



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.

Membership is
free.

DCLS NEWS

NUMBER 60

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Next DCLS Meeting: Saturday, 8/13/05

The next meeting of the Dallas County Lepidopterists' Society will be Saturday, August 13, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. We will be meeting at and touring Dale Clark's *Butterflies Unlimited* (1732 S. Hampton Road, Glenn Heights, Texas) butterfly ranch in southern Dallas County.

Butterflies Unlimited supplies over 60 different species of butterfly and moth pupae to live butterfly exhibits across the country. All stages of the butterfly life cycle will be available for viewing and photographing, so be sure to bring your cameras. Members will also be able to walk through the flight cage and observe various species of butterflies in free-flight as they feed, mate

and oviposit eggs on different host plants. Also available for viewing is Dale Clark's extensive butterfly and moth collection.

Parking will be at the Bear Creek Baptist Church located just south of Butterflies Unlimited. For more directions and instructions see page four.

Some of the species "on the wing" in the flight cage will be Zebra Longwing, Great Southern White, Monarch, Queen, Giant Swallowtail, Julia Longwing, and many more.

There will also be a drawing for several different butterfly books.

See you on Saturday!

A Shortage of Butterflies?

Boom or bust? This year would seem to be a bust when it comes to the number of butterflies that are on the wing. Numbers of individuals have seemed to be down a bit this year, certainly compared to last year's great showing. It should be remembered however, that butterfly populations fluctuate a great deal from year to year — and even month to month. Numerous environmental factors come into play, including rainfall and the presence (or near absence) of predators and pathogens. For a weekly listing of "what's on the wing" be sure to see the titled section on the DCLS website.

In The Butterfly Garden

by Tina Dombrowski

Hoptree (*Ptelea trifoliata*) is an underused native landscape plant in North Texas. The common name Hoptree originated from its early use as a substitute for hops in beer brewing. Adapted to many soil types, it performs best as an understory shrub or in partial shade in moist, well-drained soil. Plants will tolerate full sun, but foliage is reduced and can yellow if not thoroughly watered during the summer months. Used as a broad rounded shrub or pruned to a small tree, plants can grow 15-25' in height and 10'-15' in width. A member of the citrus plant family (Rutaceae), the greenish white flowers are sweetly scented and reminiscent of honeysuckle. Flowers emerge after the dark green, three-parted leaves appear in spring. Plants look their best when in fruit (June-July) covered in clusters of thin, wafer-like green samaras which dry to resemble potato chips in appearance. Other than its low landscape maintenance requirements, fragrant flowers, and attractive fruit, Hoptree is a host plant for the Giant Swallowtail butterfly and the Tiger Swallowtail butterfly.

Hoptree can be difficult to locate in the local nursery trade. Even though plants bear copious quan-

ties of healthy seed, seldom are volunteer seedlings found sprouting in the garden. It is recommended that seed be dried two to three days before storing or sowing. Remove some of the 'wing' (samaras) and place seeds in a moist potting media within a sealed plastic bag or container and stratify in the refrigerator (41 degrees) for 60-90 days. After the moist cold treatment, seed can be sown in shallow pots. Cuttings may be taken in late July, stuck in a perlite/sand mix and misted regularly until rooting. Forestfarm Nursery in Oregon usually offers Hoptree through their catalog or online at www.forestfarm.com. This shade tolerant ornamental and butterfly host plant is well worth the extra effort of tracking it down for your garden.



"Hoptree is a host plant for the Giant Swallowtail and the Tiger Swallowtail butterfly."



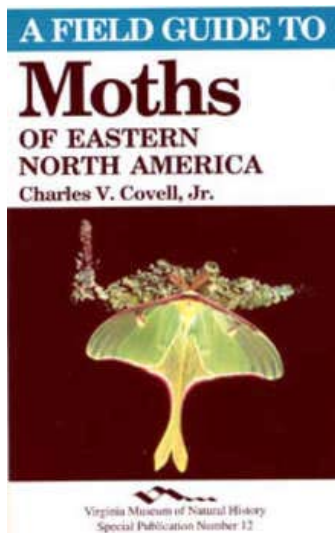
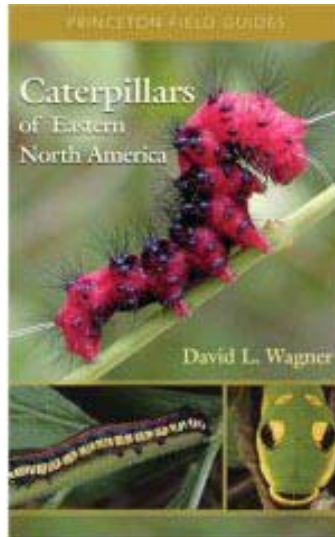
The distinctive wafer-like seeds of Hop-tree.

New Caterpillar and Moth Books Available

There seems to be no shortage of butterfly books available these days. While this wide variety of books is a clear reflection of the increased interest in butterflies and moths, one should be wary of buying just any book. Some are definitely better than others. Two new books are now available that every lepidopterists' should have on his or her bookshelf.

First, there is David L. Wagner's "*Caterpillars of Eastern North America: A guide to Identification and Natural History*". A book on caterpillars has long been overdue and this one looks to be fantastic. You can order it through Amazon.com for only \$19.77 — and remember, when ordering from Amazon, be sure to go through the DCLS website Bookstore section and DCLS will get a small percentage.

