



"Take a memorable quotation from this article (a pullquote) to pique your reader's interest"

to Bend of the Bosque Road and you're there!

We should be able to see plenty of Queens, Olive Hairstreaks, Pipevine Swallowtails, Monarchs and plenty of other species. Hope to see you Saturday the 6th!

Next Meeting of DCLS Saturday, Sept. 6th

Fee to be Charged for Paper DCLS NEWSLETTER

The next meeting of the Dallas County Lepidopterists' Society will be Saturday, September 6th with a field trip to China Spring, Texas (near Waco). We will meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Bend of the Bosque Bed and Breakfast, located at 1961 Bend of the Bosque Road, China Springs, TX 76633. While this is not officially an overnight field trip, some people may choose to do so. If you are interested in staying at the Bend of the Bosque, phone JoAnn Weaver at (254) 836-4290 for a reservation. Field trips around the property will be taking place until mid-afternoon. Please bring your own lunch, water. There are also various places to eat within 15 minutes of the B&B.

As has been mentioned in recent meetings and newsletters, the cost of continuing to mail out the DCLS News has become a major financial drain. Since we are a "free" organization — and I wish to keep it that way — the decision was made to move the newsletter to the website with everyone

**The Dallas County
Lepidopterists' Society
est. 1995**

Purpose:

**To provide a forum
where people may
gather who share
an interest in
butterflies and moths,
whether that interest takes
the form of
collecting,
gardening,
photography,
study or
casual observation.**

Admission is free.

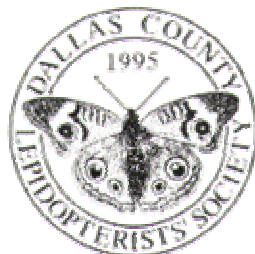
getting an email notification when a new issue is available. In this way the newsletter will still be "free". However, I realize that not everyone has access to email but might still want to receive the newsletter. If you want to continue to get a paper copy you will need to send \$10 for one year to: Dale Clark 1732 S. Hampton Road GlennHeights, TX 75154.

Collecting is allowed on this field trip.

Therefore, this is the last "free" paper issue of the DCLS News. To continue receiving the newsletter you will need to either send payment to the address above or send me your email address so you can be notified when a new issue is posted on the website. Please send you email address to:

From Dallas take I-35South; take the 342B exit; continue on TX-491 for 3 miles. Turn on Industrial Blvd/N Loop 340 which becomes East Lake Shore Drive for about 4 miles where you will turn right on FM 1637/N 19th Street. Traveling for 1.1 miles you will then bear right onto China Springs Rd/FM 1637 for 10.3 miles. Turn left on Old Ranch Road and procede for .06 miles

daleclark@dallasbutterflies.com



One big advantage to having the newsletter online is that it allows me to utilize more photos and make the newsletter more lively in the coming months.

As always, field trips and membership in DCLS is free.

The Butterfly Garden:

Butterflies in the Mist: White Mist Flower

by **Tina Dombrowski**

Fall is a popular season in the butterfly garden and the floral display is dominated by members of the Aster Family (Asteraceae). Since spring many of these unnoticed leafy green perennials have been awaiting the arrival of 'short days' to set flower buds. Once in full bloom, it is difficult to locate a hint of foliage due to the concentration of flowers and myriad of nectaring butterflies.

One such fall spectacle is White Mist Flower (*Eupatorium havanense*), also referred to as Fragrant Mist Flower, Thoroughwort, or Boneset. A drought tolerant native shrub, White Mist Flower ranges from Central and West Texas into Mexico. It is a medium size shrub growing to three or four feet in height with a four foot spread and thrives in full sun to partial shade. Adapted to rocky ravines and limestone ledges, White Mist Flower tolerates alkaline, well-drained soil although it is known to adapt to poorly drained soils as well. The highly fragrant white to pinkish-white flowers appear from September through November, attracting many species of butterflies and other insect pollinators. Hummingbird are also fond of the blooms.

Plants should be sheared back in the winter to encourage compact growth and increase flowering the following year. White Mist Flower can be propagated from seed or softwood cuttings. Seed, collected in late fall and sown on top of the soil in spring will germinate in about two weeks. Cuttings taken during the summer will root within two weeks.

Locating White Mist Flower in the retail trade may be a challenge. Plant Delights Nursery www.plantdelights.com sold out of this plant in their 2003 mail order catalog. There is at least one Texas **wholesale** nursery grower offering White

Mist Flower so it may be available through local retail nurseries specializing in native plants.

My first encounter with White Mist Flower was at the B&B "Bend of the Bosque" in November two years ago. Jo Ann Weaver had an outstanding plant in her butterfly garden filled with butterflies. If you are able to attend the next DCLS field trip to the Waco area, then prepare yourself for a special show of 'butterflies in the mist' in Jo Ann's garden.

New US Record for Sphinx Moth in Texas

A sphinx moth that has never been collected in the United States turned up in Hidalgo County, Texas on July 11, 2003.

The moth, *Manduca lanuginosa* f."crocala" was collected by Charlie Sassine and later positively identified by Charles Bordelon and Ed Knudson. Below is how Charlie described the specimen on TILS-LepsTalk, an online listserv for those interested in lepidoptera.

"Ventrally in the basal region of the hindwing there is a splash of white leading into a rich tan about halfway out and a drastic change to the dark brown. Dorsally it has the black spots on the thorax typical of *Manduca* with the yellow abdominal spots. Forewing basal region is sculpted dark brown, then median region is rich tan, then marginal region goes back to the same dark brown. Hindwings are greyish-black and fairly nondescript."

According to Bordelon this species is uncommon even in Mexico with probably less than 5 specimens known. An in-depth article will be appearing in a future issue of the *News of the Lepidopterists' Society*.

(On-line members see the photo on page 3.)



Top: *Manduca lanuginosa* f. "crocala"

Bottom: A Question Mark (*Polygonia interrogationis*) feeding on White Mist Flower.

Recent Dallas/Ft. Worth Lepidoptera Sightings



The Sickie-Winged Skipper (*Eantis tamenund*) is showing up with some frequency. This skipper is common in the Rio Grande Valley and is occasionally seen in north Texas in late summer. Its host plant is *Zanthoxylum sp.* (Prickly-Ash). I got a surprise this week when I opened up a container in which I was raising some Giant Swallowtails (which also use Prickly-Ash as a host). Perched in a corner of the container was a freshly emerged Sickie-Winged Skipper! After inspecting the leaves I found the empty pupal shell. Just by chance I had harvested the leaf on which it had pupated.

Our Texas subspecies of the Zebra Longwings (*Heliconius charithonius vazquezae*) are once again in the area, as they are most years at this time.

Unfortunately, so are some of the Florida subspecies - (*H. c. tuckeri*) which are here, no doubt, by human interference. If anyone is finding Zebra Longwings in their yard or on an outing I would appreciate your notifying me at: daleclark@dallasbutterflies.com.

I would prefer to have specimens collected but good photos of both top and bottom views would help in determining which subspecies it is you are seeing.



One of the more colorful of our local sphinx moths is the Pink-Spotted Hawk Moth (*Agrius cingulatus*) which is currently on the wing. While it can be found from spring through fall I usually find it most common in late August. Among its local hosts are various species of Jimsonweed (*Datura sp.*).

For weekly updates of what is currently flying in the Dallas area check out the “*What’s on the Wing*” section of the Dallas County Lepidopterists’ Society Website.