



Washington Butterfly
Association

*G'nun**

The newsletter of the Washington Butterfly Association

P.O. Box 31317 Seattle WA 98103

<http://wabutterflyassoc.org>

Facebook: Washington Butterfly Association. Instagram: #washingtonbutterflies (anyone can use this hashtag)
iNaturalist: <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/washington-state-butterflies>

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



Summer, with an Ochre Ringlet, Steptoe Butte.
(H. Armstrong)

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Upcoming Programs by Zoom First Wednesday at 6 PM

September 4: Share the Wealth! Share your photos and stories from the 2024 butterfly season. You may send photos to Paulette for uploading to Zoom, or just be prepared to jump in and share your screen during the meeting.

October 2: TBA

November 6: TBA

President's Message from Liz Kuehn

As we arrive at the apex of the summer butterfly season in Washington, I am reflecting on the wonderful field experiences I enjoyed with the Washington Butterfly Association and thankful to the leaders willing to get us out there and share their expertise! We have some great butterflying in Washington and WBA helps us experience them in the company of other enthusiasts from novice to expert.

Our 2024 WBA Study Weekend, Wings Over Ritzville, had a great turnout and was an enjoyable weekend. I am happy for those of you who were able to join us! Even though the volumes were low the diversity of butterflies was great, the scenery was splendid, and the camaraderie was excellent! Thank you, David James, for scoping the area and finding some beautiful spots.

If you missed it, the festivities began Friday with an evening of “Mothing” with David Droppers. His set up brought them into the light, and he gave lots of details about each of the species. I think he made a few converts to the mothing “dark side” that evening! A highlight for me was the bat that flew to his light, actually, it turned out to be a gorgeous Polyphemus moth, I needed a double take for that one! On Saturday after a day in the field, we gathered at the Days Inn conference room. David James reviewed the butterfly species seen that day, the silent auction got underway as well as the Taco Bar catered by Porky’s, and when the room quieted, we enjoyed listening to Bob Pyle recite and *sing* his presentation Butterflies in Poetry and Song. Bravo Bob! It was a great day and ended on a high note with Bob and Tanya singing Elusive Butterfly, magical! Sunday, we trekked up to Rocky Ford to swing our nets or focus our cameras on some unique butterflies found in the area. It was a great weekend and many thanks to the 2024 WBA Board for pulling it all together. I am looking forward to where we will go in 2025! If you have suggestions just send me an email – wabutterflyassoc@gmail.com with a subject line - 2025 Study Weekend.

As promised, we are preparing to run the 2024-2025 Board Elections soon. The slate of candidates is all returning Board members with some new faces.

Running for Board positions:

President	Liz Kuehn
Vice President	Dan Dunphy
Secretary	Sylvia Sheets
Treasurer	Regina Johnson
At Large	Carolyn Heberlein
At Large	David James
At Large	Paulette Murphy
At Large	Jim Reed
At Large	Melanie Weiss
At Large	Alex Corsten
At Large	Karen Holtrop

Polyphemus Moth. (D. Droppers)



Hopefully you have had a chance to get out and do some butterflying or have found butterflies flitting through your garden! There are a few more field trips remaining before we call 2024 a wrap.

Crystal Mountain, August 16, Note This Is A Friday Due To Weekend Crowds –Regina Johnson, Melanie Weiss

Ramble, October, First or Second Weekend – Cathy Clark, Dan Dunphy, Sylvia Sheets

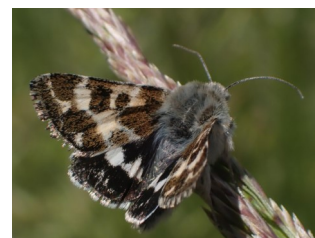
Flash Trips May Occur, Stay Tuned!

Check out our WBA Website for details <https://wabutterflyassoc.org/2024-field-trips/>

Good butterflying to you!

