



Washington Butterfly Association

G'n^um*

The newsletter of the Washington Butterfly Association

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

*G'n^um 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.

April 4

"Mold Butterflies:
 The Butterfly Fauna of the Lower Columbia"

For almost thirty years, *Dr. Robert M. Pyle* has studied the butterflies of the Willapa Hills in southwest Washington. In spite of ten feet-plus of rain, the southwest corner of the state supports a modest but fascinating fauna. Bob will share the adaptations, restraints, specialties, and changes occurring with global warming for the Lepidoptera that Jon Pelham refers to as "Pyle's mold butterflies." Be prepared for some surprises. Bob will also introduce his new book, "Sky Time in Gray's River: Living For Keeps in a Forgotten Place."

May 2

"Why Butterflies?"

Jon Pelham will present this program. Jon, our science adviser, will explore what causes the fascination of persons from all ages, walks of life, and qualities. Jon's programs are always fun, interesting and turning in many directions. Don't miss this one. Kids are always welcome!

June 6

"The Elusive Butterflies of Washington"

Bob Hardwick has prepared a program to help us reach beyond the butterflies we usually see. Using his excellent photos he will show us some of the harder to find butterflies in the state and tell us where to find them. Kids are always welcome!

July

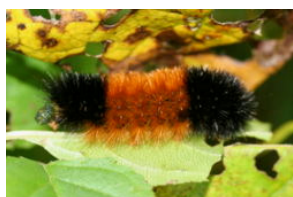
There will be no membership meeting because the conference is June 29 - July 1.

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.

What is that Brown and Orange Caterpillar?



The common moth *Pyrharcia isabella* is known by different common names at its two main life stages. The adult is the **Isabella tiger moth** and the larva is called the **banded woolly bear**. The larvae of many species of Arctiid moths are called "woolly bears" because of their long, thick, fur-like setae. This species is black at both ends with a band of coppery red in the middle. The adult moth is dull yellow to orange with a robust, furry thorax and small head. Its wings have sparse black spotting and the proximal segments on its first pair of legs are bright reddish-orange.



2007 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
March 24	Schnebley between Ellensburg and Vantage	Dave Nunnallee
April 28	Joint trip with Native Plant Society—Cowiche Canyon near Yakima	TBA
May 19	Oak Creek near Naches, northwest of Yakima	Bob Hardwick
June 9	Cooke Canyon near Ellensburg	TBA
June 16	Lewis River in SW Washington, in Longview/Vancouver area	Bob Hardwick
June 24	Chumstick Fourth of July Count near Wenatchee (not WBA event)	Don Rolfs 509-662-7196
June 29-July 1	WBA Annual Conference, Leavenworth	See Registration Form
July 14	Reecer Big Day near Ellensburg	TBA
July 21	Snohomish County – destination TBA	David Droppers
August 4	Kachess Ridge in Kittitas County	TBA
August 25	Stevens Pass or Snoqualmie Pass	TBA

HOW TO SIGN UP:

Anyone can sign up for field trips at a WBA monthly meeting or by contacting WBA Vice-President:

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.

Habitat Study of the Silver Bordered Fritillaries

Dear WBA members,

As those of you who were at the March 7 meeting know, I am putting together a Master's project related to the conservation of silver-bordered fritillary (SBF) habitat in Washington. The main thrust of this project is the effects of grazing on the SBF's violet host plants (typically *Viola palustris* or *V. nephrophylla*); I will be setting up grazing plots and analyzing the effects of different treatments on the density/health/reproduction/etc. of the violets.

However, I also want to do some monitoring of the bug itself, and am looking for a few good WBA folks to come to eastern Washington and observe SBF's with me for a few days during the summers of 2007 and 2008. There are two tasks I have in mind for those interested:



1.) Larval searches -- combing through grazing plots (and elsewhere) on hands and knees looking for SBF caterpillars, recording where if anywhere they are found, and what they are eating. It is possible that the larvae are active at night rather than in the daytime, so if we don't have any luck with this during the daytime, we may have to try again at midnight with flashlights. (I think this sounds like fun.) Optimum season for larval searches would be just before either of the flight periods, when hopefully most of the caterpillars are at a late-instar stage but haven't pupated. I think this would be early-mid June (around the 10th, maybe) and mid-late July (around the 20th).

2.) Oviposition tracking -- stealthily following adult female SBF's with a pair of close-focus binoculars, tracking their every move, and recording where, when, and how, they lay eggs, and flagging plants that eggs have been laid upon/near. Optimum times to do this of course are at the peaks of the flight periods, meaning late June or early-mid August.

At least, these efforts, might provide some insights into larval biology of SBF's in the wild, and at best, if enough larval and oviposition sightings are recorded, I might be able to detect an effect of my grazing treatments on butterfly use.

