



The newsletter of the Washington Butterfly Association

P.O. Box 31317 Seattle WA 98103
<http://wabutterflyassoc.org>

G'num*

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



David James rides the tram up Mt. Howard, site of this year's conference. (Jasmine James)

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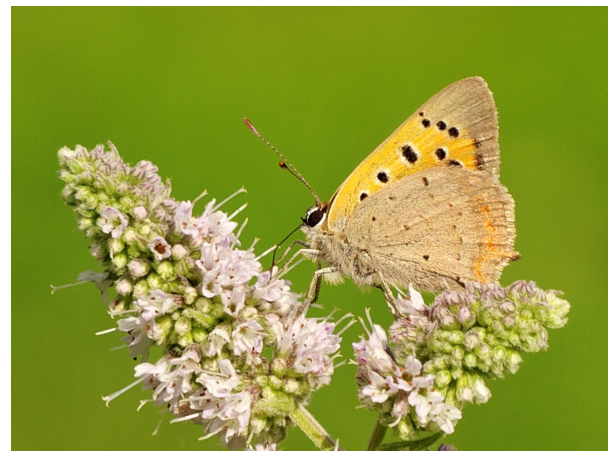
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Upcoming Programs

March 2 – Lauren Buckley, “*Colias* Butterflies and Historical sleuthing to forecast butterfly responses to climate change”
Lauren will provide an overview of research repeating historic lab and field experiments and examining museum specimens to investigate the ecological and evolutionary responses of montane *Colias* butterflies in Colorado to 50 years of climate change. She will lead a broad discussion on the fate of butterflies in changing environments.

April 6 – Bill Yake, “Mongolia's Butterflies”
Bill Yake and Jeannette Barreca spent 3 weeks in Mongolia in July 2015. They will share their photos with us of people, animals, and butterflies.



Lycaena phlaeas, one of the butterflies we may see at this year's conference. (Jorg Hempel)

President's Message: Mark the Date!

2016 Conference, Wallowa Mtns

Our board member, Dr. David James, will introduce us to one his family's most beloved vacation destinations for our annual WBA conference. Mark August 5-7, 2016 for a trip to northeastern Oregon for a weekend of quite stunningly beautiful field days on and around the peaks of the Wallowa Mountains, where we hope to be joined by members of the Eugene NABA chapter and other out of state butterfly groups. Although many of the butterfly target species may already be familiar, a few, such as the American Copper (*Lycaena phleas*) and the Pelidne Sulphur (*Colias pelidne*) are mostly absent in the rest of Cascadia. Populations of unique subspecies of fritillaries should be abundant. Our headquarters will be in the communities of Joseph and Enterprise, and the Saturday evening keynote address will feature Dr. Dana Ross, long a recognized expert in Oregon lepidoptera. We will meet at the Hurricane Creek Grange, in Joseph Friday evening, when David James shows us slides of what we may see on our field trips, as well as for dinner, keynote, and festivities on Saturday evening. Camping and affordable lodging are available at several good locations within 15 miles of the Grange, so please be looking for details in this issue of the G'num. A key field trip destination will be a tram ride up to the top of 8,200 ft high Mt Howard, where fairly level trails thread their way amongst meadow and scree for close up exploration of a rugged habitat. The individual adult fare for the tram ride is \$29, but may be discounted for a group like ours. As we did last summer, we may offer a free extra field day on Monday, August 8th, for those hardy souls who wish to remain for another try at locating some of the unique butterfly fauna of the area.



James girls at Mt. Howard. (Jasmine James)

Vic Ulsh, Idie's nephew, has been pleased to announce that the estate of our founder will begin supporting several scholarships this summer for young people with a strong interest in nature study! I could scarcely be happier. The funds will pay registration, lodging and transportation for three students, ages 10 -17, and their accompanying parent or guardian to attend our conference in Wallowa. Details on qualifications we look for in our applicants will be found on page 3 but generally are all about enthusiasm for the study of insects, especially butterflies. We are extremely fortunate to have had Idie's enthusiasm and steady hand in helping our organization begin its first classes, field trips and newsletters; now her work supports us still by making room at the conference table for some of our best and brightest young naturalists. I hope to personally spend a little time with each of them and their accompanying parent or teacher while in the field, curious to see whether *they* will be the ones pegging the species of unique Wallowa Mountain fauna first or if *I* will! It will be a new world for all of us, and a very exciting venue to share with talented youth.

