

# Nectar News



Official Newsletter of the  
**Southeast Michigan Butterfly Association**  
January 2014

## Back to Basics

### 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.*

We have all discovered the joy of butterfly gardening and watching, but we must remember that butterflies are a part of a larger group. They are classified under the Animal Kingdom, Phylum is Arthropods, the Class is Insects, and finally the Order is Lepidoptera.

The following are some of the families of the Order Lepidoptera which we will go into detail with each newsletter for 2014.

Family Papilionidae: Swallow-tails  
Family Pieridae: Whites and Sulphurs  
Family Lycaenidae: Hair-streaks, Blues, Coppers, and Metalmarks  
Family Nymphalidae: Brush-foots  
Family Hesperidae: Skippers  
Family Saturniidae: Giant Silk Moths and Royal Moths  
Family Sphingidae: Sphinx Moths or Hawk Moths  
Family Lymantriidae: Tussock Moths



### 2014 Board Members

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

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# 2014 Intro to Surveys

## First Sighting, Nectar Plan & Rearing Survey

By: *Brendon Weil*

Ever wonder the what time of year to start looking for Red Admirals in Southeast Michigan? Or which Non-Native Nectar plant works best for Tiger Swallowtails? Soon the answers to these questions (and many more) will be answered through the collective knowledge of the Southeast Michigan Butterfly Association members and the collective knowledge of Butterfly Enthusiasts across the region!!!

Beginning in April, and monthly thereafter through September, web-linked surveys will be distributed via email and available on our SEMBA website and Facebook pages. In addition paper copies will be available at each Monthly meeting.

The surveys will cover 3 categories and can be tracked by member should you choose:

1) First sighting – this survey will track the date and location

of the first sighting for many local butterfly species.

2) Nectar plant – this survey will track estimated monthly counts of the various butterflies you spotted in your home gardens or at local parks/preserves and the nectar plants (or other nutrient sources) you observed them visiting.

3) Rearing – this survey has been in place for the last few years – but it is receiving an upgrade in 2014, allowing members to submit rearing data as often as they like throughout the season with real-time feedback at meetings.

SEMBA members who complete 10 first sighting surveys, or 5 of the monthly nectar plant surveys will receive an individualized report at the October meeting. This new survey process is a great opportunity to monitor declining butterfly populations, define seasonal migration patterns, track nectar plant effectiveness and provide other useful information to our association, the community and other environmental research organizations.

We hope you will consider participating – more information will be available at the March meeting!!!

## Remember Your Dues

To renew your dues, you can bring it to the next meeting with is Wednesday, February 19th at 7:00 PM. If you aren't able to attend the meeting, you can mail your dues to

SEMBA  
PO Box 851301  
Westland MI. 48185  
***Make checks payable to SEMBA.***

\$15 per person and \$7.50 additional family members.

If you have any changes in your contact information. Please fill out a new application.

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## 2014 Nectar News

### Wish List

- Access to small rototiller
- Prizes for teacup raffle in October
- Wood stepping stones for Nankin Mills path

### Updates

- Toledo Zoo has a Butterfly House open January 17th - March 2nd 2014 in the Great Hall, Museum of Science. Butterflies flutter by as you walk through this free-flight exhibit, and it's free with regular Zoo admission.
- Westland Library May 9th, Preschool reading and Brenda's Butterfly Skit / crafts.
- 10th Annual MSUE Wayne County Master Gardener Banquet and Awards Ceremony. February 28th, 6:30 p.m.—10:00 p.m. at American Legion Stitt Post. \$27 per person.

We are looking for articles to be included in upcoming editions of Nectar News.

Members can submit their stories about butterflies. The stories can be serious or humorous. If you find any article relating to butterflies that you think other SEMBA members might like, please submit them for upcoming issues.

We are also looking for members who would like to show off their garden and be featured in the "Backyard Habitats" section of Nectar News and the "Members Garden" sections of the website. Members can sub-

mit their story about their garden along with up to 20 pictures of their garden as well.

Please submit your stories by email them with the subject line "Nectar News Articles" to:  
***semba@sembabutterfly.com***

Or by mail to:  
**Nectar News Articles  
PO Box 851301  
Westland, MI 48185**

## 2014 Grant Applications

2014 Grant Applications will be available at the next meeting and will be available online soon. If you'd like an application by email, please request it at ***semba@sembabutterfly.com***

One of SEMBA's goals from the start was to assist community organizations establish or enhance gardens to sustain butterflies.

To meet this goal, we established our grant fund. We raised \$235 from the teacup raffle at October 2013's meeting and continue to receive funds through the United Way! If you donate to the United Way, please consider designating your donation to SEMBA. Future generations of Butterfly enthusiasts will thank you!



Mailing Address Label

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Website: [www.sembabutterfly.com](http://www.sembabutterfly.com)  
Carolyn Sohoza – President  
Brendon Weil – Vice President  
Diana McCormick – Secretary  
Monica McCormick – Communications  
Director.



## Calendar of Upcoming Events

### February 2014

*19th, Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Nankin Mills*  
"Self-medication in Monarchs; Plants as Sources of Medicines for Foraging Animals" by Mark Hunter., Professor, University of Michigan EEB & SNRE. Professor Hunter will discuss the ability of animals to self-medicate through the medicinal properties of native plants.

### March 2014

#### Award 5 Year Pins

*19th, Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Nankin Mills*  
"The Fascinating Lives of Butterflies and Moths" by Brenda Dziedzic, Author and SEMBA Co-founder. Explore the lives of butterflies and moths as Brenda takes you on a journey of their life cycle. See some of the dangers they encounter and how to protect them by raising them inside.

### March 2014

*15th, Wayne County Community College*  
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

SEMBA booth at Growing Great Gardens.  
\$35. Registration forms are available online at [www.taylorconservatory.org](http://www.taylorconservatory.org) or [www.taylorgardenclub.com](http://www.taylorgardenclub.com)

### April 2014

#### Grant Awards Announced

*16th, Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Nankin Mills*  
"Garden Design" with Carolyn Sohoza; SEMBA President. Carolyn will discuss ways to begin, expand, and enhance gardens to attract wildlife, especially butterflies to your garden.

### May 2014

*21st, Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Nankin Mills*  
"Good Bug, Bad Bug" with Kristine Hahn.  
Kristine will help you identify the good (beneficial) and the bad (detrimental) insects in your garden.