



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 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.

October 5:

“Welcome to the World of Spiders”

Once a year, we branch out to other species in our ecosystem which are predators of lepidoptera. This month *Rod Cranford*, the curator of spiders at the Burke Museum, will present his popular program which includes natural history of spiders, spiders in this region, and spiders as predators of butterflies and moths.

November 2:

“Butterflies of Yellowstone National Park”

Mardell Moore and *Richard Lund* will combine their photographs and the experiences of many summers working on the park research projects. This special program will take you to parts of Yellowstone which are not open to the public and show the beautiful butterflies which occur in the park.

December 7:

“Neotropical Butterfly Research in Ecuador: Their life histories, food plants, and larval shelters.”

Harold Greeney is a remarkable young man. Not yet 30, Harold has already established himself as a field scientist of considerable renown in the Neotropics. Following his bachelor's degree at Wake Forest, Harold earned his MS degree in entomology from the University of Arizona. Six years ago Harold founded his Yanayacu research station in the cloud forests on the east slopes of the Andes Mountains in Ecuador. Living and working there and in other South American localities Harold has developed an astounding degree of expertise in neotropical butterflies, their identification, life histories and especially their larval shelters. Additionally Harold is one of the world's leading authorities on neotropical bird nests, and has an encyclopedic knowledge of neotropical plants, with emphasis on larval food plants.

January

No membership meeting. There will be a Winter Party with date and place to be announced later.

February 1:

“Understanding Optic Choices”

Russell Steele, nature shop manager at the Seattle Audubon Nature Center, will bring a variety of binoculars to illustrate his presentation of what to look for in your purchase of optics, especially close focus. What is perfect for one person may not work for another. Bring your own binoculars to compare with others.

2005 WBA Conference. Last July WBA had its best annual conference yet. The Methow River Valley was as beautiful as ever, butterflies greeted us Friday evening and, even though the weather wasn't exactly ideal on Saturday, we saw a total of 42 species of butterflies during the weekend. Crispin Guppy, our featured speaker on Saturday evening, gave a fascinating talk about the similarities and differences between the butterflies of British Columbia and Washington. Mr. Guppy also gave us a special favor by joining our Saturday field trip. Thanks to Joyce Bergen for organizing such a wonderful weekend, to Idie Ulsh for arranging for Mr. Guppy's appearance, and to all the many other volunteers who pitched in.

Election of Officers. The officers who will serve WBA for the next 12 months were officially elected during the conference. David Williams and I are going to serve another year as Vice President and President, respectively. Donna Schaeffer was elected Secretary, and Mardell Moore is WBA's Treasurer.

2006 WBA Conference. Next year's conference will be headquartered in Metaline Falls July 21-23, 2006. The Metaline Falls area has some excellent butterfly habitats. We hope to find some species that are difficult to find elsewhere in Washington, such as *Boloria selene* (silver-bordered fritillary) and *Colias alexandra* (Queen Alexandra's sulphur). Northeastern Washington is an especially interesting area because it shares some qualities of the Rocky Mountains, and features moist boreal forests and boggy meadows.

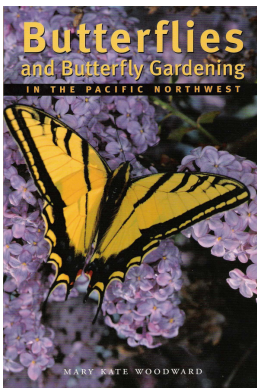
Many of you remember that our June 2003 conference was memorable for the small number of butterfly species we saw, although you have to admire the Garita skipperling that was flying in the rain. We've realized our mistake (summer doesn't start until July in northeastern Washington) and decided to give the area another try. This time we're confident we'll see butterflies in addition to finding fossils.

You'll find more information about the 2006 conference in future issues of G'Num.

Maureen Traxler, WBA President

Book Review

Butterflies and Butterfly Gardening



Mary Kate Woodward of British Columbia has written a 104 page guide to gardening for butterflies.

