

SPRING BUTTERFLY TREK

Spring is here (a bit early, it seems), and it's time to get outside to observe and enjoy the migrating birds and, soon, the spring wild flowers. This year add observing and enjoying the spring butterflies to your weekend endeavors. Join local butterfly enthusiast Dean Hansen for a day-long guided tour of many of his favorite sites in northwest Wisconsin's pine barrens looking for elfins, blues, dusky-wing skippers, the elusive *Chryxus Arctic*, and other species of butterflies, many of which are in flight for just a few weeks in the spring.

We'll start at 9 AM at the Crex Meadows Visitors' Center just north of Grantsburg, WI, and hit a couple sites in this large wildlife area. We'll then proceed to another large wildlife area just southwest of Danbury. After this stop, there will be several places to check east of Danbury along Highway 77 and, just to the north, Springbrook Trail. These sites have good stands of lupine, bearberry, blueberry, a small cress, blooming juneberry and cherry, and other plants that are either larval host plants or adult nectar sources. We'll end up in the Namekagon Barrens at the far northeast corner of Burnett County, checking for hoary elfins on bearberry.

Most of these spots are easily accessible by car, so don't let a new artificial knee or hip replacement keep you from coming along.

Proposed dates will be Sunday, May 2, Saturday, May 8, and Saturday, May 15. **You must contact Dean if you're interested in coming.** I will limit numbers. There's no cost, but I won't be responsible for any tick bites, sprained ankles, sunburn, etc. you may incur if you come. If a date is rained out, possibly May 23 would have to be considered as an alternative. Or scrub till next year.

Interested? Contact Dean at hanse112@tc.umn.edu. If you've never been to this interesting part of Wisconsin, the plant communities and large holdings of county land themselves are worth the trip to check out.