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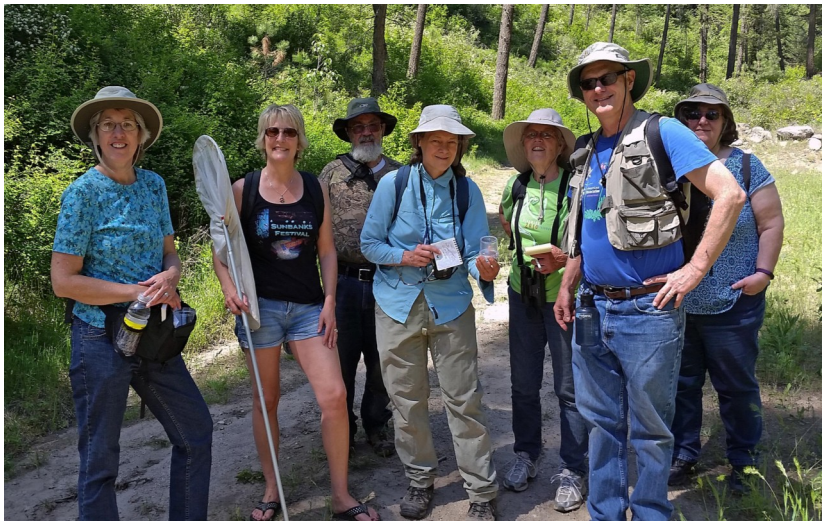
Washington Butterfly Association

G'num*

The newsletter of the Washington Butterfly Association

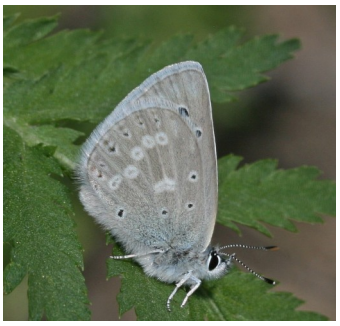
P.O. Box 31317 Seattle WA 98103
http://wabutterflyassoc.org and on Facebook

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



In this issue:

Spokane Community College's class, "Finding Inland Northwest Butterflies", posted a remarkable field day May 12th. Seven students were able to identify 27 butterfly species in a short, 2.5 mile hike, spending 3 1/2 hours in the field at Rutter Canyon, near the Little Spokane River. Students were delighted with sightings of four different Swallowtail species, 6 different Blues, 6 different Hairstreaks and a number of others, including the Arctic Skipper, the Red Admiral and Lorquin's Admiral. Nice job, folks! (J. Baumann, instructor, second from right)



Boisduval's Blue. (J. Baumann)

Conference Keynote Speaker

No meetings in June, July, or August. We will be busy with field trips and the Annual Conference, August 5-7.

Dana Ross will be the keynote speaker Saturday evening at our Annual Conference in the Wallowas. He is a life-long butterfly enthusiast who transformed avocation to vocation over the past two decades. His work involves tracking rare butterfly populations and documenting the insects of important ecological sites throughout Oregon. Currently, this includes monitoring populations of the endangered Taylor's checkerspot (*Euphydryas editha taylori*) and Fender's blue (*Plebejus icarioides fenderi*) butterflies, searching for populations of the elusive seaside hoary elfin (*Callophrys polios maritima*) and other rarities, conducting moth and butterfly inventories at several PNW sites, and Crater Lake National Park. He is frequently accompanied in these endeavors by friends Gary Pearson of Springfield, Oregon and Linda Kappen of Applegate, Oregon. Since the passing of John Hinchliff in the late 1990's, Dana has been the "Oregon Record Keeper" for the Northwest Lepidopterists' Association. Dana lives in Corvallis, Oregon with wife Ann and son Zane.

