



*G'nun**

The newsletter of the Washington Butterfly Association

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

*G'nun is the official greeting of WBA. It is derived from the name of common Washington butterfly food plants, of the genus *Eriogonum*.



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Upcoming Programs

February 6 What is a Species? "The Specious Species: Superficially plausible, but actually wrong." Jonathan Pelham, Co-founder of WBA

With so many changes in the classification of butterfly families and individuals it can become confusing what determines a species. Jon will clarify with us and give us an interesting overview of what this is all about and how scientists arrive at the classifications.

March 6 Bumblebees & Butterflies: Nature's Pollinators by Julie O'Donald

Learn about native pollinating insects and how they affect the success of fruits, berries, flowers and seeds. Find out what attracts native bees and butterflies to the home landscape and learn to recognize which pollinators may be in your garden. Long time WBA member, Julie O'Donald is a Master Gardener with 25 years experience cre-

Upcoming Programs continued

ating wildlife friendly backyard habitats. She is trained as a Backyard Wildlife Habitat Steward and looks forward to sharing information from a recent pollinator study in our area. Excellent photos will illustrate her presentation.

April 3 Exploring the Butterflies and Wildflowers of the Olympic Mountains by Bob Hardwick

Travel with Bob Hardwick to the Lake Cushman area of the Olympics and then head for Quilcene to hike the Mt. Townsend Trail. Enjoy the wildlife and spectacular views as we make the climb to the summit. The special butterflies found only in the Olympics will be highlighted through Bob's excellent photographs.

May 1 Sexual Differences in Vision of Lycaenid Butterflies by Dr. Gary D. Bernard, Affiliate Professor of Electrical Engineering, U of Washington.

Both wings and eyes of many Lycaenidae are substantially dimorphic. Photos and measurements of eyeshine demonstrate sexual differences in sensitivity to wavelength and polarization. After viewing videos of hairstreak behavior when in crowded groups, the speaker and audience will consider what butterflies do when close to one another. Think about your experiences and be prepared to participate in discussions.

June: Due to the early date for the annual WBA state conference, there will be no membership meeting in June. The next membership meeting will be September 4th.

President's Message

Get your calendar out and get ready for a new season.

In this issue Joyce Bergen gives us a preview of the Annual Conference on the weekend of Friday, May 31 through Sunday, June 2. We will be in Goldendale, a new part of the state for us. Our keynote speaker will be our own expert lepidopterist and great storyteller, Dr. Robert Michael Pyle. We do not have his topic yet. If you have not had the pleasure of getting to know Bob Pyle this will be a great chance for you to do so. The registration form and other important details will be in the next issue of *G'num*. For those who want to get a head start on accommodations Joyce has found that there are two main motels in Goldendale; the Quality Inn, apparently a little nicer and a little more expensive, and the Ponderosa Inn, a little more modest and less expensive. You may want to check them out.

Please see the Field Trip schedule in this issue. Two of our old favorite field trips will not be on the schedule this year. One is our traditional start-of-the-season trip to Schnebley Coulee in quest of the Green Hairstreak. Dave Nunnallee has said that weather reliability has declined so markedly in recent years, possibly due to climate change, that he recommends not doing it this year. The other missing trip is Reecer Creek, which burned very badly last year. We had a map of the burn area and a story on it in the last issue of *G'num*. The public will probably be prohibited from entering the area for some time. Because we know several spots quite well we are exploring the idea of observing butterfly populations in some of them over time as the area slowly recovers.

This year David Droppers will lead the season opener with a Western Washington trip to Deception Pass State Park on April 27. Our second outing will be a fascinating new trip on May 11 to Frenchman Coulee/Quincy Lakes in Central Washington co-led by Cliff Hassel explaining Missoula Flood geology, and Dave Nunnallee explaining the butterflies. Another exciting new trip will be to Bean Basin, north of Cle Elum in the Teanaway area. This gem was discovered by David James and promises very good butterfly potential. It will be a bit a bit of a hike but well worth the effort.

We have a lot to look forward to this year.

2013 Annual Conference: Save the Date for the Columbia Gorge

We're happy to announce that our Fourteenth Annual Conference will be held in Goldendale, Washington, on the weekend of May 31 through June 2.

This area transitions from the steep slopes of the southern Cascade Mountains down to the dramatic Columbia Gorge. Forests here include an interesting mix of fir, pine, and oak. Grassland covers south-facing slopes and low plateaus, riparian corridors crisscross throughout, and springs and ponds dot the area. Local animal species of note are black-tailed deer, western gray squirrels, western pond turtles, and Vaux's swifts. And of course, butterflies!