Wallowa Lake from Mt. Howard. (Wikipedia)



Complete application is on our website at

Idie Ulsh Young Naturalists Scholarship

The Washington Butterfly Association (WBA) proudly announces three scholarships to send individuals, age 10 – 17 years, to the WBA 2016 Annual Conference in the Wallowa Mountains of Oregon. These scholarships are generously funded by the estate of our beloved Idie Ulsh, founder of WBA.

The 2016 Washington Butterfly Association Annual Conference will take place August 5-7, in Joseph, Oregon and vicinity. For each scholarship winner and one accompanying parent, guardian, or appointed adult, a scholarship covers:

- One year WBA membership
- Conference registration
- Friday evening rendezvous with speaker and light refreshments
- A day and a half of field trips led by local experts in the Wallowa Mountains
- Tram ride to top of Mt. Howard
- Saturday evening banquet with keynote speaker
- Sack lunches for Saturday and Sunday field trips
- Accommodations for Friday and Saturday nights at the conference hotel
- Round-trip mileage from winner's home town to Enterprise, Oregon at \$0.30 per mile

Complete application form and submission information can be found at:

PERSONAL STATEMENT:

Write and attach a **500-900 word essay** that includes your thoughts on the following.

First, describe the importance of nature study in your life, especially any focus on insects. Include some examples of your nature-study experiences and the nature-study activities you most enjoy (e.g. drawing, photography, surveying, catching insects, rearing insects). Secondly, please describe the features of the WBA Conference that most appeal to you, and describe how you believe this conference will benefit you. Finally, describe what you have done in your life that you are most proud of, and why (this doesn't need to be nature-study or insect related).

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION:

Your application must be accompanied by **two** letters of recommendation from adults who are not related to you but who know your commitment to nature study (e.g. teacher, mentor, nature center director). At a minimum, the letters should include the name and contact information of the recommender, a statement as to the nature and length of their relationship with you, and some content related to their knowledge of your interest in nature study. The letters may be included with your application or sent under separate cover.

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION AND ACCOMPANYING MATERIALS:

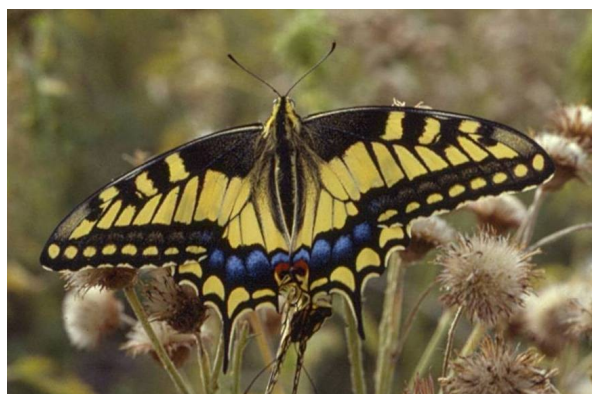
Completed application with accompanying essay and letters of reference **MUST be received by the end of day, May 1, 2016**. No exceptions. Scholarship recipients will be announced before the end of May, 2016.

Watching Washington Butterflies with Bob Pyle

Number Twenty-four:

Six Great Butterfly Adventures in Cascadia

Butterflies might not be the first thing that come to mind for the Northwesterner looking for fresh fields of outdoor experience. But just listen to this fevered description of high adventure from the May, 1936 *National Geographic*, in an article entitled "Butterflies—Try and Get Them," by Lawrence Ilsley Hewes:



Oregon Swallowtail, mating pair, Adams Co., WA.
(Thea Linnaea Pyle)

"If you are a real hunter, try for *Papilio bairdii oregonia*, another swallowtail. You will find him along the middle Columbia River. Here is game for the skeptical, this brilliant yellow and black Papilio. He is rather scarce. But in a certain canyon, year after year, in the arid summer heat, he may be taken in late June.

"Imagine a gorge with the west wall a sand chute covered with black rock float. The east wall is terraced basalt. Quietly you move along among the blistering rocks with the white-sand skyline six hundred feet above.

"Oregonia is a crisp, sharply marked denizen of the arid wind. He is utterly devoid of leisure; his flight is bold and rapid. The canyon thistles invite him. Far down the steep slope, near the thread of the drying streamlet, grow these scattered blooms that are his undoing. Over the sharp sand edge above drops suddenly this brilliant raider.