In the first third of the book, Woodward explains the life cycle of a butterfly and stresses the importance of plants for eggs and larva as well as nectar-producing plants for adults. She makes suggestions for garden designs especially ones with varying heights of foliage to be more hospitable to butterflies.

The second third is a beautiful collection of photos of butterflies common to the Pacific Northwest.

Finally, she addresses plants for butterflies. She has a climate chart for British Columbia, Washington, and Northern Idaho. It is followed by lists of larval host plants and the larva which use the plant, food sources for adult butterflies, herbaceous plants: annual, biennial, or perennial, and sketches of plants. She ends with a resource guide for plants and seeds for British Columbia, Alberta, Alaska,

Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and California.

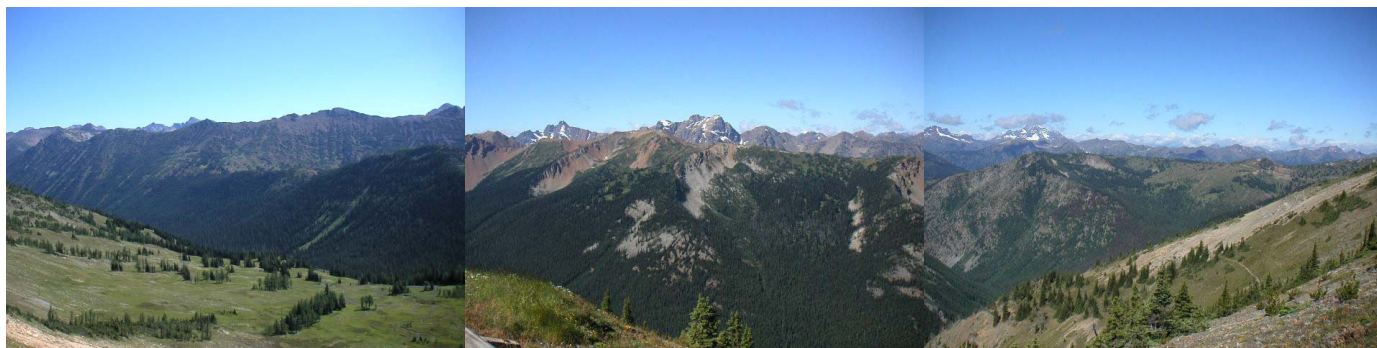
I thought the book to be too basic for most members of WBA, but it would be a good introduction for beginning butterfly gardeners. Also I was surprised by the price of the book.. Originally, I thought the price on the back cover of the book was Canadian dollars. A similar book, [The Butterfly Gardener's Guide](#), an all-region guide edited by Claire Hagen Dole and published by the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, is 120 pages and sells for only \$9.95 US. Woodward's book is \$19.95 US.

This book will be available at Barnes & Noble, Amazon.com and wherever else books are sold. It is published by White Cap Books of North Vancouver, British Columbia.

—Reviewed by Carolyn Heberlein

Photos from Wings of the Methow - Annual Conference 2005

View from Slate Peak



On Top of Slate Peak



Enjoyed by All



Species Identification



Unforeseen Hazards



Confessions of a Beginning Butterfliar

Tom O'Connell

Thanks to perfect weather and the tireless work of our faithful Organizer Joyce Bergen, WBA's Annual Conference in Mazama was a resounding success. We identified 42 butterfly species of which an Arctic Blue, an Arctic Fritillary, and a Chryxus Arctic were the favorites. We enjoyed two evening 'chock-filled' talks by John Pelham and Crispin Guppy, the co-author of Butterflies of British Columbia. It was hot in parts of the Methow Valley and cold on Slate Peak but that meant that each area presented different challenging butterflies to search for and to study.

On Sunday morning, we had what less hardy folks might have called 'an adventure' when our nine-vehicle caravan, rumbling through dark Okanogan woods, found itself suddenly blocked by a large, recently-fallen tree. Were we daunted? Not we! We had a hero with us!! Bill Yake quickly pulled out a small but very sharp axe, which he wisely carries with him, and commenced to chop vigorously away at the sizeable trunk. With the vocal admiration of many fair damsels, loud cheers of support from us less robust guys, and some relief chopping by Dave Nunnalee, the huge trunk was soon cut in two. Then a larger group of us, led by intrepid Marjorie Kittle, rushed into action to lift and push the top half of the tree off the road, permitting one-way traffic (led of course by wildly cheering WBAers) to proceed through the deep Okanogan forest.

Butterflies are softies? Smile when you say that, Pardner.

December Book Sale

Our December membership meeting will also be an opportunity for members to sell their own nature, field guides, travel, and other books. Tables will be available free for each person to display their used books with suggested prices. The suggested donation to WBA is 20 percent of each sale. This is a perfect opportunity to rid your shelves of unused books and make room for new ones as well as to support WBA. There will also be a sale table of books donated to WBA.

WBA Mission Statement

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

Butterfly List for 2005 Conference

Total Species – 42 (40 adults)

July 22, 2005

Near Grange Hall:

Woodland Skipper – *Ochlodes sylvanoides*

Near Brown's Farm:

Pine White – *Neophasia menapia*

Common Wood Nymph – *Cercyonis pegala*

July 23, 2005

Slate Peak and Nearby Meadows:

Clodius Parnassian - *Parnassius clodius*

Mountain Parnassian - *Parnassius smintheus*

Anise Swallowtail- *Papilio zelicaon*

Western Tiger Swallowtail – *Papilio rutulus*

Western White – *Pontia occidentalis*

Sara Orangetip - *Anthocharis sara*

Clouded Sulfur – *Colias philodice*

Orange Sulfur – *Colias eurytheme*

Purplish Copper – *Lycaena helloides*

Mariposa Copper – *Lycaena mariposa*

Silvery Blue – *Glaucopsyche lygdamus*

Anna's Blue – *Plebejus (Lycaeides) anna*

Boisduval's Blue - *Plebejus (Icaricia) icarioides*

Lupine Blue – *Plebejus (Icaricia) lupini*

Arctic Blue - *Agriades glandon megalis*

Mormon Fritillary - *Speyeria mormonia*

Western Meadow Fritillary – *Boloria epithore chermocki*

Arctic Fritillary – *Boloria chariclea rainieri*

Hoffman's Checkerspot – *Chlosyne hoffmanni*

Field Crescent – *Phyciodes pulchella*

Anicia Checkerspot – *Euphydryas anicia*

Edith's Checkerspot - *Euphydryas editha beani*

Mourning Cloak – *Nymphalis antiopa*

Painted Lady – *Vanessa cardui*

Lorquin's Admiral – *Limenitis lorquini*

Vidler's Alpine – *Erebia vidleri*

Chryxus Arctic – *Oeneis chryxus*

Between Slate Peak Meadows and Methow Valley:

Pale Tiger Swallowtail – *Papilio eurymedon*

Pine White – *Neophasia menapia*

Green Comma – *Polygonia faunus*

California Tortoiseshell – *Nymphalis californica*

Small Wood Nymph – *Cercyonis oetus*

July 24, 2005

Bernhardt Creek:

Dreamy Duskywing (eggs) – *Erynnis icelus*

Arctic Skipper - *Carterocephalus palaemon*

Sonoran skipper – *Polites sonora*

Western Tiger Swallowtail – *Papilio rutulus*

Pale Tiger Swallowtail – *Papilio eurymedon*

Pink-edged Sulfur – *Colias interior*

Mariposa Copper – *Lycaena mariposa*

Thicket Hairstreak – *Mitoura spinetorum*

Silvery Blue – *Glaucopsyche lygdamus*

Greenish Blue – *Plebejus saepiolus*

Western Meadow Fritillary – *Boloria epithore chermocki*

Field Crescent – *Phyciodes pulchellus*

Hoary Comma (caterpillar) – *Polygonia gracilis*

California Tortoiseshell – *Nymphalis californica*

Mourning Cloak – *Nymphalis antiopa*

Painted Lady – *Vanessa cardui*

Meadow near Tiffany Spring:

Arctic Skipper - *Carterocephalus palaemon*

Clouded Sulfur – *Colias philodice*

Silvery Blue – *Glaucopsyche lygdamus*

Western Meadow Fritillary – *Boloria epithore chermocki*

Arctic Fritillary – *Boloria chariclea rainieri*

Zerene Fritillary – *Speyeria zerene*

Field Crescent – *Phyciodes pulchella*

Anicia Checkerspot – *Euphydryas anicia*

Edith's Checkerspot - *Euphydryas editha beani*

Painted Lady – *Vanessa cardui*

Vidler's Alpine – *Erebia vidleri*

Our species profile for this issue is the Clouded Sulphur, *Colias philodice*.

