



*G'nun**

The newsletter of the Washington Butterfly Association

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



Silver-spotted Skipper, once common in Spokane, is now uncommon. (J. Baumann)

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Silver-spotted Skipper.
(Lewis Scharpf)

Upcoming Programs and Events

November 15, Wednesday, Spokane: Ann Potter of WDFW, on Species of Greatest Conservation Need Findings from Summer 2017. Learn about the fortunes and frustrations of WBA volunteers who accepted the challenge of trying to find previously known colonies of these butterflies.

November 21, 28, and December 2, volunteer work parties restoring butterfly habitat at Scatter Creek Wildlife Area and Mima Mounds Natural Area Preserve in Thurston County. See page 8 for more info.

December 5, Tuesday, San Juan Island, volunteer to help restore Island Marble habitat. See page 8 for more info.

December 6, Wednesday, Seattle: Jon Pelham on Guild Foodplants of Washington Butterflies.

No Spokane meeting in December.

January 17, Wednesday, Spokane: John Baumann on Leading or Planning Great Spokane Area Butterfly Safaris.

January, TBA, Seattle: Holiday Party.

Making Lists, Checking Them Twice...WBA's Potential Gifts to Posterity

By John Baumann

Sighting by sighting, photo by photo, line by line, I have enjoyed listing butterflies Brenda and I have seen for the past nine years' worth of our roaming about Cascadian landscapes. The small discipline of making notes during or after each field day has developed into a useful if informal database to which I can refer when our group considers field trip options, or raises questions about butterfly study areas. Now and then, WBA scientific advisors have hailed my reports with feedback that a new county record has been made. The records are still coming in, and I am but one of a pretty large group of area naturalists reporting them. Please join me! Indeed: I'm here today to plug for you all to join me in listing *every* butterfly you see, as best you can.

Elsewhere in this issue, Bob Pyle will be speaking to you about a special sort of listing practice, the Big Year. This more arduous form of listing has drawn comic or even warning sorts of responses: consider the recent movie on birders, "The Big Year". Or, the book, *Life List*, in which a brilliant and avid birder meets her demise in the field after a series of harrowing adventures that might have discouraged anyone else from continuing on. My hope is that you all will feel free to avail yourselves to every nook and cranny of Washington state's wealth of wild lands to find the rarest of species for your growing life lists, but *not* neglect the humble yet very helpful task of routine listing.

Whether you intend to enlarge your life list, enjoy a big year, or even press forward to finding some of the rarities that our own state offers, your work can be significant by simply listing your sightings. I only have anecdotal information now to document how drastically butterfly populations around my area in Spokane are declining. Long time resident naturalists tell me that Monarchs used to be common here, but no longer are today, but there is no formal local data to support this yet. Silver-spotted Skippers once were abundant in lawns here, according to my friend, Wade Schwartz: he grew up here, and has been watching Spokane butterflies for decades. The Silver-spots are uncommon now. We each have the wherewithal to follow such trends on a more scientific scale with our capacity for quick species identification, good photos and good records!... Although we do not yet have a way to catalog the data in one central place, it could be done, and we each can help. For an inspiring look at one man's effort leading research in such an area, visit Arthur Shapiro's website on California butterflies (<http://butterfly.ucdavis.edu/>) to see how well he has documented some subtle changes in species localities and diversity over the past 30 years. A recent BBC article available online reports that from such data, Europeans have seen a 75 % decline in many airborne insects, including butterflies, a huge concern at the ecosystem level. We can do our part with local action to support a global recognition of this vital conservation issue! Happy butterflying, and happy listing. And to Bob Pyle, from all of WBA, may you enjoy the biggest of Big Years. May checkerspots and hairstreaks flutter over your roads and trails.

President's Message from David Jennings

At our conference this past summer the WBA membership elected our current officers and board of directors. The newly elected WBA board met for an all-day retreat back in October. The agenda was pretty packed and very productive.

We reviewed last year's accomplishments; adopted a working budget and associated priorities for this next year; started planning our 2018 annual meeting and winter holiday gathering; reviewed our field trip offerings, including the need to train/recruit more field trip leaders; identified volunteer opportunities (now...to find more volunteers!); discussed how to increase our conservation effectiveness for butterflies and other native pollinators; plus committed to increasing our ability to broadcast monthly meetings statewide. Other stuff too—like fundraising.