President's Message from John Baumann

Today I want to thank the many of you who have helped celebrate Earth Day and National Pollinator Week by involving yourselves in habitat restoration for Northwest butterflies! Many of our members have been working on various such projects for years, and I am only a newcomer to the efforts. David James, for instance, has had Yakima area folks out to plant native flowering perennials and shrubs at the Snow Mountain and Cowiche Canyon Conservancy areas for several years. Many of you also contribute from your own lawns by planting native flowering plants or larval hosts to encourage butterflies. Yesterday, Saturday the 23rd of April, I joined Mike Munts and several others in work that he is leading as the wildlife biologist for the Little Pend Oreille Wildlife Refuge areas. 10,000 milkweed - *Asclepias speciosa*- sprouts will be used to enhance various Little Pend Oreille habitats. We planted about 500 of these on a lovely parcel of land near Deer Lake in Northeast Washington, where moose, waterfowl and deer frequent the area. As we worked, we heard the descending shrill alarm call of a sora - a rather secretive little marsh bird -emerging from the sedges.

Registrations for the WBA 2016 "Wings Over the Wallowas" conference this August are coming in! And there's room for a good number more people to join us, for a true interstate meeting of lepidopterist minds. Our keynote speaker, Dana Ross, will be sharing experiences of his work in the area when we get back down to our headquarters later in the evening. Other attractions abound: the opportunity to observe some of the Northwest's rarest butterflies, including the Pelidne Sulphur, the Lustrous Copper and the American Copper, and some unique subspecies of the Great Basin and Atlantis/Northwestern Fritillaries. Spend an extra day on Monday, the 8th, with no additional registration charge if you like. Then a detour to the right spots along the Snake River might get you into habitat where Bob Pyle found the Yuma Skipper, and is still seeking the Hackberry Emperor, the latter, a possible state record.

This summer conference offers a unique social experience as well. We may have participants from Oregon, Washington and Idaho all in one spot together. There may be opportunities to observe Dana Ross in moth lighting, if you can stay up late enough. Finally, please remember that this is the first year we offer "Young Naturalist" scholarships to honor our founder, Idie Ulsh. You will meet the talented young people we have accepted as recipients, and can help them on their way up the trail. I look forward to seeing you in the Wallaowas!

Don't forget that the main field trip on Saturday the 6th will involve riding a tram up Mount Howard, overlooking Wallowa Lake, to an elevation of over 8,000 feet. This costs an additional $29. Also, please let us know if even easy to moderate hiking at that high an elevation would be a problem for you. We would likely be able to arrange an alternative, lower elevation field experience if we have enough interest in doing so. There's good butterfly habitat close to the upper tram station without need for much walking. And, if bothered by the altitude, you may want to go back down early. It's important that no one wanders off alone and that trip leaders know where everyone is.

Please watch our calendar on Facebook, or on the web at wabutterflyassoc.org. We will be announcing new field trips and other opportunities moving into the summer season. Things have already been remarkable this spring for butterfly lovers, with a somewhat early flight of Echo Azures, good numbers of overwintering Tortoiseshells and a fine showing of the early *Callophrys* hairstreaks. Spokane area members might consider hiking up the new 0.9 mile Stevens Creek trail to the Rocks of Sharon, where Anise Swallowtails were hilltopping in numbers before the rains moved in this week. Enjoy!

Most groups that sponsor field trips have found it advisable to require participants to sign liability releases, and your Board has decided we should do likewise. At the beginning of each field trip, adults will each need to sign a release and may also sign for any of his or her own minor children (younger than eighteen) participating. Minor children who are *not* accompanied by a parent or legal guardian may also attend field trips, provided that a parent or legal guardian for that child signs and returns a liability waiver to the field trip leader before the child joins the group. This waiver shall designate that another adult accompanies the child, and has assumed responsibility for the child during the course of the trip. Among other things, this person will be jointly authorized with the trip leader to seek emergency medical care for the child.

The forms are or soon will be on the WBA website under a separate tab. Please contact a member of the WBA board or your field trip leader if you have questions about these liability forms.

