



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 / Events

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.

August 6

“Share the Wealth”

Always an entertaining, fun and educational program. Bring your photos to share with us for education, entertainment or species identification. Everyone works together to make this fun. Bring photos in digital, slide or printed form. This informal meeting gives members a chance to get to know each other better. All levels of photography encouraged and appreciated.

September 3

“Butterflies of the Peruvian Amazonia”

Bob Hardwick will share with us photographs and adventures of his recent three week stay in the Peruvian Amazonia. There are over 3,366 butterfly species identified, and probably many more yet undiscovered, in the Peruvian part of Amazonia. This area is particularly biodiverse, holding thousands of species of flora and fauna which are not found anywhere else in the world. Bob always presents interesting and educational programs.

October 1

“Rearing Lep-Kids: getting kids interested in Butterflies”

This programs will be put on by kids who have grown up in WBA and butterfly study along with Martha Robinson. The kids call themselves: INSTARS (Incredibly Nutty Students Training to Assist Research Scientists). They will share what got them interested in butterflying, describe special butterflying memories, metamorphosis parties, success-guaranteed day trips, research assistance and ideas for parents and teachers to make butterflies and nature fascinating and fun for kids. Make all teachers, parents and WBA members aware of this incredible program!

November 5

“Butterflies of Sulawesi “

Rayna Holtz, part of WBA's Vashon contingent, will present this breathtaking program. Because this one of the world's most biodiverse areas she will also add photos of other unusual animals such as birds, sea turtles, tarsiers, macaques, anoa, babirusa, frogs, etc. that are endemic. She will also present opportunities to get involved in research in Sulawesi. (Sulawesi, formerly known as Celebes, is one of the four larger Sunda Islands of Indonesia and is situated between Borneo and the Maluku Islands.) Bring your friends and neighbors!

December 3

“Learning about Pacific Northwest Moths”

John Davis, a retired wildlife biologist from Stevenson, will use his excellent photos to illustrate local moths and the variety of size and beauty of this little known but very large group of leps. He will also give tips on techniques for attracting and photographing moths. John is a highly respected student and photographer of Northwest moths. (Some of you met John at our Dayton WBA state conference.) You can see his work ahead of time by googling: “Northwest moths John Davis”.

January

Reminder: There will be no WBA program in January. Stay tuned for details on our winter potluck!

Throughout the year of 2008, the noted lepidopterist and writer Robert M. Pyle will be undertaking a historic journey to find, experience, and identify as many of the approximately 800 species of butterflies as possible in the United States and Canada. The literary fruits of this project will be published by the Houghton Mifflin Company as a book entitled **Swallowtail Seasons: The First Butterfly Big Year.**

Bob is up to **290** species this year as of July 17, 2008.

To track Bob's progress, go to:

http://www.xerces.org/Butterfly_Conservation/butterflyathon.html

Thoughts

from the WBA President



What Great People. I've really enjoyed being part of WBA.



The run-up to the Conference in Dayton, drove home just why: What great people we have! Throughout the year our speakers and programs get lined up, the newsletter gets published, our website gets updated, field trips get planned and leaders come forward, refreshments are provided, etc., etc. And then there was preparation for the Conference, with Joyce Bergen running way out ahead of us, lining up everything and solving a last-minute glitch when our meeting venue was suddenly to be unavailable. Jennifer Kauffman stepped in to handle all the registration. Then the whole Board pitched in to cover Joyce's to-do list -- providing a species list, getting it and the program printed, providing soft drinks, and all.



Sure, there's always more we *could* be doing--more outreach, fund-raising, more for kids, etc. If you've got ideas and are willing to get involved, let us know.

Al Wagar
President

WBA Booth and Al Wagar at
Glacial Heritage's Mima Mounds
Prairie Days on May 3



Hairstreaks belong to the cosmopolitan family Lycaenidae, which also includes all blues, coppers and metalmarks. Hairstreaks are rather small butterflies, often with tail-like extensions or "hairstreaks" on their hindwings. In Washington State there are eighteen species of hairstreaks, but only one in the genus *Strymon*, a genus better represented in the new world tropics.

Strymon melinus is one of our most common hairstreaks, found throughout Cascadia except near the Pacific Ocean in Washington. The flight period is very long, late March to early October. An extraordinary diversity of larval host plants is used including *Trifolium* (clover), *Sedum* (stonecrop), *Quercus* (oak), *Fragaria* (strawberry), *Humulus* (hops), *Polygonum* (knotweed), *Rumex* (dock), *Lotus* (deervetch/trefoil), *Vicia* (vetch), *Salsola* (Russian Thistle), *Eriogonum* (buckwheat), rosaceous plants, corn, beans, mallows and many others. *Strymon melinus* occurs in many habitats from coastal scrub-heath to eastern Washington shrub-steppe as well as foothill, mountain and subalpine areas, avoiding only thick forests. However, in spite of its amazing adaptation *S. melinus* is typically found in small numbers, abundant only in low elevation shrub-steppe riparian habitats along major rivers such as the Columbia, Snake and Yakima. Males perch and wait in search of females, mating soon after females eclose. Eggs are laid singly on unopened coiled terminal flower buds or on nearby leaflets. This species is multi-brooded, reproducing as long as host plants and weather permit, with three broods likely in our area.

Wild larvae can be found as late as early September at mid elevations, attesting to the long flight period and multiple broods of this species. Eggs hatch about day 3 post oviposition, and the larvae reach maturity

about 24 days post-oviposition. Pupation occurs at about 27 days and adults begin emerging about 37 days post-oviposition. Eggs are laid on flowers or leaves, are well camouflaged or hidden in flower parts and are strongly attached. Egg shells are uneaten except for an escape hole and the larvae immediately seek flowers to feed on if they are present. If flowers are not available the larvae will feed on leaves. Feeding on flowers is the primary behavior but the ability to utilize leaves permits exploitation of multiple hosts and habitats. Leaf-fed larvae may be green throughout development, while those feeding on colored flowers may be brightly colored in a number of different tones, usually matching the plant. Camouflage provided by adopting the color of host plants is an important survival strategy. This species is often associated with ants which provide some level of protection against predators and parasitoids. Pupation occurs in a sheltered location such as a curled leaf. This species has four instars and is generally solitary; the larvae make no nests at any stage and the pupa overwinters. Partly grown wild larvae can be found by beating host plant flowers such as *Eriogonum elatum* into a hand net in July or August, or by hand-searching flowers of known hosts. Observing female behavior may reveal the preferred host plant at that locality.

The Gray Hairstreak can be confused only with other "tailed" hairstreaks. The dark gray dorsal color with a bright orange spot on each dorsal hindwing make this species unmistakable. If only the ventral side is seen, the large, bright orange double spots on the ventral hindwing are also unmistakable, and the adults additionally have a handsome postmedian band of black spots with contrasting white outer edges. This is one of our largest hairstreaks, although its size may vary considerably.

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
July 12	2 - Reecer Big Day near Ellensburg	David Nunnalle
July 19	2-3 Monte Cristo - Snohomish County near Granite Falls	David Droppers
August 2	4 - Sauk Mountain on North Cascades Highway 20 beyond Concrete	Al Wagar
August 9	2 - Haney Meadows near Ellensburg	David Nunnallee
August 23	3 - Snoqualmie Pass	David Nunnallee

DIFFICULTY RATINGS:

- 1 Easy, mostly by car, minor walking along roads
- 2 Fairly limited walking, some slopes involved.
- 3 Moderate, up to 1.5 miles walking with moderate slopes
- 4 Difficult, hiking on trails or terrain are steep in places.
- 5 Very difficult, extended hiking on trails or steep terrain.

HOW TO SIGN UP: Anyone can sign up for field trips at a WBA monthly meeting or by contacting WBA Vice-President: Donna Shaeffer at donut@u.washington.edu or 206-525-5328.

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.

COSTS:

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.

Passengers are expected to share gasoline expenses. It is suggested that each rider pay the driver a fair portion of the gasoline cost plus a share of any park entry fees, ferry fares, etc.

For example: if a driver has used a half of a tank of gas, and it would cost \$30 to replenish the gas, then with 3 passengers, each passenger would reimburse the driver \$10. The driver does not include himself with estimating the amount for each person to pay. The driver has

maintenance and insurance costs as well as wear and tear on himself after driving all day.

GENERAL:

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.

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.

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.

