



The Antenna

News and Information from the Illinois Butterfly Monitoring Network

Paper People vs. Internet People

There are two types of people in our network; those who have internet access and those who don't. The ones who do are obviously nicknamed the internet people. Those who don't are nicknamed the paper people, because Mel Manner sends them copies of everything on paper through the regular mail.

Several paper people have asked if they are going to still be able to monitor and submit data, even though they cannot do it electronically. Absolutely!!! Doug and Mel are very committed to keeping these people in the network and getting all the pertinent information out to them to keep them up-to-date. We will never turn someone away, because he or she doesn't have a computer.

Saying that, though, it is certainly true that internet people derive a great benefit from our website. (We hope!) All of our network materials are available 24 hours a day with no delay. And we continue to add features to the website, such as Marla Garrison's wonderful Butterfly Gallery. This gallery houses many, many photos taken by monitors in our network and McHenry Community College people. It's a great tool to help new people learn butterfly identification. These are photos of the butterflies in the field. In many cases, there are several photos, showing different poses of the butterflies. So you get a very good idea of how they look in nature.

Because of features like this that are only available through our website, we suggest that paper people go to their local libraries and have the staff help them get onto the internet and onto our website. Virtually all libraries in the Chicagoland area have internet computers with helpful staff, or have reciprocal policies that would allow you to go to a neighboring library with your card and get help. You should even be able to submit your data online at the library if you want to give it a try.

Electronic Newsletter

Newsletter costs continue to climb as the network expands. So we are now requiring everyone with email and internet capabilities to receive the electronic version of the newsletter. If you have received a paper copy, but you can switch to the electronic version, email Mel at ibmn@sbcglobal.net

IBMN Awards

Seven IBMN awards were given out during the March Indoor Workshop. McMahan Grove monitor John Ayres, Moraine Hills monitor Mary Deja, Boone Creek Fen monitor Marla Garrison, and Matthiessen and Mitchell's Grove monitor Amy Williams all received an award for their stellar data collection. Waterfall Glen monitors Carol Saunders and Amy Bodwell received a joint award for their excellent data collection as well. Judy Grey received an award, not for her fine monitoring, but for her efforts at recruitment of new monitors and assistance in getting them started. Jim Peterson also did not win his award for monitoring, but instead for the tremendous work he has done as our webmaster. The IBMN website would not exist without him.

We would like to congratulate them again for their awards and thank them for their dedication to the IBMN.

Vol. 5, Is. 3, May 2004

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Outdoor Field Experience 2004

We will be going to Glacial Park in McHenry County on Saturday, July 17th at 11 AM. This is quite a large site with several different habitats. It is also one of the sites where Doug is doing species reintroductions. He will tell us all about it on the tour. Both Doug and Mel will also be there to answer any questions people have. This is your chance to get into the field with them and your fellow monitors, see a great site, see some new butterflies up close and personal, and have a fun time doing it. New monitors are strongly urged to come, but we always have a good mix of people at all skill levels. The tour will last between 2 and 3 hours, and we will have an optional picnic afterwards for people to talk about what we saw and just hang out and get to know each other. (Bring your own lunch and a non-alcoholic beverage.)

Registration is Required!

To register, e-mail Mel Manner at ibmn@sbcglobal.net or call her at 847-464-4426. Please give the name of each person attending and their phone number.

Directions: Glacial Park is located in the northeast part of McHenry County a little bit north of a small town called Ringwood, which is just north of the town of McHenry. Glacial Park's main entrance is on Route 31. 31 runs north-south through McHenry County.

Lake County: You may want to take Rt. 176 or Rt. 120 west to Route 31. Then head north through McHenry and Ringwood, and look for Glacial Park on the west (left) side of the road. The entrance is well marked.

Cook, DuPage, and Will Counties: You will want to head north on one of the tollroads such as I-294, I-290 or I-355. Your goal is to get to the north part of I-290 where it meets Route 14 (Northwest Highway). Take Route 14 northwest towards Crystal Lake. You will pick up Route 31 on the east border of Crystal Lake. Head north on 31 through McHenry and Ringwood, and look for Glacial Park on the west (left) side of the road. The entrance is well marked.

Kane County: If you are on the east side, I would suggest going over to Rt. 59 and take it north into Barrington to pick up Route 14 (Northwest Highway). Then you can follow the directions for Cook County from there. If you are further west, you may want to take Rt. 47 north through Huntley to Rt. 176. Head east on Rt. 176 through Crystal Lake to Rt. 31. Then you can follow the directions for Cook County from there.

Skipper Workshop

Tom Peterson's Skipper Outing was so successful last year that we are having him do it again this year. This outdoor training workshop is at Nelson Lake Marsh and is geared towards beginning and intermediate monitors. We hope to see Dion, Black Dash, Peck's, Least, and European Skippers. If we're lucky, we will also find Broadwing and Delaware Skippers. The walking is somewhat strenuous, so those with limited mobility may have to pass. We will be in the marsh, so footwear and pants that can get wet are highly recommended. Water and sun hats are also recommended.

The workshop is on Saturday, July 10th, at 10 AM. It will last at least 2 hours, with an optional sack lunch picnic at the end. (Bring your own lunch and drinks.) Registration is required, and the walk will be limited to 20 people, so register early with Mel Manner at ibmn@sbcglobal.net or 847-464-4426.

