

Nectar News



Official Newsletter of the Southeast Michigan Butterfly Association

January 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.

Membership Dues:

Time to renew your membership. **Membership dues are \$15 per person.** If more than one family member wants to join, the second family member receives their membership for only \$7.50. This family member discount can be used for up to four additional family members.

If you are coming to the meeting, Jan 21, you can pay then. If you can't make it, you can send your check, payable to SEMBA, to SEMBA, PO Box 851301, Westland, MI 48185.

Mourning Cloak

Brushfoot Family (Nymphalidae)

This stunning insect has one of the broadest distributions of any butterfly, ranging through North America, as well as continental Europe, Eastern Siberia, and Japan. Adults are hibernators, wintering in tree crevices and other sheltered spots. It can be a shock to see one flying about on a warm sunny winter day, as they sometimes do. Mourning cloaks do not usually visit flowers; rather, they feed at decomposing fruit or animal scat. Mourning cloaks may seek shelter and aestivate (type of summer hibernation) during the hottest months of the summer. They are single brooded, and may live for ten months, as they spend much time aestivating in summer and hibernating in the winter. Some of their host plants are willow, sugarberry, poplar, hackberry, and elm. Their eggs are laid in clusters on these host plants.



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:** Karen Jewell

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Upcoming Butterfly Events

Mothapalooza June 12-14 2015

Save the dates -- Mothapalooza will be held at Shawnee State Park Lodge and Conference Center in West Portsmouth, OH. Sponsored by the Ohio Division of Wildlife, the Conference will feature Keynote Speakers/leaders including David L. Wagner, author of "Caterpillars of Eastern North American" and Doug Talamy, author of "Bringing Nature Home". Mothapalooza III will be a fun weekend of mothing, diurnal field trips, workshops, keynote presentations and camaraderie! See the Activity Descriptions and Agenda from last year for more details what to expect at www.mothapalooza.org. Mothapalooza tends to fill up early, so jump on the opportunity. Details to come on website.

National Moth Week July 18-26 2015

National Moth Week celebrates the beauty, life cycles, and habitats of moths. "Moth-ers" of all ages and abilities are encouraged to learn about, observe, and document moths in their backyards, parks, and neighborhoods. National Moth Week is being held, worldwide, during the last full

week of July. Events for Ohio Lepidopterists will be in upcoming newsletters, or visit their website, www.ohiolepidopterists.org, along with www.nationalmothweek.org.

18th Annual Butterfly Identification and Monitoring Workshop

Saturday **March 28**, 2015 at the Bowman-Oddy Labs, University of Toledo, Toledo, OH.

University of Toledo is partnering with the Ohio Lepidopterists, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, and the Ohio Biological Survey to present this workshop.

The workshop runs from 10 AM to 4:30 PM (registration and snacks at 9:30 AM) on March 28, 2015.

Sessions are concurrent so participants can focus on those topics of primary interest to them.

One session will include extensive identification training covering every butterfly likely to be seen in Ohio. A concurrent session will include topics such as plants that butterflies depend on, life cycles and gardening to attract butterflies. Other topics will include highlights of the 2014 season, how to set up and monitor your transect, telling moths from butterflies, butterflies under the

microscope, population trends, a forum for experienced monitors and other data analysis. There will be kits to assist beginning monitors, time for networking with other butterfly enthusiasts and lots of good handouts. Specimens and posters will be on display. The workshop is designed to be useful to everyone from the person who just wants to know a few butterflies when they see them to the long term monitor and the serious lepidopterist.

Butterfly monitors follow Ohio's butterfly populations and flag long term down trends before species are gone. Teams of monitors, trained by butterfly experts, look at butterflies weekly and they are the first to notice population changes, temporary breeding colonies of subtropical butterflies in Ohio, new species moving into Ohio and perhaps other trends.

Just as bird surveys record changing bird populations in response to global warming, butterfly monitoring is equally valuable and is a predictor for other invertebrate species as well.

Registration includes lunch and snacks. In order to be assured of a lunch, registration must be received by March 23, 2015. Students are encouraged to attend for no charge but need to preregister to be assured of handouts, etc.

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Monarch Watch

Reminders

Please use a separate form for each person unless address is the same. Lunch will be subs (turkey, Italian or vegetarian), sides and cookie.

Pre-registration Form: Registration fee of \$15.00 (\$5.00 without lunch) includes lunch, snacks, and educational materials. Workshop space is limited. Pre-registration is required to guarantee a lunch. Pre-registrations must be received by March 23, 2015.

Registration and map will be email to you if interested.

Please register your Monarch Waystation.

“Monarch butterfly populations are declining due to loss of habitat. To assure a future for Monarchs, conservation and restoration of milkweeds needs to become a national priority.”

Chip Taylor, Director, Monarch Watch.

Brenda Dzedzic is the monarch Conservation Specialist for our area!

They educate the public about the need to create habitats for monarchs.

Monarch Waystation

Certification Requirements:

Monarch Watch is a nonprofit educational outreach program based at the University of Kansas that focuses on the Monarch butterflies, its habitat, and its spectacular fall migration. If you would like to certify your monarch habitat and help support Monarch Watch’s conservation efforts, there is a \$16 non-refundable application fee. Sign is \$17. Application and sign bundle is \$33 purchased all at once.

Requirements:

Size– No minimum area requirement, however a truly effective Monarch Waystation will be at least 100 square feet. The total area may be split among several sites at your location.

Exposure– At least 6 hours of sun a day.

Plants, Drainage, and Soil Type are other interesting considerations for the Waystation.

More information at:

Monarchwatch.org

- **SEMBA calendar** for 2015 will be available at January’s general meeting for \$12, money raised will go toward the Grant fund for organizations wanting to build butterfly gardens! We only have a few left!
- **Rearing, Sighting and Nectar plant survey** will be available for 2015! Look for more information at the beginning of each meeting, as well as via ongoing email distributions, website announcements and Facebook posts. We look forward to your participation. If you have questions, please contact Brendon Weil at bweil04@yahoo.com

Contact Us:

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SEMBA Membership is \$15
per person and \$7.50 addi-
tional family members.

Mailing Address Label

PO Box 851301
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Email: New email soon.
Website: www.semabutterfly.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!