"Abruptly he sweeps upward, pauses, and drops back.

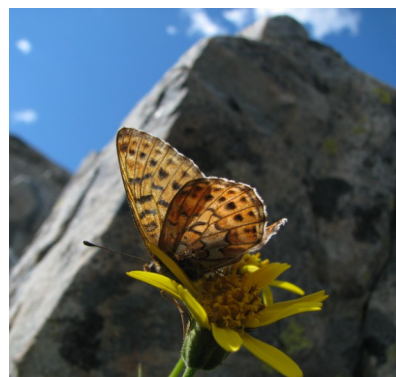
Around and across he flashes his quick reconnaissance, then for a few seconds he hovers, nervously pulsating splendid wings over the cloying sweet.

"You must be alert or he is gone. Choose a high position so you may dart downward. The up-climb in the loose sand will quickly exhaust you in this heat. For a moment the insect is utterly oblivious. If your movement is swift and careful, he is in your net!"

Such is the excitement available in the pursuit of the Oregon Swallowtail, the State Insect of Oregon, to this day—although it is even more scarce now, much of its canyon habitat lying beneath the reservoirs that bring our cheap power and confound the migrating salmon. But this is far from the only species of butterfly across Cascadia that rewards its pursuit with real adventure.

Nowadays, while study with nets and collections remains a vital activity if we are to properly understand and conserve our butterflies, most folks will prefer to hunt them with binoculars and cameras. This takes no particular skills that a good birder has not already developed, except perhaps even greater stealth, because one can usually approach them much more closely than birds; and a sensitivity to the plant world around us, upon which the butterflies depend, and which, with a little knowledge of herbage and bloom-times, helps to predict their occurrence. One of the most exciting events in butterflying is to postulate a species' presence on the basis of the botany, and then to go there at the right season, and find it flying.

Nearly two hundred species of butterflies occur as residents or visitors in the greater Northwest. Every one carries its own charms and excitements for the lepidopterist or watcher. Some, however, combine beauty, behavior, and habitat preference such that they offer a special treat to those intrepid or imaginative enough to track them down—like the Oregon Swallowtail among its baking basalt redoubts in the Columbia, Snake, Deschutes, Yakima, and other black canyons on the east side of the Cascades. Because butterflies haunt sunny places where their food plants grow, they are often paired with high, flowery promontories that take considerable effort to reach and give great scenic beauty and fascinating encounters in return.



Astarte Fritillary at Slate Peak, North Cascades. (David Nunnallee)

Here are six more suggestions for exciting butterfly capers in Washington and Oregon:

Astarte of the Pasayten: The northern butterflies of genus *Boloria*, or lesser fritillaries, mostly frequent the High Arctic and Arctic-Alpine conditions of our mountain peaks. The largest of them, an orange, buff, and brick-red beauty named for the Phoenician goddess Astarte, dips into the Lower 48 in only a handful of places in Montana and Washington. The best spot to find it is on the talus slopes running away from Slate Peak, beyond Harts Pass, at the head of the Methow River drainage in the North Cascades. Nimble hikers who follow the trails from Slate Peak to the north and east into the Pasayten Wilderness Area may spot it, nectaring on yellow daisies. But you must choose your time: the Astarte Fritillary flies only in midsummer and only in even years, as its caterpillar takes two years to develop into the adult. The highest rockslides and fellfields deeper into the wild may reveal the even rarer Lustrous Copper and Labrador Sulphur.

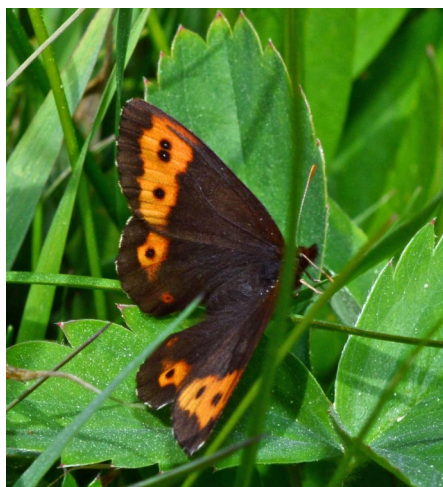
Swallowtails of Pipestone: Everyone knows the tiger swallowtails of our city parks. Several other species of swallowtails patrol canyons along hot mountain flanks mid-May or so, depending on temperature and snowmelt. Great swallowtail canyons include Icicle, above Leavenworth; Yakima, Santiam, and the Illinois and Rogue rivers in the Siskiyou. One of my favorites, for both numbers and diversity of spectacular swallowtails, is Pipestone Canyon in the Okanogan near Winthrop. Hiking down the trail, you'll be hazed by dozens of Two-tailed Tigers, the largest butterfly in the Northwest; some crisp little Indra Swallowtails—jet-black with yellow spots and very short tails—may still be on the wing. Watch for damp spots, where swallowtails, blues, checkerspot, and skippers gather in mud-puddle clubs to sip salts. Once, along the muddy shore of Campbell Lake, I spotted six species of swallowtails—Two-tailed, Pale Tiger, Western Tiger, Indra, Zelicson, and Oregon—all puddling together—what a spectacle!



