Volume 7, Number 3 **July – September, 2006**

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**.**

July
No membership meeting – conference July 14-16.

August 2
"Share the Wealth"
Last year's Share the Wealth was the best ever! Much learning and a lot of laughter! Bring your butterfly, moth, and dragonfly photos for show and/or identification and don't miss this one...it's always informal, informative and fun! You don't need to contribute to the program to have fun and learn.

September 6
Watch our web page for an announcement of the program for this month.

October 4
Watch our web page for an announcement of the program for this month.

Photos from Chumstick Trip June 25 — Bill Yake

The Fourth of July Butterfly Count at Chumstick resulted in 48 species identified.

Here are a few photos submitted by Bill Yake.



2006 General Membership 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.

Date	Destination	Trip Leader
July 8	Reecer Creek Canyon "Big Day" (Kittitas County)	
July 14-16	WBA Annual Conference, Metaline Falls	See Registration Form
August 5	Haney Meadows (Kittitas County)	Dave Nunnallee
August 19	Quartz Mountain (Kittitas County)	Richard Youel

HOW TO SIGN UP:
Anyone can sign up for field trips at a WBA monthly meeting or by contacting WBA Secretary:

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.

Species Profile: Thicket Hairstreak *Mitoura spinetorum* by David Nunnallee

Our species profile for this issue is the Thicket Hairstreak, *Mitoura spinetorum*. Note however that many lepidopterists currently place all *Mitoura* species in the genus *Callophrys*.

Hairstreaks belong to the large worldwide family Lycaenidae, which also includes all blues, coppers and metalmarks. Hairstreaks are small butterflies, often with taillike extensions or "hairstreaks" on their hindwings. In Washington State there are eighteen species of hairstreaks, three of them in the genus *Mitoura*. All *Mitoura* are generally rather scarce and highly sought after by butterfly enthusiasts. All three species have a close association with evergreen trees, the larvae of one (Cedar Hairstreak) feeding on cedars or junipers, and the other two (Thicket and Johnson's Hairstreaks) feeding on dwarf mistletoe growing on evergreens. All three Mitoura species have distinct white lines on their ventral hindwings, contrasting with a darker ground color of various brown or purplish tones.

This species is found only in close proximity to its larval host plant *Arceuthobium campylopodum*, a type of dwarf mistletoe. *Arceuthobium* is a common parasite of evergreens and *A. campylopodum* has a strong preference for yellow pine, occurring most frequently in foothills and lower mountainous areas. The

Thicket Hairstreak is most likely to be seen basking or nectaring along forest roads where the dwarf mistletoe is common. Dwarf mistletoe dies back each year, but when the bright orange parasitic plant begins growing in the spring the flight period of the Thicket Hairstreak will not be far behind. The mistletoe will be in a relatively early growth stage when *M. spinetorum* begins flying, so the observant butterflier may want to note areas with luxurious *Arceuthobium* infestations during mid summer and check back during the next spring to find the best populations of the Thicket Hairstreak. While its reported flight period in Washington extends from mid April to late August the Thicket Hairstreak is relatively scarce, never abundant, and in some years can be quite difficult to find at all.

Mitoura spinetorum is a western North America species, ranging from British Columbia to Baja California, and from the coastal mountains to the Rockies of southern Alberta, Colorado and New Mexico. Primarily a mountain species *M. spinetorum* is absent from unforested lowlands and arid areas. Within Washington State *M. spinetorum* is almost entirely restricted to the east side of the Cascades, spilling over the divide a bit only in the vicinity of Mt Rainier. In eastern Washington, *M. spinetorum* is found in mountainous areas along the east flanks of the Cascades, across the northern tier mountains from

Okanogan to Pend Oreille Counties, in the far eastern mountains of Spokane County and in the Blue Mountains.