Nelson Lake Marsh (now called Dick Young Forest Preserve) is located just west of Batavia in Kane County. The largest nearby intersection is Randall Road and Fabyan Parkway. Any map or internet map program should show this intersection, which forms the northwest corner of Batavia. Take Randall Road south to Main Street. Turn west (right) onto Main and go 1 ½ miles to Nelson Lake Road. Turn south (left) and continue until you see the Forest Preserve District parking lot on the right. That is where we will meet.

Spring Regional Workshops

Our regional workshops this spring were very successful. We had about 45 attendees over the four workshops. We will offer the same workshops next spring. If you have an idea for another workshop, a talk during the March Indoor Workshop, or an article in the newsletter, please let us know.

How many runs of my route can I do, and when?

Monitoring season is upon us. You should try to get your first route run in by June 15th, even earlier if possible. Remember that the protocol requires a minimum of 6 visits between June 1st and August 7th. Space your runs out throughout the summer. Do not do all 6 in a short time period. As always, remember that 6 is the *minimum* number of runs you should do; you can do as many as 15 if you like, and some of these can be before or after the standard time period, as long as your minimum are within the time period. Please do not do more than 15 runs. The database cannot handle more than 15 runs for one route. If you monitor multiple routes or sites, you can do 15 runs for each route. Submit data for all of your runs, not just your minimum 6. If you have any questions at all about this, contact Mel immediately.

NEW, EASY, FAST DATA ENTRY

Jim Peterson has been hard at work yet again. He has created a simple form on our website for data entry. This means that you can enter your data directly on our homepage without having to go through the IBMN database. The database is so large, that it was very cumbersome for people to use last year. This new form is much, much faster, and is basically the same type of form that you see on any website for ordering things. The boxes on the form correspond exactly to the 2004 version of the Field Form, and in most cases, they have a drop-down menu (click on the arrow on the right side of the box). For example, to enter your site, you simply scroll through the drop-down menu and highlight your site. Species entry is the same way, and Doug has switched the form to English names instead of the Latin names. We've done everything possible to make this quick and easy. Please give it a try if you have internet access. You can even enter your data each time you run your route. You don't have to save it until the end of the year. This way you won't accidentally misplace it. Since this is the first year of the new form, please send an email to Mel Manner at ibmn@sbcglobal.net and Doug Taron so that they can make sure they received your submission. In future years, this step will be eliminated. There is a link to their emails from the instructions page for entering data. You may want to open this page as a help to you while entering your data the first time.

Monitors Phyllis Schulte and Sally Wieclaw have already completed one run of their route at Hickory Creek Barrens, and they entered it via the new form. This is Phyllis' response to my question of how it went. "Yes...it went really well..the new data entry is really easy..I just wanted to start inputting as I went instead of doing them all at once."

For those of you who do not have internet access, you can still mail your data in at the end of the season as usual. There will be a reminder in the August newsletter.

2004 Field Form version

Yes, there is yet another new version of the Field Form. We noticed that the weather conditions on the old forms did not match exactly the choices on our internet form. So now we have changed the wind and sky conditions to be consistent on all versions of our form, paper and electronic. You can print the new form off of our homepage. It's under IBMN Publications/Field Form. People who receive paper copies of the newsletters will receive a copy of the new form in the mail.

Annual Reports

The 2003 annual summary reports are now available on our website in pdf format. If you receive a paper copy of the newsletter, you will be mailed copies of the annual summary reports. Please check over the information in the Site Summary for your site, and report any errors to Mel Manner.

On-Site Overview

Do you miss the On-site Overviews that were part of our newsletter up until a year ago? If you would like to see this feature come back, please let Mel know. If you have any other suggestions for the newsletter, pass those along as well. This is your newsletter to keep you informed. We need your feedback.

Data submission deadline is October 15th! Please have all your data submitted electronically or mailed in to Mel Manner by this date.

Take Time to Read . . .

An Obsession with Butterflies

By Sharman Apt Russell
Perseus Publishing, 2003
ISBN 0-7382-0699-7
List Price \$24.00 hardback

Editor's Note: IBMN monitor Elizabeth Plonka recommends this book and gave a copy to Mel. Thanks!!!

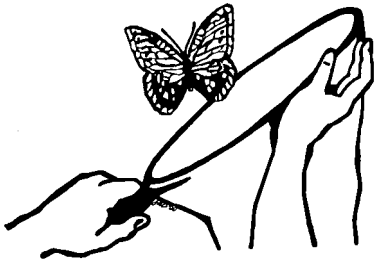
This is a whimsical book in many ways, making it an enjoyable, light read, but it also contains an abundance of information on butterflies. The book jacket describes it perfectly. "Russell traces butterflies through their life cycles, exploring the creatures' many obsessions with eating, mating, and migrating." By taking butterflies in each stage, and using specific details of species to illustrate points, she not only teaches you about butterflies as a whole, but points out individual species which have some pretty wild protection mechanisms or evolved habits. The life of a butterfly is much more active than we often assume. Several species form symbiotic relationships with ants, for example, releasing sweet secretions to encourage the ants to protect them from parasitic wasps. All sorts of other interesting adaptations are discussed as well.

If you want to know more about butterflies than just how to identify them, this is a great book with which to start.

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May Issue, 2004