Trip Report

Bitterroot. (C. Clark)

North Fork of Cowiche Creek

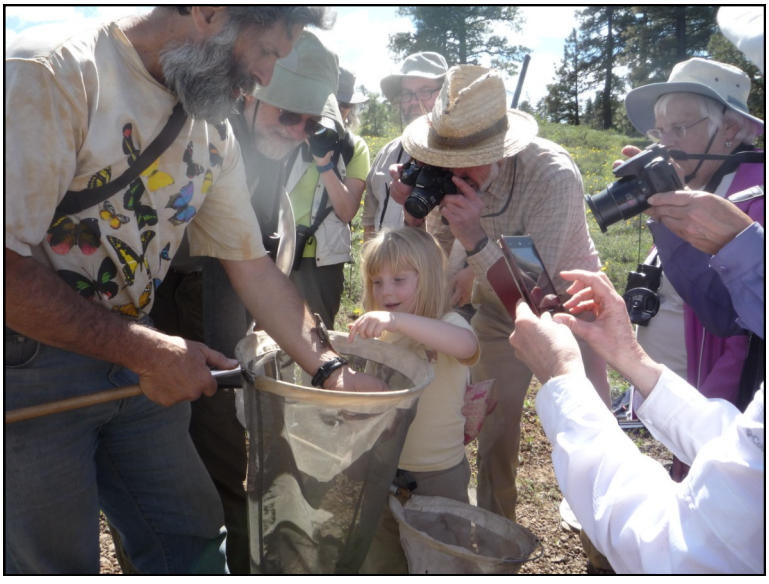
On April 30, 19 butterfliers explored the North Fork of Cowiche Creek, a new area for our group. After a few clouds at the onset, the day turned sunny. We slowly made our way to 4 different sites with myriad flower species, new to many of us, and counted the butterfly species that fluttered, soared and nectared around us. There were numerous male Sara's Orange Tips on patrol, Anise Swallowtails hill topping, Western Pine Elfins, Pale and Two-tailed Tiger Swallowtails, a Large Marble, several Oak Duskywings, in addition to others. A total of 15 species were detected. We also saw and "netted" a Western fence lizard. We were told that when ticks feed on this lizard, a protein in its blood kills the bacteria that causes Lyme disease. There is a lower incidence of the disease in areas where these lizards occur. The hilltop offered grand views for lunch and some bluebird sightings. This was a day filled with color, beauty and camaraderie. Thanks to David James for organizing this trip and to his family for providing backup fun.

Melanie Weiss

Anise Swallowtail. (C. Clark)

Sara's Orangetip (*Anthocharis sara*): The most abundant species seen, probably 50+ mostly males busily seeking females
Large Marble (*Euchloe ausonides*); maybe 6-8
Clouded Sulphur (*Colias philodice*): Just one fly-by
Anise Swallowtail (*Papilio zelicaon*): second most abundant species
Pale Swallowtail (*Papilio eurymedon*): At least two seen, just starting flight
Two-tailed Swallowtail (*Papilio multicaudata*): One seen
Mourning Cloak (*Nymphalis antiopa*): Just one seen on the forest road up to Windy Point.
Anglewing (*Polygonia* sp.): Likely Hoary Comma (*Polygonia gracilis*)
Echo azure (*Celastrina* echo): 2 or 3
Silvery Blue (*Glaucopsyche lygdamus*): two
Western Pine Elfin (*Callophrys eryphon*): Probably 20+
Brown Elfin (*Callophrys augustinus*): One
Sheridan's Hairstreak (*Callophrys sheridanii*): 10. Mostly past prime.

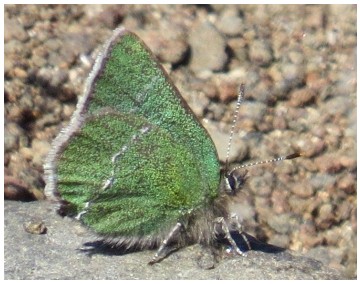
Western Pine Elfin. (J. Baumann)



Bella and the lizard, held by Stewart Wechsler, are the center of attention on the North Fork Cowiche Creek trip. (R. Johnson)

Oak [Propertius] Duskywing (*Erynnis propertius*): Six. Just beginning flight and tightly associated with the oaks.
Juba Skipper (*Hesperia juba*): A single individual.