Within this unique area, one finds plants that aren't common elsewhere in our state – for instance, two *Ceanothus* species, both *integerrimus* and *prostratus*. The area is well known for its variety of buckwheats and groves of Garry oak. Butterflies include the Indra Swallowtail – uncommon elsewhere in Washington – and the Propertius Duskywing near its oak host plants, as well as a wide variety of other shrub-steppe butterflies.

At least one field trip will visit the Klickitat Wildlife Area, where we'll keep a lookout for an interesting variety of early-flying eastside species.

The next issue of *G'num* will include all the details you'll need to register and plan your lodging or camping. Our conferences are designed to appeal to all levels of butterfly fans, from beginners to experts; there will be something of interest for everyone. So don't fail to mark your calendar and reserve the weekend for this interesting and fun event.

Joyce Bergen

2013 Annual Winter Party

On January 25, twenty-three of us met for good food, good fellowship, and exchanging white elephant gifts, with the evening graciously hosted by Bill and Heidi Webber (sister of Jonathan Pelham). The gifts ranged from a set of would-you-really-want-to-display-them ceramic butterflies to a couple of hot-off-the-press butterfly books (rather stretching the suggested \$5 or so for value of gifts). With the rules giving each person the choice of an unopened gift or any gift already opened, a nice set of butterflies ended up with the young man who probably prized them the most.



Heidi Webber and Jonathan Pelham.

Photo by Al Wagar.

Watching Washington Butterflies with Bob Pyle

Number Twelve

Who Were Those Guys?

Have you ever been thinking about a butterfly named for someone—Milbert's Tortoiseshell, for example—and wondered, who the heck was Milbert? Or maybe Boisduval's blue: so who was *he*, and why was he a big enough deal to make me try to pronounce his name?

When I was a lad, my radical metamorphosis from a mad-keen kid conchologist (bad choice in Colorado) into mad-keen kid lepidopterist (much more adaptive) was ushered in with the help of three books in particular: *Colorado Butterflies* by F. Martin Brown, Don Eff, and Bernard Rotger, my dad's Christmas gift in 1958; W. J. Holland's *Butterfly Book*, from my mother a year later; and A. B. Klotz's *A Field Guide to the Butterflies of North America, East of the Great Plains*, number 4 in the Peterson series--the first book I ever bought with my own money. So the names of these authors were some of the first I knew among the famous lepidopterists. Then as I read and used those delicious tomes, I became familiar with more and more such names, mostly from an earlier era: W. H. Edwards, Henry Edwards, Mead, Bruce, Scudder, Strecker, Boisduval, Lorquin, Drury, Fabricius, Latreille, French, Abbott, Kramer, Behr, Huebner, Lucas, Kirby, Barnes & Benjamin, Reakirt, Ménétries, Grote, Godart, Lintner, Linnaeus, Butler, and many others.



Becker's White

All photos this page
by David Nunnallee.



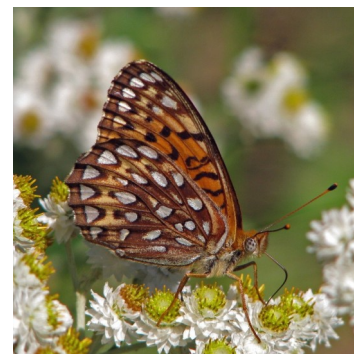
These names might be found, for example, at the end of the scientific epithet, in roman type, denoting a species' *author*: the person who described and named it in the scientific literature. For example: *Plebejus icarioides* (Boisduval). The author's name appears in parentheses if the species has since been reassigned to a different genus than the one in which he placed it. If the genus is still the same, there are no parentheses. Hence: *Plebejus icarioides* (Boisduval), since Boisduval originally designated it *Lycaena icarioides*; but *Echinargus isola* Reakirt, since Reakirt named the species exactly that. The author's name sometimes provides the common name too, as in Boisduval's blue and Reakirt's blue.

Boisduval's Blue

Or, a lepidopterist's name might become part of the scientific epithet, by way of an honor. Such monikers are known as patronyms: *Hesperia lindseyi* Holland, *Pieris beckerii* W. H. Edwards, and *Nymphalis milberti* (Godart) are examples. These honoraries often translate into the English common name as well: Lindsey's skipper, Becker's white, Milbert's tortoiseshell. Not as often as with plants, but now and then, a whole genus of butterflies has been named for a person, such as *Speyeria*, the greater fritillaries, designated thus by Scudder for Adolph Speyer.

