

Washington Butterfly Association - Founded 1999

Volume 2, Number 1 January—March, 2001

From the Directors

We're delighted with the wonderful successes Washington Butterfly Association has had in our nearly two years of life. Inevitably we're also experiencing some growing pains. One relates to our newsletter timetable. We plan to produce a newsletter every three months, and we apologize for the delay in this issue. This edition of the WBA newsletter is somewhat briefer than past and future issues—we plan to be back on our regular schedule in January. Thanks for your patience as we get our organization established.

WBA Meeting Programs

WBA Meetings will continue to be held on the first Wednesday of each month in 2001: January 3, February 7, March 7, April 4, May 2, June 6, August 1, September 5, October 3, November 7 and December 5. There will be no meeting in July due to the Independence Day holiday and the Annual Conference.

Meetings are held at the UW Center for Urban Horticulture (3501 NE 41st Street), and begin at 7:00 p.m. The first fifteen minutes are used for social reception and viewing of displays.

- **Jan 3:** Checkerspots—Butterfly Identification and Tips; Jonathan Pelham and Dave Nunnallee.
- **Feb 7:** Butterflies and Natural History of Malaysia; Dave and Jo Nunnallee
- **March 7:** Creating a Butterfly Garden; Ciscoe Morris.
- **April 4:** Monarchs: Fascinating Migrations; Robert Michael Pyle. Special joint meeting with Scarabs Entomological Society at the Burke Museum. More details later.
- **May 2:** Butterflies of Mismaloya, Mexico; Richard Lindstrom.

WBA Annual Conference

by Vivian Gross, Conference Coordinator

Already the excitement is building for the second annual WBA Conference! Our destination is the Blue Mountains in eastern Washington. The date is June 22-24, 2001. Headquarters is the Weinhard Hotel in the town of Dayton. If you attended the first-ever conference of the WBA in August 2000, you remember what a great time we had and how many butterflies we saw. I hope everyone can attend and share the good times this year. So, mark your calendars now for even more fun in 2001.

Plans are for registration, informal reception and speaker on Friday night in the lobby of The Weinhard Hotel. Saturday will be an all-day field trip followed by dinner and a speaker. Robert Michael Pyle will be the after-dinner speaker. Sunday will be another field trip, probably over by mid-afternoon. Details later.

Dayton is a historic town and the Dayton Chamber of Commerce (www.historicdayton.com) has sent brochures regarding the town and lodging possibilities. These will be available at the next few membership meetings. If you can't attend the meetings, call or e-mail Vivian Gross, WBA Conference Coordinator, with your address and she will mail them to you.

The lodging sites listed here are Dayton Chamber of Commerce members. Other lodging may be available.

- The Weinhard Hotel "Fine Victorian accommodations", 15 rooms, mostly queen rooms. \$70-\$125, all non-smoking, seven day cancellation policy. 509.382.4032, Fax 509-382-2640, www.weinhard.com.
- The Blue Mountain Motel (owned by same person as The Weinhard), 23 rooms \$36-\$60+. Smoking and nonsmoking rooms. 509.382.3040.
- The Purple House Bed and Breakfast, \$85-\$125.
- Camping at Lewis and Clark Trail State Park four miles east of Waitsburg.

Eastern Washington is a popular destination in the summer, so consider making lodging reservations early.

A Light Moment from the First Annual Conference

by Tom O'Connell

No, the first annual WBA Conference in Winthrop was not all serious, concentrated work. Yes, first-rate lectures on butterflies and the exciting outings to find them were key activities, but there was lots of time for laughter, too.

Much of the humor was, as usual in WBA affairs, sparked by our peerless trip leader, Dick Lindstrom. All who have attended WBA's monthly open meetings in the U.W. Urban Horticultural Center have experienced Dick's must-be-seen-to-be-believed WBA hand signals, and his vocalized greetings as well. But his antic carryings on at the conference hit a new high.

One morning at breakfast, for example, he told us assembled butterflyers that the night before his room (a single room, for Dick is presently an unattached male person) had been invaded by a cricket. It was a strikingly beautiful cricket, he reported somewhat dreamily, with lovely tan and brown stripes on its body. In studying the cricket, he said, "I confess I let my imagination run away with me." Recalling the story of the frog that turned into a prince, he wondered if the cricket were really a princess who had come to him disguised in the night. He waited and he waited, but no metamorphosis occurred. Disappointed, but ever the diligent amateur scientist, he determined to find out next morning the cricket's precise identity. He carefully placed the cricket into one of his trusty butterfly jars and first thing next morning found a guide to the insects of Washington. He discovered that his visitor was a Jerusalem Cricket – a FEMALE Jerusalem Cricket. Reading on in the description of the behavior of Jerusalem Crickets, he learned that after sex females of the species often devour the males. "Ah, well," said Dick philosophically, "She didn't turn into a princess, but she didn't eat me either."

Washington 2001 Field Trips

WBA is planning for another exciting season of field trips in 2001. Field trip chair Richard Lundstrom is putting together an outstanding slate of trips. A schedule and detailed information will be mailed with the next newsletter.