Liz

Sphinxia honesta (D. Droppers)



Trip Reports



Sammamish Earth Day Tabling Event, April 20

Patrick Dunn Memorial Prairie, Wolf Haven, Tenino. (M. Weiss)

Melanie Weiss

Carolyn Heberlein and I participated in the Sammamish Earth Day celebration with a WBA informational table displaying educational and outreach materials. After performing butterfly surveys at Evan's Creek Preserve in 2023, WBA was invited to participate in the Sammamish event this year. It is a popular event in the Sammamish community and was well attended, a good percentage were young families. Crafts, a petting zoo, performances and informational booths kept visitors engaged. Al Wagar had created materials when he organized tabling events in the past, and it was fun putting some of them to use once again. We had a poster and models illustrating metamorphosis. Since many students had raised Painted Ladies during their schooling, it was a good conversation starter. One young girl confidently went through all the stages of metamorphosis using the terms larva and pupa, was proud to be able to do so. Our small butterfly collection, an Al creation, drew comments of wonder and generated questions. Several adults remarked that they didn't know we had so many beautiful butterflies which segued nicely to our resource books by Bob Pyle, Caitlin LaBar, David James and Dave Nunnallee. WBA brochures and newly created bookmarks by several of our members were a popular giveaway. I'm always surprised at how much kids love small stickers! Most of our young visitors walked away with a butterfly sticker on a hand or shirt. Another giveaway was Al's Western Tiger Swallowtail print that we transformed into a flying butterfly by attaching it to a clothespin. Carolyn and I were kept very busy. We had fun with the kids and good conversations with the adults. The Sammamish Botanical Society was giving away free garden plants...a giveaway for us too. (I now have a Garry Oak!)

Umtanum Rec Area.
(C. Clark)



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Wolf Haven Prairie Survey Completed

Melanie Weiss

WBA volunteers returned to the beautiful Wolf Haven Patrick Dunn Prairie in Thurston County for two additional surveys this spring. We performed 3 surveys in 2023 beginning in late May, but the timing excluded early spring fliers. On our first return visit in April, the flower show was magnificent. Camas and Golden Paintbrush were in full bloom along with Early Blue Violet, Lomatium, Shooting Star, Blue-eyed Mary and many others. There were numerous birds present including the White Crowned Sparrow, Tree Swallow, Violet Green Swallow, Scrub Jay, Western Bluebird, House Wren and others. One of our group made the comment that so many birds were present, the insects didn't have a chance. But insects were, in fact, present. Large patches of Kinnikinnick grow throughout the prairie. Hoary Elfin were busy on one patch I observed for a while. There was much chasing, spinning and circling around each other as they went about the spring ritual of finding a mate and egg laying. Along the edges of the patch were flowers, and sometimes an individual would leave the patch to nectar, then return to the center of activity in the Kinnikinnick. On our three surveys last year we detected 11 species. We found five additional species this spring including the Anise Swallowtail, Julia Orangetip, Brown Elfin, Two-banded Checkered Skipper. This brings the total species seen on our five visits to 16. The four surveyors participating this spring were Melanie Weiss, Laura Payeur, Liz Kuehn and Tanna Knouse. Eight WBA volunteers participated in the five surveys 2023-2024. Thanks to all for sharing your time and your knowledge. The survey reports included butterflies and also plants, birds, bees and moths depending on the expertise of those present. Wolf Haven's staff was appreciative of our reports, and asked if they could use the photos from our visits for their own reporting. In addition, we were asked if we would be interested in surveying additional prairies! Plans are in place for next spring.



Brown Elfin. (L. Kuehn)

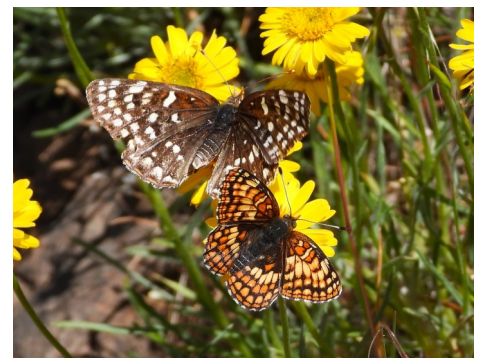
Hoary Elfin (M. Weiss)



WBA Field Trip May 20 Snow Mountain Ranch/WDFW, Yakima

David James

A Monday WBA Field trip is not 'normal', but sometimes necessary to get good, sunny butterfly weather in our fickle eastern WA spring. Monday May 20 was sunny, but as we gathered in the Snow Mountain Ranch parking lot at 10am, the blustery and strong wind did not bode well. However, the wind did lessen during the morning and the sun continued to shine and ultimately a dozen butterfly people from western WA and Oregon enjoyed seeing a good number of butterflies in the gorgeous spring shrub-steppe of. We spent most of our time on the WDFW property adjacent to Snow Mountain Ranch, where the butterflies are invariably more diverse and abundant. We hiked a canyon with intermittent moisture along a creek bed which of course is where we found most butterflies. We ended up seeing 16 species including two Checkerspot morphs that I've taken the liberty of calling two species, Desert and Northern Checkerspots. Now, these might well be distinct morphs of the same species, but they sure do look different. Resolution of this conundrum will entail a genomic/DNA investigation. Interestingly, because of genomic work the whole concept of Desert Checkerspots being a separate species from Northern Checkerspots, is under threat. We didn't let this little taxonomic matter get in the way of just enjoying the butterflies that were flying. Newly eclosed *Coronis fritillaries* drew everybody's attention by zipping around and nectaring on Hyssop, while erstwhile Ochre Ringlets bobbed around in contrast. Three of us decided to hike to a dam about 2 miles down the canyon and were rewarded by groups of Blues, Juba Skippers and *Coronis* mudding on the wet ground. On the way back, proving that I do indeed care for 'The Lives



The Checkerspot morphs. (D. James)

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of Butterflies', I rescued a motionless Juba skipper floating in the creek. Happily, it accepted my life-saving finger and the transfer to a sunny twig and I'm sure once his wings dried, he resumed the life of being a skipper, christened with the knowledge that indeed there is a God. Five species of blues gained the attention of everybody as they congregated on damp mud. Melanie spotted a striking aberration of an Acmon Blue proven by her hastily composed blurred shot! Unfortunately, it did not reappear for a more focused composition. Regardless of butterfly abundance, everybody should spend some time every spring in the aromatic and flowery shrub steppe. The butterflies are simply a bonus worth giving up any day for especially a Monday.

Ringer Loop and Umtanum Recreational Area Field Trip, May 31, 2024

Melanie Weiss



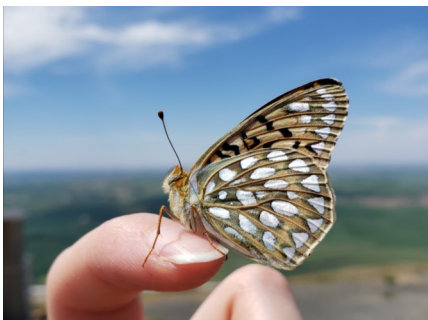
Lupine Blue (S. Sheets)

Our Swakane Canyon field trip moved instead to Yakima Canyon, visiting Ringer Loop and Umtanum Recreation Area. Sadly, Swakane Canyon is very dry this year. The canyon has dependably been a magnificent area for puddling parties with good diversity and incredible abundance. Very few moist areas were present this spring, and a 'pool' that regularly forms across the road further back in the canyon was bone dry. Thanks to member Tom Wysham who scouted the area several times for us. All was not lost, however. The Yakima Canyon area is always a good place to visit. At Ringer Loop the patch of Northern Buckwheat, food plant for Columbia Blue, was in full bloom. Many were present on our



Steptoe Butte. (H. Armstrong)

visit, and we watched individuals nectar, mate, and oviposit for quite a while. Great photographic moments! At Umtanum Recreation Area we found five species of blues: Columbia, Silvery, Acmon, Boisduval's, and Greenish. Coronis Fritillaries were common. And a very fresh Western Tiger Swallowtail and a Juba Skipper presented themselves. Beautiful weather, good companions and, of course, butterflies made for a great trip.



Callippe Fritillary. (H. Armstrong)

Steptoe Butte, August 8

Hailey Armstrong

Our Steptoe Butte State Park trip was a success, the weather was great and we had a wonderful time scouting the area for butterflies! Our findings included four different swallowtails, some blues, a fritillary, a crescent, a green hairstreak and more. The coolest part about our trip was the busy hill-topping and views at the top of the butte, fritillaries and swallowtails everywhere! I enjoyed having folks join me for a fun Palouse butterfly experience! Maybe we can do a repeat next season!

Study Weekend 2024: Ritzville

Our Annual WBA study weekend at Ritzville June 7-9 in the heart of the “Scabland Wonderland” was held under mostly sunny skies and warm temperatures. The butterflies responded and we were treated to greater diversity and abundance than we were expecting. My scouting trip of the area in late May yielded 17 species (under admittedly sub-optimal conditions) but during our study weekend we more than doubled this number and recorded 37 species! That is close to half of the species recorded for Lincoln County so I think we did pretty well. The landscape and scenery did not disappoint either and I think everyone had a pretty good time in the field.

We visited four BLM locations: Coffee Pot Lake (CP), a marshy area between Coffee Pot Lake and Twin Lakes (MA), Twin Lakes (TL) and finally on Sunday Upper Crab Creek: Rocky Ford (RF). On the list of species below I have indicated which locations species were found at.

In addition, to the 37 species, Cheryl Bellin spotted a Monarch in Drumheller Canyon along Crab Creek near Moses Lake, so we might also want to include this as an ‘honorary’ record for our weekend. In fact, a ‘large orange butterfly’ was seen briefly at Coffee Pot Lake that may have actually been a Monarch!

And then there were the ticks. As leader I thought I should bear the brunt of tick attack and single handedly, I attracted 22 ticks during the 2 days! Thankfully, I removed all of them before engorgement. Just another responsibility of being a WBA Study Weekend field trip leader! You are welcome!

BUTTERFLIES SEEN IN LINCOLN COUNTY JUNE 8 and 9 2024

HESPERIDAE: Skippers (6)

Hesperia juba (JUBA SKIPPER) CP, RF

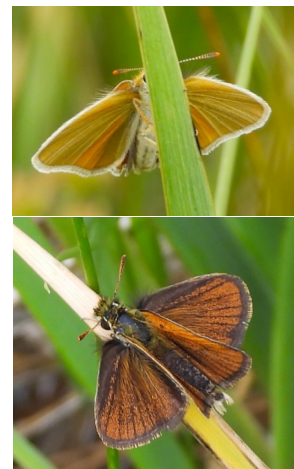
Polites mystic (LONG DASH) RF

Polites sabuleti (SANDHILL SKIPPER) MA, TL

Burnsius communis (COMMON CHECKERED SKIPPER) RF

Heliopetes ericetorum (NORTHERN WHITE SKIPPER) CP, TL

Oarisma garita (GARITA SKIPPERLING) RF



Garita Skipperling. (D. James)

PAPILIONIDAE: Swallowtails (4)

Papilio eurymedon (PALE TIGER SWALLOWTAIL) TL

Papilio rutulus (WESTERN TIGER SWALLOWTAIL) CP, TL, RF

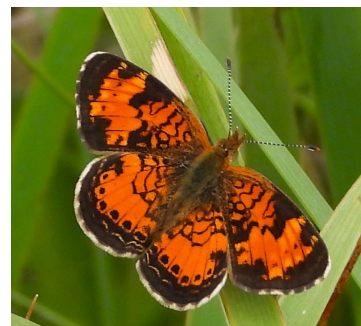
Papilio multicaudata (TWO-TAILED TIGER SWALLOWTAIL) TL, RF

