**BUTTERFLY FIELD TRIP TO INDEPENDENCE OAKS COUNTY PARK ON JULY 31, 2021**

**LEADER: DORIS APPLEBAUM**

 On a lovely day at Independence Oaks County Park, 9 people set out to see what butterflies would show up. As it turned out, it was not a great day for butterflies, with just 10 species seen in the official 2 hours allotted. And because butterflies ae often spotted briefly, not all 10 species were seen by all participants.

 However, everyone showed interest in other aspects of nature and enjoyed seeing some dragonflies, some interesting birds, lots of bees, and even an unusually large fly called the tiger bee fly, identified thanks to Kayla Niner, who had the Internet available on her smartphone.

 The 10 butterflies seen were Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, Spicebush Swallowtail, Great Spangled Fritillary, Pearl Crescent, Common Ringlet, Common Wood-Nymph, Monarch (several seen; always a happy sight), Silver-spotted Skipper, Mulberry Wing (a skipper), and Dun Skipper.

 Although most participants saw relatively few butterflies, being outdoors on a summer day always makes it a good day.

**ADDENDUM**

 Because I never get enough of butterflies, after the official walk was over, I decided to visit another area of the park. Anne Honhart joined me, and we were able to add 5 more species to the day’s list: Cabbage White, Clouded Sulphur, Eastern Tailed-Blue, Viceroy, and Wild Indigo Duskywing.