



Washington Butterfly
Association

*G'nium**

The newsletter of the Washington Butterfly Association

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

*G'nium 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.

July – no meeting because of annual conference

August 5

“Share the Wealth”

Plan to share some of your summer butterfly photos whether to share or to get help in identification.

September 2

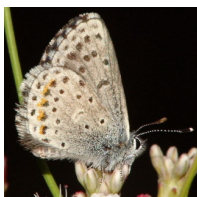
“Sniffing out Kincaid's Lupine by David Vesely and his dog Rogue”

David G. Vesely, wildlife ecologist and Executive Director of the Oregon Wildlife Institute in Corvallis, and his dog Rogue, a 4-year-old Belgian sheepdog, will present this fascinating program as a team. The dog has been trained to find Kincaid's lupine, a rare (threatened) native plant closely associated with the Fender's Blue (endangered) butterfly, which uses the plant as a place to lay its eggs and later as a food source. With grants from the [Disney Foundation](#) and the [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#), David has trained five Belgian sheepdogs to sniff out specific plants in this critical research.

October 7 - Libby Mills

November 4 - Ann Potter

Registration Deadlines for Yakima Conference July 17-19



Dotted Blue



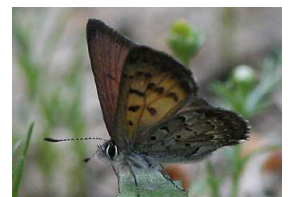
Becker's White



Halfmoon Hairstreak



Zerene Fritillary



Mariposa Copper

The Washington Butterfly Association conference registration deadlines are fast approaching.

June 23 - If you want to attend the Saturday dinner, your registration must be submitted before June 23.

July 9 - Registration for the conference itself and/or conference field trips has a deadline of July 9.

Join us as we explore the rocky and rugged wilderness west of Yakima, a first-time location for the WBA Annual Conference. Depending on weather and blooming season, we may be in dry shrub-steppe, moist meadows, or cool sub-alpine habitats. Target locations might include Bear Canyon, the Rimrock area, and/or Bear Creek Mountain.

Possible highlights of butterfly species we may see include the Halfmoon Hairstreak (*Satyrium semiluna*), Arctic Blue (*Agriades glandon*), Arrowhead Blue (*Glaucopsyche piasus*), Blue Copper (*Lycaena heteronea*), Mariposa Copper (*Lycaena mariposa*), Sonoran Skipper (*Polites sonora*), Clodius Parnassian (*Parnassius clodius*), and Two-banded Checkered Skipper (*Pyrgus ruralis*).

The area also has the “true” Dotted Blue (*Euphilotes enoptes*) found nowhere else in the state, and small colonies of the endangered Mardon Skipper (*Polites mardon*); with good timing and some luck we could see these.

If the weather is right, we could see several of the Greater and Lesser Fritillaries – *xerene*, *coronis*, *callippe*, *hydaspe*, *mormonia*, *chariclea*, and *epithore*. We may even look for a “mystery *Pontia*” – that could be a new species – related to the Western White (*Pontia occidentalis*) and Becker’s White (*Pontia beckerii*).



Blue Copper



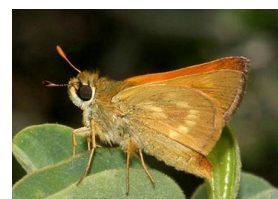
Bear Canyon



Dayton Conference



Bear Canyon



Sonoran Skipper

Conference program

Friday, July 17

6:30–7:30pm

Check-in, registration, and refreshments

7:30–8:30pm

Butterflies of the Yakima Region presented by Dr. David James.

David is Associate Professor, Department of Entomology at Washington State University. He will review butterfly species we are likely to see on Saturday and Sunday field trips, and will go over the type of habitat we will explore. David is an excellent photographer and is collaborating with Dave Nunnallee to research and photograph immature stages of butterflies of Cascadia for their upcoming book.



Saturday July 18

8:30

Meet for an all-day field trip

8:30am–4:00pm

All-day field trip

6:30pm

Dinner for those who signed up.

7:30pm

Short business meeting, including election of officers.

