



Washington Butterfly
Association

*G'nun**

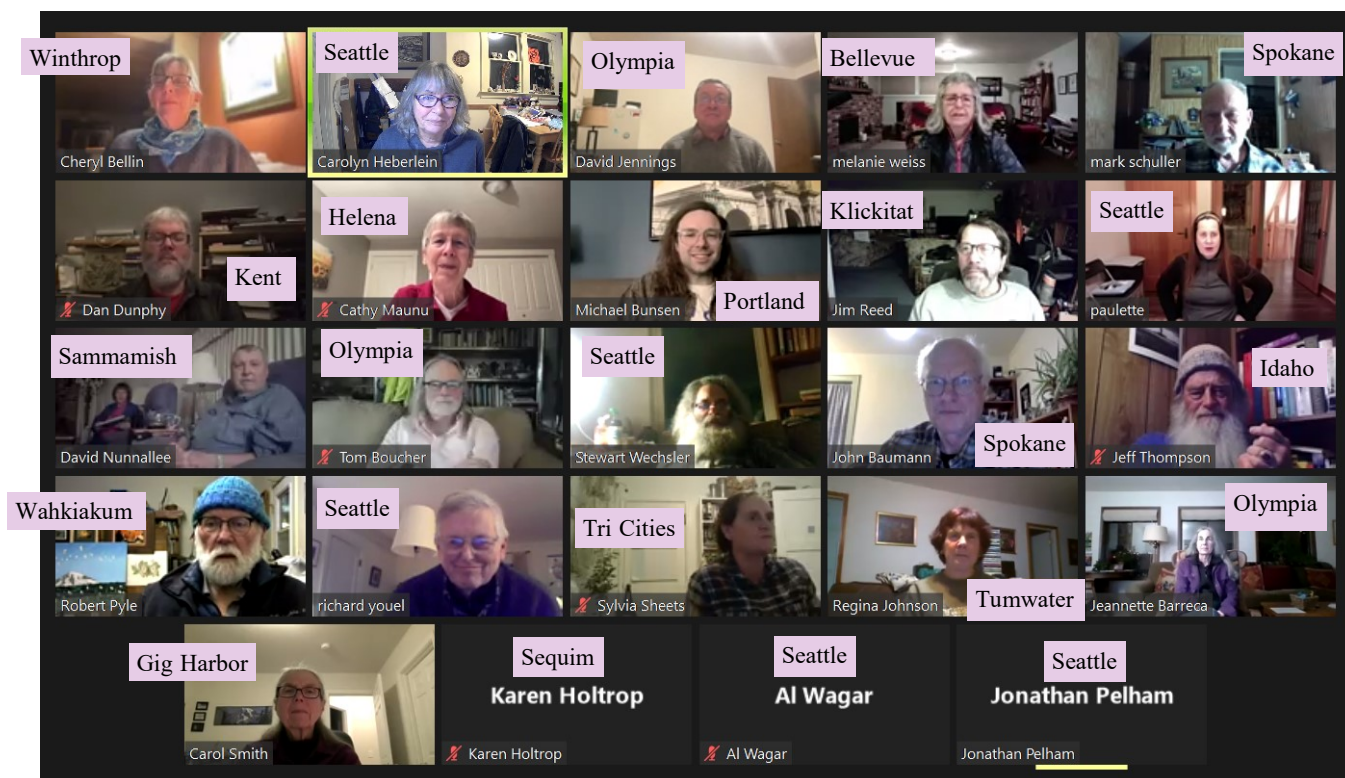
The newsletter of the Washington Butterfly Association

P.O. Box 31317 Seattle WA 98103

<http://wabutterflyassoc.org>

Facebook: Washington Butterfly Association. Instagram: #washingtonbutterflies (anyone can use this hashtag)

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



WBA's Winter Party on Zoom last January 20th. With this format we are able to attend from all around the state! And even a couple of other states. Lively conversation on a wide range of topics with a bunch of other nature nerds.

