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Butterflies at the Fall Rally

– Dr. Jerry Nagel

In natural history circles, the 90's can legitimately be labeled the "Butterfly Watching Decade". Prior to this period anyone who expressed an interest in butterflies was automatically assumed to 1) run around in public waving an insect net, 2) have an extensive collection of dead butterflies at home, and 3) be a little bit peculiar. The publication of some true field guides to butterflies beginning in the early 80's rapidly changed this perception and today it is a rare birder who does not also have considerable ability to identify butterflies through binoculars. I began butterflying (the term officially accepted by the North American Butterfly Association for those who indulge in "non-consumptive" enjoyment of butterflies) in the late 80's when I finally discovered the Audubon Society's "Field Guide to North American Butterflies." Like many other birders, I had long been interested in those other colorful winged creatures that would flit by as the day began to warm and the bird song subsided but had not made much progress with the guides that were aimed mainly at collectors. The Audubon guide (published in 1981) finally made it possible to begin identifying butterflies through binoculars but was difficult to work with because it covered the entire United States and Canada. In 1992, the Peterson field guide series came out with a new butterfly guide that targeted the "non-consumptive" interest in butterflies but was restricted to the eastern butterflies. In 1993, Jeffrey Glassberg published his "Butterflies Through Binoculars" which emphasized the Boston to Washington DC area but was useful over much of the eastern United States. These two books essentially kicked off the explosion in butterfly watching that we have seen during the 90's. Jeffrey Glassberg is also the founder of the North American Butterfly Association (NABA), an organization which promotes field identification and observation of

butterflies as an alternative to collecting (www.naba.org).



Roan Mountain has participated fully in the national emergence of butterflying as a natural history activity. Roan Mountain State Park is the official sponsor of the Roan Mountain 4th of July Butterfly Count. By the time you get this newsletter we will have conducted our 6th annual count and reported the results to NABA for publication in the 1998 Report.

Last year we had counters from east Tennessee and southwest Virginia bird clubs and representatives of the Carolina Butterfly Society participate in the count. Both the spring and fall rallies have had butterfly field trips on Saturday afternoon in recent years. For the fall rally this year, I will give a slide show on Friday evening which will illustrate some of the butterflies to be found on Roan Mountain and discuss the rather considerable life style diversity exhibited by butterflies. Saturday afternoon I will lead a butterfly field trip, probably to the Hampton Creek Cove State Natural Area. If you think you might be interested in this field trip remember to bring your binoculars and plenty of sunscreen. This trip does involve some moderate walking and will share the area with cows and horses, so wear appropriate shoes.



Dr. Nagel is Professor Emeritus of Biological Sciences at East Tennessee State University. He will be the speaker at the Fall Naturalists' Rally on Friday evening.

NEWS FROM THE STATE PARK
— Jennifer Laughlin

It seems as though summer has flown by this year. The campground and cabins have been busy with lots of folks looking for a cooler spot to beat the heat.

The sounds and sights of ongoing construction have been a daily reminder of the upcoming developments taking place here. After a very rainy spring, more work was accomplished in July, with concrete block structures now rising out of what were once green hills.

There are two projects underway in two separate park locations. Driving to the top of the Roan, you will notice the first site on your right, just prior to the cabin area turn. This is where a water treatment plant is being constructed. Long overdue, this facility will link the cabin area, maintenance shop, campground, pool, and park residences.

The second site will be on your left proceeding up the highway. It is here that a new administrative office and recreation building will be located. The recreation building will include a conference room in which large groups can meet and an adjoining game room.

Roan Mountain State Park's Fall Festival is our last big event for the summer. It is scheduled for the Saturday and Sunday after the Naturalists' Rally. Each year over 100 crafts vendors join us, displaying and selling their handmade wares. One of our favorite aspects of this event is the inclusion of demonstrations of traditional folkways. An area of the festival is set aside just for these exhibits. Apple butter making, cooking cornbread in cast iron bakers, broom making, beekeeping, blacksmithing, and rug hooking are a few of the interesting things you might see at this event. Both Saturday and Sunday include music, clogging, and related entertainment throughout the days.

For information on this or other park activities, please call or write to :
Roan Mountain State Park, 527 Hwy 143,
Roan Mountain, TN 37687;
1-423-772-3303 or 1-800-250-8620..

**ATTENTION:
FRIENDS OF ROAN MOUNTAIN**

We're planning a meeting for members and prospective members during the Fall Naturalists' Rally. We will meet at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday prior to the evening program. Please plan to attend and share your ideas for the future of our organization.

If you joined Friends of Roan Mountain as a charter member last fall, you can renew your membership in one of two ways:

1) Come to the Fall Naturalists' Rally, and renew in person.

2) Fill in the information below, and mail it in. Please print.

Name _____ Phone (_____) _____

Address _____

Check appropriate membership category:

Individual (\$10) _____	Dues \$ _____
Family (\$15) _____	Contribution: \$ _____
Corporate (\$45) _____	(optional)
Student (\$5) _____	Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Check if you would like to be contacted to assist in some way.