The second book is a slightly updated (improved black and white plates; introductory updating chapter added) version of Charlie Covell's

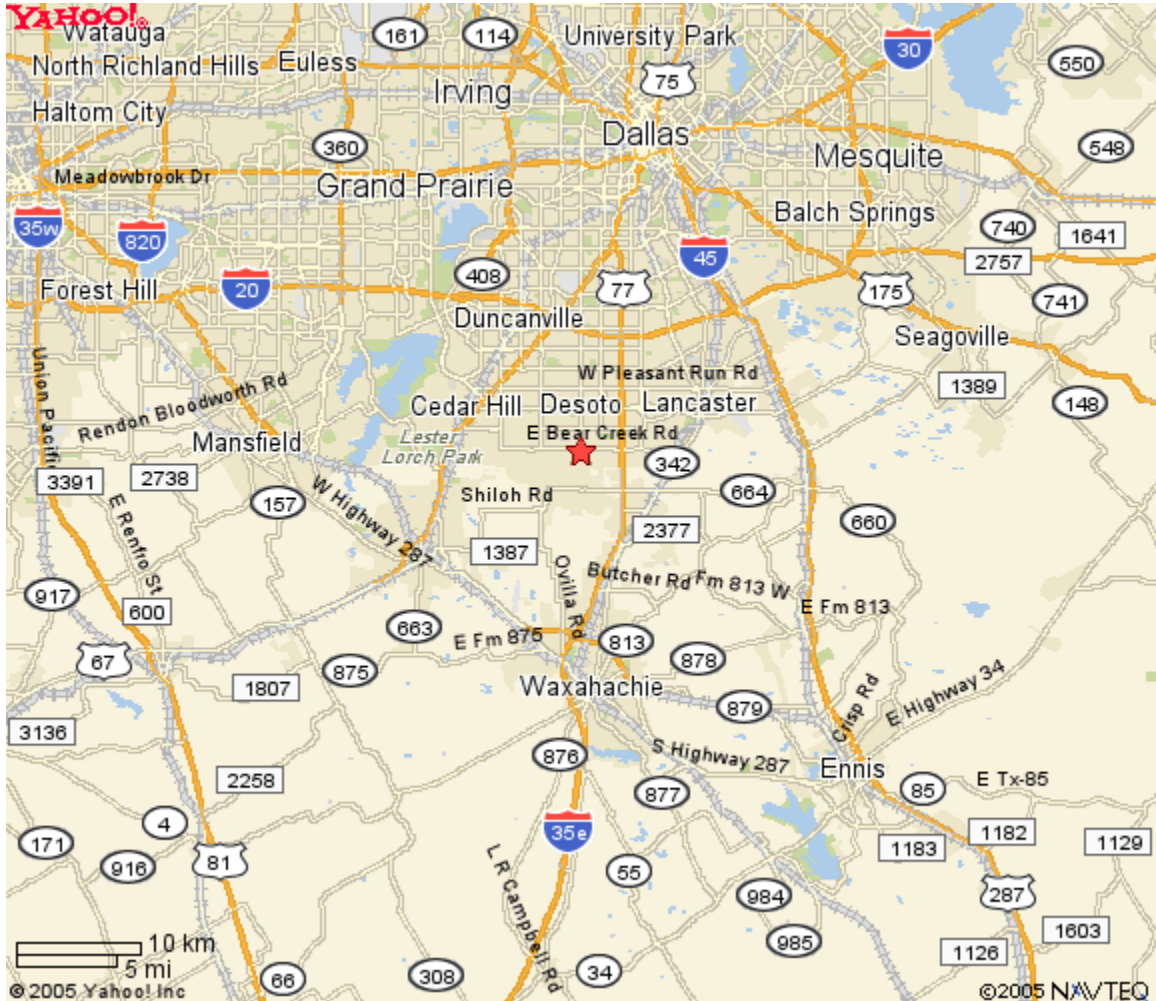


original guide to "*The Moths of Eastern North America*" that was published back in 1984. Long since out of print, it has been republished in 2005 by Virginia Museum of Natural History.

As the Museum's website points out: "In North America, north of the Mexican border, there are about 765 species of butterflies; this is approximately equal to the number of birds, if we exclude the accidentals. Moths, their nocturnal cousins, outnumber butterflies 14 to 1 with a total of nearly 10,500 known species. Of this galaxy, over 1300 species are treated in this Field Guide, which has been prepared with such loving care and scholarship by Charles V. Covell, Jr.

\$42.00 postpaid (media mail) in North America. It can be ordered from the author, Charlie Covell, 207 NE 9th Ave., Gainesville, FL 32601-4378.

Directions to Butterflies Unlimited, 1732 S. Hampton Road, Glenn Heights, Texas



Directions: From Dallas - Take I-35E south to exit #412 (Bear Creek Road). Turn right (going west) on Bear Creek for approximately two miles until you reach Hampton Road. Turn left and proceed past Butterflies Unlimited (1732 S. Hampton Road, Glenn Heights, TX) and park in the Bear Creek Baptist Church parking lot at the top of the hill and walk through the field on the mowed path to Butterflies Unlimited. Should you need to park closer due to health concerns, park in the Butterflies Unlimited driveway. Driving time from downtown Dallas is approximately 20 minutes.

From Fort Worth or the Mid-Cities: Take I-20 east to I-35E and head south then follow the directions above.