Upcoming Programs by Zoom: First Wednesday at 6 PM

2/7 at 6 pm – “The Lives of Butterflies” by David James

Dr. David James is a co-author of the newly published book ‘The Lives of Butterflies: A Natural History of our Planet’s Butterfly Life.’ David will present an inside look at what lies beneath the covers of this lavishly illustrated book. He will also provide some of the back-story and what went into creating this book on the biology, ecology and behavior of our favorite insects.

3/6 at 6 pm— Todd Stout on Raising Butterflies.

Washington Butterfly Association *G'nun*

2024 Study Weekend:

Wings over Moses Lake

June 7-9

Volunteer Appreciation

Many Many Thanks to our Founding Member Richard Youel

For as long as I can remember, Richard Youel has been an important part of the Washington Butterfly Association which was founded in 1999. I was one of many people who took butterfly classes from Idie Ulsh at Seattle Audubon in the mid 1990s. Because of this, I was invited to join WBA in its first year. I especially enjoyed the field trips to search for as many butterflies as we could find.

Richard was one of the trip leaders / carpool drivers. While visiting with him on the ride to Corral Pass, he found out that I knew how to make web pages. He recruited me to create the WBA website and to help put out the G'Num newsletter. Some of the field trips that he led were to Corral Pass near Mount Rainier, Quartz Mountain in Kittitas County, Fish (Tuquala) Lake near Salmon La Sac, and Reecer Creek near Ellensburg.



Richard at the 2018 White Salmon study weekend. (R. Johnson)

Richard was WBA president from summer 2002 to summer 2004 and again from summer 2010 to summer 2012. He has also served on the board as member-at-large and secretary. For the past 10 years or so, Richard has been quietly supporting us by checking the post office box, collecting our WBA mail and depositing membership checks to the bank. All of this and he stayed active with Seattle Audubon (now called Birds Connect Seattle) with Christmas bird counts and neighborhood walks at Seward Park.

Three years ago he was diagnosed with multiple myeloma which required a bone marrow transplant. He came through it successfully gaining some curly hair in the recovery which he enjoyed while it lasted. He is a retired architect and lives in Seattle on Queen Anne Hill with his wife Connie.

The founding members of WBA were: Idie Ulsh, Jon Pelham, Bob Pyle, David Branch, Dave Nunnallee, Jo Nunnallee, Richard Lindstrom, Tom O'Connell and Richard Youel.

Carolyn Heberlein

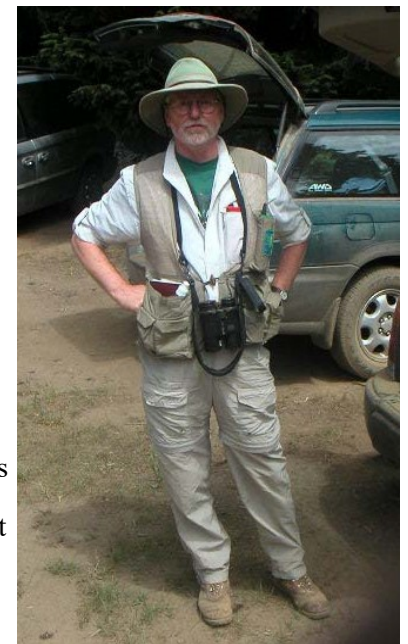


Richard models a Monarch costume at a 2017 tabling event. (M. Weiss)

Appreciating Al Wagar

Al Wagar grew up a bright and outdoorsy kid in Colorado. His interest in nature combined with his intellect directed him to a career in research in outdoor recreation and urban forestry with the U.S. Forest Service where he witnessed profound changes in focus there over his years. One thing led to another and ultimately to a research professorship in the College of Forest Resources at the University of Washington. At the same time, his practical application side involved him in trail and restoration organizations and boots-on-the-ground projects. That is approximately when he showed up at a WBA meeting hoping to learn more about Lepidoptera.