Chryxus Arctic, Sinlahekin Wildlife Area, Okanogan Co. (Caitlin LaBar)



Tiger Swallowtail puddle party:
Pale, Two-Tailed, and Western,
Sinlahekin Wildlife Area, Okanogan Co. (Caitlin LaBar)



Vidler's Alpine, near Long Swamp, Okanogan Co. (Robin LaBar)



Arctics and Alpines of the Olympics: Western Washington is subtle for butterflies, given its forest cover, cloud, and rainfall. The Olympics make a dramatic exception. Their expanses of arctic-alpine steppe and subalpine meadow around timberline abound in butterflies in a sunny season of neither too much nor too little snow. Hurricane Ridge and Deer Park offer most of the special butterflies, but for wilder, more rewarding encounters, take the trails into Royal Basin or Graywolf, Mt. Townsend or Tubal Cain, or any of the high wild parklands at the head of the Elwha, Dosewallips, or other remote basins and ridges. What you are looking for are two high-country specialties left behind by the glaciers: the cougar

-colored Valerata Chryxus Arctic, which lives nowhere else; and chocolate-and-cinnamon Vidler's Alpine, endemic to the Olympics and North Cascades in all the world. Valerata, invisible against the lichens until it flies, likes drier scree; Vidler's flutters above lush tundra and haunts flowery seeps along with lovely Sara's Orange-tip.

Mini-jewels on the Summit of Steens: Not all that glitters is big! You cannot traverse the mountain trails without noticing bright little blue butterflies, sometimes by the hundreds, mobbing a trickle across a sandy path, or a spot where a pack-horse has peed. Of 25 kinds of blues that flit all across Cascadia, one of the most exciting is also one of the smallest, just the expanse of my thumbnail. A little dusky, not as bright a blue as some, the Shasta Blue has brilliant turquoise gems set all around the edge below. The thrilling part is where it lives: on Mt. Shasta, of course, but also on the summit of Steens Mountain, that great, remote, and spectacular sentinel in the Malheur country. If you haven't been up there, you need to go. After snowmelt, Steens is alive with butterflies, its wildflowers dripping with their bright nectaring forms. Look for tiny sparks erupting from the rock scree around the very highest slopes, saddles, and summits; then go on your hands and knees to see them well, preoccupied as they drink from wild buckwheat flowers by the trailside.



Shasta Blue, summit, Steens Mtn. Female; male would be bluer. (John

Frits of the Ochocos and Siskiyous: Speak of glittering! Among our "bright wings of summer," few glisten as brightly as the fiery orange greater fritillaries, aka silverspots, their undersides adorned with quicksilver orbs. All ten Cascadian species feed on violets as larvae, so where you find *Viola*, you find frits. These pumpkin-colored gliders are a common sight in mountain meadows, flirting with thistles and mints; then pausing until, alarmed,

they rocket off to somewhere else. Northwest butterfly folk know there's nowhere better for abundance and diversity of fritillaries than the Ochoco Mountains east of Prineville, unless it's the Siskiyou. In the Ochocos, Big Summit Prairie (and Bridge Creek Wilderness for backpackers) reward the summer visitor with scads of silverspots. In southwest Oregon, the Siskiyou all around Mt. Ashland are superb, as are the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument and Green Springs across the valley to the east. You could find half a dozen or more species of fritillaries at once, by the score and more, thronging each patch of dogbane, and nearly need a sunshade for your eyes.