The Thicket Hairstreak life cycle is closely tied to its larval host plant *Arceuthobium campylopodum*, a species of dwarf mistletoe which grows as a parasite on evergreen trees, particularly yellow pine. Eggs are laid singly, directly on the dwarf mistletoe, often tucked deep into the many crevices of the plant. On hatching the tiny yellow-orange larvae are well camouflaged against the similarly-colored host plant, and the later instars become beautifully patterned in blending yellows and greens. The larvae are slow-moving, clinging tightly to a bud or fruiting head of mistletoe and moving on only after it has been largely consumed. On maturity the larvae move to an area of dense needles in or adjacent to the *Arceuthobium* where they pupate, anchoring themselves with a single thin silk girdle thread. In Washington there is a second brood, however this may be only a partial (opportunistic)

brood, as late-flying individuals are seen less frequently than first-brood butterflies. *Mitoura spinetorum* overwinters in the chrysalis stage.

The Thicket Hairstreak, with its white, extremely distinct W-shaped line across the ventral hindwing, contrasting with a reddish-brown ground color, can be confused only with the two other species of

Mitoura. The Thicket Hairstreak overlaps in range with the Cedar Hairstreak in Washington's northeast mountains and in the Blue Mountains. In these areas the Cedar Hairstreak can be distinguished on its ventral hindwing by its generally less distinct and less angular white line, and by an infusion of distinct purplish color which is never present in the Thicket Hairstreak. Beware however that the purplish color fades in worn Cedar Hairstreak adults. Also, the Thicket Hairstreak could potentially be found with the Johnson's Hairstreak west of the Cascade crest in the vicinity of Mt Rainier, and possibly also in Skamania and Whatcom Counties. In these areas the Johnson's Hairstreak can be distinguished by its brown dorsal wing color as opposed to the steely blue color of the Thicket Hairstreak. Also, on the ventral hindwing *M. johnsoni* has a brown ground color overlain by an incomplete row of peripheral black dots, while the Thicket Hairstreak is reddish-brown and has a complete row of peripheral black dots.

Where to Find Butterflies in the Puget Sound Area — By David B. Williams

Although butterflies are less common in the Puget Sound area than on the eastern side of the Cascades, they are here if you take the time to look. The key requirements for butterflies are flowers for nectaring and host plants for egg laying. Below is a list of gardens in the area that meet these requirements. Some are devoted specifically to butterflies and others simply are rich in flowers and potential host plants. In particular, Seattle's abundant P-Patches fit the second category.

P-Patches in Seattle
http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/ppatch/locations.htm

Demonstration Landscapes funded by the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
Heron Park
Partner: City of Mill Creek
Location: Village Green Drive and 155th St. SE, Mill Creek
Description: A 3/4 mile loop trail through a remnant coniferous forest. An interpretive handout describes the wetland boardwalk and butterfly and hummingbird demonstration gardens. A recipient of the MAME award.

Genesee Park
Partner: Seattle Parks and Recreation
Location: Genesee Park, 4420 S Genesee, Seattle
Description: Former creek valley filled in with Seattle solid waste. Native trees, shrubs, and other plants have been planted on berms created in the grassland. The project also includes down wood, a constructed snag, interpretive signs, and rain shelters.

Carkeek Park Environmental Education Center
Partner: Seattle Parks and Recreation
Location: 950 NW Carkeek Park Road, Seattle
Description: A Backyard Wildlife Sanctuary demonstration project that includes native woodland landscapes around the new Environmental Education complex. Other features include a planted hedgerow, a managed meadow, a snag creation, and a bat box survey project.

Lake Hills Greenbelt Ranger Station
Partner: Bellevue Parks and Recreation
Location: 15416 SE 16th (next to Phantom Lake), Bellevue
Contact: Ranger Station 425-452-7225
Description: Ornamental gardens planted with a combination of native and non-native plants to attract hummingbirds, butterflies, and other flying pollinators. Site also features a concrete pond and waterfall, nest boxes for native cavity-nesting songbirds, and a bat house survey. Native plants have been added to the surrounding woodland edges. Information is available in the ranger station.

Auburn City Park Wildlife and Water Conservation Gardens
Partner: City of Auburn
Location: 405 E St. NE, Auburn
Description: A two-acre portion of this traditional savanna-style landscape has been planted with native and non-native plants in various exposures. The project also includes logs, rustic benches, nest boxes, a gazebo, interpretive signs, and an artificial seep.