7:45pm

Conserving the Rainbow Resource by Dr. Robert Michael Pyle

Butterfly conservation has a rich history, an energetic present, and a challenging future. Bob Pyle has been deeply involved in this effort for more than forty years, and in this talk he shares some of its most intriguing and important stories. Through striking and historic color slides converted to Powerpoint images, he will take us from the field's beginnings with the Black Hairstreak and the Large Blue in England to the Xerces, Karner, Fender's, and Miami Blues in this country, and consider the future effects of climate change, among other low and high points in the protection of a rich butterfly heritage. Of course there will be examples from our own state of Washington, including what may have been the country's first butterfly preserve.



Sunday July 19

8:30

Meet for a half-day field trip

8:30am–1:00pm

Half-day field trip

1:00pm

Leave for home

Yakima Lodging

Please note that you are responsible for making your own lodging arrangements.

Meetings on Friday and Saturday evenings, and meetings Saturday and Sunday mornings for field trips will be held at the Oxford Suites Yakima Hotel, 1701 E. Yakima Avenue.

The Oxford Suites Yakima Hotel offers us a special rate for rooms holding one or two persons - \$105.00 (\$117.51 w/tax) for rooms with either a king bed and sofa sleeper, or with two queen beds. This includes a complimentary full hot breakfast buffet, 7 – 10 a.m. in the reception area, and a complimentary evening reception (except Sundays), 5:30 – 9:30 p.m. in the reception area, with appetizers and choice of wine, beer, or soda. Also included: access to an exercise room and indoor pool & spa. Rooms have small refrigerators, microwaves, coffee makers, irons & boards, hairdryers, and cable TV.

Make your reservations early; July is a busy tourist season in Yakima, and rooms are not being held for WBA without personal reservations. Tell the reservation desk that you're with the Washington Butterfly Association to receive the rate cited above. Our block of rooms with the special rate cover the nights of July 16 – 18, so you can go a day early if you wish. If you guarantee your room with a credit card, you can cancel reservations up to 24 hr. in advance without incurring a charge. You may check in after 3 p.m.; checkout time is noon.

Oxford Suites Yakima Hotel
1701 East Yakima Avenue
Yakima, Washington 98901
800-404-7848 or 509-457-9000
<http://www.oxfordsuitesyakima.com/>

There are many other lodging options in Yakima which you can review at <http://www.visityakima.com/>.

Thoughts - Field Trips for Everyone?

from the WBA President

With most of our members west of the Cascades and most of our butterflies east of them, we could make it easier for more members to join our east-side field trips. A few east-siders already do. But defining and announcing some rendezvous points close to field trip locales might entice more of them. The approach worked well for our recent trip to the Tahuya Peninsula, with Belfair State Park being an ideal rendezvous point and folks from Olympia, Gig Harbor, Kingston, and Poulsbo meeting us there.

In contrast with last year, our field season got off to a great start, with no cancellations and with very successful trips to Cowiche Canyon, Schnebly Coulee, Manastash Ridge, and the Tahuya Peninsula. For the early trips, Dave Nunnallee's experience was especially important, and by shifting one trip from Saturday to Sunday as well as moving the locale, he got us into warm temperatures and butterflies we'd otherwise have missed.

Assisted by Carolyn Heberlein, Idie Ulsh coordinated the Tahuya trip, another great one, and hosted us at her cabin on a lake with a view of the Olympics, a wonderful spot. Weather was ideal and several of the species encountered were new for some of us.

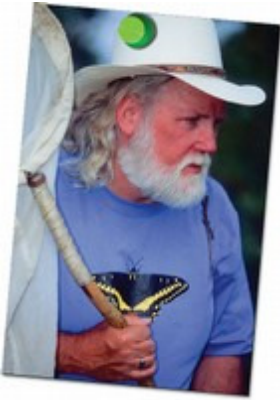
Next up is a Sunday afternoon trip at Seattle's Discovery Park. It is designed for beginners wanting to check us out before committing to a long drive over the mountains. Then it's on to Reecer Canyon, the Chumstick Four-of-July count and our tenth annual conference, which promises to be great.

Al Wagar, President

WBA Mission Statement

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

Postscript to My Butterfly Big Year Talk, and a Contest for Members



On April Fool's Day, I presented a talk for WBA entitled "How to Do a Butterfly Big Year?" The question-mark was important, not because it's a butterfly's name, but as an indication that I was learning as I went, and I wouldn't necessarily recommend my methods to anyone else! In the course of my presentation I revealed that my total number of species (still being finally and finely examined by my certification committee, headed by Jon Pelham) did not quite come up to my goal of 500 of the 800 available species in North America north of Mexico, though it wasn't too far off. I also gave a number of other interesting statistics from the year's journey (at least to me), and recounted the adverse weather that dogged many of my days, and other challenging factors.

However, though the audience was kindly tolerant of an inexcusably long account, I finally had to quit before breakfast. And in doing so, I neglected to share several points and stats I had intended to give. For example, I mentioned some of the most exciting finds, like the Diana fritillary, Baltimore checkerspot, and Avalon hairstreak, as well as a number of near-misses (several roadside skippers, rained-out eastern spring azure and mustard white, one day late for Eversmann's parnassian in Alaska, and so on). I talked about some of my coulda's, shoulda's, and woulda's, and the Ones That Got Away. But I completely forgot to tell just how many of my finds represented uncommonly *good* luck--the real grace notes of the expedition. These figures will explain what I mean. I averaged 10.1 species per day, with a

high of 80 species in one day. But I spent 86 days without seeing a single butterfly! The number of species I saw on just one day each was right around 140. And the number of actual singletons--species for which I saw but a single individual during the entire year--was about 70! So that gives you an idea that, while I faced many challenges of weather, flight period, vast mileage, and other exigencies, I also experienced a remarkable number of close calls *in my favor*. Of course, I will spell all this out in much more detail in the narrative of the book, ***Swallowtail Seasons: The First Butterfly Big Year***. I am nearing completion of the draft as you read this, and it should be published by Houghton Mifflin in the spring of 2010, if all goes well.

Now, the contest: I had also intended to give my audience an accounting of the top species of the year, in terms of numbers of days each was sighted. Since I neglected to do so, this gives an opportunity for you to guess! So, here's the deal: come up with your best estimate of my Top Ten Species, and bring it to the summer gathering in Yakima (or send it to the organizers -- do not e-mail it to me!). During my evening talk (which is not about the Big Year, but on butterfly conservation), I will reveal my Top Ten Species. The entries will be tabulated, and prizes will be given for anyone who gets the # 1 species, and for the best three matches for the Top Ten overall.

The challenge: Of some 3,877 total species/day encounters, averaging 10 species per day and 7.6 days per species, what were the 10 butterflies that you think I found most often? **Not** measured by the numbers of individuals, but by the number of days each was seen. List them in order--got it? Good luck! Thea and I look forward to seeing you in Yakima.

2009 General Membership Field Trips



Chumstick Mountain Vista

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
Sun-June14	Discovery Park - 1:30 - 4:30 pm – Rain or shine – Beginners Trip	David Droppers/Al Wagar
Sat-June 20	2 - Reecer Big Day near Ellensburg	Richard Youel
Sun-June28	1 - Chumstick Fourth of July Count near Wenatchee (NABA trip)	Wagar/Doan/Youel
July 17-19	1-3 WBA Annual Conference, Yakima	See Registration Form
Sat-Aug 1	2-3 Monte Cristo - Snohomish County near Granite Falls	David Droppers
Sat-Aug 8	5 – Mount Townsend – in Olympics – meet at Quilcene	Bob Hardwick
Sat-Aug15	4 - Sauk Mountain on North Cascades Highway 20 (if Monte Cristo is cancelled)	Al Wagar
Sat-Aug22	3 - Quartz Mountain near Ellensburg	Maureen Traxler

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.

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.

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 15, and go 3 blocks. The Park & Ride is on the left next to Tibbetts baseball field.

If you live in another part of the state, contact the trip coordinator to make arrangements to meet the field trip group.

Tend to any personal matters, such as getting breakfast, coffee or lunch food, before the departure time so others are not delayed.