One interesting outcome of our annual meeting discussion was recognition that our annual "conference" isn't really a conference. We don't have a series of lectures on a variety of topics—instead we have fun field trips targeting interesting butterfly species and habitats. Calling it a "conference" may be off-putting to potential scholarship applicants, and others. We are considering renaming our annual "get-together" from "conference" to something else: Annual Wings Over XX? Festival? Safari? Adventure? Odyssey? Gathering? What's your reaction? Do you have suggestions for a rebranding of our conference title? Let us know.

(Continued on page 10)

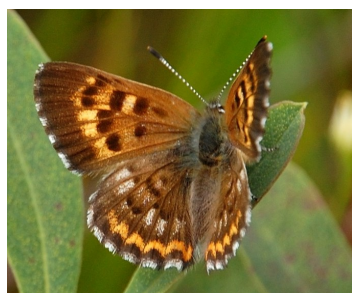
Watching Washington Butterflies with Bob Pyle

Number Thirty-one

Washington Butterfly Big Year: Second Report

I concluded my previous column, "Bob's Big Birthday Butterfly Bash," like this: "Having found well over a third of the Washington butterflies in our single week in northeast Washington, David Branch and I (over a glass or two of The Macallan) rashly decided to undertake the first Washington Butterfly Big Year: stretching from July 15, 2017 to July 15, 2018, instead of the usual January 1-January 1. Why not? ", and asked you to "Stay tuned!"

So in this follow-up essay, I shall report on how the rest of the season has gone, ultimately sealing my report on the first half of Washington's First Butterfly Big Year.



Female June's
Copper. (Joe Roccio)

Much occupied by a book tour and the other tasks of early autumn, and not graced with perfect butterfly weather every day, I parsed the remaining clement weeks in just a few targeted field trips. On August 19, I visited North Bay Natural Area Preserve in Grays Harbor County, the Type Locality of the newly described June's Copper subspecies of the Mariposa Copper (Pyle and Hammond in press). The coppers were still flying over the fine sphagnum bog and its cranberries, and a nice surprise was a big, faded-straw female Dun Skipper, a late date for it. Two days later came the Total Solar Eclipse. I spent it studying the behavior of the Woodland Skippers in my yard during the eclipse. They behaved! And that will be a future note.

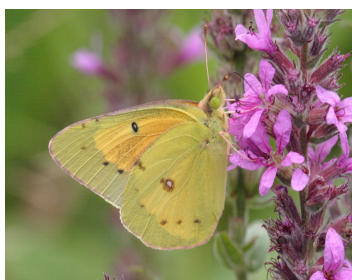
The next opportunity to go afield came over the first weekend of September, when I rejoined my Butterfly Big Year companion David Branch at his mountain house in Roslyn. In a long-planned gambit, we were further joined there by Jonathan Pelham. The first afternoon was for specimen exam from our big outing in Ferry and Okanogan counties. Jon confirmed most of our IDs, but stripped our list of a couple of species for which I had come down on the wrong side of ambiguous IDs. But he who takes also gives, and an anglewing I'd thought to be a dark female *Polygonia satyrus* Jon adjudged to be the unfamiliar (to me) purplish race of *P. oreas*, ssp. *threatfuli*. Chalk one up! Beer was involved, and some seriously good cooking, and billiards.

The morning of September 3 came thick and grim with smoke, and a Stage II evacuation warning from the Jolly Mountain Fire too close to the north. As we three plus Loke the Butterfly Dog headed out, we hoped there would be a home to return to. The thing with a butterfly big year is that you have to be attentive to the passing seasons and their fading faunas, because they will not be back again until your year has come and gone. There aren't many exclusively autumn butterflies, but we had to see them now, or not at all. I'd already spotted Pine Whites and found the one egg of the Golden Hairstreak. That pretty



Mormon Metalmark on
rabbitbrush. (J. Baumann)

Orange Sulphur on Loosestrife.
(NW PBS)



much left the Mormon Metalmark: this would be our one chance to find it. The thick smoke all around cooled the day and put our success in doubt. Here's where Professor Pelham came in. Most of my reliable spots for Mormons were much farther east, but he had a favorite site for them up Reecer Canyon, northeast of Ellensburg. We no sooner got there, and stepped out into the sere, smoky, desiccated landscape, than bright little metalmarks popped up all around. The slender stalks and tiny blossoms of *Eriogonum elatum* host a grand population here, and they were on good display, with several other species.