Other Areas suggested by well-known butterfly gardener Claire Hagen Dole:

Bradner Gardens
Location: 29th Ave. S. and S. Grand (in the Rainier Valley), Seattle
Description: Cheryl Petterson is the Master Gardener who helped create a butterfly/hummingbird garden. It is described on p. 171 in Nature in the City (Mountaineers Books, by Maria Dolan and Kathryn True).

Center for Urban Horticulture Demonstration Gardens
Location: 3501 NE 41st Street, Seattle
Description: at the University of Washington. There are flyers at CUH.
http://depts.washington.edu/urbhort/html/plants/demonstration.html

Seattle Tilth Garden at Meridian Park.
Location: N 45th and Meridian Ave N, Seattle
Description: Great beneficial insect garden, and I often see butterflies there. The Children's Garden is located just west of the main building and the Demonstration Garden is just south of that.
http://www.seattletilth.org/directions/wofficeandgardens\

Woodland Park Zoo
Location: South Entrance located at N. 50th and Fremont Ave N., Seattle, WA
Contact: 206-684-4800
Description: There is a butterfly garden near the Family Farm, and by the butterfly house.
http://www.zoo.org/

Other butterfly locales:

Bellevue Botanical Garden
Location: 12001 Main Street, Bellevue
Contact: 425-452-2750
Description: http://www.bellevuebotanical.org/

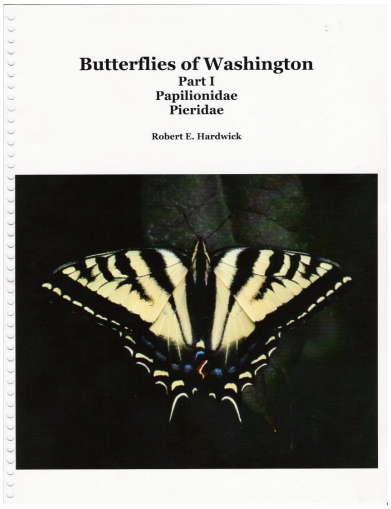
Seattle Pacific University
Location: 3307 Third Avenue West, Seattle
Description: has several gardens including a new butterfly garden. Bursting with color, this new campus garden brims with butterfly-friendly nectar plants that attract several varieties of butterflies to this sunny area of campus.
http://www.spu.edu/special/gardentour/spugardens.asp.asp

Magnuson Park
Partner: Seattle Parks and Recreation
Location: 7400 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle
Description: has a butterfly garden near Promontory Point, in the southeastern part of the park. May need some maintenance.
http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/magnuson/butterfly.htm

Carl S. English Botanical Garden
Location: 3015 N.W. 54th St., Seattle (at the Ballard Locks)
Description: This botanical garden is a tribute to the devotion of its first horticulturist, Carl S. English, Jr. During the 43 years working for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Carl transformed the barren lawn, left after the construction of the locks, into a garden.
http://www.nws.usace.army.mil/PublicMenu/Menu.cfm?sitename=lwsc&pagename=garden

List compiled by David B. Williams

Butterflies of Washington by Robert E. Hardwick



After more than 5 years of work, Bob Hardwick has completed his 4-part book The Butterflies of Washington. This comprehensive book covers all families of Washington State butterflies. In addition to photos, it contains descriptions of each of the species and subspecies of butterflies, flight times, and common places to see the butterflies. Photos are from museum specimens when they could not be found in the wild.

The book is 235 pages with 791 color photos. It is divided into four parts based on families. Bob has not found a reasonable way to get it published yet, but to WBA members, he will print copies at cost using high quality paper and ink for $110 each.

"The book includes some of our rarest butterflies not seen by many that venture out into our great northwest."

