



*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*.

Recent Programs

In September, **Al Wagar** filled in to show how some African cheetahs hooked him on video. He shared some video experiences, including encounters with butterflies, and then discussed some of the technical details of recording, editing, and sharing video. Some glitches prevented him from showing everything he had prepared, so he's putting a narrated version on DVD for anyone who wants to see the whole program.



For the October program, with "Basic Butterfly Biogeography," **Jonathan Pelham** showed how barriers, corridors, and refugia from past glaciation explain a great deal about the ranges of butterflies, but also showed the effects of such barriers and corridors as mountains, deserts, and broad valleys. He then gave likely explanations for the current ranges of 32 species--in the arctic, the boreal region, and in western North America, including the Great Basin and West Coast.

Winter Party - Save the Date!

The annual winter party is scheduled for Saturday, January 22, 2011. Please mark your calendar, plan on joining the fun, and watch for details to be announced soon.

Upcoming Programs

WBA meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month 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.

November 3 – Dr. John McLaughlin

Butterfly Research in Alpine and Subalpine Meadows in North Cascades and Mt. Rainier

For reasons well known to WBA members, butterflies are very sensitive to climate and climate change. During 2008 and 2009, John organized butterfly surveys in alpine and subalpine meadows in North Cascades and Mount Rainier National Parks. They are analyzing those data to develop butterfly inventories, volunteer-based long term monitoring programs, and assessments of butterfly responses to climate change for each park. Dr. McLaughlin is a professor at Western WA University.

December 1 – Bob Hardwick

Butterflies of the Amazonian Region of Ecuador

Bob will discuss his adventures in Quito as well as the wildlife he photographed at three different lodges located on the Napo River: La Selva, Sacha, and Cabanas Allinahui. The Napo River is a major tributary to the Amazon, and aside from oil exploration going on is still a jungle paradise. This will compliment the excellent program given by Shirley Sekarajasingham and Richard Lindstrom on skippers of this region.

President's Message - from Richard Yonel

In its first meeting, in September, the new WBA Board established a priority for advancing a goal of strategic importance for the Washington Butterfly Association. That goal is to develop Outreach. We have a great organization and we would like to make more people aware of WBA and encourage them to participate in WBA. Al Wagar, our immediate past president, has been a one-man show of energy, imagination and resourcefulness in developing tools for sharing what WBA has to offer. They have included DVDs of speakers at our meetings, our field trips, games for kids to play, and recently a butterfly program on DVD suitable for presentation to groups. He has initiated having a WBA presence at tabling events. Al has said that he will volunteer to lead, with your help, to take this a step up. If you are available to help at an event your participation would be very welcome. If you have skills in developing communication and promotion tools that would also be greatly appreciated. If you have thoughts on how and where we might make WBA known your ideas and suggestions will be important to us. We need you on the Outreach Team. Please contact me or Al to help WBA grow. You can find our contact information on page 5.

Thank You, Jennifer!



Photo by Idie Ulsh

Jennifer Kauffman joined our Board and became our Treasurer in 2007, serving wonderfully in keeping our books straight and tracking our budgets and spending. She also served as registrar for our 2008, 2009, and 2010 conferences. Her presence was pragmatic, genial, and calm in the face of chaos... as in delivering sack lunches to the appropriate hungry conference attendees. She asked to step down from the Board at the end of our last election cycle, our annual meeting.

We'll miss her cheerful and constructive presence and we thank her for a job really well done.

The Combined Conference at Leavenworth

Combining our annual conference with the annual meeting of the Lepidopterists' Society worked out extremely well. The event was held in July with a base at the Enzian Inn in Leavenworth. A total of 187 people attended, of whom 27 were members of WBA. Instead of our usual Friday evening social, we joined LepSoc's barbeque at Redtail Canyon Farm. And, instead of a Friday evening talk about what we might see, we had a looping video showing butterfly species of the Leavenworth area and some of their identification marks.

Field trips—some for collecting, some for watching only—were all open to members of both organizations. It was a great opportunity to meet some extraordinary lepidopterists, and there was good rapport all around, with no conflict between our policy of not collecting and LepSoc's allowing it.



Field Season Wrap-Up

Our field season ended well, with an August 28 trip to the Ellensburg overlook to see the metalmarks, combined with a re-visit to Reecer Creek, with 22 species for the day. It was a strange season, with everything very late and with us often seeing few numbers but a good variety of species. Despite the late season, only one trip was totally cancelled because of weather—Quartz Mountain. For the Mount Townsend trip, folks decided to do it anyhow, as a hike in the drizzle with no butterflies seen.



