

The Mountain Breeze

Spring

Four Seasons at Charlottesville

2012

The Four Seasons at Charlottesville newsletter is yet to be published. This issue is just a simple example of what it could be.



The newsletter is in need of writers and good stories to relay.

Wine Club Outing

The Wine Club traveled to Pippin Hill Farm Winery in April. A good time was had by all who went.



Moths and Butterflies

On Tuesday Arline and I were working on the lawn when she noticed a large insect on the grass. It just stayed there as we

looked carefully at it. I took some pictures. It seemed quite docile as it allowed itself to be picked up. It stayed on the lawn for a couple of hours, allowing us to show it to a couple of neighbors. I was able to identify it on a web site as a polythemus moth. It has a 4.5 inch wing span. Wikipedia tells me that this moth goes through 5 stages of caterpillar, eating 86,000 times its own weight, before it morphs into its final flying stage. Then, it only lives for five days. It must find a mate quickly, and it uses the feathery antenna to detect and follow the ephemerons emitted by the female. I suspect that it seemed docile because it was close to the end of its life.

Yesterday, I saw many butterflies along the path by the lake, flitting from flower to flower. I was able to get one or two good pictures of individuals. Using the same web site (Butterflies and Moths of North America) I identified them as Red Admirals. They have a 2 inch wing span. In addition to the brilliant colors, the close-up photo below shows the tiny white dots that line each antennae, with a larger white dot at the tip.



Joe Brennan