



Washington Butterfly
Association

G'num*

The newsletter of Washington Butterfly Association
Volume 4, Number 3 July—September, 2003

*G'num is the official greeting of the Washington Butterfly Association. It is derived from the name of common Washington butterfly food plants, belonging to the genus *Eriogonum*.

President's Message

by Richard Youel

Thanks to all of you for your support and your many contributions over the last year. The good will and positive energy you exude is wonderful. I would like to extend special thanks to the dedicated members of the Board of Directors for their generous, imaginative and good-humored leadership.

As president, I will share with you some of what the Board has been doing. We had a Board retreat in February and, inspired by our view from Idie's delightful cabin, discussed our mission, vision and values and set goals for the year in a variety of areas. In the Basic Issues department, we crafted our Mission Statement and reviewed by-laws issues. Then we established priorities and agreed on a work plan with achievable objectives for the year.

Those objectives are to:

- 1) Support fundraising by designing and producing a WBA patch for sale and by producing a package of useful publication items including a species list, flight period charts and food plant list for sale;
- 2) Spread the load of leadership, starting with providing greater involvement of members in field trip leading, organizing and coordinating;
- 3) Initiate a conservation program, starting with a printed piece on discouraging the practice of releasing butterflies at weddings and another on informing counties of healthier alternatives to roadside spraying;
- 4) Develop a WBA website;
- 5) Partner with other like-minded organizations to provide learning opportunities as well as new membership opportunities;
- 6) Develop a general purpose WBA brochure; and
- 7) Develop a publicity plan.

If one of these action objectives is appealing to you and you would like to help on it, we would welcome you on a small team to help achieve these goals. If you have other ideas for things we can be doing to make WBA better, please share them with us. Our Washington Butterfly Association continues to develop as a place where we can learn more about the world of nature through butterflies and enjoy each other as we enjoy the butterflies.

Unveiling: WBA Mission Statement

by Richard Youel

We are pleased to introduce our Mission Statement in this issue. The WBA Board worked hard to identify the key words that we believe express the essential qualities of our organization. **Science** has been a particular strength of our chapter and, as you know, **enjoyment** pervades everything we do. **Butterflies** are our central focus, of course, and they lead us to a world of related things though awareness of their ecology. All this is advocated through **conservation** and communicated through **education**. These important words were brought together in a concise statement expressing our mission. So, here it is:

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

We hope it will serve as a guide and an inspiration to us.

WBA Patches Are Available!

WBA is offering attractive logo patches for sale. They are fabric patches, 3 inches by 3-1/4 inches, with the WBA logo and name in green and white on a royal blue background. Many thanks to Mary Maxwell-Young for designing and acquiring the patches. You can order patches by sending \$7.00 per patch to Washington Butterfly Association, P. O. Box 31317, Seattle, WA 98103. Make checks payable to Washington Butterfly Association.

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.

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| July 2: | Informal showing of pictures from WBA Members' Travels —Bring your photos and slides, or just sit back and enjoy some armchair travel. |
| August 6: | Butterflies and Wildlife of the Catalonia Region of Spain. <i>Ian Young and Mary Maxwell-Young</i> |
| September 3: | Share the Wealth: Butterfly Slides from Members. Bring your own slides for show and/or identification. Don't miss this one—it's always fun and informative! |
| October 1: | Adventures in Australia. <i>Dave and Jo Nunnallee</i> |

2003 Field Trips

We're having a marvelous field season this year! We're finding lots of butterflies, and the weather has been remarkably cooperative. We hope you'll be able to join us on some of the upcoming trips.

Date	Destination
July 12	Lion Rock WBA Butterfly Count
July 19	Quartz Mountain
August 2	Crystal Mountain with optional chair lift ride for higher elevation butterflies
August 16	Mount Townsend

WHERE & WHEN TO MEET: Trips to western Washington destinations 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.

Eastern Washington trips will also leave Ravenna at 7:00 am, but 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.