All photos on this page by Al Wagar

*Excerpt from “Mariposa Road” by Robert Michael Pyle
Ray Three, “Hunting for Hairstreaks I”; Chapter Three, “Perplexa”*

The following is an excerpt from “Mariposa Road: The First Butterfly Big Year” by Robert Michael Pyle. Bob calls this selection “On Ellensburg Pass.”

In the morning, I walked up a lithosol ridge bright with four species of buckwheat and masses of bitterroot on top. *Lewisia rediviva* was so named both for Captain Lewis and for its seeming immortality, reblooming each spring from vanished vegetation. Its display, like so many pink tutus tossed across the rocks, brought to mind the pink ice plant of Avalon but softer, in both petal and hue, and *native*. In a stunning pairing, a large mother-of-pearl spotted female juba skipper tanked up from bitterroot to bitterroot.

Butterfly hunters know that roads often furnish excellent territory. This fact owes partly to their edge quality, with woodland vegetation meeting the sunny opening of the cleared roadway. The wildflowers and other low plants growing in the verge offer plenty of nectar as well as caterpillar host plants. Roadsides’ other important quality is moisture. Seeps, creeks, and waterfalls flow down to roads and the ditches that line them, carrying rain and meltwater, pooling, and saturating the gravel, sand, and soil. Male butterflies visit these damp spots, seeking not so much water as mineral salts dissolved in it.



Richard Youel and Bob Pyle, holding Marsha
Photo by Robin Lewis

Mud-puddle clubs may have hundreds of swallowtails, skippers, blues, and others. Preoccupied, they may be approached closely by a deliberate watcher, but one net swing sets up a swirl of wings that takes minutes to resettle. Thanks to mudding, checking out roadsides can be highly strategic; it was for me as I climbed toward Ellensburg Pass. My first happy find among the masses was Moss’s elfin, one of the species I’d missed on Hood Canal. One old example kept company with brown elfins at the moist sand, a save for species I’d thought past. Ditto for an indra swallowtail and a sagebrush checkerspot, both worn females—surprising, since females rarely puddle. A small white surprised me by being a Becker’s, usually bigger, with parallel vein tracks of kelly green.

The next few novelties came in unmatched pairs. First, two successive mountain sulphurs that you can’t find in alfalfa fields, one western and one Queen Alexandra’s. Then a pair of coppers—purplish and lilac-bordered—the first shimmering amethyst above if sunshine strikes the right angle, the second adorned as its name says in any light. Next, the trickling ditch doubled up on new blues, as I put up a cloud and swept it.

Releasing half a dozen species from Marsha’s bag back to their pubbery, I noted the first arrowhead blue, our largest kind, blazoned with not just one arrowhead but a whole quiver full, and a new buckwheat blue awaiting a name.

Rotating over a lush stream bank and under a ponderosa pine, a pair of brown mites resolved into western pine elfins. Another one visited desert parsley, while one more, just out of its chrysalis, hung purplish and pendent from *Poa bulbosa*. This ubiquitous introduced grass nods in the breeze, faking butterfly shadows to the suggestible peripheral vision; now here it was with a real butterfly on it. The western pine elfin looked almost like the eastern, with their shared zigzag patterns, but it was a long way from that Louisiana buttercup to this Cascadian glade.

Board Members

Richard Youel	President
David Droppers	Vice President
Donna Schaeffer	Secretary
Al Wagar	Treasurer
Jon Pelham	Science Advisor
Kim Kendall	At-Large
Louise Kulzer	At-Large
Reg Reisenbichler	At-Large
Maureen Traxler	At-Large

Committees

Marty Hanson	Membership
Joyce Bergen	Annual Conference
David & Jo Nunnallee	Field Trips
Idie Ulsh	Programs
Carolyn Heberlein	Publicity/Website
Robin Lewis	Newsletter

Membership Application

Washington Butterfly Association

The Washington State Chapter of the
North American Butterfly Association (NABA)

Yes! I want to join WBA/NABA and receive ***American Butterflies***, ***Butterfly Garden News*** and ***WBA Newsletter***, as well as other member privileges.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Special Interest (circle): Listing, Gardening, Observation, Photography, Conservation, and Other _____

Dues enclosed (circle): Regular \$30 (\$60 outside U.S., Canada, Mexico)

Family \$40 (\$80 outside U.S., Canada, Mexico)

Payment must be in U.S. dollars.

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

Further information: