

Nectar News



Official Newsletter of the Southeast Michigan Butterfly Association

June 2014

Swallowtails

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.

Swallowtails (Papilionidae)

One of the most noticeable things about swallowtails is the clublike projection extending from the hind wing. Some species have two or more of these decoys, used to thwart predator attacks. Hungry birds may think they look like the insects head and try to take a bite! The tails unfortunately don't grow back, but this doesn't stop the swallowtail from flying. If attacked by a bird and all that was damaged was the tail, the

butterfly can still go on with his daily business. Swallowtails butterflies are usually medium to large in size with showy colors. The caterpillars have a trait they all share: an **osmeterium!** This is a retractable orange gland located behind the true head. It emits a foul smell that renders them less than palatable to predators.

There are about two dozen different types of swallowtail in North America. Black Swallowtail, Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, Giant Swallowtail, Pipevine Swallowtail, Polydamas Swallowtail, Spicebush Swallowtail, and Zebra Swallowtail just to name a few!

Fun Fact: A butterfly's entire body is covered with modified hairs called **scales**. They form colored patterns to help 'fool' predators, find a mate, gather heat so they can fly!

Board Members for 2014

- **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 Dziejcz
- **Membership Committee Chair:** Karen Jewell

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Native Plants

What is a Native Plant?

Native plants (also called indigenous plants) are plants that have evolved over thousands of years in a particular region. They have adapted to the geography, hydrology, and climate of that region. Native plants occur in communities, that is, they have evolved together with other plants. As a result, a community of native plants provides habitat for a variety of native wildlife species such as songbirds and butterflies.

What is a Non-Native Plant?

Non-native plants (also called non-indigenous plants, invasive plants, exotic species, or weeds) are plants that have been introduced into an environment in which they did not evolve. Introduction of non-native plants into our landscape has been both accidental and deliberate. Purple loosestrife, for example, was introduced from Europe in the 1800's in ship ballast and as a medicinal herb and ornamental plant. It quickly spread and can now be found in 42 states.

Why plant Native:

- Native plants do not require fertilizers.
- Native plants require fewer pesticides than lawns.
- Native plants require less water than lawns.
- Native plants reduce air pollution.
- Native plants provide shelter and food for wild life.
- Native plants promote biodiversity and stewardship of our natural heritage.

More information at:

www.epa.gov/greatlakes/greenacres/nativeplants/factsht.html

Garden City Observer recently featured Brenda Dziejdzic in an article titled “**Butterfly Enthusiast has kits to attract winged wonders!**”

The article discussed raising butterflies and her Monarch Rearing Kits. They include 1 butterfly pop up habitat, 2 monarch caterpillars, and 4 swamp milkweed plants. \$30 each.

SEMBA Native Butterfly Garden Certification

If you would like to have your garden certified:

\$10 Application fee,

\$23.50 Sign,

Minimum requirements for certification:

- 6 Native host plants of at least 3 different species.
- 4 Native nectar plants of at least 2 different species.
- 1 additional component used to attract butterflies (puddling area, basking area, etc),
- Agreement not to use herbicides/pesticides.

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Monarch Watch

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



Reminders

- Please email SEMBA by June 15th your **2013** number of butterflies raised and released. semba@sembabutterfly.com
- Butterfly Photography Contest for an upcoming new **calendar** for 2015 that SEMBA will be selling! Members will be able to submit pictures of butterflies for the contest! Post photos for photo contest to Flickr account, soon to be on the new website.
- New to 2014 is the SEMBA **Rearing, Sighting and Nectar plant survey**. 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. A link will be added soon to the new website. If you have questions, please contact Brendon Weil at bweil04@yahoo.com
- **Survey site:** https://umichumhs.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_3ItcdkxhayDAWln

Contact Us:

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[Facebook.com/sembabutterfly](https://www.facebook.com/sembabutterfly)

Mail to:

SEMBA

PO Box 851301

Westland, MI 48185

SEMBA Grants:

Four \$100 grants were given out in April for butterfly gardens!

- Children's Village (TAG Program) Pontiac,
- Milford Garden Club,
- Fireside Church and Adult Day Care Ministry, Livonia,
- St. Linus Catholic School, Dearborn Heights,



SEMBA Membership is \$15 per person and \$7.50 additional family members.

Mailing Address Label

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

June 2014

18th, Meeting 7:00 p.m. Nankin Mills
Native Plant Sale, with Chad Hughson from Hidden Savannah.

July 2014

16th, Meeting 7:00 p.m. Nankin Mills
“Outdoor Photography” with Cindy Oleszkowicz, Professional Photographer and Brendon Weil, SEMBA Vice-President, will build upon last year’s presentation about butterfly and nature photography. This will be a workshop forum. We will spend some time outside— bring your camera!

August 2014

20th, Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Nankin Mills
“Movie Night” Come join us for an educational movie about butterflies! We’ll supply the popcorn and drinks.

August 2014

Taylor Butterfly Days Display at the Taylor Conservatory, TBD, 22314 Northline Road,

September 2014

SEMBA Elections

17th, Meeting, 7:00p.m. Nankin Mills
“Overwintering” with Brenda Dziedzic, Author and Co -founder will discuss the Do’s and Don’ts for garden maintenance and overwintering your butterflies.

October 2014

Share Survey Results

Photo Contest Results

15th, Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Nankin Mills
“Year End Wrap- Up Celebration”. Come celebrate another successful year of butterflying with a meal and conversation with fellow butterfly enthusiasts. We will continue our tea cup raffle to raise money for the Grant Fund.