Some people oppose patronymics because of their deep-held feeling that we somehow cheapen, compromise, or appropriate organisms by presuming to name them after people; they consider it an imperial act, or at least arrogant in the extreme. There may indeed have been an element of hubris among the early animal explorers, as well as a presumption that commercial utility to humans was the highest value of their discoveries. And there is no doubt that many of the namers, by far mostly male, were neither short of ego nor shy about expressing it, or stroking those of their friends, by stacking up the patronyms.

On the other hand, I am equally confident that many descriptions capped with a patronym merely intended to honor the hard, devoted, often heroic field work of those individuals who first brought their namesakes to scientific light. This practice continues today (e.g., *Oeneis buddha pelhami*). And while many of us would prefer a name that actually told us something about the insect in terms of its range (*Colias occidentalis*, the western sulphur), host plant (*Celastrina humuli*, the hops azure), markings (*Polygonia interrogationis*, the question mark), size (*Colias gigantea*, the giant sulphur) or habitat (*Callophrys dumetorum*, the bramble hairstreak), there is something to be said for animal names composed of people's names, as well.



Speyeria hesperis brico

Chief among these pluses is the fact that patronyms and the names of the authors of original descriptions are rich in *stories*. If we pay attention, ask questions, and dig a little bit, we find that these names bear the very history and lore of the field we find so intensely interesting. And history is always worth looking into and conserving, if only for its sheer fascination, and it should never be forgotten. These name-names help to connect us to those who went before, and who found, sorted out, and first studied the creatures about which we care so much. So, to paraphrase Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid's famous line, who *were* those guys?

I have space to mention only a few, and briefly. But even a curt roll-call of the pioneer lepidists reads like the cast and libretto for some dramatic opera:

William Henry Edwards, the owner and manager of a Pennsylvania coal mine, became the greatest student of butterfly life histories and the impoverished author and artist of a grand trilogy of superbly illustrated volumes, *The Butterflies of North America*. In many ways, Edwards can be considered the Audubon of American butterflies. Though he seldom traveled far beyond Coalburgh, he sent young men westward to collect butterflies and their eggs for him, including **David Bruce**, who sent back Magdalena alpine eggs; and **Theodore Mead**, who courted Edward's daughter, named Edith's copper for her, and later married her.

Samuel Scudder, a brilliant Boston polymath, produced his own three-volume series on the *Butterflies of the Eastern United States*, which many felt to be the best butterfly books ever; and became the greatest authority on fossil butterflies. In the intellectual orbit of Harvard's Louis Agassiz, a fervent Darwin-denier, Scudder struggled with Edwards over evolution, but eventually came around.

Henry Edwards, a famous San Francisco actor, befriended his unrelated namesake W. H. Edwards and served as the source of a great deal of new material from the West Coast. **Jean Baptiste Boisduval** was a Parisian physician who became a preeminent European lepidopterist of his time. He described many new species of butterflies from the American West, sent him by cadres of traveling collectors. These include the Xerces, Arrowhead, and of course Boisduval's blues. **Pierre Lorquin**, one of Boisduval's collectors in the Wild West, hunted both butterflies and gold in California from 1849-1858. He did better with butterflies; both Lorquin's admiral and the gold-hunter's hairstreak were finds of his. He must have been tough, walking through the swinging doors of those Roaring Forties saloons with a butterfly net.

Herman Strecker was a stone-carver in Reading, Pennsylvania who, despite the modest rewards and long hours of his work, managed to accumulate one of the largest and most important American butterfly collections ever. Irreligious, unlike his Lutheran family, he embraced Darwin and named a beautiful silk moth *Eudaimonia* (now *Copiopteryx*) *jehovah*, as well as the all-black *Erebia magdalena*. **Herman Behr**, one of Strecker's West Coast pen-pals, made great inroads in Bay-area butterfly studies and beyond, but lost his collection in the San Francisco fire and earthquake of 1906. **Augustus Grote**, a fellow German immigrant and noctuid specialist, also began as great friends with Strecker; but their relationship quickly soured over many issues, and their voluminous correspondence dripped with an acid that would make today's nastiest e-mail flame wars seem polite, not to mention inarticulate. As an example of his invective, he named Strecker as a member of "a certain class of collectors who 'covet' diverse and pretty specimens without any higher philosophical value," and it got much worse (see W. Leach reference below).