I hated to break up our merry company, but relieved to have checked off *Apodemia mor-*
mo, I left the boys to it and headed south and east down the Columbia. It was hot and

still, and I stopped for a Fudgesicle in the Latin town of Mattawa. There I beheld the greatest butterfly spectacle I've seen since I was last among the Monarchs in Mexico: tens of thousands of Orange and Clouded Sulphurs circling, rising, flirting, and falling among the pre-harvest fields of alfalfa. And the day closed out under the Vernita Bridge, with a fine spectacle of Monarchs and Viceroys thronging the brilliant nectar banks of purple loosestrife: a troublesome invasive perhaps, but essential to the survival of migrating Monarchs in Washington, as David James has shown.

Monarch on rabbitbrush. (Thea Pyle)

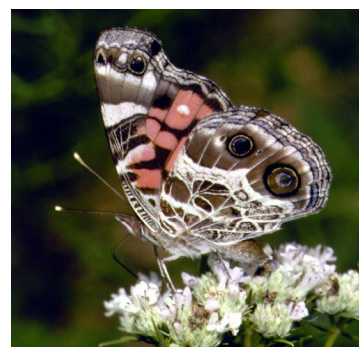


The next day, after camping at Prosser, I crossed the bleak agricultural barren of the Horse Heaven Hills, relieved only by the occasional wandering Becker's White. What a relief to rejoin the Big River at Paterson, and step out into a moist and verdant thicket of bright nectar plants all along the shore: several native composites, mallows, mints, and others, though once again most of the nectaring action—Monarchs, Viceroys, Gray Hairstreaks, Painted Ladies, and Cabbage Whites (including one cutie the size of a copper)—took place among the avenues of purple loosestrife. Much of the ground was carpeted in the alkaline-loving saltgrass (*Distichlis spicata*), much beloved hostplant of Sandhill Skippers, which I dearly hoped to find here; but nary a one was to be seen. That's the other thing about a Big Year: you can lead a lepidopterist to the right habitat and hostplants, but you can't make him or her find the desired butterfly. Now there was just time to get west to Roosevelt, to spot some more Monarchs at the reliable locale I named "The Fish Patch" in *Chasing Monarchs*. Once again, it didn't let me down.

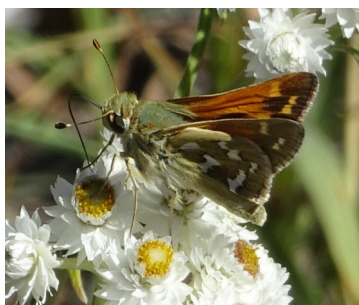
Now, I thought that by traveling so far south, I'd escape the smoke. But fires were region-wide, and as I westered down the Gorge after sunset, the skies only seemed to thicken toward Mt. Hood. What followed was a truly hellish trip home through the margins of the Eagle Creek Fire, just then raging, through the worst traffic imaginable, as all of I-84 was detoured onto little SR-14 on the Washington side. Between the raging red inferno on my left and the chaos of the insufficient road, I wasn't at all sure my little 1982 Honda, Powdermilk, with her 432,000 miles, would make it home at all. You can read about that shocking night here: <http://www.coastweekend.com/cw/coastal-life/20170912/let-the-fire-fall>

The next opportunity for a field foray came on September 27, and took the form of a double remembrance: fifty years that month since my mother, a great collecting pal, had died; and fifty years to the day since Thea and I had first met in a mushroom class at the UW. My target was the western blast zone of Mt. St. Helens, on the way up to Johnston Ridge. There, on a September 3rd outing for Thea's birthday some years earlier, we had found the recovering ashfields thickly tufted with Pearly Everlasting—both the caterpillar hostplant for the American Painted Lady, and a potent nectar source for that and many other species. And, lo! We had indeed found *Vanessa virginiensis*—not one, or two, but in the dozens! That was the only time this species had ever been reported as *common* in Washington butterfly history. So I had high hopes on this sunny day, even if it was three weeks later. But you know, nothing stays the same, especially in a rapidly evolving geological landscape. First, those everlasting fields hadn't lasted, and were now alder scrub. Second, the USFS no longer maintained a trail onto the blast zone, and any similar habitat was off limits. All I found were a couple of California Tortoiseshells hilltopping on Johnston Ridge, a tail-end Woodland Skipper or two, and a French couple who couldn't figure out how to get their rented van out of Park. But a fine day afield it had been (and isn't that the main thing, after all?), full of warm memories of Helen Lee and Thea.