SIGN UPS: Members or non-members can sign up for field trips at any WBA monthly meeting. People can also sign up by contacting Richard Lindstrom at (206) 842-4817. If you need to cancel, please remember to contact Richard as soon as you can so another person can take your place, and so that the group does not wait unnecessarily for you at the park & ride.

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 you are willing to drive, please have the gas tank full and ready to go. Passengers are expected to share gasoline expenses.

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

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

The trip leader will collect a voluntary donation of \$5 per person (children 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.

WBA Research Project

This summer Bob Hardwick, WBA's Research Coordinator, and a team of WBA volunteers are assisting the State Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Nature Conservancy in a survey on the Fort Lewis U.S. Army base south of Tacoma. The purpose of the survey is to search for three butterfly species of special concern: *Polites mardon* (Mardon skipper), *Euphydryas editha taylori* (Taylor's checkerspot), and *Icaricia icarioides bladenorei* (Puget blue).

WBA has been assigned to study three prairie areas on the base. On their first trip, the WBA team studied two of the three sites. The first is known as the "airstrip" because it is located next to an abandoned airplane airstrip, now for paratroop training. The prairie there has been restored by Fort Lewis foresters who burned the area three years ago to get rid of the Scotch Broom.

The trip was considered very successful, since the team saw a great diversity of prairie wildflowers and no scotch broom. They were encouraged by finding a healthy population of *Glaucopteryx lygdamus* (Silvery Blue) in the area, and a lone *Celastrina argidus* (Spring Azure). Bob Hardwick sees great potential for this area later in the summer, since larval food plants for the Puget Blue, Anise Swallowtail, and Edith's Checkerspot were all present. Grasses were also abundant for possible skipper sightings.

The second site is located on South Creek, about 1/2 mile away from the airstrip. This area was burned a few years ago and has been mowed to control the Scotch Broom. This area also has great potential for butterflies. On the first visit the team observed a healthy population of the Silvery Blue, a ringlet, and Milbert's tortoiseshell. With the findings of violets, paintbrush and lupine as well as a

diversity of grasses, they have high hopes for this site as the season progresses. The third site is the "Triangle", which is a prairie between South Creek and Muck Creek.

As of press time, the WBA team had not seen any of the target species. However, it was too early for the Puget blues, and the Nature Conservancy team had found healthy populations of *P. mardon* in a part of the study area off-limits to WBA (the artillery impact area).

According to Bob Hardwick, "We have seen first hand the great job the Conservancy is doing in restoring the prairie lands. They have been actively burning and mowing prairie areas to rid them of the Scotch Broom, which can totally destroy a prairie. They also have introduced butterfly food plants into the prairie such as paintbrush and lupines to encourage their spread throughout the prairie. The Conservancy is working hard to set aside as much land as the government will allow so the lands will have a maximum chance of being restored. We have seen healthy populations of the Silvery Blue in all of the prairies we have seen, and in most places the ringlet is also present. We will continue to work throughout the summer to see how the prairie changes with the seasons."

The team is looking for more members. The tentative schedule is to study the area every 10 to 12 days until fall. Since the butterfly species emerge at different times of the season, the area will be constantly changing. They plan to make most visits during the week, so as not to conflict with regular WBA field trips.

Confessions of a Beginning Butterflier

by Tom O'Connell

WBA would win hands down!

I'm just speculating here. If there were to be a contest among NABA chapters, we'd win easily. That is, if the contest fairly tested all-around activities related to butterflies. Of course, we couldn't compete with Arizona or Southern California or Florida chapters on, say, the number of native species identified in a given year by members of the chapter. But if the contest examined all kinds of explorations of butterflies in a given year, I say we'd win.

Does this sound like braggadocio? Well, it is based on conversations I've had with members of other chapters at the two national NABA conferences I've attended. Other chapters seem to have nothing like the variety of activities we have. They typically seem to get together only for field trips during the months when their butterflies are flying. They don't have professional members and seasoned semi-pros who give stimulating educational presentations at monthly meetings year round, as we do. They don't seem to pay much attention to the early stages of a butterfly's development before it begins to fly. Nor do they have counterparts of our Idie Ulsh who know all the local professionals in fields related to butterflies and who invite those pros to come and lecture to their memberships. (I'm not going to even mention our parties.)

