

Nectar News



Official Newsletter of the Southeast Michigan Butterfly Association

April 2015

Mission Statement:

It is our mission to share our knowledge to educate people about Lepidoptera and their habitats, to instill and foster a passion for nature in others, and to establish and preserve the environment for butterflies, skippers and moths.

Butterflies vs. Moths

There are 290 species of skippers, 470 species of butterflies and over 11,000 species of moths. What's the difference between butterflies and moths? Here are a few. Antennae for butterflies are club-like with a swollen tip, but for moths they are feathery. Skippers have a hook shaped antennae. Butterflies fly during the day (diurnal), while moths usually fly at night (nocturnal) and are attracted to light. The pupal stage of a butterfly is a chrysalis, and the pupal stage for a moth is a cocoon which is usually soft and includes silk production. There are exceptions!

Garden Clean up:

Brenda's Butterfly Habitat
Clean up Days:
March 31st 1:00 p.m.
May 12th, 1:00 p.m.

Nankin Mills Butterfly Garden
Clean up Days:
April 4th 10:00 a.m.
May 2nd, 10:00 a.m.

Garden Walks:

Trenton Garden Walk
June 20th, 10-4 pm.
Tickets \$7,
734-281-6504
Presented by Trenton Parks
and Recreation and the Moon-
glow Garden Club.

Taylor Garden Walk
June 27th, 10-4 pm.
Tickets \$8,
Presented by Taylor Garden
Club. Tickets available at Pa-
nettas, D & L Garden Center,
Massab Acres.

Board Members for 2015

- **President:** Carolyn Sohoza
- **Vice President:** Brendon Weil
- **Secretary:** Diana McCormick
- **Treasurer:** Carolyn Sohoza
- **Communications Director:** Monica McCormick
- **Event Committee Chair:** Brenda Dziedzic
- **Habitat Committee Chair:** Kathy Bey and Karen Jewell
- **Past President—**Brenda Dziedzic
- **Membership Committee Chair:** Megan Ellis

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Red-spotted Purple

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Red - spotted Purple and Viceroy

Red - spotted Purple Butterfly

Scientific Name:

Limenitis arthemis

Wing Span: 3 - 3.5 inches

Host plants: Black cherry, willow, poplars, aspens, apple, pear, oak, birch, hawthorn, and a few more.

Habitat: Open woodland, forest edges.

Discussion: This butterfly ranks high among North America's showiest butterflies. They can sometimes be confused with swallowtail butterflies because of the brilliant blue on the dorsal hindwings, but the red-spotted purple lacks eyespots and tail. They are fond of animal scat and rotten fruit! They mimic the toxic Pipevine Swallowtail to gain protection from predators such as birds. They have 2 broods each year.

Caterpillar: Resemble bird droppings. Overwinters in the larval stage in a hibernaculum.

Egg: Gray-green, laid singly on tips of host leaves.

Viceroy Butterfly

Scientific Name:

Limenitis archippus

Wing Span: 2.5 - 3.25 inches

Host plants: willow, cottonwood, aspen, poplar.

Habitat: Wetlands, pond edges, moist areas supporting willows.

Discussion: This butterfly is often confused with the monarch. However, it can easily be separated from that species by the presence of a narrow black curved bar across the middle of the dorsal hindwing. They are smaller than the monarch and have a more rapid flight, holding their wings flat when gliding, rather than the v-shaped glide of the monarchs. They have 2 broods each year.

Caterpillar: Resemble bird droppings and overwinters in the larval stage in a hibernaculum.

Egg: Gray-green, laid singly on tip of host leaves.



Viceroy



Red-spotted Purple



Red-spotted Purple hibernaculum





Butterfly FYI

Association For Butterflies offers class on rearing butterflies, diseases of butterflies, raising monarchs in the classroom, and more! Our co-founder, Brenda, and secretary, Diana, have taken some of these classes and they were excellent.

The “Diseases Prevention in Lepidoptera” online class offered over the winter in February was a great way to learn about common diseases of butterflies and ways to practice good hygiene/ disinfection of rearing cages. We learned that overcrowding them in the rearing cages can cause stress and lead to a disease. Changing their food, temperature, moisture in the containers can cause stress in the caterpillars also. These stresses can make them susceptible to diseases.

Some of the butterfly diseases we learned about were viruses, bacteria, parasites, fungi.

N.P.V. (Nuclear Polyhedrosis Virus) is a virus that kills the caterpillars, it has a distinctive foul smell and the caterpillar is often found hanging in an inverted ‘V’ shape with liquid coming out.

