



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>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@washingtonbutterflyassocia4732>

*G'nun 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:

President's Message [p 2](#)

Field Trip Reports [p 3](#)

Magnuson Park Report [p 5](#)

Big Butterfly Month [p 7](#)



Butterflies are popular creations at Olympia's annual Procession of the Species. I think they're trying to make it perch on the light pole. (R. Johnson)

Upcoming Programs by Zoom
First Wednesday at 6 PM

Study Weekend!

Preview of butterflies we expect to see on Monday June 8 by Zoom. Everyone invited to the Zoom presentation.

Study Weekend runs June 12-14 in Goldendale. Please register now! At:

<https://reg.planetreg.com/E41621426186383>

Next general meeting Sept. 2.

President's Message from Liz Kuehn

Hello butterfly fans,

Living on the west side of the Cascades, and with my continued attempts to lure butterflies to my garden with their favorite nectar plants, I only get a few species every year. However, this year, to my delight, I have seen four species, and it is still early in the season. The list so far: Painted Lady, Echo Azure, California Tortoiseshell, and Cabbage White (of course). I hope this is a sign that we are going to have an abundant butterfly year!

Thankfully, for us west-siders or more appropriately wet-siders, our WBA butterfly field season is underway, and we have some exciting trips available again this year! Check out the website for more details and updates as the TBD dates get finalized. <https://wabutterflyassoc.org/2026-wba-field-trips/>

Speaking of exciting trips! On August 12, David James will lead a trip to Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, for the inaugural release of radio-tagged Monarchs. Adopt a Monarch was wildly successful, and David will be busy tagging and releasing at least 167 of them. And he has invited us to witness this event!

In support of David's research and this exciting new technology, the WBA Board voted to adopt seven Monarchs, two of which were adopted with generous donations from two of our Board members.

Our butterflies are named, and with the help of the Project Monarch App, you can track their journey.

David's Danaus: For David James, who has been studying Monarchs for 50 years.

Lewisia: Lewisia, the wildflower named after Captain Meriwether Lewis of the Lewis & Clark expedition that passed through Idaho and Washington.

Clarkia: Clarkia, the wildflower named after Second Lieutenant William Clark of the Lewis & Clark expedition that passed through Idaho and Washington.

Snowbird: Monarchs, like so many people in WA and ID, wish they could head south for the winter.

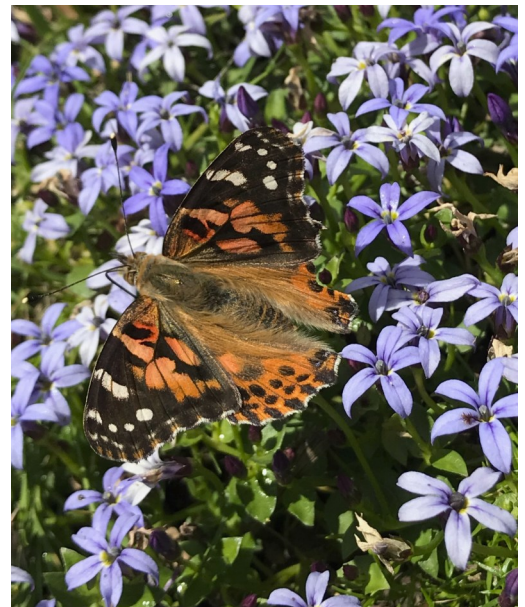
Idie: Named after one of the founders of the Washington Butterfly Association, Idie Ulsh.

Palouse: Named after the Palouse Prairies of Idaho and Eastern Washington.

Columbia: Named after the Mighty Columbia River of Eastern Washington.

[Link to learn more about the project](#)

The Goldendale Study Weekend is just on the horizon! June 12th -14th. Registration will be online, and the link will be provided through our Noticeline and posted on the website soon.



Painted Lady. (L. Kuehn)

(Continued from page 2)

On Monday, June 8th, via Zoom, David James will present a preview of what species we may encounter there and provide more details about our field trip plans. We are so grateful to David for lending his expertise to this annual event and scouting for the best butterfly hotspots.

Another favorite is back on Friday evening with our expert moth guy. Once again, David Droppers will dazzle us with his moth light paraphernalia and knowledge of the night flyers.

So we are in for some real treats! This all begins on Friday at 6:30 p.m. at the Lodge in Goldendale.

