

2023 End of Year North Jersey Butterfly Club Report

Presentations:

In the 2023 year, the NJ Butterfly Club had a total of 8 meetings where 8 different speakers gave presentations ranging from 30-50 minutes via Zoom. All information regarding presentation format is below:

<u>Month</u>	<u>Speaker Name</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>	<u>Presentation title</u>
January	RJ Millena	American Museum of Natural History	Parasites and Papillions
February	Lauren Bonus	Camden County Mosquito Control	Mosquito Control of NJ
March	Max Leavitt-Shaffer	Rutgers University	Whats the buzz about honey bees?
April	Kelsey Stone	Utah Valley University	From caterpillar to social butterfly: The ups and downs to raising butterflies in captivity
May	Jake Newcombe	Rutgers University	Diversity of aquatic insects
June	Skye Bruce	University of Wisconsin-Madison	Butterfly conservation ecology on grasslands
September	Yahel Ben-Zvi	Rutgers University	What is national moth week?
October	Michelle Boone	Washington State University	Can western monarchs beat the heat?
November	-	NJ Butterfly Club	Members night

Speakers were reached out to via personal network or based on the recommendation of a club member.

November of 2023 was held as a 'Members Night' where club members were encouraged to share photos of butterflies they have seen through their own or organized trips. In total, we had six club members share photos. This ranged from 1-19 photos shared per participating members.

No meetings are held in July, August, or December. During July members partake in annual butterfly counts. During August the NJ Butterfly club has their annual picnic and butterfly walk. For the month of December there is no meetings due to holidays and travel.

Additional discussions on resuming to in person meetings or hybrid style (in person and via online) were discussed but the officers had concluded that at the time, and based off a survey done in the winter of 2022, remaining on Zoom for 2023 was the best option. This option allows for a wide variety of speakers to present regardless of location and also eliminated the concern of weather for club members. This discussion is to be revisited in 2024.

Field trips:

Wade Wander is our field trip coordinator and organizes/ schedules field trips with varying club members acting as field trip leaders. In 2023, there were a total of 14 field trips (excluding 'Fourth of July' counts and the butterfly walk prior to the club picnic). These field trips ranged from North/ Central New Jersey down to Cape May, NJ.

Fourth of July Counts had a total of 5 dates, these were the following:

6/29/23- Sandy Hook

7/9/23- Mercer Meadows

7/1/23- Great Swamp

7/22/23- Bowman's Hill

7/8/23- Springdale

7/23/23- Duke Farms

Annual Club Picnic:

The annual club picnic was held on Saturday, August 12th at the Kittatinny Valley State Park. This picnic took place after a field trip. Members attended and gathered in person, grilled and brought food to share (potluck style).

Subcommittees:**Website:**

Website committee is led by Keith Richmond. Other members of this committee include; Garry Annibal, Wade Wander, Sharon Wander, Jonathan Klizas, and both the current President and Vice President of the chapter.

K. Richmond has led the reorganizing and reformatting of the chapter's website as well as updating the necessary information including but not limited to; meeting information, field trip information, events information, as well as updating the club website with photos. A 'Call for Photos' went out asking club members for photos to update our website. K. Richmond also manages and is assisted by G. Annibal and J. Klizas with general website management.

2023 Officers:

President: Jennifer Mora

Vice President: Edmund Brumfield

Secretary: Caroline Brown

Treasurer: Deedee Burnside

Any and all inquiries to officers can be made directly to the NJ Butterfly Club email.

Social Media:

E. Brumfield handles the NJ Butterfly Club social media platforms and YouTube channel. The social media channels the club has active include Facebook page called "New Jersey Butterfly Club" and an Instagram page with the handle: njbutterflyclub. Both pages receive updates on field trips, meetings, and additional postings of butterfly pictures.

Closing:

Thank you so much to all of the dedicated members who help and volunteer with club activities. This could not be done without your help and support.