**FIELD TRIP REPORT: BUTTERFLIES AT INDEPENDENCE OAKS COUNTY PARK, JULY 29, 2017.**

**Leader: Doris Applebaum**

 On a mostly sunny day with pleasant temperatures, 11 people looked for butterflies at Independence Oaks County Park. Though there was more wind than we would have liked, which kept some butterflies low in the vegetation, we nevertheless found 16 species—14 in the first two areas searched, then 2 more in a third area (when just 5 hardy souls participated by then).

 Spicebush Swallowtails provided some very nice looks, there were several Monarchs seen (always nice), and a very cooperative Question Mark allowed everyone to see how it got its name.

 Without an expert to lead the walk, there were problems with some identifications. Proving that she wasn’t an expert, the leader identified the last species seen as Peck’s Skipper. It was not until she was on her way home, sitting in an I-75 traffic jam, that a thought struck: There was not enough yellow on that skipper to be Peck’s; it was much more likely to be a different skipper called the Long Dash. Skippers are tricky!