



*Washington Butterfly Association*

# G'num\*

The newsletter of the Washington Butterfly Association

P.O. Box 31317 Seattle WA 98103

[www.naba.org/chapters/nabaws](http://www.naba.org/chapters/nabaws)

\*G'num is the official greeting of WBA. It is derived from the name of common Washington butterfly food plants, of the genus *Eriogonum*.

## WBA Meeting Programs

WBA meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month. They are held at the UW Center for Urban Horticulture (3501 NE 41st Street, Seattle) and begin at 7:00 p.m. The first fifteen minutes are used for social reception and viewing of displays.

**July 6:**

### **“Butterflies of Chile”**

A new country for WBA members as *Liam Staley* and *Francisca Bravo* will do a powerpoint presentation on their nature travels in Chile. Many beautiful species will be presented with interesting commentary. We may all want to travel to Chile after this program.

**August 3:**

### **“Share the Wealth”**

This is always a fun and very educational program where each person can bring up to 12 of their own slides or photos to present. Some bring photos of local butterflies, trip butterflies or butterflies which you need help on identifying. Photographers and butterflyers of all levels are urged to participate. It will be great fun even if you don't have photographs.

**September 7:**

### **“Pigmentation In Butterflies”**

This fascinating program will include the mechanisms of seasonal morphs, that of the formation of the yellow and black pattern in swallowtails and other dimorphisms. Our own *Kiyoshi Hiruma* will fly in from Japan to present this! (Well maybe he has a couple other reasons to come to Seattle!!) He is considered a top expert in this genetic field.

## Field Trip Binoculars

The Board is very pleased to offer something new on field trips.

WBA now has 4 pair of Audubon Equinox close-focus binoculars that will be available for use on field trips. We owe much gratitude to Richard Lindstrom for suggesting the purchase and making a generous contribution, and to Eagle Optics for its generous program for non-profits.

## WBA Policy on Butterfly Collecting on Field Trips

The WBA Board has approved a policy statement about collecting butterflies on WBA field trips.

**Non-consumptive appreciation of butterflies is central to our purpose and basic to our approach. This is the guiding principal behind general membership field trips. Collecting of adult butterflies is not allowed on general membership field trips. Collecting of eggs and larval stages for rearing is accepted on the condition that individuals raised to adult stage are to be released at their original location.**

The policy states what has always been WBA's practice, and is consistent with the bylaws of WBA and NABA which say we focus on non-consumptive enjoyment of butterflies.

We want to emphasize that the policy does not imply any judgment about those who collect, and does not mean that those who collect are not welcome to participate in WBA activities. In fact many of our most active members do some collecting. We only ask that your collecting activities are done outside of WBA general membership field trips.

Thanks to those of you who submitted comments on the collecting issue. It is a difficult and sensitive issue for WBA, and there is no policy that will satisfy everyone. We hope that, even if you disagree with the policy, you will appreciate that the Board tried hard to chose the best policy for WBA.

Maureen Traxler, WBA President

## Report from the Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee proposes the following slate of candidates for election by the membership at the Annual Meeting on July 23, 2005 at Mazama, WA.

**President -Maureen Traxler**

Maureen has served us very well as our president over the past year and has agreed to serve in that position for another year.

**Vice President – David Williams**

David has served us very well as our vice president over the past year and has agreed to serve in that position for another year.

**Secretary – Donna Schaeffer**

Donna has been an active member and has agreed to be our secretary. She brings enthusiasm, organizational skills and an interest in participating in leadership as a member of the board.

**Treasurer – Mardell Moore**

Mardell has experience as treasurer for other organizations. She has also served WBA in the past as secretary. Her experience and return to the board will be appreciated.

The Washington Butterfly Association has been fortunate to have good leadership and we appreciate the able leadership our officers have given us over the past year. We thank Maureen and David for their service over the past year and for continuing in their respective roles for another year. We extend our thanks to Marty Hanson and Gwen Warren for their service to us as treasurer and secretary, respectively, as they retire from those positions.

Richard Youel, Nominating Committee Chair

Mazama, Washington  
July 22 - 24, 2005



The varied habitats of the Methow Valley – riparian zones, shrub steppe, and alpine meadows – support over a hundred species of butterflies. With the field trips and lectures of this conference, you can gain a better appreciation of the species living here. Depending on weather, field trips may go to the Boulder Creek area, where we could see the Pink-edged Sulphur (*Colias interior*). Though fires burned many acres near Slate Peak, some alpine meadows are still intact. There we could see Vidler's Alpine (*Erebia vidleri*), Hoffmann's Checkerspot (*Chlosyne hoffmanni*), and possibly Melissa Arctic (*Oeneis melissa*) and Lustrous Copper (*Lycaena cupea*).

