



Washington Butterfly
Association

G'num*

The newsletter of the Washington Butterfly Association

P.O. Box 31317 Seattle WA 98103
www.naba.org/chapters/nabaws

*G'num is the official greeting of the 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.

APRIL 7:

"Butterfly Gardening around Puget Sound" by *Claire Hagen Dole*.

MAY 5:

"Habitats and their Butterflies " by *Jon Pelham*.

JUNE 2:

With Amazonian rainforests, Andean crags and some of the world's driest deserts, Peru is a country full of wild contrasts. Twenty percent of the world's butterflies live here (as many as 4200 species) – more than any other country in the world. In 2002 Bill and Jeannette visited Peru – Cuzco in the highlands, Manu National Park in the Amazonian rainforest, Machu Picchu – the Incan Redoubt, and the desert coast of Nazca and Paracus. Their slides will focus on leps and other insects, but you'll get a sense of the people, stonework, history, other critters and landscapes as well. - *Bill Yake and Jeannette Baarca*

Meetings agendas also include a profile of a species of butterfly with a slide presentation and informative handout.

Message From Our President

By Richard Youel

I am happy to report to you that the Washington Butterfly Association is a healthy and thriving organization. One expression of that is a robust Work Plan for this year developed by the excellent leadership of our Board of Directors. It involves a commitment to:

- expanding education in a variety of ways
- working with others on conservation issues
- expanding our presence by letting the public know who we are and what we do
- using our very successful field trips to further several of these goals
- spreading the load of leadership and
- making opportunities for volunteering available to members

Your volunteer help is welcome. If you have an area of interest such as education, conservation, publicity, field trips or in an area we have not developed yet, please let us know. You can fit in at just about any level. As robust as the Work Plan may be, it has to comply with our basic approach – it has to be fun, rewarding or satisfying and preferably all of those at once. Thank you for infusing WBA with your energy and good will. We are looking forward to another fun, rewarding and satisfying year.

2004 Field Trips

Date	Destination
March 27	Schnebley Coulee - Kittitas County
April 24	Priest Rapids - Benton & Yakima Counties
May 8	Cowiche Canyon - west of Yakima in Yakima County
May 22	Umtanum Ridge - Kittitas County
June 19-20	#2 Canyon & Colockum Field Station, Chelan County Overnight trip to observe butterflies & moths
June 27	Chumstick Mountain - NABA 4th of July Butterfly Count, Chelan County hosted by Don Rolfs of Wenatchee
July 10	Reecer Creek Canyon "Big Day", Kittitas County
July 16-18	WBA Annual Conference, Omak, Okanogan County
TBA	Late July - early August - Dragonflies with Dennis Paulson (date & location to be announced)
August 14	Quartz Mountain, Kittitas County
August 28	Snoqualmie Pass area, Kittitas County
September	possible additional trips to be announced

HOW TO SIGN UP: Anyone can sign up for field trips at any WBA monthly meeting. You can also sign up by contacting Dave Nunnallee at (425) 392-2565.

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 Dave 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.

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 Dave as soon as you can so the group does not wait for you at the park & ride.

Happiness is like a butterfly,
which, when pursued, is always just beyond your grasp,
but which, if you will sit down quietly,
may alight upon you.
- Nathaniel Hawthorne

Dreamy Duskywing – *Erynnis icelus*

Our species profile for this issue is the Dreamy Duskywing, *Erynnis icelus*



The Dreamy Duskywing is a member of the family Hesperiidae, the large worldwide family of butterflies known as skippers. All skippers have

recurved antennal tips, or 'clubs'. The skippers, for the most part, fit into two subfamilies, the Pyrgine or spreadwing skippers, and the Hesperine or grass skippers, sometimes also called monocot skippers. As the common name suggests, spreadwing skippers rest with their wings flat and outspread. By contrast most grass skippers rest with their wings in two planes, the hind wings out flat and the forewings partially elevated at an angle. In Washington there are 30 species of skippers, 12 of which are spreadwing skippers. Within the genus *Erynnis* we have five species in Washington, one of which is poorly documented at present.



Skippers in the genus *Erynnis* are notoriously difficult to identify. One Washington species, the Afranius Skipper, is so difficult to separate from the

common Persius Skipper that its reported occurrence in Washington's Blue Mountains is still under debate. Our species, the Dreamy Duskywing, is the most easily identified member of this genus. *Erynnis icelus* is a small skipper, a common species in Washington, rarely found in large numbers. It normally occurs singly or in small numbers along unpaved roadbeds and in cleared scrub areas, sometimes at mud, and often perching on dead woody material. *Erynnis icelus* flies early in the season, with records as early as mid-April, and has been recorded into late July at higher elevations.

