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Washington Butterfly Association

G'num*

The newsletter of the Washington Butterfly Association

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Indra Swallowtail, one of the species we hope to see at this year's Study Weekend in Goldendale. (Mary Schu)

Gold Hunter's Hairstreak, another possible species for us at Goldendale. (M. Weiss)

WBA 2026 Annual Study Weekend June 12-14
Goldendale, Washington

This year's conference will be in the Goldendale area where we expect to see butterflies not common in the rest of the state, including the large, black Indra Swallowtail, as well as the Propertius Duskywing and the Gold Hunter's Hairstreak. Weekend field trips can visit varied habitats, from the steep slopes of the southern Cascades down to the dramatic Columbia Gorge. Forests of the area are a mix of fir, pine, and oak. Grassland covers south-facing slopes and low plateaus. Riparian corridors crisscross throughout, and springs and ponds dot the area. The area also has a variety of other species, including black- tailed deer, western gray squirrels, western pond turtles, and Vaux's swifts.

Registration will be online, watch for a WBA Noticeline when registration opens.

Program—still a work in progress, stay tuned!

Monday June 8: Preview of Species with David James on Zoom. You do not need to register for the Study Weekend to attend the Zoom presentation.

Friday evening June 12: 6:30 Meet at The Lodge in Goldendale (210 South Columbus Ave) for camaraderie and light

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refreshments.

After Dark: Mothing with David Droppers

Saturday June 13: AM Gather for all-day field trip.
Evening: Dinner at The Lodge, and Program TBD

Sunday June 14: AM Gather for half-day field trip.

Klickitat River Valley. (Connie Youel)

Lodging and breakfasts/lunches will not be included in registration. WBA has blocked 15 rooms at a discount at the Quality Inn and Suites in Goldendale. Call them by June 11 at (509) 773-5881 and tell them you're part of "the butterfly group" to get the discount.

Carolyn's Advice for Goldendale Sights

I am so happy that our 2026 study weekend will be in Goldendale. I have fond memories from the last time WBA met there, for the 14th annual conference in 2013. We were there to find butterflies in Klickitat County, but I arrived early and had time to explore the area before the field trips began. I had retired in August 2012, which meant this wasn't a rushed drive after work on Friday. In the past, I rarely arrived in time for Friday evening socializing, and I would leave on Sunday after lunch so I could get home in time for a good night's sleep before work on Monday.

In 2013, I was able to do things differently—I drove to Goldendale on Thursday and stayed until Monday. As soon as I checked into my motel, I went to Goldendale Observatory State Park to see what programs they offered. (Admission is free, but a reservation is required along with a Discover Pass for parking. The moon will be dark that weekend this year so good star viewing!)

That afternoon, I attended their solar program and got to see sunspots. The park ranger was especially excited because they were larger than normal. Although there was also an evening program, he warned me that a school group would be attending, so I decided to come back another night.
Over the next couple of days, I explored more of the area. At one point, I spent part of an afternoon at the Presby Museum, run by the Klickitat County Historical Society. It was a quiet, unhurried visit, and I enjoyed learning more about the local history.

I also visited the Stonehenge Memorial. Having seen the original Stonehenge on Salisbury Plain in England, I was curious how this replica would compare. I was surprised by how moving it was in its own right. Set above the Columbia River, it serves as a memorial to the servicemen of Klickitat County who died in World War I, and it has a quiet dignity that invites reflection.

Later, I made my way to the Maryhill Museum of Art. It felt almost unexpected to find such a rich and varied collection in the middle of the countryside. I remember wandering from gallery to gallery, continually surprised by what I found there. Knowing now that it was founded in 1926 makes it even more special—this year marks its centennial.

I finally returned to the observatory on Sunday evening. There were only about eight of us, and we saw numerous galaxies. What impressed me most was Saturn—it appeared so large through the telescope that I could clearly see its rings. By the time the weekend's butterflying began, I had already discovered how much there was to enjoy in and around Goldendale.

It's a weekend I've never forgotten—and I'm looking forward to experiencing Goldendale all over again.

2026 Field Trip Schedule and Descriptions

NOTE: A DATE RANGE IS GIVEN FOR SOME OF THE TRIPS. *THE PRECISE DATE WILL BE DETERMINED BY THE LEADER BASED ON WEATHER AND THE SEASON'S PROGRESSION. CONTACT THE TRIP LEADER TO SIGN UP AND BE NOTIFIED OF THE SPECIFIC TRIP DATE.* ***"TBD" IS USED FOR THOSE DATES TO BE DETERMINED.***

We have a bounty of offerings this year including Field Trips, our annual Butterfly Study Weekend, a conservation project focusing on SGCN (Species of Greatest Conservation Need in WA), and our annual month long WBA Big Butterfly Month. Please join us!

Asher's Blues. (R. Johnson)

Between April 20 & 24 TBD (weather dependent): Juniper Dunes, Pasco
Our annual search for Juniper Hairstreaks (SGCN) that were once common at this location. There is one large area of Junipers we have not yet searched but hope to do so this year.

Interested participants contact David for details.
David James, david_james@wsu.edu

Cedar Hairstreak at Lake Cushman. (R. Johnson)

April 25: Cowiche Canyon, Yakima
This is the day that the Cowiche Canyon Conservancy holds their annual Earth Day event. I am invited to set up a station along the trail and talk to people about butterflies. I usually have some live specimens and handouts etc. I thought it would be good to promote WBA at this event with a table, as well as being a field trip for WBA. We normally see Asher's Blues, Orangetips, California Tortoiseshells, Mourning Cloaks, Becker's Whites and nests of Milbert's Tortoiseshell larvae.
Interested participants contact David for details.
David James, david_james@wsu.edu

Between May 1 & 10 TBD: Lake Cushman
Count butterflies near Lake Cushman in Olympic National Forest. Potential species include Johnson's and Cedar Hairstreaks, Anise, Pale and Western Tiger Swallowtails, and Green and Hoary Commas. We will walk along gravel roads, but the trip may involve traversing some debris and rocky terrain. Meet in Hoodsport, carpool to the site. Easy to medium difficulty. Trip limited to 12 people.
Karen Holtrop, tl_KarenH@wabutterflyassoc.org

Early May TBD: Selah Cliffs Natural Area Preserve, Yakima Canyon
This unique area located at the base of columnar basalt columns was established to protect a population of Basalt Daisy, a state-listed threatened species, that grows high up in cracks in the basalt cliffs. Binoculars or zoom lens will be the best way to view the plants. Raptors also use the cliffs for nesting. This will be the first WBA visit to the area. We will survey for butterflies and have been given permission to go off trail to net and ID. Possible species include Blues, Painted Lady, Lorquin's Admiral, Swallowtails, Ringlets, Hairstreaks. The relatively flat trail is mostly gravel and rocks, 2 miles round trip. Discover Pass required.
Melanie Weiss, tl_MelanieW@wabutterflyassoc.org

Copper Mtn. along North Fork Skokomish River, above Lake Cushman. (R. Johnson)

Mid May TBD: Mima Mounds Natural Area Preserve, south of Olympia **No Nets/dogs, and Stay On Trail.** Camas, spring butterflies including the Hoary Elfin, and grassland birds. But, please note that Mima Mounds is right next to a busy gun club; if you are very gun-shy, this is not the trip for you. It is

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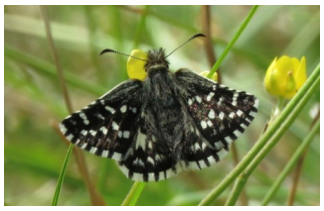
perfectly safe, just it can be very loud. Difficulty level 2—no slopes, some paved ADA-accessible trail as well as gravel. Discover Pass required.

Please register with trip leader to be notified of the date and time.
Regina Johnson, tres@wabutterflyassoc.org

Hoary Elfin. (R. Johnson)

Between May 4 & 9 TBD (weather dependent): Upper Tucannon River Valley near Dayton
I expect to see ~30 species with very large numbers of checkerspots, swallowtails, blues and California Tortoiseshells that may be breeding en masse (if it is like 2025). Interested participants contact David for details.
David James, david_james@wsu.edu



Two-banded Checkered Skipper. (M. Weiss)

Late May, early June TBD: Ferry County Foray
Come explore the backroads of Ferry County. We will drive and walk along riparian corridors and forest roads to see what we can see. In the past few years, we've identified new locations for the Meadow Frittilary, a SGCN, and a few county records for this relatively seldom explored county.
Late May/early June visitors may expect to find Common Alpines flying and puddling with Meadow Frittilaries and Anicia Checkerspots and Two Banded Checkered Skippers, Duskywings, Elfins and possibly Thicket Hairstreaks amongst others.
Hiking is required, and we recommend higher clearance vehicles for occasional rough gravel roads. We will explore sites near Swan and Ferry Lakes and others along the San Poil River if time permits. Swan Lake campground provides a beautiful place to stay for those that want to explore a second day and overnight while listening to the loons. Meeting location and time TBD. Level 3.
Cheryl Bellin and Jim Rauh, tl_cherylb@wabutterflyassoc.org

Anicia Checkerspot. (M. Weiss)

Late May, or June TBD: Kamiak Butte
Kamiak Butte County Park is located off SR27 between Palouse and Pullman Washington. The area offers 5 miles of hiking trails and reaches an elevation of 3,641 feet. There will be an abundance of birds, critters, plants and butterflies! Please pack snacks/lunch and bring plenty of water. Camping is an option on a first come, first served basis. Contact Hailey for more details or if you would like to sign up.
Hailey Armstrong, tl_HaileyA@wabutterflyassoc.org

Between May 28 & 30 TBD (weather dependent): Rocky Ford (Upper Crab Creek)
Silver-bordered Fritillaries (SGCN) will be our target species. Many other species (blues, crescents, whites) should also be present.
Interested participants contact David for details.
David James, david_james@wsu.edu

JUNE 12-14: WBA ANNUAL BUTTERFLY STUDY WEEKEND, Goldendale area.
Mark your calendars now! We would love to have you join us for our annual Butterfly Study Weekend at several areas near Goldendale. Additional information and how to register for this event may be found on our website.