Of course my exact protocol/methodology is not clear yet, but by the time anyone showed up to help, the idea is I would have known long enough in advance to have a clear and straightforward and (hopefully) fun task ready for them.

This research will be occurring at two locations: Doheny Basin on the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) run Sinlahekin Wildlife Area, near Tonasket, and Escure Ranch, which is owned by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), located east of Ritzville. I'd be happy to have the help at either location.

For those who are interested, what I will do is budget mileage at \$0.485/mile and per diem at \$39/day + lodging for whoever is interested, on a grant proposal I am putting together. That way volunteers will be reimbursed for the cost of traveling, assuming I get the grant. Participants will be signed up as volunteers with WDFW, and maybe the BLM as well if they choose to come to Escure. I'm hoping to know how many people are coming for how long by about the middle of March, so I have time to budget their travel before my grant application is due.

I think it would be an adventure: chasing female SBF's with binoculars all around the swamp; crawling around on hands and knees at night with a flashlight looking for caterpillars.

Thanks ever so much,

Tighe Stuart
Port Angeles, WA



An optimist is the human personification of spring.
Susan J. Bissonette

12th Annual Prairie Appreciation Day

Saturday May 5, 2007 | 10 am - 4 pm | Littlerock, WA

<http://www.prairieappreciationday.org/>

Celebrate the wonder of spring outside on the South Sound prairies during our 12th Annual Prairie Appreciation Day at Thurston County's Glacial Heritage Preserve! This all day event includes exciting activities focused on birds, wildflowers, butterflies, gardening with native plants and ethnobotany. Explore the prairies at your own pace and bring the kids for a hayride and a chance to meet the Big Blue Gopher! Wheelchair accessible activities for individuals and groups will be available at the Washington Department of Natural Resources Mima Mounds Natural Area Preserve. Please leave your pets at home.

Contacts for this event:

Carri Marschner
Glacial Heritage Land Steward

Birdie Davenport
Mima Mounds Natural Area Manager

Directions:

Take I-5 to Exit 95 (the Littlerock exit). Go west through Littlerock (past the gas station and tavern) to the T-intersection at the Mima Road/Waddell Creek. Go south (left) on Mima Road 2.7 miles. You will pass an obscure green and white sign on the right that says "Weyerhaeuser Mima Nursery" at the beginning of fields of tiny evergreen trees. Take the next left onto an unmarked gravel road, where there is tree farm on the near side of the intersection and a few houses on the far left side of the intersection. Please be sure to adhere to the 10 mph speed limit as there are often dogs and small children nearby. Follow the road to its end and park near the gate. For limited mobility/wheelchair accessible tours turn right on Waddell Creek Road at the T intersection and go 0.7 miles north. Mima Mounds Natural Area Preserve is on the left.

Stewart Wechsler - Columbia Gorge Wildflower/Wildlife Trip - April 14-15

Friends and fellow nature enthusiasts,

I will be leading a trip for individuals and families to the Columbia River Gorge to enjoy the native plants in bloom from beautiful Bitterroots - *Lewisia rediviva* to showy shooting stars - *Dodecatheon*. We'll peer at reproductive parts of plants such as Naked Broomrapes - *Orobanchae uniflora* and Barestem Desert Parsley - *Lomatium nudicaule*. We may even nibble on their luscious leaves.

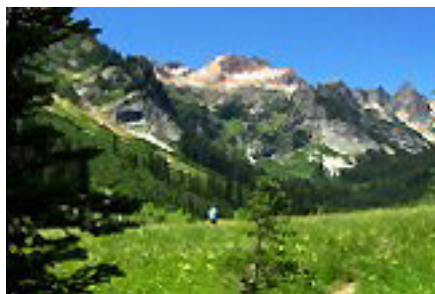
We'll also learn and listen to other life forms, from the birds-a-singing to the butterflies that we find along the way. I'll also have nets so that we can examine the bugs more easily and perch a butterfly or 2 on our fingers or noses before they fly away.



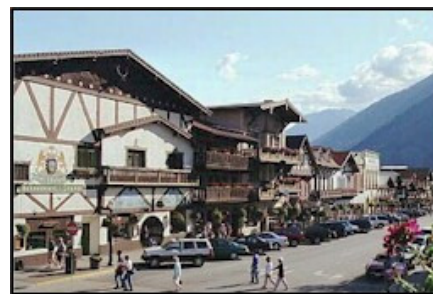
I will rent a van, so everyone will go in one vehicle. We can then better enjoy the plants and animals on the drive as a group more easily than on carpool trips. We will spend the night at the hostel in Bingen. I am still working out the details of the just what time we will leave and return and whether I'd pick people up or meet somewhere. The price will be \$165 per person including lodging at the hostel and all of the transportation costs and my fees. I will also include at least some snacks in this price. I'm still working out what we will do for meals.

This is not a parks trip, or a WBA trip, but my trip. Contact me if you are interested.

Stewart Wechsler | Ecological Consulting | West Seattle |



**Washington Butterfly Association
Eighth Annual Conference
Leavenworth, Washington
June 29 - July 1, 2007**



This year's conference will be held at Tierra Learning Center, a lovely 300-acre non-profit retreat in the Cascade foothills near Leavenworth. Tierra was once a farm, and we will hold our lectures in the atmospheric barn that still stands there. You may wander the grounds and visit the butterfly garden, the pond, and the organic vegetable garden, or follow trails leading into the adjoining hills.

If you choose to book your room and meals at Tierra, WBA is offering a package that includes both lodging and meals in one price. Pleasant suites are available with living rooms, full baths, and small kitchenettes. Meals are served in the attractive lodge, prepared by Tierra staff using organic ingredients – some from their own garden, and some from local growers.

The surrounding diverse countryside includes lush valleys, old growth forest, and mountain meadows. Saturday and Sunday field trips should be rich with many species of butterflies.

For more information on Tierra Learning Center, visit their website <http://www.tierralearningcenter.org/>

Conference program

Friday, June 29 **Tierra Barn**

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| 4:30–6:30pm | Check-in for Tierra lodgers and conference registration |
| 6:30pm | Orientation for Tierra lodgers |
| 6:30–7:30pm | Continued check-in, registration, and refreshments |
| 7:30–8:30pm | Dr. Don Rolfs will acquaint us with the geology, habitat and butterflies of the Leavenworth area. He has lived and explored in the Wenatchee area for many years and is a well known photographer of butterflies in that region. This will be an excellent introduction for our conference field trips. |

Saturday, June 30

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| 7:00–8:00am | Breakfast in Tierra Lodge for those staying at Tierra
Pack lunch sandwich bar open in Tierra Lodge for those who pre-ordered |
| 8:30 | Meet in front of the Tierra Barn for an all-day field trip |
| 9:00am–5:00pm | All-day field trip |
| 6:00pm | Buffet dinner in Tierra Lodge for those who pre-ordered |
| 7:30pm | Short business meeting, including election of officers, in Tierra Barn |
| 7:45pm | Our keynote speaker will be Dr. Merrill Peterson, biology professor at Western Washington University. |

Sunday, July 1

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| 7:00–8:00am | Breakfast in Tierra Lodge for those staying at Tierra
Pack lunch sandwich bar open in Tierra Lodge for those who pre-ordered |
| 8:30 | Meet in front of the Tierra Barn for a half-day field trip |
| 9:00am–2:00pm | Half-day field trip |
| 2:00pm | Leave for home |

OPTIONAL LODGING AND MEAL PACKAGE at Tierra Learning Center

This package includes Friday and Saturday night in a Tierra suite. Each suite includes a bedroom with a queen bed, living room (with a queen bed sleeper sofa), full bathroom and small kitchenette with microwave and refrigerator. Each suite can accommodate 1-4 people. One wheelchair-access suite is available. Each person staying in a Tierra suite must purchase a meal package; it includes ALL the meals described below.

Saturday Breakfast

Coffee cake or sweet bread, hard-boiled eggs, toast/bagel bar (w/ cream cheese, jam, peanut butter, honey, etc.), fruit, yogurt, homemade granola, orange juice, coffee, and tea.

Saturday Lunch

Pack your own lunch at the sandwich bar that morning: grilled eggplant, tomatoes, cucumber, lettuce, peppers, greens, cream cheese, hummus, olive tapenade, onion, pickles, cheeses, avocado, peanut butter, jam, honey, etc. Plus fruit, quinoa salad, cookie, and juice or water.

Saturday Night Dinner

3 Sisters enchiladas made with seasonal vegetables; Spanish rice; salad of romaine, jicama, mango, pumpkin seeds & avocado, dressed in lime vinaigrette; cabbage salsa; Tierra's salsa; sour cream; chips; dessert; and lavender lemonade & iced tea.

Sunday Breakfast

Muffins, hard-boiled eggs, toast/bagel bar (w/ cream cheese, jam, peanut butter, honey, etc...), fruit, yogurt, homemade granola, orange juice, coffee, and tea.

Sunday Lunch

Pack your own lunch at the sandwich bar that morning: grilled eggplant, tomatoes, cucumber, lettuce, peppers, greens, cream cheese, hummus, olive tapenade, onion, pickles, cheeses, avocado, peanut butter, jam, honey, etc. Plus fruit, fancy potato chips, carrot styx, fruit oat bars, and juice or water.

If you have special dietary needs, please contact Marty Hanson.