Hydaspe and other fritillaries in the Siskiyou. (Linda Kappen)



Triphosa haesitata (Tissue Moth). (Jim Johnson)

Triphosa of the Tunnels: My final adventure is a departure, for it concerns moths, not butterflies, and takes place in winter. We have some beautiful big moths, such as the Polyphemus and Ceanothus Silk Moths, but this one is neither large nor colorful. Called *Triphosa haesitata* (the Tissue Moth), it is about an inch-and-a-half across, with lovely, wavy-brown, highly striated wings. These vary greatly, from cream to buff to russet to umber, rendering them cryptic against bark, rock, and many other backgrounds. Tissue moths hibernate in caves or cool buildings. One Christmas, I discovered that the battery tunnels of Fort Worden State Park, Port Townsend, serve them admirably. Anyone intrepid enough to explore these pitch-black tunnels (with a good light!) may be astonished by the vision of thousands of these handsome creatures plastering the old concrete walls, their eyes shining like a million tiny gold nuggets—the greatest aggregation of butterfly-like insects I have ever seen outside the monarchs of Mexico and California.

Of course, each will have his or her own favorite butterfly experience to add to this list. But I hope these several suggestions will urge everyone outdoors and into the field, to see them or whatever else might be on the wing. After all, adventure is where you find it—and it might as well be a cabbage white in a community garden, coming out of the winter doldrums, as a birdwing butterfly in a tropic wonderland. The point, as Mr. Hewes wrote in 1936, is simply this: Butterflies—Try and Get Them!

This article is adapted from one originally written for, and appearing in, *Adventures NW* magazine. Thanks to the photographers for their fine contributed images.

While the armed occupation of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge is finally over, and this incomparable public resource will be re-opened to its rightful owners (us!) as soon as possible, be sure to check the status of the refuge before heading to Steens Mountain.

Annual Financial Report from the Treasurer

11/1/2014 through 10/31/2015

INCOME	
Conference Registration	5,275.98
Gifts & Donations	22,496.00
Interest Inc	55.90
Member dues	1,575.00
Other Inc	138.00
TOTAL INCOME	29,540.88

Administrative	99.90
Cash & ATM	0.00
Conference cost, Planet Reg	76.00
Conference food expenses	1,196.71
Conference misc.	230.88
Conference Speaker	768.00
Donation from WBA	1,000.00
Hospitality, food, party supplies	61.47
Insurance	1,520.00
Misc.	177.77
Newsletter	518.98
Outreach	403.16
PO Box rental	156.00
Postage	38.85
Refund	80.00
Rent paid, meeting room	1,440.00
Speaker, member mtg	260.00
Tax	410.00
Website costs	59.40
TOTAL EXPENSES	8,497.12

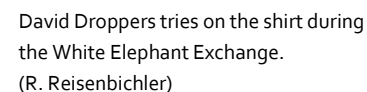
OVERALL TOTAL	21,043.76
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Winter Party

A glass baking dish containing several whole carrots, each topped with a dollop of brown sauce and a drizzle of dark balsamic glaze.

Chocolate carrots. (M. Weiss)

Melanie Weiss



(R. Reisenbichler)

2016 Conference Lodging

Distances and travel times are based on Google maps. Rates are subject to change without notice.

PLEASE NOTE – Wallowa County is a very popular summer destination.
Book early to secure lodging – rooms may fill by early April.

Eagle's View 10-15 minutes from Joseph

1200 Highland Avenue, Enterprise, OR 541-426-2700

53 rooms, beginning at about \$117 including tax, and w/AAA or AARP discount. Rooms include wifi, refrigerators, microwave, AC, coffee makers, TV, continental breakfast. Reservation deposit required of first night's rate; fully refundable up to 24 hr. before the date.

<http://www.eaglesviewinnandsuites.com/rooms.htm>

Wallowa Lake Lodge 6 miles, 10 minutes from Joseph

60060 Wallowa Lake Highway, Joseph, OR 97846 541-432-9821

This historic lakefront lodge is a very short walk from the Wallowa Lake Tramway. 22 rooms, each with a private bath, maintain the period atmosphere – no TV, AC, microwaves, or refrigerators. There are also eight rustic cabins. Breakfast and dinner are available in the Camas Dining Room.

Minimum \$25.00 cancellation fee. If you cancel less than 30 days before the reserved date, you may lose a deposit of one-half the cost of your stay, not including the 6% tax. New management begins March 1.