O.E. (Ophryocystis elektroscirra) is a parasite that can be identified on the monarch’s abdomen, blacker than normal abdomens due to the OE spores on them.

There are also bacteria (bT, serratia, asperillus niger) and fungi (Nosema, Vairimorpha) to name a few! Great class.

AFB also declares a Butterfly Education and Awareness Day (BEAD) as the first Saturday in June! This year June 6th! Celebrate butterflies and raise public awareness! Check out their website at www.forbutterflies.org.

The Association for Butterflies is a non-profit organization dedicated to the welfare of butterflies through conservation, research, education, and support to professional butterfly farmers.

Hibernacula Hunt

This year Brenda Dziedzic would like to have lots of Red-spotted Purples and Viceroy's in Brenda's Butterfly Habitat. If that happens, she'll be able to give away lots of their caterpillars to her guest. If you would like to join her **Wed, April 8 at 2pm**, We will be looking for their hibernacula. We will be meeting at the driveway behind the Haggerty Corporate Park. It is located on Haggerty between Palmer and Michigan Ave on the West side in Canton, MI. You can also meet her at her house at 1:30 pm. Wear boots. Last year there was water that was several inches deep. If it is raining, we will reschedule the walk for Sat, April 11 at 1pm. If you like, you can bring hand clippers and a bucket to carry things in, but it is not necessary.



Reminders

John Blair speaking at Wild Birds Unlimited in Canton April 25th, 1 pm. “Butterfly Gardening in Your Yard”.

Brenda Dziedzic speaking at Barson’s Greenhouse April 25th, 1 pm. “Butterfly Gardens”.

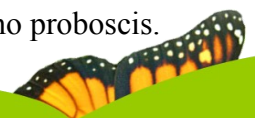
Wildflowers Folklore Presentation with Carol Clements, Nankin Mills, 1 pm, \$2 fee, April 25th.

Garden, Native Plant workshops with Cheryl English, seminars, Garden Walks, www.detroitgardencenter.org, \$ Fee.

“Singing Insects” April 12th, 2pm, MI Botanical Club, @ Heritage Park Visitors Center, Farmington Hills.

Fun Facts

- The largest moth in the world - the atlas moth - has a wingspan of some 12 inches; the smallest - the pygmy moth - has a wingspan of about 1/10 of an inch.
- The largest butterfly - the goliath birdwing - has a wingspan of about 11 inches; the smallest - the pygmy blue - has a wingspan of about 1/4 of an inch.
- Certain species of moths are born with no proboscis.



SEMBA Membership is \$15 per person and \$7.50 additional family members.

Mailing Address Label

PO Box 851301
Westland, MI 48185
sembabutterfly@yahoo.com
Website: www.sembabutterfly.org



Calendar of Upcoming Events

January 2015

21st, at Nankin Mills, 7:00 p.m.

“Butterfly Gardening” by John Blair. Local gardener, John Blair, will be giving a presentation on how to make a butterfly garden. Learn the steps to take to make your own beautiful garden that attracts both butterflies and hummingbirds! John will cover preparing your site, the plants you need and where to get them.

February 2015

18th, at Nankin Mills, 7:00 p.m.

“A Look Into the Lives of Monarch Butterflies” by Brenda Dziedzic. From Egg to Adult, explore their life cycle and the challenges they face.

March 2015

18th, at Nankin Mills, 7:00 p.m.

“Butterfly Life Histories of the Lycaenidae family” Discover the relationships between butterflies, ants, and aphids.

April 2015

15th, at Nankin Mills, 7:00 p.m.

“Witness Metamorphosis: Raising Caterpillars” by Jed Bromfield.

May 2015

20th, at Nankin Mills, 7:00 p.m.

“Insect and Flower Pollination Relationship” by Roger Sutherland of the Southeastern Michigan Beekeepers Association.

June 2015

17th, at Nankin Mills, 7:00 p.m.

“Native Plants” Trish Hacker-Henning, owner of American Roots, will be speaking on native plants and will also be bringing native butterfly plants available for purchase at the meeting.

July 2015

15th, at Brenda’s Butterfly Habitat, 7:00 p.m.

“Outdoor Photography” Brendon Weil, SEMBA Vice President, will build upon last year’s presentation about butterfly and nature photography. This will be a workshop forum. This will take place at Brenda’s Butterfly Habitat, 6414 Merriman Rd, Westland, MI 48185—bring your camera!