A few key details worth repeating:

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

After Dark: Meeting with David Droppers for nothing.

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.

Room Discount - 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.

Note: Lodging and breakfasts/lunches will not be included in registration.

With a little help from Google, these are some top-rated camping sites near Goldendale. [Camping Sites Near Goldendale](#)

Further details will be announced as we finalize and confirm plans, stay tuned!

I am looking forward to some butterfly chasing and I hope to see you out there!

Liz

2026 Field Trip Reports

Field Trip and Outreach Report: Cowiche Canyon, Yakima, April 25; David James

The Cowiche Canyon Conservancy in Yakima has held an Annual Earth Day celebration of nature in the canyon for many years. For at least 15 of those years, I have had the pleasure of hosting a butterfly station in the canyon where I would have books and pictures of butterflies as well as some live butterflies and caterpillars. This year, I was joined by Melanie Weiss and our President Liz Kuehn and they brought along a table and a lot of WBA information and handouts as well as butterfly-themed games for children. I brought along some of the cases of WA butterflies from the 1970s that were recently gifted to WBA as well as a few live spring butterflies, elfins, beckers, cabbage whites etc. We also showed some Milbert's Tortoiseshell caterpillars collected from a very nearby nettle patch plus one lonely woolly bear caterpillar. Well, Mr Woolly Bear did not remain lonely for long as he spent most of the morning in the hands of children, besotted by this miniature furry creature! They loved him and one little girl in particular did not want to leave him (much to the consternation of her mother...). So, after 15 years, I have discovered the magic ingredient in getting and holding the attention of children at this Earth Day event: holding a woolly bear! Mr Woolly Bear enjoyed his morning and has now pupated and should eclose as a Nevada Tiger Moth before too long. Melanie, Liz and I also enjoyed our sunny spring morning in the canyon and we got many people excited or maybe just interested in butterflies and WBA. Asher's Blues were flying along with Beckers Whites and Painted Ladies and it was a great way to start off our WBA field trip season!

(Continued from page 3)

Juniper Dunes, April 29, David James

Following on from our WBA field trip in April 2025 seeking proof of life for the Columbia Basin segregate of the Juniper Hairstreak, we again made a trip on April 29 2026 to the surreal landscape of Juniper Dunes, just north of Pasco, WA. Both years, we failed to spot any evidence that the Juniper Hairstreak still lives at Juniper Dunes as it used to do up until about 2010. In 2025, we had about half a dozen WBA members searching the Junipers and the Dunes. This year, sadly, it was only me and Don Grinolds from Tacoma. Nevertheless, we gave it our best shot but rapidly realized that the advanced spring of 2026 had done us no favors. The ubiquitous Gray Hairstreak which is normally fresh and in great numbers during the second half of June when Juniper Hairstreaks used to fly, was present in very low numbers and all that we spotted were 'rags' to use a lepidopterist term for an old, worn butterfly. Don and I were very likely way past prime time for Juniper Hairstreaks this year. However, our wanderings across the dunes did enable us to find what appears to be prime habitat for Juniper Hairstreaks that



Milbert's Tortoiseshell caterpillars on nettles in Cowiche Canyon . (D. James)



Juniper Hairstreak potential habitat. (D. James)

we have not explored before. This area is slightly moister with more junipers and nectar resources and I plan to survey it for Juniper Hairstreaks in future years.

Don and I did see six species of butterflies on the dunes including an Anise Swallowtail ovipositing on northern Indian parsnip (*Cymopterus terebinthinus*) an unusual host. At least 20 Painted Ladies were seen, a species surging in from the south and shaping up to be the butterfly of 2026.

Lake Cushman post-fire butterfly survey

On May 4th, nine WBA members enjoyed a memorable survey in the Cushman area of Olympic National Forest: Tanna Knouse, Karen Holtrop, Jeannette Barreca, Travis Thurber, Cathy Clark, Dan Dunphy, Melanie Weiss, Paulette Murphy, and Liz Kuehn. Despite some initial uncertainty around wildfire-burned areas, the day proved to be a rewarding one, with the group documenting 16 butterfly species. Among the species observed were Echo and Silvery Blues, Satyr and Hoary Commas, California Tortoiseshells, Julia's Orangetips, Pale Swallowtails, Painted Ladies, Silver-spotted Skipper, Two-banded Checkered Skippers, and Green Hairstreaks. (Please

Note that the Staircase and Lake Cushman area remains closed for public safety. For the latest trail, road, and fire closure updates, check the Olympic National Forest website.)