Conference 2008 Butterfly List

Parnassians & Swallowtails

Clodius Parnassian (*Parnassius clodius*)
Mountain Parnassian (*Parnassius smintheus*)
Anise Swallowtail (*Papilio zelicaon*)
Indra Swallowtail (*Papilio indra*)
Western Tiger Swallowtail (*Papilio rutulus*)
Pale Swallowtail (*Papilio eurymedon*)
Two-tailed Swallowtail (*Papilio multicaudata*)

Whites and Sulphurs

Western White (*Pontia occidentalis*)
Cabbage White (*Pieris rapae*)
Margined White (*Pieris marginalis*)
Large Marble (*Euchloe ausonides*)
Stella Orangetip (*Anthocharis stella*)
Orange Sulphur (*Colias eurytheme*)

Gossamer-wings

Edith's Copper (*Lycaena editha*)
Purplish Copper (*Lycaena helloides*)
Lilac-bordered Copper (*Lycaena nivalis*)
Western Green Hairstreak (*Callophrys affinis*)
Gray Hairstreak (*Strymon melinus*)
Western Tailed-Blue (*Cupido amyntula*)
Echo Blue (*Celastrina echo*)
Arrowhead Blue (*Glaucopsyche piasus*)
Silvery Blue (*Glaucopsyche lygdamus*)
Cascadia Blue (*Euphilotes cascadia*)
Columbia Blue (*Eupholotes Columbia*)

Lupine Blue (*Plebejus lupini*)

Greenish Blue (*Plebejus saepiolus*)

Boisduval's Blue (*Plebejus icarioides*)

Brush-footed Butterflies

Great Spangled Fritillary (*Speyeria cybele*)
Hydaspe Fritillary (*Speyeria hydaspe*)
Western Meadow Fritillary (*Boloria epithore*)
Northern Checkerspot (*Chlosyne palla*)
Sagebrush Checkerspot (*Closyne acastus*)
Mylitta Crescent (*Phyciodes mylitta*)
Northern Crescent (*Phyciodes cocyta*)
Field Crescent (*Phyciodes pulchella*)
Chalcedon Checkerspot (*Euphydryas chalcedona*)
Hoary Comma (*Polygonia gracilis*)
Milbert's Tortoiseshell (*Aglaia milberti*)
Mourning Cloak (*Nymphalis antiopa*)
California Tortoiseshell (*Nymphalis californica*)
Painted Lady (*Vanessa cardui*)
Lorquin's Admiral (*Limenitis lorquini*)
Common Ringlet (*Coenonympha tullia*)
Common Wood Nymph (*Cercyonis pegala*)

Skippers

Dreamy Duskywing (*Erynnis icelus*)
Persius Duskywing (*Erynnis persius*)
Two-banded Checkered-Skipper (*Pyrgus ruralis*)
Common Checkered-Skipper (*Pyrgus communis*)
Western Branded Skipper (*Hesperia colorado*)



**Washington Butterfly
Association
Ninth Annual
Conference
Dayton, Washington
June 27 - 29**



Photos by Robin Lewis, Al Wagar, and David Nunnallee

DAYTON -- What makes a grown man or woman stalk through the local mountain meadows in near 100-degree weather, carrying net, jar and binoculars?

The elusive Persius duskywing. Or a fluttering western branded skipper. Perhaps a gray hairstreak. Or a hoary comma, painted lady or great spangled fritillary. In short, they came to our mountains for butterflies.

"The Blue Mountains, they are a different habitat than our Cascades, with the higher elevation, and as summer goes on, the lowland butterflies are more common here," said the founder of the Washington Butterfly Association, Idie Ulsh of Seattle.

Early Saturday morning behind the Weinhart Hotel, the first field-trip for the three-day conference set off in a dozen vehicles -- most of them Subaru Outbacks -- and drove through the local hills carrying about 40 butterfly hunters, but no pith helmets.

This was the second time in five years that the group has met in Dayton for its annual conference, which was organized by Joyce Bergen, master of the butterfly net.

"There are two ways to use the net," Bergen explained during Sunday's field trip, while standing near a marshy, muddy spring that was swarming with flies, bees and butterflies.

"If you see the butterfly flying toward you, you can take the side technique and swoop," she said as she demonstrated the action. In a fraction of a second, Bergen swung her net in an arch of about five feet, then back and forth she repeated the swift movements. "Be prepared for that butterfly to take a diversionary maneuver. So a lot of time you swoop back and forth a few times." There was no butterfly to catch for this demonstration. Had there been, Bergen surely would have netted it, and then let it go. That's because this club is strictly catch-and-release.