<http://wallowalakelodge.com/>

Other hotels and B&Bs are listed at these sites –

Wallowa County Chamber of Commerce <http://www.wallowacountychamber.com/>

Camping

Wallowa Lake State Park

11 minutes from Joseph

89 tent sites @ \$20, 121 hookup sites @ \$30. Showers, flush toilets, marina.

Reserve by phone (800-452-5687) or online –

http://oregonstateparks.org/index.cfm?do=parkPage.dsp_parkPage&parkId=20

This campground can fill up nine months ahead of time!

USFS camping

Hurricane Creek Campground

8 miles from Enterprise; narrow road, turnarounds difficult for trailers

11 sites, \$6, no reservations, no water, vault toilets

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/wallowa-whitman/recarea/?recid=51483>



Lycaena phleas. (Sharp Photography, Oxfordshire, where it is called the Small Copper.)

Camping is free on USFS land not designated as a campsite. Northwest Forest Passes are needed only at improved trailheads. Other than Hurricane Creek, the areas listed below are among the easier places to reach from Joseph.

Salt Creek Summit

A large parking area (a snowpark in winter), vault toilet. About 18 miles from Joseph via state road 3350, Wallowa Loop Rd., and Forest Rd. 39.

Lostine River Corridor

From Enterprise, travel 10 mi. NW to Lostine. Turn south on Lostine River Rd. for about 7 mi. to the Forest boundary.

Private campgrounds are listed at this site –

Wallowa County Chamber of Commerce; search for “camping”

<http://www.wallowacountychamber.com/list/q/accommodations-1001?c=&q=camping&st=1>

2016 Field Trip Schedule (Tentative)

Date	Destination/Description	Difficulty	Trip Leader/Contact
March 26 (April 2)	Schnebley Coulee. We'll look for some of the earliest butterflies—green hairstreaks, desert marbles, plus other wildlife.	2-3	Maureen Traxler
April 30	North Fork Cowiche Crk with Cowiche Canyon Conservancy. This is a new CCC-WDFW managed site at the interface of shrub steppe and higher elevation forest. Potential for very interesting mixture of butterfly fauna from the 2 landscape zones. Field trip will help CCC compile a comprehensive inventory of butterfly species for the site.		David James
May 14	Black Canyon Trail. Trail is 7.0 miles round trip, 1250' elevation gain, but our goal will be to find butterflies, so we probably won't go to the end of the trail. More info about the trail https://www.wta.org/go-hiking/hikes/black-canyon	3-4	Maureen Traxler
May 21	Snow Mtn Ranch, Yakima. Joint WBA-CCC trip focusing on catching and tagging Coronis Fritillaries for research. David James and Cowiche Canyon Conservancy are studying Coronis migration from the shrub steppe to the mountains. Study has been going on for 3 years; with WBA involvement we could tag a lot of Coronis!		David James
May 21	National Parks Bio Blizes. Survey butterflies at Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve, San Juan Island National Historical Park, Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, Lewis and Clark National Historical Park.		Regina Rochefort
June 4	Wenas, Manastash with possible diversion to Coleman Creek depending on conditions.	1	David Nunnallee*
June 4	Dishman Hills, Spokane. A mixed ages group in honor of the conservation legacy of Tom Rogers.		John Baumann
June 11	Tronsen Ridge Trail. Total trail is 8 miles round trip, 1000 feet elevation gain, but we probably won't hike the entire trail, depending on where the butterflies are. More info about the trail at http://www.wta.org/go-hiking/hikes/tronsen-ridge	3-4	Maureen Traxler
July 9	Highway 97 Exploration	1	Maureen Traxler
August 5-7	Annual Conference, Wallowa Mtns		
Aug. 13 or 20	Monarch Tagging, Vantage	2.5	David James
Aug. 20 or 27	Sheep Lake, Chinook Pass	4	Melanie Weiss

Contact information for trip leaders on back page in Board Members listings.
 Rain dates in parentheses.
 Difficulty scale on next page.

2016 Field Trips General Information

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 (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.

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.

Board Members

President	John Baumann		
Vice-President	Maureen Traxler		
Secretary	Melanie Weiss		
Treasurer	Jim Flynn		
At-large	Brenda McCracken		
At-large	Al Wagar		
At-large	David James		

Committees

Science Advisor	Jon Pelham	
Membership	Available	
Annual Conference	Available	
Field Trips	Available	
Programs	Available	
Publicity/Website	Carolyn Heberlein	
Newsletter	Regina Johnson	
Trip Leader, Central WA	David James	