One of my first memories of Al was his showing me videos he had been shooting of local birds and wondered if that might have application for us. We went on to see Al's videos of our programs and field trips become integral to WBA. They are not only an important sharing of events for people who could not otherwise attend but a



Richard showing how to dress for a WBA field trip. (C. Heberlein)

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historical record. Al is always about spreading the word and particularly to young people. For example, his imaginative, inventive and practical side produced a fun butterfly identification game for outreach table events. It is complete with buttons to push and lights to reward success. His experience with organizations was something I saw as helpful to growth and development of WBA.

He applied himself to participation on the Board and when I asked if he would be willing to be President he agreed reluctantly. His experience and outlook were important and valuable at the leadership level. He was consistently there on field trips with video camera in hand getting the people in action and the “bug” in the frame. Al brings enthusiasm, energy and humor where ever he goes. And when he jumps in he goes in 100 percent whether at the leadership level or the practical contribution on the ground - all at the same time. He is full spectrum. That includes humor with jokes he actually can remember from however far back and puns to make you groan. You are generous to share all of that with us, Al. We appreciate it and thank you.

Richard Youel



Al at Crystal Mtn. in 2022. (R. Johnson)

Befuddling Butterfly Bioquiz

Welcome to our Bioquiz, a new addition to G’num. Don your butterflying cap and see if you can answer the question below.

All butterflies go through the same developmental cycle of egg, larva, pupa, adult. Some species complete this cycle in less than 30 days, while others take a year, and some species may take two years or more. In Washington we have five biennial species. Many of our members may be familiar with Great Arctic, *Oeneis nevadensis*. How many of the other four biennial species can you name?

You may check your resources, phone a friend...or check the end of our newsletter for the answer. But give it a try first!



Richard, second from left, and Al at far right with his video equipment at Mima Mounds in 2023. (R. Johnson)



Al takes a break from videoing a WBA field trip at Bethel Ridge in 2019. (C. Heberlein)

How to Make Your Walk a 'Microadventure'

Start small, look up and let your nose guide you.

By Jancee Dunn

Published June 23, 2023 Updated July 3, 2023

You're reading the New York Times Well newsletter, for Times subscribers only.

This week, we are livening up our walk by turning it into a microadventure, imbued with a sense of curiosity and exploration.

I tapped a few experts for inspiration and learned you don't need to go far for a little novelty. It's all in the approach.

Take a "scent walk."

Tejal Rao, the California restaurant critic at The Times, built a "personal smell museum" of Los Angeles, where she lives.

As Rao made her way through the city, she jotted down the aromas in a notebook. Her discoveries included the scent of frying onions from her neighbor's kitchen and the "sticky, piney aroma of sage bushes and rosemary."

I decided to take a "scent walk" with my best friend, Julie, who lives in Morningside Heights in New York City. As we walked with her Boston terrier, we detected notes of butter and vanilla wafting from a bakery, mulch from a community garden and a sewage scent from a puddle. (That last one was unpleasant for us, but Julie reminded me that "it's like Chanel No. 5" for her dog.)

Look for wildlife.

Every environment has a variety of living creatures, said Sgt. Rob Mastrianni, a park ranger in Manhattan, who recommended taking a walk with the express goal of spotting wildlife. He suggested turning over logs to see bugs and salamanders, and also remembering to look up. New York City, for example, is home to bald eagles, "but people won't realize there's an eagle circling above them," he said. You can use an app like the Merlin Bird ID to identify the birds you see.

(Learn to appreciate the Cabbage White!)

Pattie Gonia, a drag queen and environmentalist who leads hikes as part of her mission to get marginalized people outdoors, pointed out that squirrels were surefire entertainment. "They're always in a war with each other," she said. "It's endless melodrama, like a tree version of the Kardashians."

Embrace the weather.

If there's a safe way to take a walk in the rain, wind or fog, "lean into the elements," said Rob Walker, the author of "The Art of Noticing," a book about finding opportunities to be amazed in everyday life. Revel in the dramatically shifting landscapes — the drama of wind whipping through the trees, or the way that rain can make greenery look more vivid.