Lorquin's Admiral (D. Droppers)



Milbert's Tortoiseshell
(D. Nunnallee)

Tryon Reakirt, who made lead products in Philadelphia, shared Strecker's love of exotic species. He described a number of "new species" that he thought he had identified among purchased lots, but most turned out to be synonyms of butterflies already named in Europe (a common fate in the days of stagecoach taxonomy). The tiny Reakirt's blue, however, still stands as a good species today.

And as for **Milbert**, for whom the French entomologist **Jean Baptiste Godart** named *Aglais milberti*, who was he? In spite of James Scott's dismissal of him as "brother of Filbert, some kind of a nut," **Jacques-Gérard Milbert** was a French naturalist and artist and recipient of the *Légion d'honneur*. He traveled to New York in 1815 and sent back 48 shipments of natural history specimens to Paris over the next eight years. Among these was the type specimen of Milbert's tortoiseshell, or the fire-rim, as James Scott would prefer to call it.

So I hope you can see that a little attention to the names surrounding our beloved butterflies will repay us in a wealth of human interest, as well as context for the development of our studies. Without the labors of these forebears, in field, lab, and shipping office, often dangerous and daunting and against great obstacles, we would not have the benefit of our lists, field guides, or museum collections today; we'd be starting from scratch. If you would like to deepen your familiarity with these pioneers, I recommend that you mine the ever-enriching pages of Jonathan Pelham's *Catalogue of the Butterflies of the United States and Canada*. By following through the nomenclatural history of our butterflies, one can parse the contributions of all these and more.

There are good published accounts available of the field itineraries and exploratory adventures of Theodore Mead and Pierre Lorquin as they traveled the unsampled western habitats by narrow-gauge and stage. And a wonderful forthcoming book, *Butterfly People: An American Encounter with the Beauty of the World*, by historian and lepidopterist William Leach, will be a great boon to all who care to learn more about the ones who went before. I was privileged to review an advance copy of *Butterfly People*, and it was my source for many of the facts in this column. It promises a thoroughly delightful, dramatic, and engaging read for all contemporary butterfly people, who will never again have to wonder, "who were those guys?"

Species Profile: Northern Cloudywing (*Thorybes pylades*)

by Dave Nunnallee

The Northern Cloudywing is a member of the family HesperIIDae, the large worldwide family of butterflies classified as skippers. In Washington there are 29 species of skippers, most of which are placed in two subfamilies, the Pyrgine or "spreadwing" skippers, and the Hesperine or "grass" skippers. The Northern Cloudywing is one of our 11 species of spreadwing skippers, and is our second largest skipper after *Epargyreus clarus* (Silver-spotted Skipper).



Thorybes pylades occurs over most of North America but is local and usually uncommon in Cascadia. Adults fly from late April to mid-July in our area, depending on elevation. This species is found in S British Columbia, along the slopes of the Cascades of Washington and N Oregon, in the Puget Prairies of western Washington and in the Ochoco and Siskiyou Mtns of E and S Oregon. Preferred habitats include upper shrub-steppe east of the Cascade Mtns, and prairie remnants and heaths near the coast. It often occurs near forests or in recovering clearcuts, also in riparian or other open evergreen forests. Good known locations for this species

in Washington include Satus Pass in Klickitat Co., scrub-heath habitats in Mason Co., and Swakane Canyon in Chelan Co. Larvae are sometimes found by searching the host plants for tied leaf nests.



Females lay eggs singly on terminal leaves or inert surfaces near host leaves. Eggs hatch after 5-8 days. First and second instars construct simple nests between two terminal leaves, lightly bound with silk. L3 nests are constructed from 3 or 4 larger leaves stitched together with equally spaced silk ties. Larvae feed nocturnally and frass-shooting is employed to propel their feces away. Larval development is fairly rapid with maturity reached in ~25 days. Fully developed larvae feed well initially then slow, becoming dormant in lightly silked, well camouflaged leaf shelters after about 4 weeks. The mature larvae overwinter in this stage; in the spring they pupate within their shelters without further feeding. Within the shelter the pupa is suspended from two silk strands, one attached at the cremaster and the other slung under the mid section of the horizontal pupa, such that the pupa does not touch any solid surface. The adult skipper ecloses 12-14 days after pupation. Protection is



based on ventral gland secretions, camouflage, concealment, nocturnal feeding and frass-shooting to confuse predators and parasitoids. *Thorybes pylades* is single-brooded and has five larval instars, the final instar varying from sandy tan peppered with tiny black and white spots to a rich reddish-brown. The larval head and collar are black with a dense covering of very short hairs (setae).