American Painted Lady.
(Patrick Coin)



Juba Skipper. (R. Johnson)



Lastly, I headed for the eastern Gorge one more time on October 16-17. Camping at Stonehenge, I lay on the altar stone in mild air beneath the Milky Way, Orion rising between two standing stones. Morning came cold and bright, and I saw right away that the rabbitbrush was in excellent shape with loads of nectar in the bright yellow heads. My aim was to find Juba and Sandhill Skippers, and from the outset this seemed entirely doable. After breakfast in Biggs, I walked the BNSF maintenance road between the tracks and the river downstream from US 97, below Maryhill Mansion. There were buckets of bunnybrush and snow buckwheat in bloom, along with some asters. As soon as it was warm enough, butterflies began to appear: a Cabbage White, a fresh Red Admirable, a couple of diminutive but brilliant Acmon Blues on the pink g'nun, and one barely post-

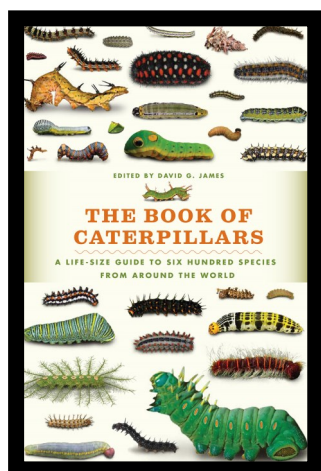
emergent female Monarch, tanking up on *Chrysothamnus* nectar before tackling the Columbia. (This was exactly where I had watched a Monarch actually cross the Columbia on my big monarch chase in 1996.) Across SR 97 next to Maryhill State Park, purple heads of vetch and alfalfa contributed lots of Orange and Clouded Sulphurs and fresh Sachem Skippers of both sexes. But two big beautiful beds of zinnias and tithonias in Maryhill village, usually absolute magnets for anything *Vanessa*, produced not a single painted lady of any species—just a Cabbage, a male Monarch, and more Sachems.

I was beginning to get worried, as the day bore on. And so I should have: driving all the way east to the Fish Patch again and beyond even unto Plymouth to cross to the 84 at Umatilla, I checked hundreds and hundreds of golden rabbitbrushes. And they did bear thousands of lepidopterans! Virtually all of them Celery Loopers (*Anagrapha falcifera*) and one or two other species of day-flying plusiine moths. The handsome, metal-marked loopers are having a heckuva year, common at my buddleia in Gray's River, too. But they sure made it hard to spot skippers—or they would have, had there been any skippers to spot. But there weren't, not a one—Juba, Sandhill, Woodland, or Colorado. In my experience, October rabbitbrush almost always produces big hunky Jubas, sometimes *en masse*. But not this year...not during the Big Year! Why? Maybe the cold, wet spring left them low, but who knows. I do know we'll have a job to find these species in the spring. But it can be done, and David and I will be out there trying!



Celery Looper (OPSU)

Tally for the first half of the Big Year: 70 species of 155 possible. Best finds: Variegated Fritillary (State Record Voucher) and Egles (= Great Basin) Fritillary (County Record) in Ferry County.



Support your local caterpillars! by David James

Sixties pop icon Donovan once sang ‘caterpillar sheds its skin to find a butterfly within’. Now I don’t know whether Donovan knew, for the sake of poetry, that he was being biologically inaccurate (caterpillars actually shed their skin to find a chrysalis within) or whether he really thought butterflies emerge from caterpillars, but at least a caterpillar was mentioned in a top ten hit! Ray Davies also mentioned a caterpillar briefly at the beginning of the hit Kinks song Autumn Almanac (‘on the new soft hedge creeps a crawly caterpillar’). Caterpillars for many people are indeed ‘creepy crawlies’ but like puppies, bear cubs, ducklings and even children, caterpillars can be more interesting, lovable and charismatic than the adults they grow up to be!

Caterpillars are truly fascinating! Butterflies and moths do not ‘grow’, all the growth occurs as a caterpillar. To eat and survive is the caterpillar mantra. And to that end, caterpillars have evolved a remarkable range of strategies and adaptations to ensure that they get enough to eat and do not fall prey to the many predators that are always seeking a caterpillar snack. Caterpillars come in all shapes and sizes. Some are incredibly camouflaged and hidden from view while others shout their presence by being colorful and exposed and usually distasteful or poisonous to predators. Some are spiny and others are incredibly hairy; both types are physically unpalatable. The look of every caterpillar always has something to do with protection. Some caterpillars recruit ants for protection and reward the insect bouncers by supplying them with sugar. Other caterpillars propel their poop to put predators off the scent. Others will pretend to be snakes by puffing up their bodies and displaying ‘snake eyes’. All of this is bluster and empty threats though because nearly all caterpillars are unable to inflict lethal damage to their adversaries.

