. The data sheets go to Monarch Watch and Monarch Larva Monitoring Project organizations. The parasite samples go to the Altizer Lab (<http://www.uga.edu/altizerlab/>) at the University of Georgia.

In 2008 I added Monarch sightings list, this is just a listing of Monarch sightings and locations, this year I noted 158 adults 10 eggs and 27 caterpillars. Any migration sightings are reported to Journey North (<http://www.learner.org/jnorth/monarch/>) where they are posted so people can follow the monarch's spring and fall migration.

I have been doing various Monarch informational programs for the Mid-Michigan area since 2004.

The Monarchs generally arrive in mid-Michigan in late May and produce one or two broods and then migrate to Mexico in late August through September.

## 2010 Field Trips

### May 15, 2010 (Sat) 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Join Dennis Dunlap for an **Allegan Game Area** search for Elfins, Silvery Blues, Dusky Wings and others. Meet at the church parking lot at the corner of M-89 and M-40 south of Hamilton at 1 P.M. Call 616-772-5046 or e-mail [dunlapmd@juno.com](mailto:dunlapmd@juno.com) with questions.

### June 19, 2010 (Sat) 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM.

Chad Hughson's **Hidden Savanna Nursery** and some natural areas in the Kalamazoo area. Details of field trip site or sites are still in development. We will leave Grand Rapids area about 9 a.m. and return about 4 PM.

Places being considered are the reconstructed prairie at the Sand Creek Preserve and or TNC's Paw Paw Prairie Fen Preserve.

### July 8 – 11, 2010 (Thurs – Sun) all day

**Lepidopterists' Society Meeting and field outings** in Leavenworth alpine town July 8-11. Nestled in the mountains on the east edge of the Cascades we will find a rich and diverse variety of butterflies we do not get to experience here in Michigan. The Washington Butterfly Association and the Pacific Slope Section of the Lepidopterists' Society will co-host the event. The theme will be "The Young Ones". It refers to advances in the study of immature Lepidoptera and promotion/celebration of a new generation of Lepidopterists. Visit the Lepidopterists' Society web page for details.

[http://www.lepsoc.org/2010\\_meeting.php](http://www.lepsoc.org/2010_meeting.php)

### Early September 2010 (Sat.) Specific Date and time to be determined

Monarch Tagging and release from John Ball Zoo in association with a zoo event.

## 2010 Butterfly Counts

July 2, 2010 (Fri.) 9:30 AM

Shiawassee Nat'l Wildlife Refuge – Saginaw Co.

**Leader: Steven Kahl**

Meet at Shiawassee NWR East Entrance –Curtiss Rd.  
6975 Mower Road  
Saginaw, MI 48601-9783  
Phone 989-777-5930 ext 16

July 3, 2010 (Sat) 9:00 AM

Allegan Butterfly Count – Allegan Co.

**Leader: Ranger Steve (Mueller)**

Meeting location for Allegan Count to Fennville Unit  
Allegan State Game Area, 6013 118th Ave, Fennville

July 5, 2010 (Mon) 9:00 AM

Rogue River Butterfly Count –

**Leader: Ranger Steve (Mueller)**

(Kent, Newaygo, Montcalm Counties)

Meet at Howard Christensen Nature Center

July 14, 2010 (Wed) 9:00 AM

Newaygo County Butterfly Count

**Leader: Ranger Steve (Mueller)**

Meeting location to be determined

## 2010 Butterfly Counts Con't

- July 16, 2010 (Fri) 9:00 AM**      **Grand River Butterfly Count - Ottawa County**  
**Leaders: Chip Francke and Linda Koning**  
Meet at Grand River Park
- July 17, 2010 (Sat) 9:00 AM**      **Greater Muskegon Butterfly Count**  
**Leaders: Dennis Dunlap and Ranger Steve (Mueller)**  
Meeting location for Muskegon Count to Mill Iron Road  
north of Apple Avenue (M-46) at the second set of  
overhead power lines crossing the road.
- July 27, 2010 (Tues) 8:30 AM**      **Bryce Canyon Nat'l Park Butterfly Count**  
**Leader: Ranger Steve (Mueller)**  
(Garfield and Kane Counties, Utah)  
[odybrook@chartermi.net](mailto:odybrook@chartermi.net) or  
616-696-1753 for more details

## Late Season 2009 Sighting Reports

Mourning Cloak in flight on Nov 7 – Zeeland – Dennis Dunlap  
Clouded Sulphur and Mourning Cloak – Nov 8 Ody Brook in Cedar Springs – Ranger Steve Mueller  
Orange Sulphur Lowell – Nov 8 – Louis King  
Travel butterfly sightings: Nov 25 Queens, Monarchs, and Marine Blues – Phoenix AZ – Dennis Dunlap

## NABA West Michigan Chapter Financial Report

Nov. 1, 2008 through Oct. 31, 2009

Nov. 1, 2008 beginning balance	\$596.61
<u>Expenses</u>	
Speaker Fees	\$250.00
Donation to Holland/Zeeland Foundation for Hemlock Crossing	\$200.00
Nature Center	
Total Expenses	\$450.00
<u>Revenue</u>	
Local Chapter Dues	\$65.00
NABA Quarterly Payments	\$80.00
Contribution	\$ 5.00
Total Revenues	\$150.00
October 31, 2009 Ending Balance	\$296.61



Mourning Cloak				1			2	2	
American Lady	4			1			5	2	
Painted Lady	3							1	
Red Admiral	4			3			72		
Common Buckeye				1					
Red-spotted Purple	15					1		2	
Viceroy	2							2	1
Tawny Emperor	12			3					
Northern Pearly Eye								1	1
Eyed Brown				2			1		
Appalachian Brown				5		3	1		
Little Wood Satyr				1		1	1	4	4
Satyroides sp.									1
Common Wood Nymph	14			28		1	7	2	1
Monarch	32			2		1	9		3
<b>Hesperiidae</b>									
Silver-spotted Skipper	2					1		5	
Southern Cloudywing				2		5			1
Northern Cloudywing				1				8	
European Skipper				1				7	48
Indian Skipper							2		
Tawny-edged Skipper	4			2					
Crossline Skipper							2		
Northern Broken-Dash	139			4			1		
Little Glassywing	3			1				1	
Broad-winged Skipper	7			5					
Delaware Skipper	2			15		1	6		1
Mulberry Wing	1			4					
Hobomok Skipper									3
Dion Skipper	2			2			4		
Black Dash	2			2					
Dun Skipper	19			31		1	13		
Total individuals	571	0	0	478	0	106	307	148	130
<b>Immature Stages</b>									
Spicebush Swallowtail larva						1			1
Karner Blue Larvae						2	92		
Southern Cloudy Wing egg						1			

# Around The Feeder: *Limenitis arthemis astyanax*

Reprinted with permission from Southeast Michigan Butterfly Association

**Red-spotted Purple** *Limenitis arthemis astyanax* (Drury, 1773)

**Family:** Brush-footed Butterflies (*Nymphalidae*)

**Subfamily:** Admirals and Relatives (*Limenitidinae*)

**Identification:** Upperside is blue to blue-green with much iridescence on the outer part of the hindwing. Underside is dark brown. Forewing has 2 red-orange bars near the base of the leading edge; hindwing has 3 red-orange spots near the base and a submarginal row of red-orange spots.

**Life history:** Males perch 3 feet or more above the ground on trees and tall bushes and rarely patrol for females. Eggs are laid singly on tips of host plant leaves; caterpillars eat leaves. Third-stage caterpillars hibernate.

**Flight:** Two broods from April- October.

**Wing span:** 2 1/4 - 4 inches (5.7 - 10.1 cm).

**Caterpillar hosts:**

Leaves of many species of trees and shrubs including wild cherry (*Prunus*), aspen, poplar, cottonwood (*Populus*), oaks (*Quercus*), haw-thorn (*Crataegus*), deerberry (*Vaccinium stamineum*), birch (*Betula*), willows (*Salix*), basswood (*Tilia*), and shadbush (*Amelanchier*).

**Adult food:** Sap flows, rotting fruit, carrion, dung, and occasionally nectar from small white flowers including spiraea, privet, and viburnum.

**Habitat:** The Red-Spotted Purple is usually found further in deciduous or mixed forests, moist uplands, valley bottoms, and coastal plains.

**Range:** Alaska and sub arctic Canada southeast of the Rocky Mountains to central Texas; east to New England and central Florida. Isolated populations in Arizona, New Mexico, and west Texas south into Mexico.

**Comments:** The Red-spotted Purple is a mimic of the poisonous Pipevine Swallowtail (*Battus philenor*).

**Conservation:** Not usually required.

**NatureServe Global Status:** G5 - Demonstrably secure globally, though it may be quite rare in parts of its range, especially at the periphery.

## Officers and Board Members for 2009

President: Ranger Steve (Mueller) 616-696 1753 [Odybrook@chartermi.net](mailto:Odybrook@chartermi.net)

**Vice President: Position Open**

Secretary: Bob Tropa 616-392-5668 [bobtropa@macatawa.org](mailto:bobtropa@macatawa.org)

Treasurer: Dennis Dunlap 616-772-5046 [dunlapmd@juno.com](mailto:dunlapmd@juno.com)

Newsletter: Skip Wieland 616-735-1298 [Lime55759@aol.com](mailto:Lime55759@aol.com)

WMBA website: <http://www.glsga.org/wmba.htm>

### Board Members at large:

Kathy Bowler 616-696-0992

Linda Koning 616-396-5425, [Robert.koning@att.net](mailto:Robert.koning@att.net)

Kathleen Steele 616-334-5576

Local WMBA membership (no NABA publications) Annual \$5 fee per family

Includes Chapter Newsletters and field trip updates. Local membership is included with NABA membership.

**IF THE DATES FOR EVENTS ARE NOT SUITABLE PLEASE ADVISE PROGRAM CHAIR**

**616-696 1753 [Odybrook@chartermi.net](mailto:Odybrook@chartermi.net)**

**SOME CAN BE REARRANGED IF SEVERAL CLUB MEMBERS HAVE CONFLICTS**