We may have also sighted a few Indra swallowtails and a Moss's Elfin, but they eluded capture!
David James, Trip Leader



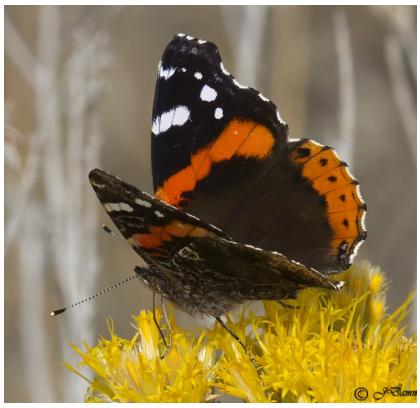
Sheridan's Hairstreak (M. Weiss)

Watching Washington Butterflies with Bob Pyle

Number Twenty-five

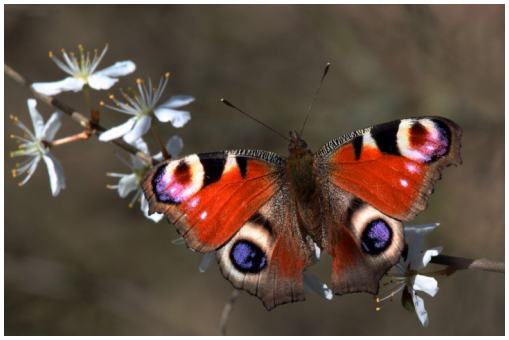
A Visit to the Butterfly Factory

Red Admirable (Jeanne Dammarell)



Vladimir Nabokov is best known as one of our finest novelists, as well as a great Bluesman: a lepidopterist who specialized in the blues, and whose iconoclastic theories have been supported recently by sophisticated molecular work. But it was also Nabokov who first noted what a large proportion of our northern butterfly fauna originates each year from the South—or so I was told by Charles Remington, co-founder of the Lepidopterists' Society and my professor at the time. Nabokov, said Remington, figured that as many as fifteen per cent of our summer butterflies arrive by immigration: southern species lacking a winter diapause that expand each summer into the North, via successive generations. Lepidopterists had long recognized that certain species irrupt northward in early spring in the desert, but it wasn't widely recognized just how many butterflies are northward expansionists.

I am writing near the end of April. Already, a week ago-plus, I watched three Red Admirables nectaring atop high lilacs in my garden. *Vanessa atalanta* is overwintering farther and farther north as the climate ameliorates, but historically, it has been an annual colonist in the North, depending upon fresh reinforcements from the non-freezing South each spring. A few days later I was in East Anglia in the U.K., watching scads of improbably beautiful Peacock butterflies nectaring on blossoms of blackthorn and bugle in a rails-to-trails nature reserve cut into a chalk ridge in the Fens. *Inachus io* has a winter diapause: it overwinters in sheds or English houses without central heating, and so it's already on hand to fly when the weather first turns clement, along with Small Tortoiseshells, Commas, and the hulky overwintering sulphurs called Brimstones. But a little later, Red Admirables from North Africa and southern Europe will show up, and join all of these over the nettlebeds and butterfly bushes. Painted Ladies, of course, do the same thing: emigrate from the southerly latitudes, or immigrate into the North, depending on your point of view. But, as the canny Nabokov early discerned, many other species formerly thought be resident in the freezing zones actually do the same, and then die back in the fall.



Peacock Butterfly (Charles J Sharp)

A few days after I returned from England, I flew to Lubbock, Texas, to take part in two conferences being held simultaneously on the campus of Texas Tech University. One was a meeting of writers, my main reason for going. But, happily, the other was the Texas Pollinators' PowWow—a happy gathering of all manner of good folk (beekeepers, farmers, entomologists, Master Naturalists, botanists, gardeners, conservationists, and others), all concerned with the well-being and future of pollinating insects, bats, birds, and other go-betweens for male and female flowers. I gave a talk entitled "Pollinators, Plants, and People on the Edge of What's Left"— a pictorial plea for taking careful stock of who's using what, before attempting to reorder the plant communities on damaged lands. Then I attended the Sunday field trip, wherein nearly half the attendees took to the countryside to see what pollinators they could find in the wild.