It is not just birds, wasps, and mice that see caterpillars as tasty morsels. Did you know that caterpillars of certain silk and hawk moths form part of the diet of millions of people in Africa? More protein-rich than the farm animals we eat, tasty caterpillars are now being farmed in many developing countries for human consumption. An estimated 10 billion caterpillars are harvested annually in Africa alone. Recently, scientists discovered that caterpillars of the wax moth are

able to eat plastic raising the possibility that these caterpillars could help us degrade and recycle the billions of plastic bags we produce!

So caterpillars are fascinating and useful. They are also powerful. Some prisoners rearing Monarch butterfly caterpillars in a western US prison see the metamorphosis before them as a metaphor for their own lives. "If they can change so can I". Caterpillar rearing has demonstrably improved the mental health and lives of these felons.

But when was the last time you saw a caterpillar? Butterfly, moth and caterpillar populations are declining worldwide as we destroy or change their habitats. They are the 21st century canary in the coalmine, a bellwether of environmental change. We can all help bring caterpillars back by making our gardens friendlier to them by growing the plants they need and not using pesticides. Our gardens and lives will be richer for the presence of caterpillars!

David G James is lead author of *The Book of Caterpillars* published by University of Chicago Press and available on Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/Book-Caterpillars-Life-Size-Hundred-Species/dp/022628736X>

How to support your local caterpillars by Regina Johnson

Recently I read a book that has been making waves in gardening circles, Douglas Tallamy's *Bringing Nature Home*. I believe I can summarize his main points thus: Wildlife, including insects and birds, are dependent on suburban gardens for habitat because development and other disturbances have resulted in widespread habitat loss and degradation; and that typical garden plants do not provide food for the insects and other arthropods that form the foundation of the food web for the larger animals like birds and reptiles. It was an interesting read with some caveats. One, it's written almost entirely for gardeners in the Mid-Atlantic states, relying heavily on his personal observations in his own gardens in Delaware and Pennsylvania, and discussing the non-native garden plants and invasives common in that area. He treats Douglas-fir as a nonnative! Which it is there, but not for us here. Two, his uses of statistics don't always ring true—his assumptions aren't necessarily valid, and his numbers don't always add up. For instance, he cites the USDA statistic that 41.4% of the land area in the US is in agriculture, and jumps to the conclusion that therefore the rest is urban. I'm pretty sure there are other land use categories besides agriculture and urban! And there's different degrees of urbanization, from the density of Manhattan to typical Washington rural residential. He also cites 'ecologists' as estimating that only 3-5% of the land area in the US is undisturbed, which will depend of course on your definition of undisturbed.

Tallamy wants us all to plant our gardens with native plants, because native plants are more likely to support robust populations of insects and other invertebrates, and most of the animals we think of as 'wildlife' depend on these insects and other invertebrates for their food supply, either directly, as with birds feeding their nestlings (most all birds eat bugs, primarily caterpillars, as nestlings, whatever the adults may eat), or indirectly, with other animals eating insectivores. Basically, insects turn plants into bird and reptile and fish food. He cites anecdotal evidence from his own observations, and research by his college students, that insects etc. are declining overall (not just butterflies or bees) and believes this is a result of habitat loss through widespread planting of nonnative plants, and the invasion of more natural areas by nonnative plants. By and large, most insects don't eat nonnative plants because they are not co-evolved; the plants have phytochemicals to deter herbivores and only co-evolved herbivores will be able to eat them. Monarchs and milkweeds are a well-known example of this; few animals can eat milkweed other than Monarchs. This is, of course, a generalization and we will cover some exceptions in a later issue. Speaking strictly for the Mid-Atlantic area, he states that although the Norway Maple has been in this country for over 300 years, there are still essentially no insects that eat it here, while native maples support 285 species of Lepidoptera; 300 years is too short for co-evolution to have occurred. And *Clematis vitalba*, a nonnative weedy clematis that is increasingly common here in Washington, supports 40 species of insects in its native range in Eurasia, but only 1 species in North America (he doesn't say what that one species is though, or how long *C. vitalba* has been here). You can see the problem, even if his numbers are not 100% correct. He goes so far, in fact, as to compare nonnative plants to statuary—ornamental, but sterile and lifeless.

