



The WBA Newsletter
May 2000

From the Editor's Desk

by Mike Van Buskirk

Here is the second issue of the WBA Newsletter, and it feels very exciting to be publishing it! The first issue, like any new idea, was a bit of an experiment. Now, this second issue is more grounded in experience, more confident, and just "feels" like our own newsletter. There is a wealth of information about who we are, what kinds of activities we are developing, field trips, and some great writing on Washington Butterflies, thanks to Dave Nunnallee, Jon Pelham, and others.

What we write in these newsletters becomes our heritage, what we leave for future Butterfly Watchers, and that feels important.

It is very gratifying to watch our new organization form and go through stages of growth not unlike those of immature butterflies. Even though we are in what seems to be our first instar, we are a healthy larva, feeding well, growing fast, and coming up to our first molt. President Idie Ulsh has noted how WBA membership is growing steadily, we are scheduling lots of field trips to watch butterflies during this spring and summer 2000 season, and our first-ever annual conference is scheduled for the first week of August. Such progress!!

Many thanks to each of you, since we need every member's participation to be successful and to continue thriving and growing.

Here are some particulars that you will want to know:

WBA Meetings are the FIRST Wednesday of each month left in 2000: May 3, June 7, July 5, August 2, September 6, October 4, November 1, December 6.

Meetings are held at the UW Center for Urban Horticulture (3501 NE 41st Street), begin at 7:00 p.m., using the first fifteen minutes for social reception and viewing of displays. Please share your books, larvae, or butterflies for display!

Coming Attractions

June 7: Summertime Blues--Jon Pelham and Dave Nunnallee help you identify the Blues of summer (Part 2)

July 5: Butterflies of the Sun Lakes Area--Bob Hardwick will present slides of butterflies and habitat of this region.

August 2: Alpine Butterflies of Washington--Jon Pelham and Dave Nunnallee make your mountain hikes more fun!

September 6: The symbiotic relationship between butterflies and ants--Dr. Merrill Peterson presents this fascinating topic.

Officers/Board

- Idie Ulsh-President
- Dave Nunnallee-Vice Pres/Web Page
- Kathe Watanabe-Secretary/Membership
- David Branch-Treasurer
- Jon Pelham-Science Advisor
- Richard Lindstrom-Field Trip Coordinator
- Tom O'Connell-Field Trip Support
- Mike Van Buskirk-Newsletter Editor
- Jo Nunnallee-Hospitality
- Richard Youel-Member-at-Large
- Vivian Gross-Annual Conference

Announcements and Coming Events

WBA Meeting Programs

- Feb 2: "Springtime Blues - Part 1" Jon Pelham and Dave Nunnallee will show slides and discuss key characters to help identify members of this group.
- March 1: "Butterfly Gardening" - Claire Hagen Dole shares invaluable tips on attracting butterflies to your yard.
- April 5: Butterflies of the Amazon - Dave & Jo Nunnallee share their recent adventures to the Amazon

Washington Field Trips in 2000

General Field Trip Notes:

- Be prepared to pay drivers for gas - - costs may differ depending on the length of the trip (Carpool drivers do not pay, and receive the gas money).
- Trip limits are 14 people + the trip leader, WBA members have priority.
- Before March 12 contact Idie Ulsh (206) 364-4935, after March 12 please contact Richard Lindstrom (206) 842-4817 for further trip details

<p style="text-align: center;">March 2000</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1) Saturday, March 25, 2000 Schnebley Coulee *, Kittitas County (Eastern Washington)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">April 2000</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2) Saturday, April 8, 2000 Juniper Dunes *, Franklin County (Eastern Washington)</p> <p><i>* Trip dates may change (earlier, later, or be canceled) depending on the upcoming season. Also, additional trips may be scheduled on a short-term basis. Updates and further announcements will be made by the trip leaders prior to and during that month.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">May 2000</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3) Saturday, May 6, 2000 Lake Cushman *, Mason County, (Western Washington)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4) Saturday, May 13, 2000 Scatter Creek *, Thurston County (Western Washington)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5) Saturday, May 20, 2000 Durr Road/Umtanum Ridge *, Kittitas Country (Eastern Washington)</p>
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- NABA Biennial Meeting, Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, May 18-21, 2000. See NABA website for details
- WBA Annual Meeting, Dates to be announced

Welcoming Words from Tom O'Connell

What could be more fun than being a part of something brand new? Especially if that something is likely to last a long time and prove to be important in the future of lots of people like ones self? That "spirit" pervades WBA, as some of us have taken to calling our new Washington Butterfly Association.

Exactly forty years ago, I had a hand in starting another institution: I was the founding president of the first community college in what was to become a bustling state system in Massachusetts. The few of us folks who were in on the start-up of that two-year college even got to name it (Berkshire Community College), and to choose the college colors (Blue and Green).

I have been reminded several times of those heady days since Idie Ulsh assembled some of us ardent butterflyers to form a new institution - our very own. We would be following the lead of several dozen other states and regions to be part of a parent organization - also very new - the North American Butterfly Association, Inc. (known as NABA).

Some of us who formed part of that tiny group called together by Idie in early 1999 were relatively new butterflyers, like me, and some had butterflyed for decades and had become professionals, like Jonathan Pelham, or long time, capable amateurs like Dave Nunnallee and Idie Ulsh. Some of us like best to go out into the field to identify butterflies we spot. Some of us are interested in photographing butterflies. Some of us are active butterfly gardeners (do I qualify if all I have is to plant one butterfly bush - *Ruddeia davidii* - in my tiny Seattle patio? Well, never mind about my qualifications, since I started to write this I have enjoyed watching a Woodland Skipper and A Cabbage White flitting around my solitary bush. I FEEL like a butterfly gardener.)

And now our small group of starters-up have been joined by more than sixty others of you (now more than a 100! - Ed) who have signed up to be part of our new "WBA." We're off and running! I'll bet we'll some day be nearly as active and bubbling as our older sister in Los Angeles - called "LANABA," "if you please! I've been privileged to butterfly with some of the "LANABA's," and have learned a lot from them.

I'm glad that, like some of you, I have added butterflying to birding as among my favorite activities, and I'm glad I'm one of you in being "present at the creation" of WBA.

By Tom O'Connell (September 2, 1999)

Special Notes - Mardon Skipper Now Considered "Endangered"

The Fish and Wildlife Commission has recently changed the status for the *Mardon Skipper (Polites mardon)*. The following excerpt is from the December, 1999 Wildlife Diversity Division Monthly Report.

"Listing Activity - Presented listing activity proposals for the Mardon Skipper, Northern Leopard Frog, and Olympic Mudminnow to the Fish and Wildlife Commission. The Commission unanimously approved the recommendations to classify the *Mardon Skipper* and Northern Leopard Frog as endangered species, and to designate the Olympic Mudminnow as a sensitive species."

WBA Open Positions

The WBA is looking for members who want to contribute some time and energy into supporting various aspects of our organization. We are looking for:

- A Program Chair Person
- A Book Sales Person (also T-shirts and other items sold by WBA)
- Publicity Person

If you have interest in these positions, please contact Idie Ulsh, WBA President, at (206) 364-4935 for more information.

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