"I don't want to encourage anyone to go kick a football around in a hurricane," Walker said. "But we could all probably get, like, 10 percent braver about the weather." *(obviously not familiar with Friluftsliv, the Scandinavian tradition practiced in the PNW of going outside in all weather.)*

Explore a new corner of your neighborhood.

There are likely things you've never noticed within a few miles of your home, Walker said. I followed his advice and discovered a park that I'd never visited. I've also found that cemeteries — a blend of nature, architecture and history — are a guaranteed microadventure. I've wandered among the headstones and speculated on whether the names Ebenezer

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or Euphonia will ever become popular again.

If you live in a city, try organizing a food tour on foot, Pattie Gonias said. Grab a friend, walk for a while, stop and split a bite, and then walk some more. Who's going to say no to a taco walk?

In Seattle: The Seattle Olmsted 50 walking route runs 31 miles (50km) from the Ballard Locks to Rainier Beach Playfield, a feast of explorations through the heart of the 1903 Olmsted Park master plan. The route can be done in any north to south order or section(s). Section descriptions include public transportation, toilets, and treats at both section junctions and midway points. Stroller access is noted. <https://www.mountaineers.org/activities/routes-places/seattle-olmsted-50-ballard-locks-to-rainier-beach>

2024 Field Trip Plans

WBA's 2024 Field Trip Schedule is 'in the works'.

This is the time of year when we all start getting antsy to be out in the field again. And we won't have to wait much longer. It's also the time when WBA begins planning for the coming field trip season. We are fortunate to have members of our butterfly community who are both knowledgeable and willing to give of their time to lead field trips! This season we will be visiting a few new locations along with some of our favorites from the past. A few changes may yet be made, but currently, early trips are planned to North Fork/Divide Ridge, Snow Mountain Ranch/WDFW property, and Swakane Canyon. Our Butterfly Weekend earlier than the past few years, June 7-9. We will be based in the Moses Lake area. More information will be forthcoming. A possible trip to Steptoe Butte may be hampered by roadwork...fingers crossed for this one. Our mid to late summer offerings are Slate Peak, a 'Treasure Hunt' for the Golden Hairstreak on the Olympic Peninsula, Crystal Mountain which was cancelled for rain last year, and a trip to the Richland area in the SE corner of our state. This looks to be another fantastic field trip season! And don't forget to watch for possible 'Flash' trips if something special arises!



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Golden Hairstreak. (M. Weiss)

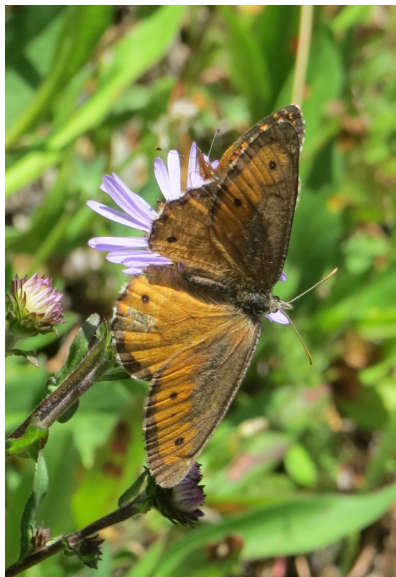
When the schedule is finalized, sign up with the leader for a trip that interests you. The leader may need to shift the listed date as the time draws near. Seasonal variations, weather, and climate change continue to make it a challenge to set firm dates for trips.

See you in the field soon!

Melanie Weiss



A typical WBA field trip. (M. Weiss)



Chryxus Arctic. (M. Weiss)

In addition to the Great Arctic, the four other species with biennial life cycles are: Vidler's Alpine, Melissa Arctic, Chryxus Arctic and Astarte Fritillary. Of the five species, the Astarte Fritillary shows data records solely for even years in WA. The other four have data records for both even and odd years, the numbers varying from year to year. The reason for this is not fully understood.



Great Arctic. (M. Weiss)

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