Tahoka Lake Playa (Scott Longing)

The focus of the field trip lay south of Lubbock, in the heart of the Llano Estacado, or Staked Plains, a huge, high plateau roughly bounded by the Pecos and the red Permian plains. It may have been so named by Coronado for the many yucca stalk "stakes" that punctuate the wide flats, or for the caprock escarpment to the sides. Our focus was a private family preserve known as Tahoka Lake Pasture—an historic cotton-growing and sheep (later longhorn cattle)-pasturing ranch that has been dedicated now to nature conservation on the mesquite uplands and alkali playa in the bottoms.

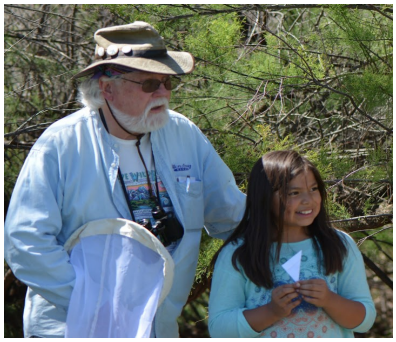
Dainty Sulphur (Idie Ulsh)

In the wind and sun of early spring, I went out with several groups into the yucca, cactus, mesquite, and sere grasses, seeking early pollinators on the purple Tahoka daisies, red Gaillardia, and other spring wildflowers that benefited from recent rains. Dodging ticks and rattlesnakes, as the temperature rose, we learned bee-study and collection techniques from renowned bee biologist and photographer Sam Droege. Cassin's Sparrows skylarked and roadrunners dashed. But I admit to drifting off with my net on each outing to see what was flying in the way of butterflies.

In the end, I tallied sixteen species, encountered in this order: Reakirt's Blue (*Echinargus isola*), Sachem (*Atalopedes campestris*), Checkered White (*Pieris protodice*), Orange Sulphur (*Colias eurytheme*), Clouded Sulphur (*C. philodice*), Black Swallowtail (*Papilio polyxenes*), Common Sootywing (*Pholisora catullus*), Common Checkered Skipper (*Pyrgus communis*), Cloudless Giant Sulphur (*Phoebis sennae*), Sleepy Orange (*Eurema nicippe*), Gray Hairstreak (*Strymon melinus*), Variegated Fritillary (*Euptoieta claudia*), Gulf Fritillary (*Agraulis vanillae*), Western Pygmy Blue (*Brephidium exilis*), Dainty Sulphur (*Nathalis iole*), and Fatal Metalmark (*Calephelis nemesis*), plus four or five nymphs and whites I saw from the truck that could not be caught or identified—potentially anglewings, tortoiseshells, checkerspots, and others.

Common Sootywing pair (Scott Longing

Funnily enough, I had just been telling folks about how, on the butterfly Big Year, I had found a colony of Fatal Metalmarks lurking in the dappled shade beneath old-growth salt cedar (aka tamarisk) along the Lower Colorado River in California; whereas it is often said that this introduced plant supports no life of interest in its dense stands. Just then, third-grader Madelynn emerged from the thicket of salt cedar before us with a Fatal Metalmark in her net! This proved to be a Lynn County record, and one of the two or three northernmost records ever for this species. It was also one of the few stay-at-home, resident species encountered all day.

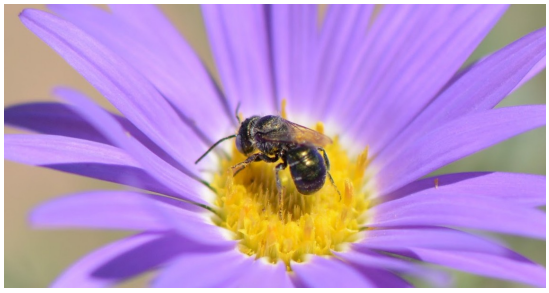


Bob, Madelynn, and her record metalmark.