WBA Mission Statement

The Washington Butterfly Association is devoted to

scientific understanding and enjoyment of butterflies and their ecology

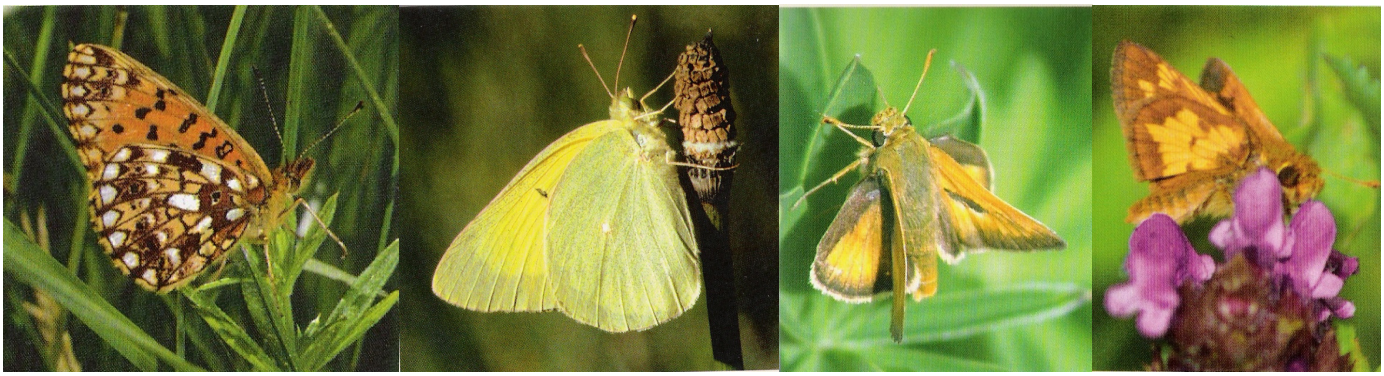
through conservation and education.

Washington Butterfly Association

Seventh Annual Conference

Metaline Falls, Washington

July 14 - 16, 2006



This year's conference explores Metaline Falls in the northeastern corner of Washington State. With moist boreal forests and boggy meadows, this area is rich with butterflies. We may find Silver-bordered Fritillaries (*Boloria selene*) and Queen Alexandra's Sulphur (*Colias alexandra*). Pend Oreille County boasts 14 skipper species, including the Long Dash (*Polites mystic*) and Peck's Skipper (*Polites peckius*). Enjoy all the butterflies this area offers in July; sign up by sending in your registration form now.

Conference program

Friday, July 14

6:30–7:30pm	Registration & refreshments in the Green Room, Cutter Theatre
7:30–8:30pm	**WHAT BUTTERFLIES AND HABITATS ARE WE LOOKING FOR???????** Dave Nunnallee will show his superb photos of the butterflies that occur in the Mettaline Falls area and a view of the ones which we should see on our field trips. He will offer tips on identifying them and what habitats in which they occur. Also Chris Loggers will speak, his subject will be "The Forgotten Corner - The uniqueness of habitat and creatures".

Saturday, July 15

Breakfast on your own

8:30–9am	Meet in front of the Cutter Theatre for an all-day field trip
9am–5pm	All-day field trip
6pm	Buffet dinner in the Green Room, Cutter Theatre
7:30pm	Short business meeting, including election of officers
7:45pm	**BUTTERFLY AND MOTH SCALES... EVERYTHING YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT THEM** Jon Pelham will do a magnificiently illustrated presentation on butterfly and moth scales. This power point presentation will include subjects such as: What are they made of? How do the vary in shape and structure depending upon the species and location on the bodies? Why do some reflect light like hummingbird gorgets and some don't? What are the functions of scales? Can butterflies survive without scales

Sunday, July 16

Breakfast on your own

8:30–9am	Meet in front of the Cutter Theatre for a half-day field trip
9am–1pm	Half-day field trip
1pm	Leave for home

Board Members

Maureen Traxler	President
David Williams	Vice President
Donna Schaeffer	Secretary
Mardell Moore	Treasurer
Richard Youel	Past-President
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
Idie Ulsh	Programs

Membership Application

https://wabutterflyassoc.org/membership/