Please make check payable to Friends of Roan Mountain and return to one of the following:

The northeast Tennessee chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society, in its 54th year of existence, was recently renamed the Lee and Lois Herndon Chapter of T.O.S. to honor the feminine half of a remarkable pair of individuals. The following article is compiled from information supplied by Anne Herndon Hoeke and John L. Martin.

A Remarkable Pair

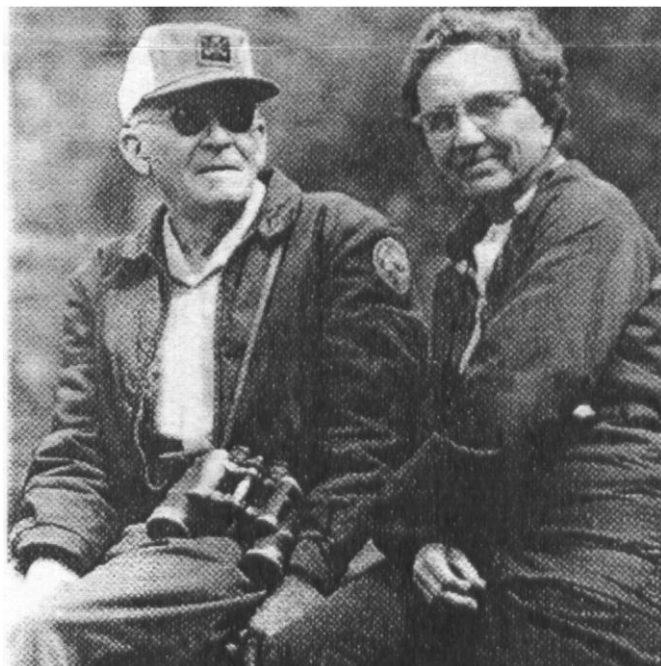
Lee Herndon was not merely one of the leaders of the T.O.S., he actually embodied the T.O.S. His attitudes toward the world of birds and his actions in regard to that world were the living expression of what birds and “birding” were all about. In the opinion of each who knew him, there could not have been a better example.

When you spent time with Lee Herndon in the field you were amazed at his enthusiasm and unflagging interest. As you came to know him you realized that his love for and devotion to the natural world were the well-spring from which his interest and enthusiasm sprang. His was no cold, detached, objective relationship, but a warm, deeply personal response to the natural world in general and the birds of that world in particular. And this love was no seasonal affair. Bleak, cold winter days could be as rewarding, in their own way, as the “leaping, greenly, spirit” of spring; for on each occasion there were the surprising, elusive, challenging, endlessly interesting birds.

Lois and Lee were a team, Lois always supporting Lee's endeavors, often driving and providing food while Lee and friends observed the birds and wildlife. Though Lee was a Chemist by profession and Lois a housewife (which she considered THE most important profession) both were life-long teachers and leaders. On several occasions in the later years of their life together, Lois would prefer to sit in the car and wait for Lee to hike into areas that had become too difficult for her to negotiate in search of a particular bird. Upon his return, Lois would ask if he had seen the sought-after bird and then report with great glee that the species had appeared at the parking spot while she was sitting there. Often, Lee had not seen the bird. Lois was also supportive in other ways. She always willingly supplied food, especially delicious desserts for outings and bird club meetings. Together these two made a lasting contribution to the environmental education and awareness of all those with whom they came in contact.

In the years since the Herndon family moved from New York to Elizabethton, TN in 1943, they have been frequent visitors to Roan Mountain and the mountain has served as a center for many, many of their activities. There have been many family visits to the mountain for birding and to observe and study the flora and fauna of the area. There have been many picnics and a few camping trips to introduce friends, children, grand, and great-grand children to the pleasures of the mountain and its special environment.

Roan Mountain was often the magnet which drew family and friends - and it still does.



About SAHC . . .

The mission of the *Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy* is to protect the world's oldest mountains for the benefit of present and future generations. To this end, the volunteer-based organization works with individuals and local communities to identify, preserve, and manage the region's important lands.

•Lynn Cox, Executive Director of the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy, will be the Saturday evening speaker for this year's Fall Naturalists' Rally.

SAHC, a non-profit, charitable organization, was founded in 1974 and is governed by a Board of Trustees from North Carolina and Tennessee. It is one of the country's oldest and most respected land trusts. Approximately 1575 members from across the United States and 5 foreign countries support the Conservancy's ongoing mission of identifying and protecting land and other natural resources, managing lands already protected, and promoting environmental education and scientific study.

The Conservancy's earliest and longest running project has been ensuring the protection of 14,500 acres of the spectacular Highlands of Roan on the border between Tennessee and North Carolina, working in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service, the Nature Conservancy, the State of Tennessee, and the Trust for Public Land. More than 8000 acres of the Roan Highlands remain vulnerable.

The Conservancy has embarked upon a regional initiative to foster the use of conservation easements and other land preservation techniques by landowners throughout the mountain region, where increasing development pressure threatens the loss of scenic, historic, or environmentally important lands. The Conservancy purchases land and maintains it with donated funds, works with landowners in creating conservation alternatives, and builds partnerships with state and federal agencies to facilitate land preservation in the region.