Because the main point of this story is that, of the list of species enumerated above, almost every one is an increaser, or "weedy species", and an irruptive emigrator—one which is common in the South, utilizing several or many larval hostplants, capable of producing an early spring generation, bursting out, and then leapfrogging north through successive generations until the continent is largely filled with their shimmering forms. That's not to say that some of them don't stay behind; most of these species would probably be found here all summer and into the fall. But except for the metalmark, the Black Swallowtail, and perhaps the sootywing, *all* of the others listed above are blast-off butterflies: generalists capable of rapid increase in the spring, and if conditions are right, pioneers of the great wave of immigrant butterflies infilling the continent in months to come. Potential antecedents, in fact, of our own Washington butterflies. There, I've finally gotten around to "Watching Washington Butterflies": our summer in-fillers come from somewhere, and ultimately, it might as well be from the Staked Plains of Texas!

Reakirt's Blue (Scott Longing)

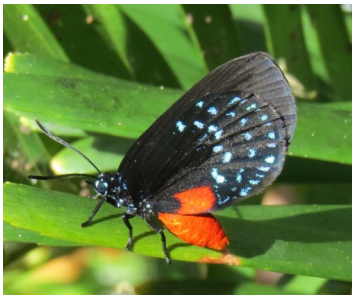
Now some of these haven't appeared here yet—Gulf Fritillary, Cloudless Giant Sulphur, and Sleepy Orange—though they may well turn up in years to come. Others have been very rarely encountered in Washington: we have only one record each for Reakirt's and Pygmy blues and Dainty Sulphur, two for Variegated Fritillary, and a handful for Checkered White. But our Orange and Clouded Sulphurs, Common Checkered Skippers, and Gray Hairstreaks may well have Texan origins each year, or at least be reinforced from that direction. And this entire list—with the exception of the regionally limited swallowtail and metalmark—may well appear on our state checklist eventually, as the warming continues. And that's why I feel I've been making a visit to the butterfly factory! Next time you see a Sachem or a Checkered Skipper, stop to think: its ancestors may well have been Made in Texas!



Tahoka Daisy (Scott Longing)

Species Profile: Florida's Atala (*Eumaeus atala*) by Melanie Weiss

The Atala butterfly, *Eumaeus atala,* is a member of the Lycaenidae family and the Subfamily Theclinae, or hairstreak. The Atala occurs naturally in southeast Florida, and also in the Bahamas, Cuba, the Cayman Islands and other nearby islands (Koi & Hall, 2015). I visited Florida in February of this year and was able to see this dazzling beauty twice at Long Pine Key Nature Area in Ft. Lauderdale. It was once common in the area, but was thought to be extirpated in the mid 1900s due to habitat loss and over-harvesting of its host plant, coontie (*Zamia integrifolia)*, a cycad, for starch (Cech & Tudor, 2005; Koi & Hall 2015). However, an isolated population was later discovered. Efforts have been made since then to raise and reintroduce the species throughout its natural habitat and on private and public land. It has helped that coontie has been embraced as a landscape plant.



Adult Atala

Coontie

The Atala's wingspan is approximately 1 ½ to 1 ¾ inches across with the males being smaller than the females. The ventral forewing is black. The boldly colored hindwing and bright abdomen can be seen in the photo with this article. The Atalas rest with their wings closed, so the dorsal side is rarely seen. The dorsal forewing of the male is black with greenish metallic iridescence in the central area, while the dorsal forewing of the female is black and has a smaller blue metallic area (Cech & Tudor, 2005).

The Atala's bright red-orange abdomen and black wings with three rows of iridescent turquoise dots are striking and aposematic (warning). Atalas carry a protective toxic chemical, cycasin, from their host plant. Once eaten, the butterfly will rarely be eaten again by the same predator. Even the eggs have cycasin in them (Schneider et al., 2002).

In Long Pine Key Nature Area the Atalas flew in a slow manner 6 feet or less above the ground. Sometimes one would perch on the end of a branch, most likely a male on the lookout for a female or another male encroaching on his domain (Koi, 2013, 2015). Others would fly into the coontie plants and crawl about on the leaves, possibly females. Ovipositing (egg laying) was not observed.