Join us as we explore the Methow Valley and enjoy the butterflies we find.  
To attend the conference, send in a registration form today!

#### Friday, July 22

6:30 – 7:30pm  
7:30 – 8:30pm

Registration & refreshments at the Mazama Community Center

#### “Butterflies and Habitat of the Methow Valley” – Jon Pelham

This is our opportunity to share Jon's expertise with many of our eastern Washington members. Jon will review identification tips on many of the species which we might see on our field trips and show why they occur in this area.

#### Saturday, July 23

Breakfast on your own

8:30 – 9am

Meet in the parking lot next to the Mazama Community Center for an all-day field trip

9am – 5pm

All-day field trip

6pm

Buffet dinner at the Mazama Community Center

7:30pm

Short business meeting, including election of officers

7:45pm

#### “Butterflies North of the Border” – Crispin Guppy,

co-author of [Butterflies of British Columbia](#) and one of the top lepidopterists of Canada will speak about his research and work with butterflies of British Columbia and possibly Alaska. Many of these will also occur in Washington. Cris is a fascinating and fun speaker.

#### Sunday, July 24

Breakfast on your own

8:30 – 9am

Meet in the parking lot next to the Mazama Community Center for a half-day field trip

9am – 1pm

Half-day field trip

3pm

Leave for home

Photos above are from [The Butterflies of Cascadia](#) by Robert Michael Pyle.

## 2005 Field Trips

Date	Destination	Trip Coordinator
July 9	Reecer Creek Canyon "Big Day", Kittitas County	Dave Nunnallee 425-392-2565
July 22-24	WBA Annual Conference, Winthrop and the Methow Valley	See Registration Form
August 6	Fish (Tuquala) Lake – near Salmon La Sac, Kittitas County	Richard Youel 206-282-3758
August 28	Mt. Townsend near Quilcene in Jefferson County	Bob Hardwick 253-858-6727

### HOW TO SIGN UP:

Anyone can sign up for field trips at any WBA monthly meeting. You can also sign up by contacting the trip coordinator which will be posted on the web page.

### WHERE & WHEN TO MEET:

Trips will depart from the Ravenna Park & Ride at 7:00 a.m. unless expressly stated otherwise. The park & ride is located under I-5 at Ravenna Blvd between NE 50th & NE 65th St. We meet in the north half of the park & ride.

On request will also stop at the Issaquah Park & Ride at 7:30 a.m. To reach the Issaquah Park & Ride, take I-90 east to Issaquah, exit to the south via Exit 16, and go 3 blocks. The Park & Ride is on the left.

If you live in another part of the state, contact the trip coordinator to make arrangements to meet the field trip group.

### FIELD TRIP PROTOCOLS:

All field trips are conducted by carpool-without the volunteer participation of drivers the trips are not possible.

If you have a car that you are willing to drive, please have the gas tank full and ready to go. Passengers are expected to share gasoline expenses. It is suggested that each rider pay the driver ten cents per mile plus a share of any park entry fees, ferry fares, etc.

All WBA-sponsored field trips are fully insured through our parent organization, NABA.

Please tend to any personal matters, such as getting breakfast, coffee or gasoline, before the departure time so others are not delayed.

The trip leader will collect a voluntary donation of \$5 per person (children under 12 are free) for each field trip to help offset expenses of the organization.

### SCHEDULING & WEATHER:

Weather is always a major factor for planning butterfly trips in Washington, particularly March through June. The key to dealing with weather is flexibility; our leaders reserve the right to make last-minute itinerary changes in order to provide you with the best possible butterfly experience.

On occasion it may be necessary to cancel or postpone an outing if the weather does not permit a viable alternative. The flow of the season is also important, and it may be necessary to adjust some trips to earlier or later dates to best match the seasonal weather patterns. WBA will make every effort to keep you informed of any changes.

### CANCELLATIONS:

If you need to cancel, please remember to contact the trip coordinator as soon as you can so the group does not wait for you at the park & ride.

## WBA Mission Statement

**The Washington Butterfly Association is devoted to scientific understanding and enjoyment of butterflies and their ecology through conservation and education.**

Our species profile for this issue is the Western Pine Elfin, *Incisalia eryphon*.



Elfins belong to the subfamily of butterflies called hairstreaks. This group is classified in the worldwide Family Lycaenidae which also includes blues, coppers and metalmarks. Many of

the hairstreaks, as their name suggests, bear hairlike extensions at the rear of their hindwings. The group of hairstreaks we call elfins have no such "tails", instead bearing a tornus on their hindwing, a rounded globular extension to the wing projecting down perpendicular to the tails of other hairstreaks. Elfins are small, unobtrusive butterflies, adorned in camouflaged colors of browns and grays. All four of our elfins fly early in the spring. Most species first fly in March, but the Western Pine Elfin appears a bit later in early April, and is on the wing through late July at higher elevations.

