



# The Antenna

News and Information from the Butterfly Monitoring Network

## Take Time to Read...

### Four Wings and a Prayer

Sue Halpern

Pantheon Books, Random House  
2001

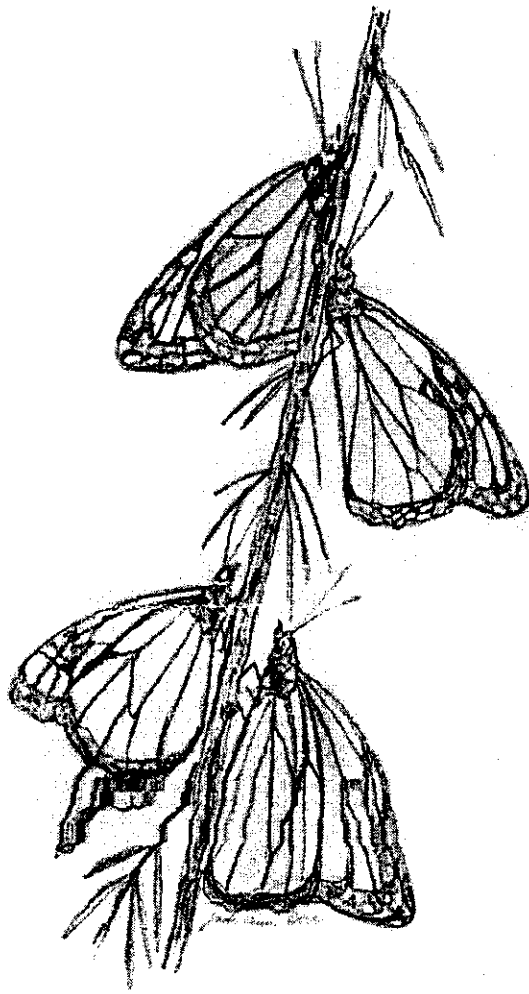
The best description of this book is from the book flap. "Combining science, memoir and travel writing, *Four Wings and a Prayer* gives us a keenly observed portrait of the monarch's extraordinary migrations and of the people - both scientists and amateurs - for whom they have become a glorious obsession." It has quite a few facts on both monarchs and their migrations mixed into the story, but is more a wonderful introduction to the world of butterfly science by following several key people as they try to discover how and where monarchs migrate. The writer does allow her personal likes and dislikes of people to show and color the narrative, but despite that, I find this to be a very enjoyable book to read. Not all dry like some scientific texts can be, but still very informative.

The author also has a small appendix, "Notes on Resources", that acts as a good bibliography including websites as well as books refers to in the text.

**From Mel Manner**

*"The Butterflies. They were underfoot. I was used to seeing butterflies in the air, or on flowers, but there, at the entrance to El Rosario, thousands of wings torn from their bodies lay in the dirt. They were like cairns in the forest, pointing upward, and so we climbed,...and I could hear myself breathing, and my heart in my ears, and when I looked up again, what I was seeing made so little sense that I turned it into something else, something I understood-autumn leaves, falling through the air. That was what it sounded like, too. Millions of leaves, ripped and ripping from their moorings. The sound was overwhelming. Gradually it occurred to me, gradually it registered, that though there were millions of them, they were not leaves at all, they were butterflies, monarch butterflies, the butterflies of my backyard."*

**Susan Halpern *Four Wings and a Prayer* Page 7**



*Monarchs at their winter roost in Mexico.*

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### Credits

Mel Manner: Editor

Judi Ann Dore:  
Graphics & Layout

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# Indoor Workshop 2002

The 12th annual indoor training workshop is on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. (All future workshops will be on the first Saturday in March.) We'll be at the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum again, so you might want to make a day of it and see the museum and the Butterfly Haven. We're expecting a huge turnout again, and we've included lunch again to allow time for socializing, so it should be an exciting day.

Susan Borkin, Director of Public Programs & Curator at the Milwaukee Public Museum will be our honored guest speaker this year. Her talk, *The Swamp Metalmark*, promises to be very interesting and also enlightening, since we hope to do swamp metalmark reintroductions within the network in the future. For more details, see the Guest Speaker Announcement on page 8.