I was unable to determine if there were eggs on the coontie I examined as there are pests that also look like eggs. Koi states that the eggs are laid in clusters of 60 or more, and often on new growth of the host plant. The few gel-like larvae present at Long Pine Key were attached to the leaves with silk hairs. The Atala has 3 to 5 instars. They are able to pupate after the 3rd instar if conditions are not ideal for maturation which resulting in smaller adults (Koi, 2013, 2015). Atalas often pupate in groups. There were several groupings at this site. Pupae were visible in several stages of development in addition to a few that looked diseased. When they are ready to eclose (emerge), you can see the red of the abdomen and black wing color. Atala butterflies are multivoltine (breed year round). They are most numerous after the seasonal rains of the spring and fall when coontie fronds are growing and tender. Koi has observed Atalas living 3 weeks or more in the wild and up to 3 months in ideal conditions (2013, 2015).

Atala caterpillar on coontie.

Atala pupa

The future of this butterfly is of concern due to its being susceptible to loss of habitat, loss of its host plant, fires, hurricanes, and the isolated nature of its population.

All photos by Melanie Weiss

Special thanks to Dave Nunnallee for the inspiration for my humble efforts and for the many species profiles that he has given us in the past.

Silent Auction at Annual Conference

Our 2016 Annual Conference will again feature a Silent Auction on Saturday evening. The past two years, we've had a lot of fun with the auction, and raised several hundred dollars for WBA.

We need your help to make the auction a success. The first thing you can do is donate new items to be auctioned. If you know a craft or skill, you might make an item for the auction or offer your services. Popular items in the past were handmade scarves, artwork, and personalized butterfly field trips.

Businesses are often willing to make a modest donation for the goodwill and tax deduction. I asked a business, and it was easier than you'd think—a modest donation is a routine thing for many businesses. If you want to ask a business for a donation, they may want a donation request form for tax purposes—you can download a form on our website.

Let me know what you plan to donate before July 30 if possible, then bring your item to the conference. If you can't make it to the conference, we'll make other arrangements.

Remember—the most important thing you can do for the auction is bring your cash (or checks) to the conference and bid!

Cascade Butterfly Project

The Cascade Butterfly Project, now in its 6th year, is a long term citizen science project monitoring butterflies and plant phenology at Mt. Rainier National Park and the North Cascades National Park. WBA is participating by adopting the 1,000 meter transect on the Naches Loop trail. This 3.5 mile trail has a 500 ft. elevation gain. We generally stop for lunch at the stunning overlook of Dewey Lake. Then we finish the loop. Two, or at the most three, people are needed each Friday. Sign up for one date or several: 7/22, 7/29, 8/5, 8/12, 8/19, 8/26, 9/2. We may continue into September if the weather permits. If interested, contact Melanie Weiss lead at Naches Loop, or Regina Rochefort head of the project

WBA at the Shrub-Steppe

On May 14 Melanie Weiss and Al Wagar set up our display at the Get Acquainted with the Shrub-Steppe (GISS) event at the Umtanum Recreation Area. We had a good flow of interested people at the display and people, especially kids, enjoyed our cage with live butterflies Melanie had caught the previous day, when the weather was decent. But the scheduled "butterfly walk for families" didn't work well with the weather having changed to cool and overcast. Only about four families joined us and we saw no adult butterflies. We managed to see only a few larvae.

The snake exhibit right next to us was the big draw of the event. Youngsters who hadn't been taught to be afraid were happily cuddling snakes from a 6-foot python down to a foot-long native Rubber Boa.

Noctuid moth caterpillar. (M. Weiss)

Washington Butterfly Association 2016 Conference Registration

Wallowa Mountains (Headquartering in Joseph & Enterprise, OR), August 5 - 7, 2016

Registration is **$85**; early registration by **July 8** is **$75**. **No refunds** after **July 8. Registration does not include lodging, meals, or tram ride.** Reservations for **dinner & lunches** must be received by **Wednesday, July 20. To register on-line click** http://www.planetReg.com/F43211548215915. **For mail-in registration,** make your check payable to **Washington Butterfly Association**, and send with this form to:

WBA, Attn: Conference Registrar, P.O. Box 31317, Seattle, WA 98103-1317.