The Dreamy Duskywing occurs throughout much of southern Canada and northern America, extending south as far as Georgia in the east, and New Mexico and California in the west, but is absent from the southern great plains and the gulf states. In Washington State *E. icelus* is found throughout the mountainous and foothill areas of the east, and in the west is found from the Cascades to the Puget Trough. This species is generally absent from the Pacific Ocean counties and from all but the southeast foothills of the Olympic Mountains.

The Dreamy Duskywing is single-brooded, overwintering as an adult larva. In the spring the larva pupates without further feeding, then emerges as an adult. After mating the female oviposits her eggs singly on the underside of host plant leaves, usually willow but sometimes also aspen, birch, poplar or locust. Early larval stages eat small



holes clear through the leaves. The larva also cuts the leaf in two places, from the margin half way to the mid-vein, then folds the intervening leaf segment over and anchors it in place with silk to form a nest in which it spends most of its resting time. Later, the larger instars silk whole leaves together in a stack to make their nests. The larvae, which have the typical skipper "collar" constriction behind the head, eat prodigiously but



grow slowly. In captivity the cycle from egg to diapausing 5th instar was seven weeks. Eventually the larvae eat less and then become sluggish, eventually entering diapause (late July in a reared brood from an early June female in Yakima County). Throughout all stages the larvae tend to rest with their heads crooked back parallel to the body like a walking cane, a posture which is common in skipper larvae. After overwintering the

mature larva is quite slow to pupate, shrinking and taking several weeks then finally forming a surprisingly small chrysalis in comparison to the rather large larva. Large larvae and small chrysalids seem to be a common theme among skippers.

The adult Dreamy Duskywing is identified by an obvious large hoary (whitish) patch on the dorsal

surface of the front wing, just beyond the mid point of the leading edge. There are no hyaline (clear) spots on the forewing, as occur in most other members of this genus. Females tend to be larger than males, and males can additionally be identified by a recurved structure (androconial fold) along the leading edge of the forewing. This structure contains pheremone-producing scales.

Late one night, a man walks into a dentist's office and says, "Excuse me, can you help me? I think I'm a moth."

Dentist: "You don't need a dentist. You need a psychiatrist."

Man: "Yes, I know."

Dentist: "So why did you come in here?"

Man: "Well the light was on..."

- Submitted by Dennis Paulson

Confessions of a Beginning Butterflier

by Tom O'Connell

Is it practical to try to identify butterflies and birds on the same outing? Some folks claim that they can do it simply by looking for birds in the early morns and eves and hunting butterflies at mid-day. Others find studying both to be confusing. Richard Lindstrom finally gave up on the twin efforts and seeks only butterflies. In the field of late, his buddies Richard Youel and I couldn't even get him to look up if an eagle was flying by. Indeed, he would try to shame us by insisting we were shirking and violating WABA rules if we even mentioned a bird. (He seems to be shirking himself now that he is engaged to a crack birder AND butterflyer.)

Earlier this Spring in Mexico, I slipped back too. I was visiting friends in Guanajuato and Jalisco who both have homes with super gardens. Each garden attracted many colorful butterflies and birds, and I enjoyed them all for hours each day. True to form, the birds came early and late and the butterflies flew mostly during mid-day hours.

Since I'm hired in these columns to confess to lepidoptera-type transgressions, I have to admit that I had much more success identifying the birds (56 species) than the butterflies (3: Two tailed Swallowtail, Mourning Cloak and Garamus or Avocado Swallowtail.) WABAers who have visited Mexico will quickly guess the reason for the discrepancy: Field guides! There are several fine bird guides for Mexico but only very limited butterfly guides. Richard Lindstrom has led a number of us butterflyers to coastal Mismaloya and has jury-rigged butterfly guides for us by combining data from a number of different butterfly guides. But I was up at much higher altitudes than the Mismaloya seacoast and though I had some Lindstrom data with me, they didn't help much.

Like most of us, though, I don't measure the fun of our hobby only by the number of species identified. The beautiful, mysterious, mountain butterflies fascinated me for hours and hours, even though I couldn't name them.

WBA Mission Statement

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

Earth Day Activities

One Day is Not Enough! Celebrate Earth Month by volunteering April 17 to remove invasive plants and install natives in the Cheasty Greenspace in Seattle's Rainier Valley. Activities from 10 am to 3 pm. Tools and snacks provided.

Contact Marjorie Kittle, so WABA can sign up as a group: day (206) 322-9296 x 219 or
mlknfp@yahoo.com

Fifth Annual Conference

Okanogan County, Where Diversity Has Wings



WBA's Fifth Annual Conference will be held July 16-18, 2004 in Omak, Washington.

