



The Antenna

News and Information from the Illinois Butterfly Monitoring Network

IBMN Awards - 2004

Barbara Parady has been monitoring at Cedar Glen - Kibbe in Hancock County for a number of years now, but has only recently joined our network. Cedar Glen is a phenomenal site with an extensive species list, and demands a lot of any monitor. We're quite pleased that Barbara has shown she is more than up to the challenge, and has chosen to join the IBMN.

Charles Gasparon has been the monitor at West Chicago Prairie since 1997. It was previously monitored in the early 90's by Davida Calina, and Charles has done a fine job taking over the site and expanding the data set. He is dedicated to the site, and frequently monitors to the end of the summer. He is a solid monitor, and we hope he stays at West Chicago Prairie for many years to come.

Carla Schmakel and Bob Stempel added a new site to the IBMN when they took on Grant Woods in 2003. They do everything right for beginners—they are careful to make sure photography of unknowns does not interfere with monitoring, they list partial i.d.'s when that is all they know, they are working hard on increasing their skills. We are already getting good data from this site, and we know it will only get better with them in charge.

Mike Bouska is a new monitor at Cotton Creek Fen. Mike has previously monitored through the McHenry County butterfly program. At Cotton Creek Marsh, Mike is on an excellent site, and producing great results. In 2004, Mike not only recorded all of the wetland skippers, Baltimore checkerspots, and eyed browns, but found bronze coppers and silver bordered fritillaries. We are pleased to have such an able monitor and great site in the IBMN.

Charlynn Schweingruber has been monitoring various sites at and near the Chicago Botanic Gardens since 1994. Her efforts have resulted in the longest continuously running data set for the Appalachian eyed brown in the entire network. Charlyn produces a data set of consistently high quality each year. Here attention to detail and careful reporting are an example to the network.

Habitat Hootenanny - September 18th, late afternoon

Yes, it says "Hootenanny"! We are invited to take part in an end-of-season get-together with the other monitoring networks and site stewards. This will be a great party and a fun, relaxing way to round out the year. It will also give us a perfect chance to get to know the other folks on our sites and what they are doing.

So far, the initial plans are to have some sort of awards ceremony, games or activities to help us get to know each other, and great food. Any other ideas are more than welcome. We need people to represent the IBMN on the planning committee. If you have a little free time this summer and a good sense of fun, please contact Mel Manner right away.

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**Outdoor
Field Experience
July 16, 2005**

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Outdoor Field Experience 2005 - Saturday, July 16th, 11 AM

Paul Labus from The Nature Conservancy of Indiana gave a phenomenal presentation about the federally endangered Karner Blue butterfly at the March Indoor Workshop this year. This is your chance to see this rare butterfly flying free in its natural habitat. It survives in savannas containing lupine, it's larval host plant. Paul will be there to help us spot the Karner and to tell us more about the reintroduction of the species and the restoration and management of the site. Other possible butterflies are the Byssus Skipper and the Appalachian Eyed Brown. This is a rare opportunity for a very unique day of "butterflying."

Both Doug and Mel will also be there to answer any questions people have. This is your chance to get into the field with them and your fellow monitors, see a great site, see some new butterflies up close and personal, and have a fun time doing it. New monitors are urged to come, but we always have a good mix of people at all skill levels.

We will meet in Indiana at 11 AM, and the workshop will last much of the afternoon. We will take a break for a picnic lunch about 1 PM, so bring your lunch and a non-alcoholic beverage. Then we will go back out for more "butterflying".

Because the Karner Blue is a federally endangered species, regulations regarding it are particularly stringent. We will not be able to net Karners as part of the workshop. Because of these limitations, we request that, for this workshop only, participants not bring their butterfly nets with them. Thanks for understanding.

Registration is Required!

To register, e-mail Mel Manner at ibmn@sbcglobal.net or call her at 847-464-4426. Please give the name of each person attending and their phone number.

Directions: The general area is just east of Gary, Indiana. Details of where to meet and directions for how to get there will be sent out to each person who registers.

Monitoring Protocol Reminder

The weather is finally turning warm enough to monitor. Remember, go out only between 10 AM and 3:30 PM. You must be done within this time frame. Go out on days that are warm, over 70 °, sunny, and with relatively low wind. Any other weather conditions are unacceptable.

Meadow Fritillaries

Tom Peterson has already reported sighting Meadow Fritillaries at Fermilab in western DuPage County. So they may be having a good year. Brush up your identification on this species. Compare and contrast it to Silver Bordered Fritillaries, Silvery Checkerspots, and Pearl Crescents.

"Stories from the Field" at the Chicago Wilderness Conference.

At "Wild Things, a Chicago Wilderness Conference for People and Nature," on February 26, Susanne Bartruff, Tom Peterson, and Melissa Pierson, presented "Butterfly Monitoring: Stories from the Field." As we all know, butterfly monitoring can be fun and rewarding, but also very difficult at times. The goal of the presentation was to give people a feel for the fun of monitoring and what motivates us, and also to describe the difficulties and challenges.