What is meant by insect/plant co-evolution? Most all plants create phytochemicals of one kind or another to deter herbivores, for self-defense. Phytochemicals are what give plants their flavors and fragrances. These phytochemicals have a variety of effects. Some taste bitter, some bind up the nutrients in your gut so you starve, some poison the nervous system or heart. Digitalis in foxgloves, pyrethrin in chrysanthemums, nicotine in tobacco, salicylic acid in willows, tannins in oaks and conifers, are all phytochemicals to deter herbivores. In response, herbivores like insects evolve to be able to tolerate or detoxify the particular phytochemicals in a particular group of plants. Many mammalian herbivores have the ability to at least partially detoxify many different phytochemicals, and rely on eating a varied diet to avoid overloading on any one toxic phytochemical. Most insect herbivores, on the other hand, have evolved the ability

to more thoroughly detoxify or sequester a limited range of phytochemicals, so they specialize on plants with those chemicals. Makes sense, since most mammals can move around a lot more than caterpillars, and thus sample a larger variety of plants than caterpillars can. Besides Monarchs on milkweeds, there's also checkerspot on paintbrush and Mourning Cloaks on willows. A few insect species, like the various Tiger Swallowtails, can eat a wide variety of plants, but only about 10% of insect species are considered to be generalists. Other species that appear to eat a variety of plants are eating plants that share the same phytochemicals. But just being in the same genus isn't enough to make different species of plants edible, as in the Norway Maple example above—the nonnative garden sweet violet, *Viola odorata*, is inedible to greater fritillaries, which rely on native violets; and the California Sister, which eats the oaks common in California and Oregon, can't eat our only native oak. And as we see from the Norway Maple example, co-evolution takes a long time.

So, to follow David James' exhortation above to Support your Local Caterpillars, you should plant more native plants in your garden. To that end I have put together a short list of Washington native plants that are known to be good host plants for our more-common butterfly caterpillars, drawn from the book *Landscaping for Wildlife in the Pacific Northwest*, by Russel Link. Keep in mind that not all butterflies will occur in your area—no Monarchs west of the Cascades (sorry, Seattle), and not all native plants occur in all parts of the state—no Bigleaf Maples east of the Cascades (sorry, Spokane). Before you go launching in to a total reworking of your landscape, you might want to take a look at Eileen Starks' *Real Gardens Grow Natives*, which was reviewed by Joyce Bergen in our March 2015 issue. The book covers ecological landscaping principles, designing for wildlife, soil preparation and planting techniques, and wildlife-friendly garden maintenance. Also, recently out from Xerces, is *Gardening for Butterflies*. It's a beautiful and inspiring book, and while not written exclusively for the PNW, it does cover our area very well. And, it is exclusive to butterflies, not wildlife in general like the above books, with information on garden design, plant selection, and garden maintenance—turns out most of our traditional garden maintenance activities are devastating to butterflies and other insects.

Keep in mind this list is for plants that caterpillars eat, not nectar sources, which will be covered in a later issue.

Maple: bigleaf, vine, Douglas
 Hawthorne: black, Columbian
 Cherry: bitter, choke
 Willow: many species
 Ceanothus: redstem, snowbrush
 Oceanspray
 Pearly Everlasting
 Western Bleeding Heart
 Lomatium: many species
 Eriogonum: different species
 Lupine: many species
 Stinging Nettle
 Kinnikinnick
 Salal
 Bitterbrush
 Milkweeds
 Violets: early blue, stream
 Thistles: any
 Grasses: most any
 Pine: lodgepole/shore, western white,
 ponderosa

Pale and Western Tiger Swallowtail, Mourning Cloak
 Pale Tiger Swallowtail, Mourning Cloak, Gray Hairstreak
 Pale and Two-Tail Tiger Swallowtail, Spring Azure, Lorquin's Admiral
 Tiger Swallowtail, Lorquin's Admiral, Mourning Cloak, Viceroy
 Pale Tiger Swallowtail, California Tortoiseshell, Brown Elfin
 Pale Tiger Swallowtail, Gray Hairstreak, Spring Azure, Lorquin's Admiral
 Painted Lady
 Clodius Parnassian
 Anise and Indra Swallowtails
Euphilotes blues, green hairstreaks
 Silvery and Boisduval's Blues, Western Sulphur
 Red Admiral, Painted Lady, Milbert's Tortoiseshell, Satyr Anglewing
 Brown Elfin
 Brown Elfin, Spring Azure
 Brown Elfin
 Monarchs
 Greater fritillaries, Western Meadow Fritillary
 Painted Lady, Mylitta Crescent
 Common Ringlet, wood nymphs, grass skippers
 Pine White



