

# DCLS News

October 6, 2003

Number 51

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.

## Next DCLS Meeting Saturday, 10/11

The next meeting of the Dallas County Lepidopterists' Society will be this coming Saturday at 10:00 a.m. We will be meeting at the home of Danny Mimms, 1389 Broome Road, Bartondale, Texas 76226. From Dallas take I-35 North past Lewisville. Take the exit for FM 407 and turn left (west). Follow FM 407 until you come to McMakin Road (there'll be a nursery on the right). Turn left on McMakin Road. Go roughly a half a mile until you come to Broome Road and turn right. Danny's place will be on the right about a 1/4 mile. This route may seem partially familiar

as Danny lives just down 407 from one of our other field trips - Lake Lewisville.

Danny and his wife have 50 acres on which we can roam and look for butterflies (and collect!). He has a great deal of frostweed in bloom which is attracting a large number of monarchs which we will be tagging.

If the weather is questionable be sure to check the website on Saturday morning to make sure the trip is a "go".

## Monarch Migration at peak across North Texas

If you've been outside in the last few days you couldn't help but notice the incredible influx of migrating monarch butterflies.

While monarch numbers build substantially during mid to late August and September in North Texas the bulk of the migration does not occur until the first two weeks of October. The first big "push" came October 2nd and should continue throughout the next 10 days or so, to varying

degrees. This year's migration is easily one of the most spectacular that we've seen in the Dallas area for a number of years.

The monarchs migrating through Texas now will spend the winter in the Oyamel fir forests in Mexico. In late February they will leave the overwintering sites and begin their northward migration to repopulate North America. They will arrive in the Dallas area around the second week of March.

## Texas Discovery Gardens “Take Flight” Live Butterfly Exhibit at Fair Park for Ninth Year.

For the ninth year, the Texas Discovery Gardens at Fair Park is filling their conservatory with live butterflies from around the world during the State Fair of Texas.

The TDG receives over 1,000 butterfly pupae a week from various butterfly farmers from as far away as the Phillipines and as close as Dallas. These pupae are then placed in the emergence box where visitors can watch as the butterflies emerge, expand their wings and eventually *take flight* for the first time.

Some of the more spectacular species that are on the wing this year are the emerald green Bamboo Page (*Philaethria dido*) which can often be found taking nectar from the stands of blooming Frostweed. Just in time for Halloween, the Ghost Butterfly (*Greta oto*) can be seen wafting through the foliage, it's clear wings making it nearly invisible. Always a visitor favorite, the

Blue Morphos (*Morpho peleides*) are out in good numbers, chasing one another throughout the exhibit. With a new supplier in the Phillipines, even some of the old favorite species have a somewhat different look because they are a different subspecies, such as the Clipper (*Parthenos sylvia*). Both blue and brown subspecies are on the wing.

If the smell of corny dogs and cotton candy doesn't get you excited you still have the opportunity to see this fantastic butterfly exhibit. Texas Discovery Gardens will re-open the butterfly exhibit after the fair closes, from October 25- 31st. Tickets are \$4.00 for adults; Seniors (60+) \$3.00, children 3-11 \$2.00. Of course, if you come during the State Fair you have to pay State Fair admission fees.

## Rio Grande Valley celebrates Texas Butterfly Festival

The 8th annual Texas Butterfly Festival will be held October 16-19, 2003 in Mission, Texas, located in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of south Texas, one of the most biologically diverse regions in the United States.

Speakers, field trips and workshops are the hallmark of this weekend long event. For registration information you can go to their website at [www.texasbutterfly.com](http://www.texasbutterfly.com) or phone 1-800-580-2700.

With 290 species of butterflies having been recorded in the valley this is one of the most exciting places to go and see a wide range of species.

The Festival is targeted more for the “watcher” rather than the “collector” but there are plenty of locations in the valley where one can swing a net, if that is your preference.

*Some of the butterflies found at the Texas Discovery Gardens live butterfly exhibit at the State Fair of Texas.*



Left: The Bamboo Page (*Philaethria dido*); Above: The Clipper (*Parthenos sylvia*).



Blue Morpho (*Morpho peleides*)



The Paper Kite (*Idea leuconoe*)



Above: Ghost Butterfly (*Greta oto*);  
Left: Orange Banded Heliconian



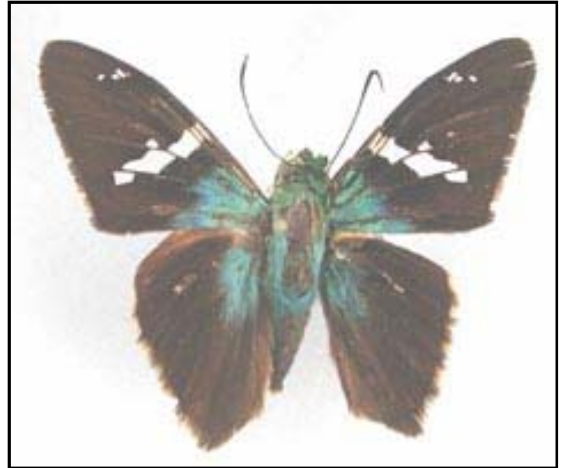
## *Astrartes fulgerator* in Duncanville, Texas

On July 29, 2003 a Two-Barred Flasher (*Astrartes fulgerator*) was photographed in Duncanville (Dallas County), Texas. This marks the northern most record for this species and, needless to say, is a new county record for Dallas.

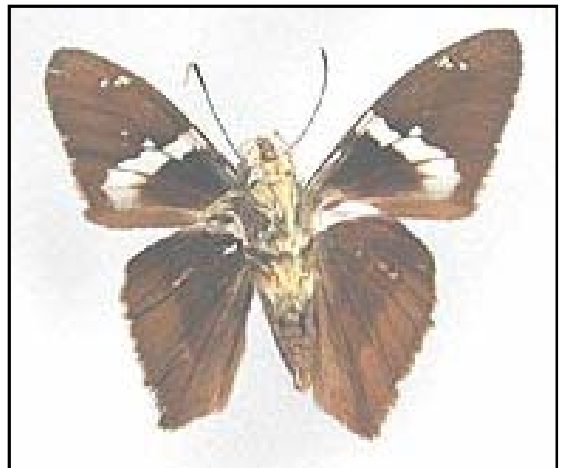
This large, colorful skipper measures just under 2 inches, about the size of a Silver-Spotted Skipper, and has striking blue-green scaling on the basal portions of the wings. Normally a resident of Mexico and the Rio Grande Valley it also strays into the Texas Hill Country with some regularity.

Coyotillo (*Karwinskia humboldtiana*) in Texas and *Vitex* in Mexico are listed as the known hostplants for this species.

Stray species often show up in north Texas from late summer until the first frost, so keep your eyes open.



*Astrartes fulgerator* (ventral and dorsal views).



## The Lepidopterists' Society

The Lepidopterists' Society has been in existence for over 50 years and membership is open to anyone interested in the study of butterflies and moths.

Members receive two publications: *The Journal* and *The News of the Lepidopterists' Society*. Membership is \$45 annually. I will bring copies of these publications on the field trip this month so

people can see firsthand what the Society has to offer. I highly recommend this organization.

For further information on the history of the LepSoc, go to the DCLS website and click on "links". There is a link there to the Lepidopterists' Society homepage.