Mid-late June TBD: Butterfly House at either the Pacific Science Center or Woodland Park Zoo
Come join us for a visit to one of Seattle's butterfly houses where you are guaranteed to see a diversity of species flying. This trip would be especially suitable for families with children who do not enjoy car rides. The details are being finalized. Note that there will be an entry fee for this event. Contact Carolyn for details.
Carolyn Heberlein, tl_carolynh@wabutterflyassoc.org

Between June 18 & 20 TBD (weather dependent): Ahtanum SF W of Yakima
Great diversity of butterflies in prime time at this location!
Interested participants contact David for details.
David James, david_james@wsu.edu

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JUNE 20 through JULY 20: WBA ANNUAL "BIG BUTTERFLY MONTH" on iNaturalist
Join us for our month long butterfly count this summer, and a chance to participate in a citizen science project. Let's see how many butterflies we can photograph around our state. Observations will be posted on iNaturalist. We will be documenting butterflies from our yards, camping, hiking, at a park, or wherever you may find yourself throughout Washington. Recognition will be given for the highest number of observations made, and the most species detected. It is easy to participate. Post your photo observations to iNaturalist on as many days as you like in the date range above. Our iNat project's name is *Big Butterfly Month Washington State.* Make sure to join the project to participate.
Additional information on the project and a primer on using iNat may be found on our website and in the May 'G'num'.

Spring White. (M. Weiss)

July 11: The Start of Summer at Hurricane Ridge
Location: Hurricane Ridge, Olympic National Park, Hurricane Hill Trail.

Federal Pass or National Park entrance fee ($30) required; **no nets**, **no dogs**.

The main focus for this hike will be the Hurricane Hill Trail, which starts near Hurricane Ridge in Olympic National Park. Hurricane Ridge has a striking plant community on broad, south facing meadows that is distinct from almost any other location in the interior of the Olympic Mountains. Species to look for: Western Sulphur, Spring White, Vidler's Alpine. I believe the fascinating biogeography of the Olympics is a better draw for this trip than a large number of expected species. Although this trail starts paved, we will quickly leave the pavement and hike as far as 7 miles round trip with an elevation gain of 1,000 ft. I would call the hike very strenuous. Also, it is (relatively) hot and dry with no cover. The entire trail is over 5000 ft elevation. There is no water along the trail.
Access: I'll be leaving Port Angeles at 7:30 to be leaving from the Hurricane Hill trailhead at 8:30. This area can have great birding so bring your binoculars.
Contact Carter Urnes, tl_carteru@wabutterflyassoc.org

Hurricane Hill trail. (R. Johnson)

Between July 13 & 18 TBD (weather dependent): Sun Lakes SP (Coulee City) (or nearby location)
Yuma Skipper (SGCN) will be our target species. Viceroys, Oregon Swallowtails and possibly Monarchs may also be seen.
Interested participants contact David for details.
David James, david_james@wsu.edu

Oregon Swallowtail. (C. Bellin)

August 12: Coeur d Alene, Idaho
Inaugural release of radio-tagged Monarchs. Interested participants contact David for details.
David James, david_james@wsu.edu

Late July, early August TBD: Slate Peak, Okanogan NF
Join us at this beautiful high elevation site with its beautiful flowers, spectacular views and of course, butterflies. An even year tradition, we will look for the rare Melissa Arctic and Astarte Fritillary, both biennial species. Lustrous Copper is also a possibility. Twenty five plus species are likely when venturing to this wonderful location. The road up to the peak leaves from Mazama, but beware that this road is narrow with steep drop offs. Road condition each year is unknown and will be communicated after scouting. A short hike is required to reach the top of Slate Peak and to fully explore roadsides and mountain meadows. Meeting location and time TBD. Difficulty: Level 3.
Cheryl Bellin and Jim Rauh, tl_cherylb@wabutterflyassoc.org

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September 11 or 12 TBD: Snow Mountain Ranch, Yakima
End of season field trip with bountiful numbers of Coronis Fritillaries on flowering Rabbitbrush after their epic migration to the Cascades and back.
Interested participants contact David for details.
David James, david_james@wsu.edu

POSSIBLE FLASH TRIPS:
David Droppers hopes to offer a trip to his study site so people may experience his research area and the aftermath of the Bolt Creek Fire. For those of you who have not seen his Zoom presentation to our group on this area in February, it is worth viewing even if you do not attend the trip.

A few others have promised to lead trips if their schedules allow.
These will be announced by Noticeline. Stay tuned!

Slate Peak trip. (Jim Reed)

Snow Mountain Ranch.. (K. Holtrop)

Ahtanum State Forest. (L. Kuehn)

Upper Crab Creek/Rocky Ford. (R. Johnson)

2026 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. This is to prevent the introduction of genes adapted to a different locality, which can lead to outbreeding depression.

HOW TO SIGN UP: Anyone can sign up by contacting the trip leader. (See trip description 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.

WBA at Goldendale in 2013. (Connie Youel)

Mtn. Parnassian, Hurricane Ridge area. (R. Johnson)

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