Both sexes nectar on flowers, including dogbane and vetches. Males visit mud and perch on shrubs near their host plants, flying out to challenge passersby in search of mates. *Thorybes pylades* uses many legumes as larval hosts including *Lathyrus* spp. (wild pea), *Lotus nevadensis* ("Cowpie" Deervetch), *L. crassifolius* (Big Deervetch), *Trifolium* spp. (clover), *Astragalus* spp. (milkvetch) and *Vicia* spp. (vetch). *Thorybes pylades* adults can be challenging to find and are fast, powerful fliers, difficult to catch. Adults are distinguished from other skippers by their large size, heavy body, solidly brown wings, and most importantly by two distinct white marks intersecting the leading edge of the forewing, our only skipper bearing such markings.



2013 Field Trips Schedule

Non-consumptive appreciation of butterflies is central to our purpose, basic to our approach, and the guiding principal behind general membership field trips. Collecting of adult butterflies is not allowed on these trips. Collecting of eggs and larval stages for rearing is accepted on condition that individuals raised to adult stage are released at their original location.

Date	Destination/Description	Difficulty	Trip Leader/Contact
April 27 (May 4)	Deception Pass/Washington Park, Anacortes (see below)	2-3	Droppers
May 11 (May 18)	Frenchman Coulee-Quincy Lakes (Grant Co.)		Hassell/ Nunnallee
May 25	Little Spokane River		John Baumann*
May 31-June 2	Goldendale/Columbia Gorge Conference	2	Various
June 15	Manastash Ridge, Ellensburg	2	Nunnallee
June 15	McKenzie Conservation Area, Newman Lake (Spokane)		John Baumann*
June 29	4 th of July Butterfly Count, Chumstick Mountain (Cashmere)	2	Wagar
July 6	4th of July Butterfly Count, Little Pend Oreille NWR (Colville)		NWR Staff
July 13	Mt. Kit Carson, Mt. Spokane State Park		John Baumann*
July 20	Quartz Mountain, Kittitas Co.	3	
July 27	Bean Basin, Teanaway River	4-5	James
August 10	Summit Lake, Pierce Co. (near Mt. Rainier)	3	Droppers
August 17	Corral Pass, Pierce Co. (near Mt. Rainier)	3	Nunnallee

HOW TO SIGN UP: Anyone can sign up at a WBA monthly meeting or by contacting the trip leader. (See Board and Committee list in this issue for contact information) *John Baumann's contact info is: 509 327-4827

RAIN DATES SHOWN IN PARENTHESES

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 required, trails or terrain are steep in places
- 5 Very difficult, extended hiking on trails or steep terrain.

WHERE & WHEN TO MEET: Trips depart from the north half of 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. On request we also stop at the Issaquah Park & Ride at 7:30 a.m. To reach the Issaquah Park & Ride: going eastbound on I-90 take Exit 15 (1st Issaquah exit). At exit stoplight turn right (south) and drive 0.45 mile to Newport Way intersection (traffic light). Turn left (east) on Newport Way and drive 0.1 mile to another light, and turn right (south) into the Park & Ride. If you live in another part of the state, contact the trip leader to arrange where to meet the field trip group.

Please tend to personal matters such as getting coffee or lunch food before departure time so others are not delayed. Bring your own beverages, snacks and lunch for a day in the field.

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 \$10-20 each. Each rider should also pay 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.

Deception Pass State Park Trip Description: Drivers should have a Discover Pass for Deception Pass State Park. We will meet in Issaquah at 7:00 AM and the Ravenna Park n Ride at 7:30. Drive time will be approximately 1.5 hours to either park. This area is new for WBA, but David Droppers scouted the area last year and had a great time. Coastal views, diverse wildflowers, old forests, as well as abundant butterflies and other wildlife. Washington Park is considered one of the best spring time flower walks in western Washington. This trip makes a great beginner's trip, because even though there should be an abundance of butterflies, few species are anticipated/expected.

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Joyce Bergen	Annual Conference		
David & Jo Nunnallee	Field Trips		
Idie Ulsh	Programs		
Carolyn Heberlein	Publicity/Website		
Regina Johnson	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: