



The Antenna

News and Information from the Butterfly Monitoring Network

Annual Indoor BMN Workshop A Great Success

The Y2K Annual Indoor Butterfly Monitoring Workshop was a great success! The conference room at the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum of The Chicago Academy of Sciences was filled with over 90 enthusiastic and eager to learn Butterfly Monitors.

Once everyone had gotten coffee, greeted old friends and welcomed some new comers, Doug Taron began the workshop with announcements and encouraging comments about the growth of the Butterfly Monitoring Network.

There was plenty of opportunity for gaining knowledge while listening to guest speaker Wayne Schenum, Natural Resources Manager for McHenry County Conservation District. Wayne's topic was The Butterflies of The Fox River Valley. The focus of the lecture was on the status of remnant-dependent and remnant associated species and how the individual species are rated according to the McHenry County Conservation District Butterfly Index. Although it may sound complex, Wayne's method of explanation made it interesting and understandable. Wayne supplied us with useful information in our efforts to understand the conservation process we are a part of as Butterfly Monitors.

Before the Breakout Sessions began, time was taken to recognize the work of some of the Butterfly Monitors and those involved in the Network. Our Coordinator Doug Taron awarded Mel Manner with a beautifully embroidered linen from the Monarch overwintering sanctuary near Anganguero, Mexico as thanks for setting up the workshop. Judi Dore also received a linen with Monarch embroidery for helping out with the BMN newsletter. Awarded with coffee mugs, also from the Monarch sanctuary were Andy Crout and Joe Neumann, monitors at Spears Woods, for excellent data. Tom Peterson, a 2nd year Monitor, also received a mug for being a 'Fast Starter". Jeff Sanders and Joan Palincsar were awarded Peggy Notebaert Nature Center mugs for consistent and high quality data sets. Thanks to everyone whose hard work helps produce the needed results for the Butterfly Monitoring Network to be a valid part of the conservation community.

Breakout Sessions included an introduction to BMN monitoring protocols presented by Mel Manner for new and beginning monitors. An intermediate session was lead by Doug Taron instructing monitors on better methods of data collection. Ron Panzer worked with the advanced monitors identifying mounted specimens of the more difficult skippers including dusky wings.

Everyone had a chance to walk through The Judy Istock Butterfly Haven at the nature center. The Haven provides an opportunity to witness some aspects of the butterfly life cycle in a beautifully and efficiently created environment. An ideal end to a great day of learning about butterflies and their conservation.

Take This One With You....

Guide to the Butterflies of Illinois

Compiled by Doug Taron

Edited by Mel Manner

I hope all of you have taken the time to look at this guide, which was sent to each of us in March. Compiled by Doug

Taron, the information was put into booklet form by Mel Manner for the use of Butterfly Monitors in addition to field guides. Especially helpful and in sync with the talk given by Wayne Schenum at the Indoor Workshop are the notes on the remnant reliancy of the species. Special thanks to John and Cindy McKee for the idea.

Vol. 1, Is. 3, Summer 2000

Inside this Issue:

Workshop Review	1
Book Review	1
Network News	2-3
Species Profile	3
Monitoring Reminders	4

Credits
 Mel Manner: Editor
 Judi Ann Dore:
 Graphics & Layout

May
2000



Thanks For Support!

First and foremost, thanks is due to each and **every butterfly monitor**. Without your hard work and dedication, this very valuable data would not be collected and made available to scientists and land managers. However, our network also wouldn't survive without the support of several agencies. **The Nature Conservancy** has not only given us on-going financial support, but is the organization that helped create the BMN in the first place. **The National Audubon Society** is chipping in by paying for this very newsletter that you hold in your hands. And let's not forget how generous **The Chicago Academy of Sciences** was in hosting our very successful Indoor Workshop 2000 free of charge. With their new Peggy Notebaert Museum, Judy Istock Butterfly Haven, and strong interest in butterfly issues worldwide, we are looking forward to a long relationship with the Academy. Last of all, Mel would like to thank the individual butterfly monitors who generously donated the costs of their beginning packets.

Positions Open

Now that our network is growing so quickly, we need your help. In particular, we are looking for several people to help out in different ways. We desperately need a **web master** who can work with Doug to develop a web-site with submission capabilities so that connected monitors can submit data directly over the internet. Mel also needs help managing the Network. We need people to handle **secretarial responsibilities** on a periodic basis and other people willing to **staff displays** at festivals.

Mel would also like to set up phone trees inside the Network to help new monitors get started and keep everyone, new and old, in touch. This will require regional contacts who are willing to take two hours each month to touch base with monitors in their area. No experience is necessary for any of this except the web master. Mel can easily train anyone whose interested in helping to keep our momentum going and help us recruit and support new members.

New Volunteer Materials

Mel and Doug are working on several new items for monitors. One is a very overdue update of the **BMN Guidelines**. Mel is looking to incorporate much of the beginner's packet into the Guidelines. If you have any suggestions for what you would like to have included, let Mel know ASAP. For example, one monitor has already asked for a list of flight times for each local species.

Some members have also asked for a **phone list**. A few others have asked that their names not be given out. So Mel will put together a phone list of monitors including their site and town, but only of people who request to be included. **You must call her by June 15th to be included in the phone list.** Only monitors on the list will receive a copy.

If you have any other requests or ideas, give Mel a call or send her an e-mail.

Mentoring Program

Quite a few people have brought up the idea of a mentoring program where experienced monitors would take new monitors under their wing so to speak. While this sounds like a great idea, it will take a lot of coordination. Doug and Mel simply can't take this on at this time. However, we'd be interested in setting up some sort of committee to design and run this part of the Network. If we can get a committee going, the time commitment for any one person would not be very great. Call Mel if you're interested.

The fritillaries are a large group of orange butterflies that can be fiendishly difficult to identify. Fortunately, they are fairly easy here in the Chicago region, mainly because we have only six species.

The Variegated Fritillary is the most distantly related member of the group. Its distinctive two-toned appearance resembles no other butterfly in the area. It's best to simply memorize this one from a field guide.

The remaining five fritillaries can be divided between the greater and lesser fritillaries. The three greater fritillaries all have wingspans of 3-4", about the size of a Monarch. The Regal Fritillary is the rarest and most distinctive of the three. The wings above are bi-colored. The forewings are a typical tawny orange fritillary color, and the hindwings are a rich blue-black with white spots. The Regal is the only fritillary with light spots on the upper side of the hindwings.

The Great Spangled Fritillary and Aphrodite are similar: tawny orange above and beige to brown with silver spots on the hindwing beneath. There is a wide light band on the underside of the hindwing of the Great Spangled Fritillary that is absent on the Aphrodite. The Great Spangled is a more rapid flier and can be difficult to approach. If you have difficulty getting close enough to see the marks, it's probably a Great Spangled. This butterfly is still fairly common and lives in savannas, old fields, and prairie edges. Aphrodites are uncommon prairie butterflies. Unless your site has more than about 75 acres of prairie with good native vegetation and no trees, you are very unlikely to see an Aphrodite.

The two lesser fritillaries are only about half the size of the greater fritillaries- about 1 1/2-2". Viewed from above, the shape of the forewing is the best way to tell them apart. The Silver Bordered Fritillary has rounded forewing tips. The forewing tips of the Meadow Fritillary are squared off. Below, only the Silver Bordered Fritillary has silver spots on the hindwing. The hindwings of the Meadow Fritillary are an indistinct pattern of shades of brown. Both lesser fritillaries are uncommon residents of wet prairies.

Network News - cont.**Mel Manner****Outdoor Field Experience 2000**

This year's outdoor field trip will be to Waterfall Glen in southern DuPage County on July 9th at 10 am. Waterfall Glen is home to the Pipevine Swallowtail which should be flying for us. We'll take a walk through both the Dolomite Prairie and the Bluff Savanna. This is a unique site which will be a real pleasure to tour. BMN Coordinator Doug Taron will be on hand along with several of our experienced monitors. Ron Panzer is also usually able to join us and share his expertise in the field. This is a great opportunity for newer monitors to get out in the field with some pros. It's also a chance for the advanced monitors to have fun exploring a site together. It should be a great trip!

Directions: From Rt. 55: Travel South on Lemont Road. Pass the Hindu Temple. Turn East on Bluff Road (first side street at the base of the hill past the Temple). You've gone too far south, if you cross the bridge over the Des Plaines River. The preserve entrance is at the end of Bluff Road. Meet at the chain-link gate. The gate will be open at 9:45 a.m. You will be directed to park inside the gate area along the service road. The gate will be locked, after 10 am. If someone comes late or has to leave early, they should park along the street outside of the gated area. We will then hike into the preserve from the parking area.

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED!

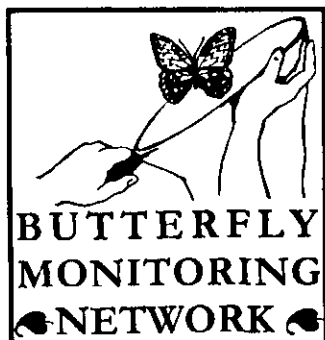
Call Mel Manner at 847-464-4426 or e-mail her at manner@foxvalley.net to register or for more information.

Monitoring Reminders

- Do at least 4 routes between June 15th and July 31st. Even though Spring came early this year, do not shift your monitoring earlier. Consistency is important from year to year. If you want to go out early, don't begin until June 1st and still do 4 routes during the official date period.
- Monitor only during proper weather conditions. It must be at least 70 degrees, 50% or less cloud cover, and only moderately windy. The ideal would be in the 80's, no clouds, and low winds.
- Don't monitor before 10 AM or after 3:30 PM. If it's 3 PM and your route takes an hour, wait until another day to monitor.
- Do not "bunch" your routes. Don't do 3 routes within a short time period, then the 4th one 3 weeks later. Try to get a fairly even coverage with the official dates.
- Consider doing more than 4 routes. If you have the time and energy to do more, that would be great. Many monitors average about 7 routes per site. However, keep in mind that you are only required to do 4. Don't feel obligated to do more.
- Do not collect any specimens! This is very important! Net only butterflies that you can't identify. Never net more than one at a time. Release that one before continuing. Never remove any insect from your site.
- Keep safety in mind! Take water to drink, and consider working in pairs. If you do go out by yourself, make sure you check in with someone before and after your route.
- Fill out each field form completely! List your name and site on each sheet. Do not forget your start and stop times!!! These are vital to analysis of your data. Also make sure you list the habitat types at the bottom of the form. If you have any questions about the form, call Mel at 847-464-4426.
- **MOST OF ALL, HAVE FUN THIS SEASON!**

Page 4

News and Information
from the



Butterfly Monitoring Network



Summer
Issue