



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.

January 21

“Winter Party”

Potluck and white elephant gift exchange starting at 5pm at the home of *Jon Pelham*.

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.

March 1:

Please watch our website for information about our March meeting.

April 5:

“Pura Vida: Bushwacking in the Bosques of Central America”

Ian Young and *Mary Maxwell Young* are back with another of their fascinating programs with professional quality photos. This time it will be on their trip to Central America where they not only took some great butterfly photos but also lots of other creatures like monkeys, spiders, moths, frogs, birds, turtles, caimon, crocodiles and plants! (For non-Spanish speakers...Bosques are forests.)

WBA Mission Statement

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

February Book Sale

Books. Books. Books.

We have them and we want to sell them. After the great success of our December book sale, WBA wants to branch out and hold a larger sale. As before this one will focus on natural history books...and we are planning big. We have scheduled the sale February 25, 10:00 to 3:00 at the Douglas Classroom at Center for Urban Horticulture. All profits will go to WBA's ongoing plans to increase education about butterflies. This includes outreach to schools, going to outdoor fairs and events, talks at monthly board meetings, and developing educational curricula.

Over the past year, board members have been collecting and culling books. We have over 300 books and we are also seeking donations from our members. These include "Audubon Society Encyclopedia of North American Birds" by John K. Terres (out of print), "Shorebirds of the Pacific Northwest" by Dennis Paulson, and "Weather of the Pacific Coast" by Walter Rue.

As part of our effort to make this book sale Seattle's best nature book sale, we are looking for volunteers to help coordinate, publicize, and organize volunteers. We will also be looking for volunteers on the day of the sale. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Maureen Traxler.

The Troublin' Buckwheat Blues

by Bill Yake

Got them troublin' buckwheat - *Euphilotes* - blues,
Got them troublin' buckwheat - *Euphilotes* - blues,
Tell me how many species; brother won't you give me a clue?

Are there 1, 2, 3, 4? Break it down brother, give me the lore.
3, 4, 5 - or a passel more?
One on every buckwheat from here to Baltimore?

You got yr Rocky Mountain Dotted, Square-spotted, *enoptes* blues
You got yr Rocky Mountain Dotted, Square-spotted, *enoptes* blues
ancilla, *battoides*, and yr infamous Bat Blue II.

Got some in the spring, some in the summer and fall.
Some in the spring, some in the summer and fall.
Whatever your system, you ain't gonna please 'em all.

Got them troublin' buckwheat - *Euphilotes* - blues,
Got them troublin' buckwheat - *Euphilotes* - blues,
Tell me how many species; brother won't you give me a clue?

Are there 1, 2, 3, 4? Break it down brother, give me the score.
3, 4, 5 - or a passel more?
One on every buckwheat from here to Baltimore?

for JPP

The Curator of Butterflies
shares his narrow office
with the Curator of Spiders.
Each has an ancient desk,
ledgers, binders, texts and
cramped specimen cabinets
stacked to the ceiling.

In his: a dozen trays of Arctics,
a score of Marbles. The Ringlets,
the Wood Nymphs, & row on row
of the puzzling Buckwheat Blues.

The odor of paradichorobenzene permeates.

A trucker & lepidopterist since puberty,
the Curator speaks of all his creatures
in Latin, stands six-three & asserts without
contradiction that Santa Claus was, is & always
has been a Teamster.

Afield and climbing power-line right-of-ways
he sings the reggaes of Bob Marley, blesses
the revolution, & spots two Lilac-bordered Coppers
on an old stump in that red road dust. They are doing,
what he calls for the youngsters' sake, *the wild thing*.

He puts it to music.

Opinionated but no dogmatist, he treats
the radical assertions of firebrand cladists
as nonchalantly as the rattlers he plucks
from canyon trails: "You put your hand
under 'em and they think you're the ground.
Don't give you the least trouble."

The ground he's working now, systematically,
lies between key species concepts: the biological
& the phylogenetic; Ernst Mayr & the computerized
geneticists. The Curator is learning Russian, peering
into deep time & old space: the prairies & dry peaks,
the new islands, the arctic-montane arc running
from Tibet to Colorado.

“Critters,” he says, “given the opportunity to disperse,
will.”

Imagine then, as he does, the genetic turmoil:
glaciers & dry interludes in lapsed time
obliterating food plants - sweeping populations
& whole habitats south into mesic valleys, then -
with each stade - drawing them back into the peaks
& tumbled highland tundra to sort, shuffle and tap
the deck time & again.

Despite claims, assertions, & dogmas; the Curator
knows *all Is Degree and Flux*.

Butterflies and Whales

by Bill Yake

Butterflies and Whales
As like us as unlike,
no trick of light –

the swimmers sort seas with baleen:
bound mouth-combs of keratin-hair;
the flyers, probe wild blooms with siphons:
their proboscises paired and unwound -

all rise.

One kind in air. Another in brine.
One through kelp. Another out of kinnikinnick.
Breech or spyhop, puddle or hilltop,
all breathe and are flexible. All flex, breathe

and breed: live-borne or twice-borne.
Some scaled in silver; some silvered
with barnacles. Vast or erratic,
double star or constellation they arc

in their florescences and phosphorescences.
Throats bellow-pleated, some sound and sing.
Pheromones adrift: others dart silently frantic
then perch. Plankton, wild mustard, sperm

and krill: *grays* and *humpbacks* hang in the sun,
slide beneath pack ice making nets of their exhalations,
while upslope, insects – the *blues*, *elfins*, and *marbles* – bask:
all those of the planet, and the whales as well.

Species Profile: Two-Tailed Swallowtail *Papilio multicaudatus*

by David Nunnallee

Our species profile for this issue is the Two-tailed Swallowtail, *Papilio multicaudatus*



Swallowtails belong to the worldwide family Papilionidae. When Linnaeus coined the name Papilionidae in 1758 this was one of the first butterfly

families, and as such it included most of the world's species of butterflies. Today, while the family is much more restricted, it still includes some of the world's most spectacular butterflies. All seven of Washington's swallowtail species are included in the genus *Papilio*. Swallowtails are large to very large, brightly-colored butterflies, with many but not all species bearing rear wing extensions resembling "tails". Swallowtails are elegant butterflies, flying powerfully but seemingly effortlessly with not very rapid wingbeats, often interspersed with long glides. The Two-tailed Swallowtail is Washington's largest butterfly.



Papilio multicaudatus occurs throughout much of western North America, from southern Canada south through the Dakotas

to Texas, Mexico and the northern parts of Central America. Within Washington State it is found east of the Cascade Mountains, but not on the west side. This superb large butterfly is often found cruising open canyons at low and mid elevations on the east flanks of the Cascades.

All of Washington's swallowtails overwinter in the chrysalis stage, emerging in the spring to feed and mate. Adults have been reported on the wing in Washington from mid April through August. Females lay large white spherical eggs singly, near the

center of the dorsal (top) side of host plant leaves, usually in a shaded area out of the direct sun. The females can be observed alighting on host plant leaves, carefully examining them, then flying on to other leaves, before finally depositing one single egg per shrub. Interestingly, eggs are often placed on partially eaten or damaged leaves even though more perfect leaves are available nearby. The adult then



flies, often a substantial distance, to another shrub and repeats the process. On hatching, the larva feeds on the host plant, eating holes clear through

the tender tip-most leaves. It constructs a thin silk mat on the dorsal side of a leaf where it returns to rest when not feeding. The larva is green and very large, reaching a size greater than 60 mm, and bearing big false eyespots to confuse predators. Near the head there is a concealed, foul-smelling bright orange osmeterium which can suddenly be everted out to further deter predators when the caterpillar is disturbed. The chrysalis is brown and cryptic, attached at the base and angling upward, and secured at the middle with a silk girdle. In captivity about 5 weeks elapsed from egg to pupation.



Four of Washington's swallowtails are of the "tiger" type, with wings of a light background color and with several contrasting black stripes extending from the leading edge of the forewing, slightly tapering backward and angling inward toward the body. In the Two-tailed Swallowtail the ground color is bright lemon yellow.

The Two-tailed can be distinguished from its smaller tiger cousins by its larger size, brighter lemon yellow color, narrower black tiger stripes, and distinct flight pattern with more gliding than the other species. Additionally, as its name suggests, the Two-tailed

Swallowtail has two tails at the rear of each hindwing while the other tiger swallowtails have only one.

spots in the soil, and in prime habitat sometimes congregate with numerous adults of other swallowtail species. Both sexes come readily to nectar flowers.

Male Western Tiger Swallowtails repeatedly patrol their territory on a regular circuit in search of females. Patrol routes often include roadways fringed by foodplants, as well as natural boundaries such as cliff edges or streambeds. Males often sip minerals at wet

Papilio multicaudatus will utilize a number of host plants including Ash, Wild Cherry and Serviceberry, but surely its favorite in the Pacific Northwest is Chokecherry, *Prunus virginiana*.



Winter Party

What: Potluck and Gift Exchange

When: Saturday, January 21 5pm-10pm

Where: Home of Jon Pelham

Hope you are ready for a great party!

Bring a main dish, salad, or dessert and your favorite beverage.

Also bring a white elephant gift of around \$5 value ... something silly or butterfly related.

Dress is casual.

Directions to Jon Pelham's home:

Board Members

Maureen Traxler	President
David Williams	Vice President
Donna Schaeffer	Secretary
Mardell Moore	Treasurer
Richard Youel	Past-President
Idie Ulsh	Programs
Jon Pelham	Science Advisor
Bill Yake	At-Large
Marjorie Kittle	Hospitality
Carolyn Heberlein	Newsletter/Website

Committees

Marty Hanson	Membership
Joyce Bergen	Annual Conference
Bob Hardwick	WBA Research
David & Jo Nunnallee	Field Trips

Membership Application

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