Join us as we focus on the butterflies of Okanogan County, the county with the most species in our state. Our field trips will move from valley to mountain habitats, so we'll see species from a variety of life zones.

July in the Okanogan should be a great place to enjoy the bounty of mid-summer butterflies. Come along and see for yourself!

Fritillary enthusiasts will enjoy searching out the Northwestern (*Speyeria hesperis*), Silver-bordered (*Boloria selene*), Zerene (*Speyeria zerene*), Mormon (*Speyeria mormonia*), and Meadow Fritillary (*Boloria bellona*). You may have a chance to see the Queen Alexandra's (*Colias alexandra*) and Pink-edged Sulphur (*Colias interior*). This would be a likely spot to find Garita Skipperlings (*Oarisma garita*), Peck's Skippers (*Polites peckius*), and Tawny-edged Skippers (*Polites temistocles*).

Conference Schedule

Friday, July 16	
7 – 8:15pm	Registration & light buffet at the Courtyard Café, 28 North Main, Omak Washington
8:15 – 9:30pm	Program with presentation to be announced.
Saturday, July 17	
	Breakfast on your own
8:30 – 9am	Meet in parking lot of the Rodeway Inn, 122 North Main, Omak for all-day field trip.
9am – 5pm	All-day field trip.
6pm	Buffet dinner in the Courtyard Café
7:30pm	Short business meeting, including election of officers
7:45pm	Conference Keynote Address – to be announced
Sunday, July 18	
	Breakfast on your own
8:30 – 9am	Meet in parking lot of the Rodeway Inn for half-day field trip
9am – 1pm	Half-day field trip.
3pm	Leave for home

Please note that you are responsible for making your own arrangements for lodging. Summertime is the busy season in Omak, and all rooms may be taken unless you book early. We have been given a special group rate at The Rodeway Inn of Omak. If you identify yourself as participating in the Washington Butterfly Association Conference, you will be given the rates listed below.

The Rodeway Inn and Suites

509-826-0400 or 888-700-6625
122 North Main; P.O. Box 393
Omak, Washington 98841

Upstairs room with king bed, \$41.15
Upstairs room with two queen beds, \$45.72
Ground-floor room with king bed and jetta bath, \$45.72
Ground-floor room with two queen beds and jetta bath, \$50.29
All rooms have air conditioning, small refrigerator, microwave, and continental breakfast in the lobby.

There are assorted accommodations in the area if you prefer to make other arrangements.

Some area campgrounds:

Conconully State Park, near the town of Conconully, about 22 miles from Omak

82 sites, showers, no reservations

Leader Lake Campground (DNR), about 8.5 miles west of Okanogan off of Hwy 20

Campsites and restrooms, no reservations

Scotch Creek Wildlife Area (WDFW), about 10 mi. NE of Omak, on the road to Conconully

Primitive undeveloped campsites

Eastside Park, in Omak on Omak Ave. (Hwy 155)

72 sites, showers, RV hook-ups, no reservations

Legion Park, in Okanogan on Second Ave. (Hwy 215)

No hook-ups, no reservations

Okanogan Fairground Campground, between Okanogan & Omak, off Hwy 97, third off-ramp to the west

RV hook-ups, no reservations

If you have any questions about the conference, please contact Joyce Bergen, 509-996-7808 or magpie@mymethow.com.

Officers/Board Members

Richard Youel	President	(206) 282-3758	mmyarch@earthlink.net
Mary Maxwell-Young	Vice President	(206) 522-2116	mcmy@u.washington.edu
Gwen Warren	Secretary	(425) 454-9677	jrgwarren@msn.com
Marty Hanson	Treasurer	(425) 392-2458	larmarhan@msn.com
Idie Ulsh	Programs	(206) 364-4935	idieu@earthlink.net
Roberta Roberts	Membership	(206) 932-1976	robertaroberts@quidnunc.net
Jon Pelham	Science Advisor	(425) 697-6654	jppelham@cs.com
Marjorie Kittel	Publicity		mlknfp@yahoo.com
Tom O'Connell	Writer/Reporter	(206) 860-9569	
Jo Nunnallee	Hospitality	(425) 392-2565	davidn@nwlink.com
Carolyn Heberlein	Newsletter/Website	(206) 633-2313	diosa@nwlink.com

NonBoard Position: Bob Hardwick is WBA Research Coordinator, organizing WBA field projects.
His phone number is (253) 858-6727.

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 or call Idie Ulsh at (206) 364-4935.