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.

COSTS

Passengers are expected to share gasoline expenses. Typically this is \$8-10 each. It is suggested that each rider also pay the driver a share of any park entry fees, ferry fares, etc.

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 contact the trip coordinator as soon as you can so the group does not wait for you at the park & ride.



Thymelicus lineola is a member of the family Hesperidae, the large worldwide family of butterflies known as skippers. The European Skipperling is in the hesperine or "monocot" skipper subfamily, a group of skippers which feed primarily on grasses. In Washington there are 29 species of skippers, 17 of which are monocot skippers. An Old World species, *T. lineola* was introduced to Ontario, Canada around 1910, and to British Columbia in 1960. In 2002 *T. lineola* was discovered near Blaine, WA by Thea & Robert Pyle, and is now found in much of northwestern Whatcom Co. The preferred habitat is farming areas and open lowlands where large stands of grasses are found. The flight period in our area is based on few records, but adults have been found throughout July. Sometimes common where it has established, males perch on tall grasses and fly out to challenge passersby, while females frequent lower vegetation basking and seeking nectar, especially on *Lotus pedunculatus* (Big Birdsfoot Trefoil). Food plants in Washington include *Phalaris arundinacea* (Reed Canary Grass), *Phleum pratense* (Timothy Hay) and *Dactylis glomerata* (Orchard Grass), the latter used only sparingly. Allen (1997) reported *Holcus lanatus* (Velvetgrass) as a host in West Virginia, however we tried unsuccessfully to rear larvae on this grass. *Carterocephalus palaemon* and *Ochlodes sylvanoides* are two other monocot skippers whose larvae can be found on Reed Canary Grass.

In mid and late July females lay eggs in strings of up to 20, end-to-end but not quite touching, delicately glued to the concave side of a grass leaf. Eggs "daylighted" in April and May hatch rapidly, while eggs in February hatch very slowly over a prolonged period, suggesting that photoperiod controls hatching in this species. Development from egg hatch to pupation is about 50 days, and the adult ecloses 7 days later. On May 30 wild larvae in 3rd and 4th

instars were found on Reed Canary Grass at Lk Terrell when the grass was 12-14 inches tall. Mature 5th instar wild larvae were found at Lk Terrell on June 11. The larvae had constructed nests in the upper third of the plants by pulling a single grass leaf into a neat tube and stitching the edges together with tidy silk cross-ties. Nests are very similar to those constructed by *Ochlodes sylvanoides* (Woodland Skipper), which were found co-habiting the same plants. Larval feeding is evidenced by grass blades eaten in from one side, usually near the tip, and the tubular larval nests are easily found. The larvae pupate in their tied leaf nests. This species has five larval instars, and throughout growth the larvae are solitary. *Thymelicus lineola* is single-brooded throughout its range. Concealment appears to be the primary survival strategy.

The adults are similar to *Oarisma garita* (Garita Skipperling), although *Thymelicus* is pale orange dorsally while *Oarisma* is much darker. Also the immature stages differ. *Thymelicus* may also be confused with *Ochlodes sylvanoides* with which it flies, however *sylvanoides* has yellow spots on the ventral hindwings. The European Skipperling has currently not been found beyond northwestern Whatcom County, however this species is spreading southward and monitoring of its expansion is needed. Skagit County should be surveyed in mid-late July, with emphasis on stands of Reed Canary Grass, to determine if the species has reached that far south. *Thymelicus lineola* has reached pest status on hay and pasture grasses in some parts of Canada and the eastern US where it can be abundant. The potential impact on commercial crops of Timothy in Cascadia need study. The harvest and transport of Timothy Hay as a factor in spreading *Thymelicus* also needs study, as does competition between *T. lineola* and native skippers such as the Woodland Skipper.

Board Members

Al Wagar	President
Robin Lewis	Vice President
Donna Schaeffer	Secretary
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Jon Pelham	Science Advisor
Richard Youel	At-Large
David Droppers	At-Large
Paul Doan	At-Large
Carolyn Heberlein	Newsletter/Website

Committees

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

Membership Application

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