The Clouded Sulphur belongs to the family Pieridae, a large worldwide family of butterflies which includes



all of the whites, sulphurs, marbles and orangetips. Butterflies in this family bear a full complement of six functional legs and are typically medium-sized

species which spend a great deal of time on the wing. Although some species are common or abundant, they are typically flighty and difficult to approach. Pierids typically have white or yellow wings, and can be very similar in appearance worldwide, thus are often rather difficult to identify. In Washington there are 17 species of pierids, including 7 sulphurs, 7 whites, 2 marbles and 1 orangetip. Most sulphurs, particularly males, have all yellow wings, very bright yellow in some species; females usually have yellow wings as well, although in some species a portion of the population will be white. Sulphurs are fond of mudding and sometimes males can be found in large aggregations around wet muddy spots.

The Clouded Sulphur is a widespread species occurring across North America.



In Washington the species occurs throughout the eastern part of the state east of the Cascade Mountains, and also in spotty distribution on the west side. *Colias philodice* may be found in lowland agricultural fields, particularly where alfalfa is grown, or well into the mountains, particularly in clearings and along roadways.

The Clouded Sulphur is multiple-brooded in Washington and has a very long reported flight period extending from mid April to early November. All of our sulphurs overwinter as partially grown larvae, a feature which distinctly separates them from the other pierids which overwinter in the chrysalis (or egg in one species). *C. philodice* larvae break diapause and begin feeding in the spring as soon as their foodplant

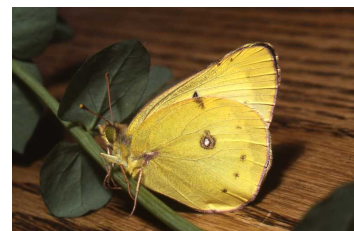
begins growing. Foodplants include a variety of legumes, particularly various locoweeds (*Astragalus*) but also wild pea (*Lathyrus*), clover (*Trifolium*), sweet clover (*Melilotus*), vetch (*Vicia*), alfalfa (*Medicago*), lupine (*Lupinus*) and others. Adult females captured near Vantage in the early spring, and caged with both alfalfa and the locally-occurring *Astragalus*, oviposited initially only on the *Astragalus*, but then also



abundantly on the alfalfa as the *Astragalus* began to wilt. The larvae were reared on alfalfa, and they grew and matured quickly. The slender green larvae feed on the leaves of the host plants, then usually wander to a hidden area to pupate. On emerging to the adult stage the cycle is repeated, and this continues apparently as long as

succulent foodplants remain available. There is some upslope migration into the mountains as the season progresses.

The sexes are dimorphic, as in most of our sulphurs, and are best separated by their black dorsal forewing borders; males have a solid black border while females have a broader but broken, "mottled" border. The Clouded Sulphur can be separated from all other Washington sulphurs except the Orange Sulphur by the presence of a row of brown "eurytheme spots" paralleling the outer margin of the ventral hindwing. Males of *C. philodice* can be separated from Orange Sulphur, *C. eurytheme* males by wing color, the *C. philodice* being entirely yellow and *C. eurytheme* having distinct orange patches dorsally.



Additionally *C. eurytheme* males reflect ultraviolet light, but this is not visible to the human eye in the field. *C. philodice* and *C. eurytheme* sometimes interbreed where they occur together, and females of the two species cannot be reliably distinguished. The two species have been heavily studied (partly because *C. eurytheme* is regarded as an agricultural pest) and are considered distinct as the offspring of hybrids always revert to one of the two parental types rather than some intermediate form.

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Membership Application

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