OPTIONAL CAMPING AND MEAL PACKAGE

This package includes Friday and Saturday night camping in a grassy field surrounded by woodland. Hot showers and flush-toilets are available in the nearby bathhouse, and in the main lodge a short distance away. Each camper must purchase a meal package; it includes ALL the meals described above.

For more details on Tierra Learning Center, visit their website <http://www.tierralearningcenter.org/>. For those wishing to book additional nights before or after the conference, contact Joanna Dunn at Tierra Learning Center. Toll-free 866-548-6880. Locally 548-6880.

OTHER LODGING OPTIONS

If you do not wish to stay at Tierra, there are many lodging opportunities in Leavenworth, less than seven miles away. Quality Inn is centrally located: 185 Highway 2, Leavenworth; 800-693-1225 or 509-548-7143. Other Leavenworth lodging can be found at this website <http://www.leavenworth.org/>

Forest Service campgrounds are west of Leavenworth. For more information, call 509-548-6977, 206-470-4060, or visit the website <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/wenatchee/recreation/wenatchee-river/campgrounds/>



Our species profile for this issue is the Two-banded Checkered Skipper, *Pyrgus ruralis*.

The Two-banded Checkered Skipper is included in the family Hesperidae, the large worldwide family of butterflies known as skippers. All North American skippers have recurved antennal clubs. Most skippers fit into two subfamilies, the Pyrgine or "spreadwing" skippers, and the Hesperine or "monocot" skippers. In Washington there are 30 species of skippers, 12 of which are Pyrgine (spreadwing) skippers. The spreadwings include the genus *Pyrgus*, in which there are three species in Washington.

Skippers in the genus *Pyrgus* are small. Dorsally they are brown to gray-brown, checkered with contrasting squarish white spots, and the pattern of these spots is useful in identifying the species. Ventrally the pattern is reversed, being white to gray in background coloration with darker squarish brown spots. Our three species of *Pyrgus* generally occupy very different habitats, *P. ruralis* in moist, forested areas on both sides of the Cascades, *P. communis* strictly east of the Cascades in Washington, mostly in lower foothills and the dry Columbia Basin, and *P. centaureae* in high alpine habitats of the far North Cascades. Two-banded Checkered Skippers can often be found along the shoulders of unsurfaced roads in forested areas, or in such places as gravel pits or along powerline rights-of-way. *P. ruralis* is the darkest of our three checkered skippers, both dorsally and ventrally.

The Two-banded Checkered Skipper is a strictly western species, occurring from southern British Columbia, south along the coast through more than half of California, and east to the eastern flanks of the Rocky Mountains, exclusive of arid regions within this range. In Washington State *Pyrgus ruralis* is found on both sides of the Cascade Mountains (although it is much more common on the west side), and

throughout the forested areas around the perimeter of the Columbia Basin.

Pyrgus ruralis is single-brooded in Washington, attributing its long flight period to elevational differences rather than multiple broods. This species overwinters in the chrysalis, allowing it to eclose very early in the spring, one of our earliest butterflies. The reported flight period in Washington is late March through mid July. This skipper uses Strawberry (*Fragaria*), Cinquefoils (*Potentilla*) and Mallows (*Sidalcea*), probably Avens (*Geum*) and possibly Horkelia (*Horkelia*) as its larval food plants. Females lay eggs singly on the undersides of leaves of the food plant. The first two larval instars construct silken mats on the leaf surface and live under the mats where they feed by surface grazing. By third instar they become strong enough to tie the leaves, sometimes several, together with silk strands to make protective nests, living on the ventral leaf surfaces and skeletonizing the leaves in the nest, feeding mostly at night. By "poop-shooting" they propel their frass away from the nest. Like many skippers the larvae rest with their heads curved back parallel to the body in a candycane shape.

An adult collected near Nooksack Falls on May 27 produced viable eggs, and a natural egg was found on wild strawberry on Amabalis Mountain near Easton on June 13. At higher elevations the cycle is surely later in the season. Development in captivity took 52 days from egg hatch (June 4) to pupation (July 26).

In Washington *Pyrgus ruralis* is best separated from the two other species of *Pyrgus* by its darker coloration, woodland habitat, and by the crude "X" formed by white spots against a dark brown ground color on the dorsal forewing. Additionally *P. ruralis* is the only checkered skipper found west of the Cascade Mountains.

Board Members

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Joyce Bergen	Annual Conference
Bob Hardwick	Research Projects
David & Jo Nunnallee	Field Trips
Idie Ulsh	Programs

Membership Application

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

Mail application form to: NABA, 4 Delaware Rd., Morristown, NJ 07960

Further information: wabutterflyassoc@earthlink.net or call Idie Ulsh at (206) 364-4935.