Tom showed some slides with particular emphasis on "remnant-dependent" butterflies, those that are very choosy about where they live. These butterflies may remain hidden in our nature preserves in their special habitat, and may seldom be seen except by us when we monitor. One of the rewards of monitoring is finding these butterflies at one's site each year. Meanwhile, Melissa and Susanne took questions from the audience of about 25 people. Questions included how long it took us to learn the butterflies (a year or two for the basics, but we are still learning!), what field guides we like (all of them!), and how much time we spend monitoring (a lot, but it's fun!).

Thank you to all three of them for representing the IBMN.

Species Profile: Ladies and Red Admiral

Ladies and Red Admiral

Painted Ladies are having a huge year in the west, and seem to be having a fairly good year here as well. Central Illinois people are already reporting good numbers, and the ladies are now showing up in the Chicago area. This has prompted us to cover the field markings for ladies and the red admiral, which is in the same genus as the ladies - genus *Vanessa*.

First, some quick terminology. Submarginal refers to a band running parallel to the outer edge of the wing, but not touching the edge. The apex is the top outer angle of the forewing. The apical region is just the tip area of the forewing, and the subapical region surrounds the apical region, isolating the corner. The leading edge is the forward edge of the forewing. The one that is at the front of the butterfly. An eyespot is made up of three parts. The dark or strongly colored center, a lighter band surrounding the center, and then a darker band on the outside. A donut looks just like it sounds. A dark ring with a lighter center. The center can be white or colored. Any field guide will illustrate these in the front of the book.

The top side of the red admiral is unmistakable. It has the strong red or orange bands on both forewings and hindwings. However, the underside can look fairly similar to the ladies. All three have some pink, red or orange on the forewing underside, and a mottled pattern near the edges. The hindwing underside is strongly patterned all over, mostly in browns and tans. The place to look for markings is in the submarginal band, located near the edge of the hindwing. If there are no eyespots, it is a red admiral. Two very large eyespots indicate the American Lady (formerly called the American Painted Lady.) Four relatively small eyespots in a row indicate the Painted Lady.

The topside of the two ladies is where things can get confusing. They look quite similar - mostly orange with black markings, and a few light or white markings near the apex on the forewing. The two areas to look for markings are in the submarginal area of the hindwing and along the leading edge of the forewing at the subapical mark. On the American Lady, the subapical mark is off-color, a dingy white, yellow or orange. The row of marks in the submarginal area on the hindwing include two donuts with bright blue centers. The Painted Lady has a pure white subapical mark, and the row of marks on the hindwing usually consists of solid black dots. On very rare occasions, there will be one small donut with a blue center. There will never be two, like on the American Lady.

Look for these three common butterflies this year. Can you see the differences?

Who do I contact with a question?

1. If you have internet access, go to the website first. It has the full IBMN Guidelines, all the old newsletters and training handouts and many other useful items that can answer many questions for you right away.
2. If you do not have internet access, or you cannot find the answer:
 - A. Contact Mel Manner for general questions about how to monitor, problems on your site, or identification questions.
 - B. Contact Jim Peterson for problems with entering your data online or setting up your default settings, and anything dealing directly with the website.
 - C. Contact Doug Taron for problems with the online database.

Contact information is listing on the front of the newsletter, or click the contact link on the bottom of the website homepage.

3 Data Submission Options

You can submit your data weekly by using the simple form on our website for data entry. Many monitors entered their data each time they ran their route last year instead of waiting until the end of the season. Doing this can help you avoid misplacing a field form. If you prefer, you can still hold it until the end of the season and enter your data all at once. For those of you who do not have internet access, you can mail your data in at the end of the season as usual. There will be a reminder in the August newsletter. The deadline for data submissions is October 15th.

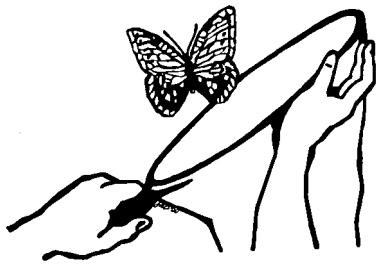
Take Time to Read . . .

I usually have a book review here, but this time I would like to talk about a brilliant magazine article by Maggie and Bob Honig. "How a Caterpillar Becomes a Chrysalis (And Other Molting Basics)" does an incredibly thorough job of illustrating and describing the steps in going from a late instar caterpillar to a fully formed chrysalis. Quite a laborious process for the butterfly. There are 11 close-up photographs (all but one by John Jones) that do an excellent job of showing exactly what is going on. The article was in the Fall 2004 issue of *Butterfly Gardener*, published quarterly by NABA (North American Butterfly Association). I strongly urge you to look for this particular issue. You can contact the editor, Karen Hillson at 5468 South Thunder Sky Way, Tucson AZ, 85747; hillson@naba.org . No phone number was given. I'm not sure, but you may have to be a member of NABA to receive the publication. It is a good organization supporting butterfly conservation, however some of it's members do disagree with us on netting. For more information about the organization and it's publications, go to www.naba.org.

If you run across a great book or publication that you want to share with your fellow monitors, contact Mel Manner at ibmn@sbcglobal.net or 847-464-4426.

Tax Tip: You can deduct the mileage to and from your site under charitable contributions on the US 1040 as long as you itemize your deductions on Schedule A. You must keep a mileage log showing date, destination, starting mileage, ending mileage, and total mileage. In 2004, the deduction was 14 ¢ a mile.

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