Papilio bairdii (OREGON SWALLOWTAIL) TL

PIERIDAE: Whites & Sulphurs (5)

Pieris rapae (CABBAGE WHITE) CP, TL, RF

Northern Crescent. (D. James)



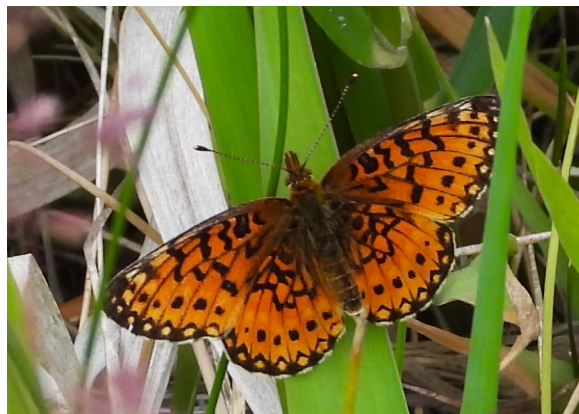
Pontia beckeri (BECKER'S WHITE) CP, TL
Pontia occidentalis (WESTERN WHITE) CP, MA
Colias eriphyle (CLOUDED SULPHUR) CP, RF
Colias eurytheme (ORANGE SULPHUR) TL

LYCAENIDAE: Coppers, Hairstreaks and Blues (13)

Tharsalea heteronea (BLUE COPPER) CP
Tharsalea helleoides (PURPLISH COPPER) CP, MA, RF
Callophrys affinis (WESTERN GREEN HAIRSTREAK) TL
Satyrrium semiluna (HALFMOON HAIRSTREAK) CP
Euphilotes columbiae (COLUMBIA DOTTED BLUE) CP, RF
Euphilotes heracleoides (HERACLEOIDES DOTTED BLUE) CP, MA, TL, RF
Glaucopsyche piasus (ARROWHEAD BLUE) CP, MA, TL, RF
Glaucopsyche lygdamus (SILVERY BLUE) TL
Icaricia icarioides (BOISDUVAL'S BLUE) CP, TL, RF
Icaricia acmon (ACMON BLUE) CP, RF
Icaricia lupini (LUPINE BLUE) RF
Icaricia saepiolus (GREENISH BLUE) CP, RF
Plebejus melissa (MELISSA'S BLUE) CP

NYMPHALIDAE: Brushfoots (9)

Argynnis callippe (CALLIPPE FRITILLARY) MA, TL, RF
Limnitis lorquini (LORQUINS ADMIRAL) CP
Aglais milberti (MILBERT'S TORTOISESHELL) CP, RF
Nymphalis antiopa (MOURNING CLOAK) CP
Boloria myrina (SILVER BORDERED FRITILLARY) RF
Phyciodes cocyta (NORTHERN CRESCENT) TL, RF
Chlosyne acastus (SAGEBRUSH CHECKERSPOT) RF
Coenonympha californica (OCHRE RINGLET) CP, MA, TL, RF
Cercyonis oetus (DARK WOOD NYMPH) CP, RF



Silver-bordered Fritillary. (D. James)



Northern Crescents. (D. Droppers)



Green Hairstreak (D. Droppers)



Long Dash Skipper. (M. Weiss)



Twin Lakes. (D. Droppers)