They go butterflying. So do we. But, in addition, we learn how to become amateur lepidopterists.

Washington Butterfly Destinations—East and West

SE 39th Street—Fall City

WBA members who live in the King County area have a good butterflying area nearby. Close to Fall City is a natural area that has been a favorite of Idie Ulsh for many years. Those of you who have taken Idie's Beginning Butterflying class may have visited this spot on the course field trip. Idie has identified at least 24 species of butterflies at this location, which is quite a few for the wet side of the mountains.

Directions to SE 39th Street

From the west or east: Take I-90 to the Preston exit. Go left if you've come from the west, or go right if you've come from the east. Cross over the freeway and follow this road through Preston and into Fall City.

From the north: Take 520 east to Redmond, turn right just past Marymoor Park onto the Redmond-Fall City Road and continue to Fall City.

Once you're in Fall City, follow Hwy E 202 over the bridge in the direction of Snoqualmie Falls. Immediately over the bridge turn left onto Hwy N 203 (also called Fall City-Carnation Road). After .2 miles, turn right onto S.E. 39th Place and you're there.

Look for butterflies along the road by the slough, then park at the gate at the end of the road. Hike up the hill; you can make a loop trip if you turn left at the top and walk along the bicycle path. If you turn right at the top of the hill, the bike path crosses a ravine and comes out to another access road.

Reecer Creek Road

A favorite butterflying spot in central Washington is Reecer Creek Road, just outside Ellensburg. Reecer Creek Road is a good area to look for butterflies early in the season. The Road passes through flat pasturelands near town. Following the Road away from town takes you into the Wenatchee National Forest, toward Lion Rock and Table Mountain. You can find many species early in the butterfly season. Even on Ellensburg's famously windy days there are sheltered spots that hold lots of butterflies. As the season progresses, you can continue along the Road to higher elevations, eventually to Table Mountain.

Directions to Reecer Creek Road.

From the west: Exit I-90 at Exit 106, (designated 97 North—Wenatchee). Turn left at the top of the exit ramp. Cross over the freeway, come to a four-way stop at Dolar Way. From the stop sign, drive approximately .7 miles to Reecer Creek Road. Turn left onto Reecer Creek Road at the opposite side of an overpass.

From the east: Exit I-90 at Exit 106, (designated 97 North—Wenatchee). Turn right at the end of the exit ramp, come to a four-way stop at Dolar Way. From the stop sign, drive .7 miles to Reecer Creek Road. Turn left onto Reecer Creek Road at the opposite side of an overpass.

Note: We'd like to include more field trip destinations in future issues of *G'Num*. If you have a spot you'd like to share with other WBA members,

Butterflies and Blooms Returns to Woodland Park Zoo

The popular "Butterflies and Blooms" exhibit has returned to Woodland Park Zoo in Seattle. The exhibit includes free-flying adult butterflies in different habitats, eclosion houses for pupae, and an outdoor demonstration garden of butterfly plants. Zoo horticulturists, docents and other volunteers are on hand to answer questions and further guide learning experiences.

The Zoo is located at N. 50th Street and Fremont Avenue N. in Seattle. It's open every day, including holidays. You can get more information by calling (206) 684-4800, or visiting the Zoo's web site at <http://www.zoo.org>

Officers/Board Members

Note: The annual election of officers is scheduled for the WBA Annual Conference, which is after this issue of *G'Num* went to press. We will report on the election and other conference activities in the next issue.

Richard Youel	President
Dave Nunnallee	Vice President
Mardell Moore	Secretary
Marty Hanson	Treasurer
Idie Ulsh	Programs
Käthe Watanabe	Membership
Jon Pelham	Science Advisor
Tom O'Connell	Writer/Reporter
Jo Nunnallee	Hospitality
Mary Maxwell-Young	Social Events
Maureen Traxler	Newsletter

NonBoard Position: Bob Hardwick is WBA Research Coordinator, organizing WBA field projects.

Membership Application

<https://wabutterflyassoc.org/membership/>