Red Admiral. (M. Weiss)



Milbert's Tortoiseshell.
(M. Weiss)



Mourning Cloak. (D. Nunnallee)



Monarch. (Matthew Hull)



Butterflies (and Caterpillars) Need YOU!

Here's another way we can Support our Local Caterpillars! Habitat restoration for butterflies is critical for their continued survival, and with budget troubles at both the state and federal levels, volunteers are essential.

The Center for Natural Lands Management's South Sound Prairie Program is looking for volunteers interested in restoring prairies to provide habitat for rare and endangered species in southern Pierce and Thurston counties. Volunteers can help with invasive species control, collecting native forb and grass seed for propagation, planting native plants including larval food plants for butterflies, or helping out at their farms with native seed production. Groups meet each Tuesday, alternate Fridays and the second Saturday of each month. You can learn more at southsoundprairies.org. Under the Volunteer page you can sign up to receive the weekly volunteer newsletter, which will keep you up to date with their volunteer events. Carpooling from downtown Olympia is available, and may be available from Seattle on Tuesdays.

November 11th Saturday (11-3) Planting for Taylor's Checkerspot at Glacial Heritage Preserve, with a lecture at 10 am at Shotwell's Landing Nursery on the Parkland Prairie park development.

November 14th Tuesday (9-3) planting for Taylor's Checkerspot at Tenalquot Preserve near JBLM.

November 21st Tuesday (9-3) seeding (and maybe planting) for butterflies at Scatter Creek Wildlife Area.

November 28th Tuesday (9-3) planting for butterflies at Mima Mounds Natural Area Preserve.

December 2nd Saturday (10-3), again at Mima Mounds.

For those less physically active, Susan Waters at CNLM will need volunteers this winter to review video of insect predation on butterfly eggs, and enter data. One day of training in Olympia will be required but the work itself can be done online, from home. Contact her at swaters@cnlm.org for more info.

On San Juan Island, the National Park Service is looking for volunteers to help restore habitat for the Island Marble butterfly by planting native prairie and larval food plants on Tuesday, December 5th. They would also like help with their native plant nursery, and possibly surveys as well. Contact Jenny Shrum at jenny_shrum@nps.gov or (360) 378-2240 x 2225 for more info. <https://www.nps.gov/sajh/index.htm>

For all outdoor work, plan on cold, wet, windy, muddy conditions. And be sure to take photos for the Gnum!

Taylor's Checkerspot. (Lisa Randolph)



Scatter Creek Wildfire August 2017

In late August a wildfire in south Thurston County burned through the Scatter Creek Wildlife Area charring 345 acres of the preserve. The fire incinerated important habitat for over a half dozen butterflies that the state has deemed Species of Greatest Conservation Need, potentially killing scores of caterpillars and pupae.

The wildfire burned through a vast swath of the southern portion of the preserve, hitting far more of the landscape than would be targeted with controlled ecological burns (typically 5-10 acres). This fire burned so much of the landscape, including all of the known habitat for most of the rare butterflies on site, that there is great concern for their survival.

In addition to the natural response to fire, managers at WDFW will be focusing resources on the site to help ensure the preserve follows a recovery trajectory towards a healthier native ecosystem. Additionally the fire cleared vegetation on over 300 acres of ground making the seeding of native grasses and flowers both possible and critical to rebuild the habitat for those rare butterflies that occupy the site. The Center for Natural Lands Management will be coordinating volunteers in seeding and planting at Scatter Creek on November 21st, from 9-3. Carpooling from downtown Olympia is available.