You will receive confirmation by email, telephone, or mail. Questions? Contact Richard and Connie Youel, at cryouel@gmail.com or 206/282-3758.

Name _____ **Please print clearly**

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Enter number of people and, if chosen, any meals, with totals and grand total in the right-hand column.

WBA MEMBERS—REGISTRATION	**Price**	**How many?**	**Total**
Full Registration includes Friday evening light refreshments & lecture, Saturday field trip, Saturday evening lecture, Sunday field trip. **Early=$75; otherwise $85**	**$85/ $75**		
- Children 12 and under free if accompanied by an adult registered for the conference	**$0**		
Partial Registration:			
Friday evening only	**$25**		
Saturday field trip only	**$35**		
Saturday lecture only	**$25**		
Sunday field trip only	**$25**		
SPECIAL OFFER! Discounted registration AND one year free WBA membership for first-time members, juniors 13 –17 years, and students enrolled in school programs. Under 18 must be accompanied by registered adult.			
Full Registration includes Friday evening light refreshments & lecture, Saturday field trip, Saturday evening lecture, Sunday field trip	**$40**		
Children 12 and under free if accompanied by a registered adult	**$0**		
Friday evening only	**$15**		
Saturday field trip only	**$25**		
Saturday lecture	**$15**		
Sunday field trip only	**$20**		
An optional Monday field trip will be available for those wishing to stay over	**$0**		
MEALS--OPTIONAL not included with registration fee. If you have special dietary needs, contact Registrar. Bring your own water for field trips.			
Saturday dinner includes green salad with balsamic vinaigrette, raspberry spritzer, iced tea, decaf, and berry buckle cake with vanilla ice cream. Pick one entrée per person.			
Adults If more than one choice, **please enter a name for each entree**			
Chicken Marbella and rice pilaf	**$25**		
Spinach Lasagna (vegetarian) and cheesy garlic bread	**$25**		
Children's plates - $10 for children 5-12 yr. Children under 5 yr., free.			
Chicken Marbella and rice pilaf	**$10/0**		
Spinach Lasagna (vegetarian) and cheesy garlic bread	**$10/0**		
Saturday sack lunch includes sandwich, fruit, oatmeal cookie, and V8 juice			
Turkey and Swiss on whole wheat	**$10**		
Cream cheese/walnut/cranberry spread on whole wheat	**$10**		
Sunday sack lunch includes sandwich, fruit, brownie, and V8 juice			
Ham and cheddar on multi-grain	**$10**		
Avocado, Swiss, and tomato on multi-grain	**$10**		

Total **$**_____

2016 Field Trip Schedule (Subject to Change)

Difficulty scale on last page.

Date	Destination/Description	Difficulty	Trip Leader/Contact
May 18	Hawk Creek in Lincoln County near Lake Roosevelt. Meet at 9 am at the Yoke's grocery store parking lot in Airway Heights west of Spokane. An additional side trip may head over bluff to Mill Creek Canyon to see whether Indra Swallowtails are out.	1-2	Susan Orlowski
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 8-18	Seattle Mountaineers butterfly class. Will cover butterfly identification, diversity, anatomy, phenology and the role of butterflies in the environment. There will be 2 lectures and 2 field trips. The class is open to everyone. Lectures will be held at the Mountaineers' Program Center in Magnuson Park in Seattle.		David Droppers and Maureen Traxler
June 12	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. This field trip is dependent on the migration of monarchs and the availability of nectar plants. If you are interested, please email David James in advance	2.5	David James
Aug. 20 or 27	Sheep Lake, Chinook Pass. This is a 4 mile round-trip hike with a 400 ft. elevation gain to a beautiful alpine lake surrounded by meadows. The trail is in good shape. . The date is dependent upon the final Monarch tagging date.	3	Melanie Weiss

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.

Log in to Washington Butterfly Association on Facebook for information on field trips throughout the state, spontaneous field trips that may arise during the season, speaking engagements throughout the state, research information, and other butterfly and moth items of interest.

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.

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