

2024 End of Year North Jersey Butterfly Club Report

Chapter Meetings:

In the 2024 year, the NJ Butterfly Club had a total of seven meetings which are open to the public and are attended by people from northern and central New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania. Speakers gave presentations ranging from 45 to 90 minutes. All meetings were via Zoom except the October meeting which was held in person and via zoom. All presentations are recorded and available to the public on NJ Butterfly Club YouTube Channel. Specific information regarding the presentations is shown below:

<u>Month</u>	<u>Speaker Name</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>	<u>Presentation Title</u>
February	Sharon Wander	Former President of NJ Butterfly Club	Making your property pollinator friendly
March	Leslie Ries	Georgetown University	Tracking butterfly dynamics in an age of insect declines using NABA data
April	David Pavlik	Haddad Lab at Kellogg Biological Station at Michigan State University	Conservation efforts for Powesiek Skipperling & Mitchell's Satyr
May	RJ Millena	American Museum of Natural History	Wolbachia and its insect manipulations
September	Emma Waltman	Rutgers University	Landscape ecology: an introduction & case studies
October	-	NJ Butterfly Club	Members night
November	Dr. Marcus R. Kronforst	University of Chicago	Environmental and genetic determinants of migratory behavior in monarch butterflies

The club held its picnic on July 27th at Kittatinny Valley State Park which serves as the August meeting. The picnic is preceded by a field trip. We had a fun day with many attending the barbecue and potluck.

The October meeting is members night where six members presented excellent photos of butterflies and habitat they explored during the year. The club met in person for the first time since Covid.

Butterfly Monitoring

The New Jersey Butterfly Club monitors butterfly populations and maintains sightings records relating to club sponsored field trips, NABA butterfly counts and individual submissions on the Club's website.

Field Trips

Wade Wander coordinated field trips again in 2024. Field trips are led by various chapter members. There were 15 field trips conducted, 14 in New Jersey and one in Sullivan County NY. Two field trips to Cape May were cancelled due to weather. The field trips are very well attended, are open to the public and attract people from all over New Jersey, Pennsylvania and New York. The club works with the New Jersey Conservation Foundation to lead several trips where the club members serve as guides to the many non-club members who attend.

NABA Butterfly Counts

NJ Butterfly Club members lead and participate in many butterfly counts, including those listed below. Results are submitted to the NABA Butterfly Counts compendium published each year.

- Sandy Hook - June 27
- Great Swamp - June 29
- Springdale - July 6
- Mercer - July 7
- Raritan Canal - July 13
- Bowman's Hill - July 20
- Duke Farms - July 21

Individual Sightings

Members of the club and the general public post sightings to the NJ Butterfly Club website on a daily basis.

njbutterflies.org Website

The club's website was updated and enhanced during 2024. The website committee is led by Keith Richmond and includes Garry Annibal, Edmund Brumfield, Jonathan Klizas, Jim Springer, Sharon Wander and Wade Wander. The njbutterflies.org website is an educational resource to the community.

Enhancements include:

- Updated text on the Butterfly Species Description pages including photos of caterpillars, eggs, pupa and host plants to illustrate more fully the life cycle of each species;
- A Gardening page which includes advice from the Xerces Society about Leaving the Leaves and additional yard maintenance guidance;
- Easy access to join our mailing list;
- New section, Stories About Butterflies which includes Butterflies in the News and Great Events in NJ Butterfly History;
- Enhanced website navigation links and redesigned web pages to facilitate viewing on smart phones;
- Easy access to Whats Flying Now updates, Sightings reports and submissions.

Educational Outreach

The NJ Butterfly Club participates in several ecologically oriented community events throughout the year. The club uses a posterboard which shows butterflies of NJ including lifecycle, host plant and nectar plant information. We have found that many attendees are interested in learning more about butterflies and take our Butterflies of New Jersey color trifold and host and nectar plant handouts. Additionally, chapter members give programs to community organizations, such as bird clubs, NJ native plant society chapters and county libraries.

Following is a list of some of the community events the club participated in during 2024:

- Kean University Community Day
- Green Day at the New Jersey State Fair
- Madison Eco-Fair
- Jersey 360 Scout Jamboree

2024 Officers

President: Jennifer Mora

Vice President: Edmund Brumfield

Secretary: Kathy Wilson

Treasurer: Keith Richmond