Species Profile: Large Marble (Euchloe ausonides)

by Dave Nunnallee

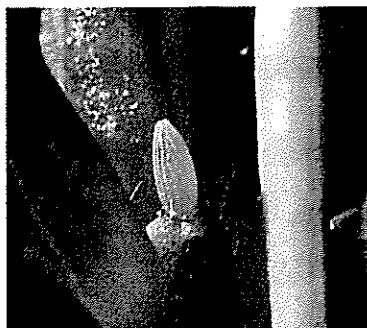
Our species profile for this issue is the Large Marble, *Euchloe ausonides*. The Large Marble belongs to the family Pieridae, which includes the Whites and Sulphurs, a worldwide group of butterflies that often have white or yellow wings.

The Large Marble is restricted to North America, where it is found from Alaska to Manitoba, and south to Nebraska, New Mexico and California. The species occupies most of the western "lower 48" in the USA, also western Canada and the central part of Alaska. In Washington, the Large Marble is found throughout the state east of the Cascades. In western Washington it has been reported only from eastern Whatcom County near the Cascade crest, and recently also from San Juan County.

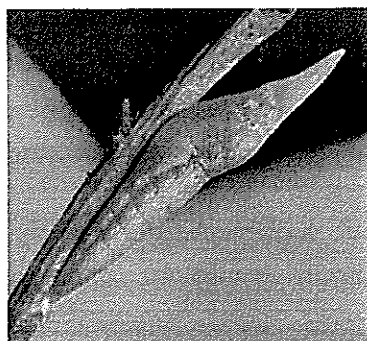
Adult Large Marbles begin flying as early as late March. In the early spring it flies in low elevation sagebrush steppe, and later in the season in meadows and open forests at higher elevations, ranging upward to treeline where adults have been reported into late June. Like many early-flying butterflies, the Large Marble spends the winter in its chrysalis stage, ready to emerge in the first warm days of spring.

After mating, the female ausonides lays her eggs, one per plant, on a bud of a mustard plant, frequently one of the delicate purple-flowering *Arabis* species. The eggs are yellow (becoming orange), spindle-shaped, attached at one pointed end, and sculptured with longitudinal grooves & ridges. The *Arabis* host plants are often relatively sparse where ausonides flies, making it possible for a keen observer to find an egg before it hatches. On hatching, the larva feeds on the newly opened flowers, and later the saliques (seed pods), of the mustard. First instar larvae are very difficult to find in the field, but after growing larger the attractive yellow and gray striped caterpillar can be spotted, partly by the feeding damage to the host plant. At pupation the elongated light tan chrysalis is usually mounted on some permanent structure, rather than the delicate host plant, as the species is single-brooded and the chrysalis must endure the entire winter.

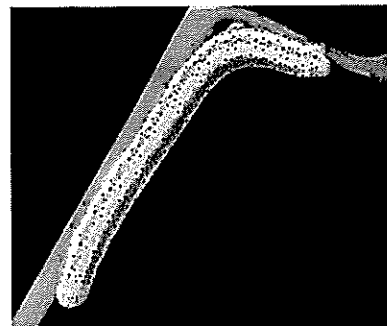
Large Marble—Egg



Large Marble—Chrysalis



Large Marble—Fifth Instar



Large Marble—Adult



Ventrally the adult Large Marble has a beautiful complex pattern of irregular marbling of green bands on a cream background, with interlaced thin yellow wing veins. In this region only the Sara Orangetip (*Anthocharis sara*) and the Desert Marble (*Euchloe lotta*) have similar patterns, and the Sara is easily separated by its orange wingtips.

The Large Marble can be distinguished from the Desert Marble, by:

1. The Large Marble is the larger of the two species.
2. Dorsally, there is a black "cell bar" on the forewing near the leading edge, half way between the body and the wing tip. On the Large Marble, this cell bar is narrow and bent; on the Desert Marble it is more square and blocky. Also, on the Large Marble the cell bar is sprinkled with white scales giving it a frosted appearance especially at the front, while the Desert Marble is not so marked.
3. Ventrally, the whitish ground color is flat on the Large Marble, but has a pearly luster on the Desert Marble.
4. Ventrally, on the Large Marble, the green marbling is very irregular and fragmented; while on the Desert Marble it is blockier, even having some straight edges.
5. Ventrally, on the Large Marble, the yellow wing veins are distinct across both the white background and the green marbling. But on the Desert Marble the yellow veins become obscured where they cross the white background areas.
6. The Desert Marble is restricted to lower elevation, sagebrush areas, while the Large Marble can be found much higher and later in the season.

Both of our Marbles will be flying in the first days of early spring, and we eagerly look forward to seeing these early harbingers of another fine butterfly summer.

WBA email address

Washington Butterfly Association now has its own email address: wabutterflyassoc@earthlink.net. If you have a question about WBA or any of our activities, or if you'd like to pass some information to the WBA membership, send us a message!

Officers/Board Members:

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Dave Nunnallee	Vice President/Web Page	(425) 392-2565
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Jo Nunnallee	Hospitality	(425) 392-2565
Richard Youel	Member-at-Large	(206) 282-3758
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Maureen Traxler	Publicity/Newsletter	(206) 782-5537

After the November membership meeting, Bob Hardwick took on the job of Research Coordinator. Bob will organize WBA fieldwork projects. This is not a Board position, but is an important function nonetheless. Bob's phone number is (253) 858-6727.