The beginners' session will be the same as last year covering how to use a field guide, how to decide between a common species versus a rare species, and how to identify the Beginners' Checklist of 25 common species. This talk is designed for people who are new to identifying butterflies. If you have already heard this talk, we strongly suggest you go to the other session. The advanced session will be on intermediate level species and species that people seem to be struggling with. Hairstreaks, satyrs, and fritillaries will be covered as well as other species that Doug has seen problems with. Anyone who has monitored more than two years should go to this session.

## Registration is Required!

To register, call Mel Manner at 847-464-4426 or e-mail her at [manner@foxvalley.net](mailto:manner@foxvalley.net). Please give the name of each person attending and specify which session he or she is interested in. (They can change their mind later. This information is used for space considerations only.)

**Directions:** The Nature Museum is at 2430 North Cannon Drive. The main entrance is on the east side of the museum. The parking lot is directly across from the main entrance, on the east side of Cannon Drive, north of Fullerton Avenue and the Lincoln Park Zoo. The parking fee is \$7. (The workshop is free.) Check in with Museum Registration immediately inside the main entrance and tell them you're here for the Butterfly Monitoring Network. They will direct you from there to our sign-in table.

## 11th Annual BMN Workshop Agenda

- 9:30 Sign-in
- 10:00 Opening Announcements and Awards
- 10:30 Guest Speaker - Susan Borkin, Director of Public Programs & Curator, Milwaukee Public Museum - Topic: *The Swamp Metalmark*
- 11:30 Lunch Break - Bring a sack lunch!
- 12:30 Breakout Sessions (See descriptions above.)
  - Beginners: Beginning Identification - Mel Manner
  - Advanced: Hairstreaks, Satyrs, Frits, and More - Doug Taron
- 1:30 Wrap-up
- 1:45 End

**Possible Poaching**

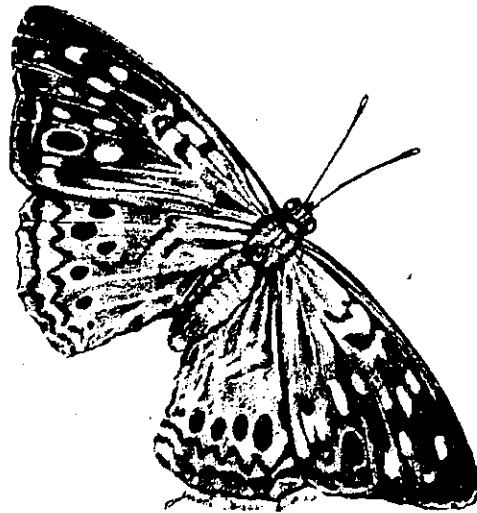
One of the monitors in DuPage County ran into two other people with butterfly nets while monitoring. They would not identify themselves and didn't know any of the people connected with the site, including the site steward and the Forest Preserve District staff member who would be handling any permits for approved studies. If this ever happens on your site, DO NOT be at all confrontational. If you feel comfortable engaging them in conversation, try to politely find out who they are and what they're doing. Many times there are multiple studies going on on sites, so they may have a legitimate reason for being there. If you don't want to approach them or feel that they are not part of a scientific study, please contact me or the landowner immediately, even if you have to skip monitoring that day. Tell them what you saw, where, and when. Make sure to explain who you are and that you are with the Butterfly Monitoring Network. Let me know about the situation as soon as possible. I will try to follow up with the landowner.

Poaching, both plant and insect, is of great concern in restoration although fairly uncommon nowadays thanks in part to the vigilance of restorationists. One of the side benefits of the Butterfly Monitoring Network is that we can help protect our sites simply by our presence and our reporting of disturbances or problems.

**More Monitors than Ever**

2001 was a bumper year again for number of monitors out in the field. More monitors were unable to go out this past year, but will be back in the field in 2002.

We are still shooting for the elusive record of 100 sites monitored. If you know anyone interested in monitoring anywhere in the state, pass along Mel's contact information.

**Help for Carol Freeman**

Carol Freeman has many copies left of her beautiful 2001 calendar featuring butterflies from the area.

Remember that part of the proceeds go to support the BMN. So if you have ideas of places that would be interested in calendars or photos of butterflies, please contact her at 847-328-8508.

And Thanks again, Carol, for your support of the BMN.

**Website Up**

Doug Taron has been working hard with our monitors and some other staff people at McHenry Community College on creating a website for the BMN. It will have not only the home page with facts and information on the network, but it will incorporate direct data submission as well. For those of you with internet access (over half of the network) this will allow you to submit all of your reports online and will greatly reduce the amount of work Doug has to do to add new data to our database. It will also give landowners, scientists, and other people direct access to the information we've worked so hard to collect. The prototype is up and running. We are debugging and refining it now. Our many, many thanks to the folks at MCC who have given their time and effort to making this possible. Look for details in the May newsletter about the website.