"Hey Collin, you want to stick this on your finger," said Paul Doan of Bellevue, Wash., only minutes after netting a female Sara orangetip and placing it in a jar. After passing the jar around to a few members to share a closer look, he then handed it the middle-school-age boy, who took off the lid and let the orangetip climb on his index finger. Then after 30 seconds she fluttered away.

"There are people who like to collect them, but in this group we are strictly catch and release. And by holding it

in the jar, you can bring it closer to yourself and understand the complexity of the butterfly by looking at it," Doan said.

The national association has even tougher standards, allowing observation only with binoculars, which means no nets. But Washington's only butterfly association isn't so strict. The reason, Ulsh explained, is to allow people, especially children, to have a closer experience with nature, which is why many members join in the first place.

According to Ulsh, most of the 110 members of the group already had experience studying animals prior to joining. Typically, as in Ulsh's case, they were bird watchers looking for a change. But what they got was a chance to get extremely close to nature.

"When you see a new member with a butterfly sitting on their finger, they are usually hooked for life," Ulsh said; then she remembered her first encounter. "It was indescribable. Here is something wild trusting you. Of course, sometimes you rub a little perspiration on your finger, that is what attracts the butterflies."

In addition to the field trips, members also attended lectures, including one led by David James, an entomologist and associate professor at Washington State University's Irrigated Agriculture Research and Extension Center in Prosser.

"Butterflies are what got me into entomology in the first place, I was fascinated by insects at an early age, seeing caterpillars in the garden and collecting them and watching them change into butterflies," James said.

On Saturday, James lectured on the environmental issues surrounding Washington's butterflies, especially the loss of habitat. And again on Sunday he had the chance to talk about one of our rarer butterflies, the monarch, which wasn't always so rare in these parts.

"The breeding grounds in California are becoming less and less," he explained. "We know the populations are just shrinking, so therefore there is less of a population that is able to move to the Pacific Northwest for the summer.

"The bottom line is, the less diversity we have on the planet, whether it is butterflies or plants or whatever, the more likely we are to get into trouble ecologically," he said.

Alfred Diaz can be reached at alfreddiaz@wwub.com or 525-3300, ext. 272.

http://union-bulletin.com/articles/2008/06/30/local_news/080630local02butterflyconference.txt

WBA Noticeline

It is time to re-signup for the WBA Noticeline. The WBA Noticeline is a free "opt-in" service for members of the Butterfly Association. Selected scientific butterfly articles, general information and announcements are E-mailed to those who wish to receive it. Members often contribute articles to this service. We are careful not to share your addresses, send non-WBA information or to overuse this service.

Even if you have previously been on the Noticeline, please E-mail: idieu@earthlink.net
and in the subject line indicate: "Add WBA Noticeline".

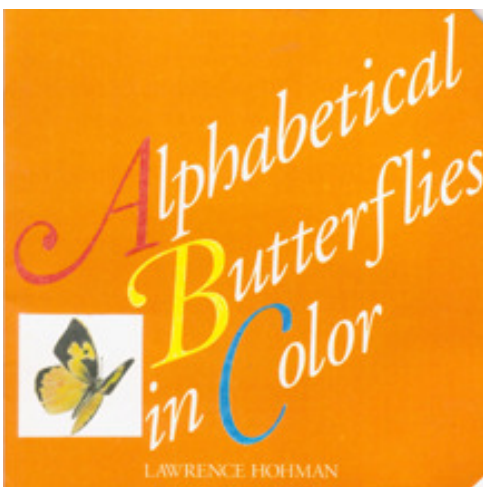
What Are Those Numbers On The Label After My Name?

Have you ever wondered what the numbers on the mailing label mean that are after your name?

They are the date when your membership in our organization expires. Please renew your membership when you see that it is time. We may send you a newsletter after the date, but only because we think that the check could be in the mail or in process at NABA.

Alphabetical Butterflies in Color

by Lawrence Hohman



This delightful new book has a butterfly for each letter of the alphabet from Atala to Zebra as well as a poem to go with each one. Illustrations are with their preferred botanical. They include at least one butterfly that is actual size.

The butterflies are from North and South America. This would be an excellent gift for a young beginning butterflyer.

To order, contact www.nwpubco.com.
The retail price is \$10.50.

WBA Mission Statement

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

Board Members

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Joyce Bergen	Annual Conference
David & Jo Nunnallee	Field Trips
Idie Ulsh	Programs

Membership Application

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