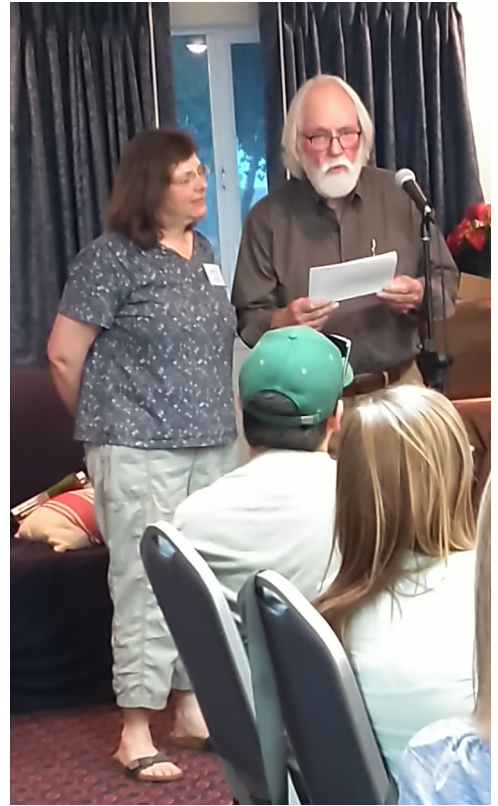


The entire group is intent on one butterfly. (R. Johnson)



Becker's White. (R. Johnson)

Tanya James and Bob Pyle singing 'Elusive Butterfly'. (R. Johnson)



On the rimrock at Twin Lakes. (R. Johnson)

2024 Field Trip Protocols

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

HOW TO SIGN UP: Anyone can sign up by contacting the trip leader. (See Board and Committee list in this issue for contact information)

Check our website and Facebook page for last-minute additions (Flash Field Trips!).

DIFFICULTY RATINGS:

- 1 Easy, mostly by car, minor walking along roads.
- 2 Fairly limited walking, some slopes may involved.
- 3 Moderate, 3-4 miles walking, or with some slopes.
- 4 Difficult, hiking required off road, may have short steep sections, total of 4 miles or so.
- 5 Strenuous, extended hiking on trails with steep terrain, 4-8 miles.

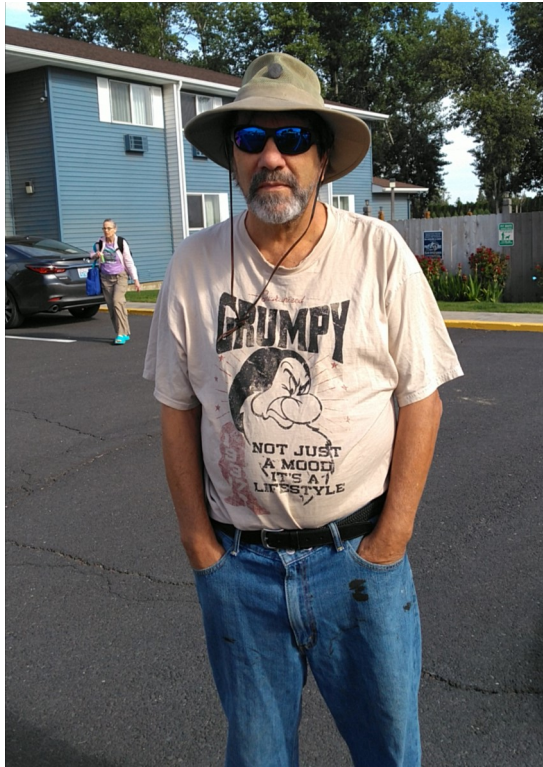


David Droppers demonstrates Butterfly Pose.
(C. Heberlein)



The Editor, at Coffeepot Lake. (C. Heberlein)

What he said—the last word. (R. Johnson)



Board Members

President	Liz Kuehn		
Vice President	Dan Dunphy		
Secretary	Dan Dunphy		
Treasurer	Regina Johnson		
At-Large	David James		
At-Large	Carolyn Heberlein		
At-Large	Paulette Murphy		
At-Large	Sylvia Sheets		
At-Large	Melanie Weiss		

Committees

Science Advisor	Jon Pelham		
Membership	Reg Reisenbichler		
Annual Conference	Available		
Field Trips	Melanie Weiss		
Programs	Paulette Murphy		
Publicity/Website	Carolyn Heberlein		
Newsletter	Regina Johnson		

The views expressed in articles in this newsletter are those of the authors, and not necessarily those of the WBA.