The Western Pine Elfin occurs throughout most of the western half of the US and Canada. In Canada the species also occurs across the continent to the eastern seaboard, dipping barely into the northern edge of several eastern States. In Washington, *I. eryphon* occurs mostly east of the



Cascade Mountains, in a band along the eastern foothills of the Cascades, across the northern tier counties and south along Washington's eastern edge into the Blue Mountains. It also occurs in several spotty

outliers, most significantly in Mason County west of the Cascades.

*Incisalia eryphon* is found in open forested areas where pine trees, particularly yellow pine, grow near meadow openings with blooming nectar flowers. The elfins are associated strictly with the soft, light green new growth branch tips. Eggs and larvae can sometimes be found by searching the soft new branch tips of small trees in areas frequented by the adults.

All four of Washington's elfin species hibernate through the winter in the chrysalis stage, enabling them to emerge early in the spring. Males emerge first, usually 1 to 2 weeks before the females, staking out the best perches

near pine trees. From this perch they aggressively defend their territory against other males, returning to the same place repeatedly. After the females emerge and mate, they lay their eggs singly on the soft new-growth branch tips of the host pine tree. The eggs are usually tucked in close at the base of a pine needle, on the protected underside of the slanted needle. After hatching, the tiny camouflaged larvae feed on the tender new-growth needles at the branch tips, and do not make nests. The larvae do not wander, staying directly on their food plant, growing rather slowly and maintaining their camouflage throughout. The final instar is green with yellow stripes, blending well with the needles on which they nest and feed, and finally pupating approximately seven weeks after the eggs were laid. The pupae hibernate through the summer, fall and winter to eclose the following spring.



Dorsally all four of Washington's elfins are mostly solid brown or reddish-brown but, because dorsal wings cannot easily be observed in the field, ventral wing markings are more useful for identification. Of our elfins the Western Pine Elfin is the most easily identified, by the dramatic dark brown zigzag lines on the underside of its hindwing. The Western Pine Elfin is so distinctive that it can be confused only with the Eastern Pine Elfin, which does not occur in this region.

Adults take nectar from available flowers, and males engage in a perch-and-wait strategy for females. Western Pine Elfins are fairly inconspicuous and easily overlooked, although once spotted the zigzag pattern on the ventral hindwing seems surprisingly gaudy. All elfins perch with their wings closed over their back, so dorsal wing surfaces can be observed only in

the hand or in flight. A lepidopterist sampling the species early in the flight period is likely to find only males, and gravid females may not be present until 2 to 3 weeks later. Female behavior is usually easily spotted, as they spend much of their time flying between nectar sources and do not engage in perch-and-wait or fly-out-and-challenge behavior.



## Board Members

Maureen Traxler	President	(206) 782-5537	maureentraxler@msn.com
David Williams	Vice President	(206) 985-2727	wingate@seanet.com
Gwen Warren	Secretary	(425) 454-9677	jrgwarren@msn.com
Marty Hanson	Treasurer	(425) 392-2458	larmarhan@msn.com
Richard Youel	Past-President	(206) 282-3758	mmyarch@earthlink.net
Idie Ulsh	Programs	(206) 364-4935	idieu@earthlink.net
Jon Pelham	Science Advisor	(425) 697-6654	jppelham@cs.com
Bill Yake	At-Large	(360) 866-0925	yake@thurston.com
Marjorie Kittel	Hospitality	(206) 985-2727	mlknfp@yahoo.com
Carolyn Heberlein	Newsletter/Website	(206) 633-2313	diosa@nwlink.com

## Committees

Joyce Bergen	Annual Conference	(509) 996-7808	magpie@methownet.com
Bob Hardwick	WBA Research	(253) 858-6727	
David & Jo Nunnallee	Field Trips	(425) 392-2565	nunnallee@comcast.net

## Membership Application

# Washington Butterfly Association

The Washington State Chapter of the  
North American Butterfly Association (NABA)

Yes! I want to join WBA/NABA and receive *American Butterflies*, *Butterfly Garden News* and *WBA Newsletter*, as well as other member privileges.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Interest (circle): Listing, Gardening, Observation, Photography, Conservation, and Other \_\_\_\_\_

Dues enclosed (circle): Regular \$30 (\$60 outside U.S., Canada, Mexico)

Family \$40 (\$80 outside U.S., Canada, Mexico)

Payment must be in U.S. dollars.

**Mail application form to: NABA, 4 Delaware Rd., Morristown, NJ 07960**

Further information: [wabutterflyassoc@earthlink.net](mailto:wabutterflyassoc@earthlink.net) or call Idie Ulsh at (206) 364-4935.