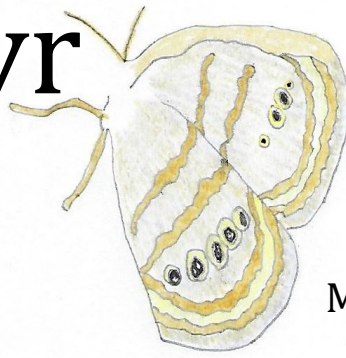


The Lonely Satyr

For Butterfly Enthusiasts
of Northeast Indiana



May 1, 2022

What are Neonicotinoids? - Raising Awareness

Pronounced neo-nih-CAH-tin-oids, they are “systemic chemicals, which are absorbed into the plant’s vascular system, leaving the entire plant toxic to both target and non-target insects.” These insecticides affect the central nervous system of insects. This class of insecticides is particularly harmful to bees as the toxin could be unknowingly stored and fed to developing larvae. Studies of bees show neonicotinoids can cause delayed development, decreased foraging, inhibited flight, paralysis and death. [1]

Neonicotinoids were registered in the 1990’s, and since then have become “the most widely used class of insecticides in the world.” They are used widespread in both agricultural and residential areas. Unfortunately, our precious pollinator species have become the most frequent victims even though they are often not the intended target. This is due in large part to the accessibility of insecticides in home improvement stores and high rates of use in landscaping and gardens. [1]

They can be sprayed directly onto plants as well as applied to the soil and to seeds. When seeds are treated, the plant will carry the insecticide into all of it as it grows, including nectar and pollen. Unfortunately, due to spray drift and neighbor contact, these insecticides can also be found on flowers and grass next to the treated plant and in field margins. Also worrisome is their extended presence in our soil and waterways. [2] Studies are also being conducted on the toxic affects of neonicotinoids to aquatic invertebrates in our streams. Research has also begun to determine if neonicotinoids are harmful specifically to butterflies and host plant relationships.

To determine if an insecticide is a neonicotinoid, look at the list of active ingredients. If you see any of the these names, it includes a neonicotinoid:

Acetamiprid

Clothianidin

Dinotefuran

Imidacloprid

Nitenpyram

Thiocloprid

Thiamethoxam

Most home improvement stores can provide you a list of insecticides not containing neonicotinoids. Don’t be afraid to ask your local garden center or seed supplier if they are neonicotinoid-FREE. It feels great to support businesses that have made the commitment to help save pollinators.

List reference: <https://citybugs.tamu.edu/factsheets/ipm/what-is-a-neonicotinoid/>

Neonicotinoids cont'd.

If applying any insecticide, carefully read the packaging and follow all instructions. Consider application when pollinators are not foraging and during calm weather.

Our pollinators face many challenges in their lives. According to the United States Department of Agriculture, 75% of the world's flowering plants and 35% of the world's food crops depend on pollinators to reproduce. "Some scientists estimate that one out of every three bits of food we eat exists because of animal pollinators." [3] If you would like to find out more ways to help pollinators around your home or in your farming practice, contact your local NRCS office, Soil & Water Conservation District, or Indiana Native Plant Society chapter.

1 Prairie Moon Nursery, "The Impact of Neonicotinoids," <https://www.prairiemoon.com/blog/the-impact-of-neonicotinoids>

2 Pollinator Network @ Cornell, Cornell College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, "Neonicotinoids," <https://pollinator.cals.cornell.edu/threats-wild-and-managed-bees/pesticides/neonicotinoids/>

3 United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, "Insects & Pollinators," <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/plantsanimals/pollinate/>



Local Sightings



Above: Eastern Comma

Photo credit: Doug Selzer

Pigeon River FWA, LaGrange Co., IN

4/23/22



Above: Eastern Comma

Photo credit: Leslie Arnold

Maple Wood Nature Center, LaGrange Co., IN

Licking sap from a Sugar Maple tap hole

4/21/22

If you'd like your event information to be in June's newsletter, please turn it in by May 27. Local sightings are my favorite part of the newsletter, so please report what you're seeing. Don't be shy!

Photos are great!



Community Calendar

Contact the event host prior to traveling to make sure it's not cancelled.

Know Your Butterflies! Indoor Training

Friday, May 6

6:00-9:00 p.m.

Presbyterian Chapel of the Lakes

2955 West Orland Rd., Angola, IN, 46703

Learn how to ID local butterflies and monitor butterfly populations. Registration fee is \$5.00. RSVP Deadline is May 2.

Contact John Brittenham at johnbrittenham@gmail.com or 260-242-2759 for registration information.

Rural Artists Studio Tour Native Plant Sale

Saturday, May 7

10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

Riverview Native Nursery

5635 County Road 72, Spencerville, IN, 46788

www.riverviewnativenursery.com

Whitley County Master Gardener Plant Sale

Saturday, May 14

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Woodlands Senior Center, 710 N Opportunity Dr.,
Columbia City, IN

Wide selection including native plants. For more info. call
260-244-7615

Community Calendar

Contact the event host prior to traveling to make sure it's not cancelled.

Plant Sale with the Pros 2022

Saturday, May 14

9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Allen County Master Gardeners

4001 Crescent Avenue, Fort Wayne, IN -
located on PFW Campus

Know Your Butterflies! Outdoor Training

Saturday, May 21

1:00-4:00 p.m.

Pine Knob Park, 2835 E IN 120, Howe, IN, 46746

Attend both the indoor and outdoor training sessions to get an Indiana butterfly field guide book. RSVP Deadline is May 2.

Contact John Brittenham at johnbrittenham@gmail.com or 260-242-2759 for registration information.

NABA Chain O' Lakes State Park Count (Albion, IN)

Tuesday, June 21

12:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Meet at the Stanley Schoolhouse Parking Lot.

RSVP to Leslie Arnold by June 14 at 260-463-4022 or

larnold@lagrangecounty.org to get free admission for the day.

Rain date is Friday, June 24.

Local Sightings

Cabbage White

Amy Oberlin

CR 850 E, just north of US 20

4/21/2022

Kathy Brittenham

CR 900 E, near South Milford, IN

4/26/2022

Leslie Arnold

SR 3, near Pretty Lake, LaGrange Co., IN

4/29/2022

June Question: Have you noticed population "boom - bust" years with Common Buckeyes, Red Admirals, or Painted Ladies? I'm looking for your thoughts and research on why this happens. Thanks D. Selzer for the quote.

To subscribe and submit, contact:

Naturalist Leslie A. Arnold

larnold@lagrangecounty.org

Maple Wood Nature Center at
(260) 463-4022

0505 W 700 S, Wolcottville, IN,
46795