**Attention All Shutterbugs**

Carol Saunders is collecting names of people interested in Butterfly photography.

Depending on the degree of interest, this subgroup could do a number of things from sharing photography tips to gathering useful photos for the BMN to be used for educational workshops.

Please send your contact information (name, address, email and phone number) to Carol Saunders at 708-485-7102 or [casaunde@brookfieldzoo.org](mailto:casaunde@brookfieldzoo.org)

**Help for Workshop**

Mel is looking for at least 4 people to help with sign-in and set-up at the March workshop. The workshop will start at 10 AM, so helpers would need to be at the museum at 9 AM.

If you can help, email her at [manner@foxvalley.net](mailto:manner@foxvalley.net) or call her at 847-464-4426.

**Mel's Email Changing?**

Mel's email is the main contact for many people both in and out of the network. She may be changing addresses in the next few months. Notices will be sent out to everyone and it will be listed in The Antenna newsletter, so keep your eyes peeled. Also, make sure to give her your email address, and she will send you a posting once she makes the change.

**Walks for 2002**

Mel is trying to set up a schedule of site walks around the network. If you know of a site you would like to visit, or if you are willing to lead a walk at your site, contact Mel ASAP. The schedule and registration information will be in the May Antenna.

**Data Submissions Needed!**

This data is needed immediately so that Doug can create the annual reports for the landowners and Illinois Nature Preserves Commission. All your hard work goes to waste if you don't turn it in!

Please submit your data ASAP to Mel Manner ( See Contacts, pg 1.)

**Permitting**

Many monitors are on nature preserve sites or sites in DuPage and Cook Counties which require formal permits in order to monitor. Mel is working hard on streamlining the permitting processes to make it as easy as possible for the monitors and to guarantee that all permits are granted and followed. If you have any questions or problems getting your permits or submitting requested information to the agencies, call Mel immediately. Also keep a look-out in the newsletters and your email/mail for notices from Mel about permits and permitting requirements.

**Butterfly Lore The Name Game – It's Greek (and latin) to Me**

Mourning Cloak (*Nymphalis antiopa*)

Name derivation: *Nymphalis*—of or pertaining to a fountain (Latin); *antiopa*—wife of Lycus, King of Thebes (Greek).

Family: Brush-footed butterflies (*Nymphalidae*)

Spring Azure (*Celastrina ladon*)

Name derivation: *Celastrina*—unknown; *ladon*—"no fairer river, its water the most beautiful in Greece."

Family: Gossamer Wings (*Lycaenidae*)

Black Swallowtail (*Papilio polyxenes*)

Name derivation: *Papilio*—unknown; *polyxenes*—was the son of Agasthenes who was the suitor of Helen of Troy.

Family: Swallowtails

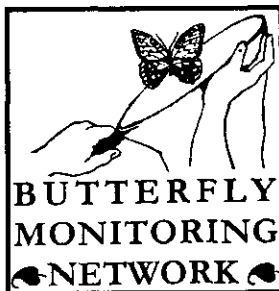
**Contributed by Julie Sacco**

## **Workshop Guest Speaker Announcement**

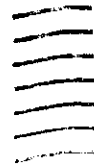
We are thrilled to have Susan Borkin, Director of Public Programs & Curator at the Milwaukee Public Museum (MPM) as our guest speaker for the Indoor Workshop 2002. Susan has worked as a curator of Lepidoptera at MPM since 1975 and served as project director for the Puelicher Butterfly Wing, a permanent exhibit (opened in May 2000) featuring live butterflies. Her current research focuses on conservation of two of Wisconsin's endangered butterflies, the poweshiek skipper and swamp metalmark butterfly. One of the hopes of the Butterfly Monitoring Network is to eventually see swamp metalmarks flying on our sites again, so her talk should be doubly enlightening. The swamp metalmark butterfly (*Calephelis mutica*) has been listed as threatened or endangered in many of the states throughout its range. In her presentation, Susan will cover basic natural history of the swamp metalmark, her efforts to re-establish populations at two historical sites in Wisconsin, and challenges for further conservation efforts for this species.

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from the



Butterfly Monitoring Network  
C/O Mel Manner



**Winter  
Issue**