



The Antenna

News and Information from the Butterfly Monitoring Network

Onsite Overview: Brookfield Woods Prairie

Brookfield Woods Prairie is part of the Cook County Forest Preserve. The site, approximately 13 acres, has been undergoing the process of restoration for about 12 years. Most of the area is prairie, ranging from wet to mesic. Salt Creek edges the west end of the site. A small area of savanna is being restored along part of the creek. The area is very rich in plant species diversity. I started my route easing my way through stands of Common Milkweed as tall as I am, into more open areas of low growing sedges spotted with thrusts of deep lavender Ironweed and pink Swamp Milkweed. My favorite section was scattered with clumps of bright purple Liatris interlaced with the whiteness of Rattlesnake Master. On one occasion, while in this area a "memorable monitoring moment" occurred. Walking toward a cluster of Liatris, I realized I could hardly see the purple of the flower through the copper-gold mass of a variety of Skippers! As I stood in their midst several landed on my record sheet.



I could not resist writing in a "time-out" as I quickly sketched the scene. I was able to identify Tawny Skippers as well as European Skippers.

The deerpaths that I followed into the prairie on my monitoring route are not accessible to the public due to the wetness in these areas. Salt Creek Bike Trail passes through the site and there is much to be seen when walking this black-topped path.

If you should visit on the first Saturday of the month, you may even see some restoration work taking place. David Wachtel, Volunteer Stewardship Coordinator at The Illinois Nature Conservancy and the site Steward, works with a variety of groups in the management of the prairie. The Des Plaines River Valley Volunteers, The Interreligious Sustainability Circle of Oak Park, various school groups as well as individuals are involved in making Brookfield Woods Prairie a site to see.

If you would like to share your "memorable monitoring moments" call Judi Ann Dore (see Contacts).

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Credits

Mel Manner: Editor
 Judi Ann Dore
 Graphics & Layout

January

2000

Take Time to Read...

The Butterflies of Indiana

Ernest M. Shull

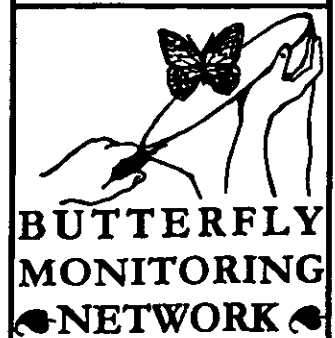
Indiana Academy of Science: 1987

Hardback \$30.00

Ernest Shull has studied and collected butterflies since his boyhood. Most of the 70,000 specimens he has taken are in museum collections. Shull is a retired Professor of Sociology at St. Francis College, Fort Wayne. The Butterflies of Indiana was created with the assistance of William R. Eberly, Professor of Biology at Manchester College, Indiana.

The book is divided into four parts. Part One includes information about butterfly biology, collecting specimens and a helpful explanation of classification. Part Two and Three are the Species Accounts. Each account includes descriptions of the species lifecycle, larval forms, host plants and adult range. Maps next to each account show distribution by county. Some mating and migration observations are also recorded. The color plates throughout these two sections show all 149 species found in Indiana. 535 specimens are shown. Part Four contains a state checklist, glossary, bibliography and larval food plant index.

The book was not available at the stores I had checked, but most of them can order it or you can check the internet.



Indoor Workshop 2000

Greetings from Doug and Mel. It's time again to think about the annual Indoor Butterfly Monitoring Network Workshop. This year it's on March 11th, and we're very excited to be able to hold it in the new Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum of The Chicago Academy of Sciences. This will also give everyone a chance to tour the Butterfly Haven.

Wayne Schenum has graciously agreed to be this year's guest speaker. Wayne is the Natural Resources Manager for McHenry County Conservation District (MCCD). He has done extensive research on the insects, including the butterflies, and will be speaking about the butterflies of the Fox River Valley. Additionally, we will have our usual breakout sessions for beginners and more advanced monitors, and an opportunity after the workshop to work with mounted specimens and ask questions. We have grown tremendously the last two years, so we do need everyone to register (see below for instructions).

We are looking to have a very exciting program this year. We hope to see you on the 11th of March!

Doug Taron and Mel Manner

Directions: The Nature Museum is at 2430 North Cannon Drive, just across Fullerton Avenue from Lincoln Park Zoo. Parking is available in the Lincoln Park Zoo lot on Cannon Drive. The fee is \$7.

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED!

To register or for more information, call Mel Manner at 847-464-4426 or e-mail her at manner@foxvalley.net. Please specify which session you are interested in: beginner, intermediate, or advanced. New monitors are encouraged to attend the beginner session. People who are starting to learn the butterflies, but are not yet ready to jump into the skippers should consider the intermediate session. People getting comfortable with the skippers and hairstreaks should consider the advanced session. (You are not locked into this. You can change your mind at the workshop. This information is for space considerations only.)

Tenth Annual Butterfly Monitoring Network Workshop Agenda

9:00 Opening & Announcements

9:30 Guest Lecture - Wayne Schenum. Butterflies of the Fox River Valley.

10:30 BMN Awards and Break

10:45 Breakout Sessions and Haven Tours - Due to our large numbers, the beginners will tour the haven while the more advanced monitors go into their breakout sessions. Then the advanced people will tour the haven while the beginners go into their breakout session.

Beginners: Everything you need to know to start monitoring. Mel Manner.

Intermediate: Beyond the Beginner's Checklist. Doug Taron.

Advanced: Tutorial with mounted specimens. Ron Panzer.

12:30 Work with BMN mounted specimens - special problems, challenges, Beginner's Checklist species, etc.

Kudos to Judi and Doe

Doug and I both want to extend our most sincere thanks to Judi Dore for making this newsletter happen. She not only designed the entire layout of the newsletter, but also designed and drew the wonderful logos for both The Antenna and the Network. Check out what a great job she did. The Network logo, found bottom right on page one and also on the back cover, has a short story behind it. In her notes to me, Judi indicated that the collection net represents our "net work", a pun we can all enjoy, and the hands illustrate the human factor involved. The butterfly itself is a regal fritillary, chosen since it is a species that The Chicago Academy of Sciences hopes to be able to rear and release in a future captive-breeding program.

The Antenna logo is from an expanded idea come up with by Doe Prestidge, long time monitor of Horlock Hill in Kane County. Many years ago, the idea of having a newsletter was kicked around in the Network. Nothing really came of it, but Doe came up with the great name, The Antenna. Doe and Doug then also came up with the idea of a logo with a butterfly and radio waves coming out from its antennae. After we asked for all of you to vote on the newsletter name, The Antenna came out first. Judi then took the original ideas and ran with them, creating the impressive leader for our newsletter. So thanks again to Doe for the great ideas and to Judi for her creativity.

Data Submissions

A few sites still have not submitted data from last year. We need absolutely all of the data for the annual reports to the landowners. Please send copies of your field forms and a basic sketch of your route ASAP to: Douglas Taron, Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, 2430 N Cannon Dr, Chicago, IL, 60614.

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Butterfly Monitoring Network
C/O Mel Manner



Winter Issue