2016-17 Treasurer's Report to the Membership
Submitted by Regina Johnson

Annual Treasurer's Report 11/1/2016 through 10/31/2017		Category	TOTAL
INCOME		EXPENSES	
Conference Auction	446.25	Conference Cost Misc	236.20
Conference deposit return	300.00	Conference Cost Speaker	233.20
Conference Registration	4,674.00	Conference Cost, Food	2,404.95
Donations to WBA	19.00	Conference Cost, Planet Reg	70.78
Interest Income	97.82	Conference Rental	550.00
Member Dues	2,703.41	Donation from WBA	300.00
Scholarship funds	1,400.00	Fees & Charges	3.38
FROM savings	1,200.00	Hospitality	78.65
TOTAL INCOME	10,840.48	Insurance	1,597.00
or, \$9,640.48 without the transfer from savings		Newsletter	586.48
		Outreach	389.84
		PO Box	160.00
		Postage	19.60
		Rent, Meeting Room	1,986.25
		Rent, Board Retreat	60.00
		Scholarship Expenses	852.18
		Speaker Fees	545.00
		State Registration and Filing Fees	40.00
		Website	517.87
		TO NOW Account XX4271	1,200.00
		TOTAL EXPENSES	11,831.38
		or, \$10,631.38 without transfer to checking, above	
		OVERALL TOTAL	-990.90

Takeaways:

Donations are Way Down!

It's Easy to Donate on our Web Site!

<https://wabutterflyassoc.org/home-page/membership/>

Newsletter Publishing Costs are Way Up.

Please get your Gnum by Email!

I'd like to spend a little time comparing our income and expenses pre- and post- Independence from NABA.

When WBA was a NABA chapter, most of our membership dues went to NABA, while they covered such things as our insurance and our website. In 2008, we paid only \$279 for insurance, while this year we paid \$1600. That's a serious increase, making insurance our second-largest expense. Also while we were a NABA chapter, they hosted our website for us. Now we have to pay for that ourselves, plus Meetup, Zoom meeting broadcast software, online payment processing software, and online conference registrations. All new costs that we didn't have in 2008, to the tune of \$400/year. We get a discount on all of these as a nonprofit organization, but they still cost money.

The majority of our membership is now taking the newsletter by email, but our newsletter printing and mailing costs still went up from \$470/yr in 2008 to \$590. I would ask people to switch from paper to email if at all possible. It comes as a PDF so the file size is reasonable and it works on either Mac or PC.

Our single largest expense was the room rental at the Center for Urban Horticulture in Seattle for the monthly meetings. What cost us only \$130 in 2008 was just shy of \$2000 last year. That expense is being reduced this coming year.

Other expenses have gone up with inflation or stayed roughly the same. Income has gone up, just not as much as expenses. Overall, our income has gone up by \$2800 from 2008 to 2017, but expenses have gone up by \$3980. Dues have gone up, to cover the increased insurance costs, but donations are down by \$400/yr and the need is greater now. We have a Donate button on our website now, so please use it! And, new this year, we are participating in the Washington State Consolidated Fund Drive that allows state and higher-ed employees and retirees to make donations to charities

through payroll deductions. So if you work for the state, please check us out! Or if you know anyone who does, tell them about us! We're not on the published list of charities yet but we are on the website at <http://www.cfd.wa.gov/search> . We are a 501c3 so donations may be tax deductible. No pressure, but we do have to receive a minimum \$200 in donations every year through the CFD or we will be dropped from participation.

Thanks to David Jennings for recruiting his coworkers in donating to WBA through the CFD!

(Continued from page 2 - President's Message)

Also, following up on field trips, the more field trip leaders we have, the more field trips we can offer. Melanie Weiss has really stepped up (thank you!), but we need more leaders. You don't have to be a field ID expert to lead a field trip—just be able to get folks to the trailhead/destinations and “assist” in ID. . .we are all on the learning path! If you like people and would like to have WBA offer more field trips, please consider being a WBA field trip leader. Let me know if you are interested.

WBA is also evaluating offering extended (long weekend) field trips. We have a big state and it can be challenging to drive to a spot, put in a full day and then get home at a reasonable hour. We may try some “overnight” field trips to get smaller groups to some of our more fun but distant sites.

And to increase everyone's field ID competencies, we are working to organize a 1-2 day ID “conference” for this spring—a series of indoor lectures on the nuances of butterfly (and bumble bee) field ID. Stay tuned! We are planning to have an exciting year ahead of us!

Board Members

President	David Jennings	
Vice President	John Baumann	
Secretary	Mary Schu	
Treasurer	Regina Johnson	
At-Large	Dan Dunphy	
At-Large	David Droppers	
At-Large	David James	
At-Large	Jim Reed	
At-Large	Alex Wright	

Committees

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