Two-banded Checkered Skipper and Silvery Blue. (T. Thurber)



Green Hairstreak. (C. Clark)



Bear Gulch Fire, Lake Cushman. (J. Barreca)

We Can Dig it!

WBA Volunteers at the Magnuson Park Butterfly Meadow Work Parties



Bring Back the Butterflies - One Year at Magnuson Park

Earth Day 2026 marks the one-year anniversary of the WBA Magnuson Park Butterfly Meadow and Garden Restoration.

Beginning with Earth Day 2025, WBA volunteers have pitched in to help with the restoration work parties at Magnuson Park. The transformation is becoming more evident with each event and the progress is starting to show. Concentrating mostly in the Kingfisher Basin meadow, we have been clearing invasive Himalayan blackberries and the overwhelming growth of Nootka Roses, creating planting berms, planting native host and nectar plants, and the beginnings of a welcoming habitat for pollinators and people.

You may be wondering what inspired us to take on a Seattle Park. Well, in 2007, a young member named David Dropers launched the first restoration work party with WBA volunteers. You can read about the original project in G'num 2007 Vol 8 No4. That memory sparked the Board's interest in relaunching the effort for Earth Day 2025. With the help of many volunteers, a total of 27 to be precise, we have been digging, pulling, clearing, and planting ever since. Over the course of the year, we had volunteers join us at six different work parties for a total of 175.5 hours. They moved mountains of wood chips, one wheelbarrow at a time, took back ground lost to the blackberries to make room for native plantings. It is rewarding to see our members and friends coming out to help refresh this wonderful habitat.

With resources and equipment provided by the Green Seattle Partnership and our Forest Steward, Thomas Kelly, we are allowed access to the King Fisher Basin and Promontory Point Education Pavilion & Butterfly Garden to do the restoration work. Tom not only administers the volunteer work, but he pitches in to help at every event. Former Forest Stewards for the area, Lynn Ferguson and Mary Bicknell, helped us get acquainted with the lay of the land and the garden history. After 25 years tending the garden and meadow, they are happy to turn over the trowel to WBA. We are lucky to have people like Tom, Lynn and Mary for their Stewardship of this peaceful green space.

Our plant advisor and chief restoration architect is our very own Julie O'Donald. Julie has a wealth of experience with more than 35 years creating wildlife-friendly gardens. She knows how to bring back the butterflies as well as other pollinators and wild things.

Here is Julie's recap of what has been planted during WBA work parties at Kingfisher Basin along with the plans for future plantings.

Trees and shrubs were pre-ordered from Storm Lake Growers. A special thank you goes out to Lynn Ferguson for her donation to make the purchase possible.

On Saturday Feb 28th we planted the following native plants:

- 2 Vine maple
- 1 Incense cedar for Cedar hairstreak butterflies

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

- 1 Black hawthorn- This is our native hawthorn
- 1 Rocky Mountain juniper
- 1 Quaking aspen
- 2 Serviceberry
- 2 Tall Oregon grape
- 1 Choke cherry
- 3 Red elderberry
- 2 Red-flowering currant

Our plan includes adding more Oceanspray. It wasn't available at this time and will be included in future plans. This was also true of Bitter Cherry and we will look to order plants again next year.

We also had several donated native perennials that were planted in wood chip berms as follows:

- 6 Pearly everlasting (*Anaphalis margaritacea*)
- 4 Douglas aster (*Symphyotrichum subspicatum*)
- 6 Fireweed (*Chamerion angustifolium*)
- 8 Goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis* var *lepida*)
- 6 Stinging nettles (*Urtica dioica*)
- 4 *Viola adunca*
- 20 Native bleeding heart (*Dicentra formosa*)
- * Large-leaved lupine seeds, species (*Lupinus polyphyllus*)
- Native annuals such as *Plectritis* and *Barbarea*

A patch of planted Great camas already exists on site, thanks to Lynn and Mary.

Still to be planted:

- Common camas (*Camas quamash*)
- Native checkermallow (*Sidalcea* species)
- Yellow violet (*Viola glabella*)

We will be taking a break this spring to avoid disturbing nesting birds at the site. We hope you will join us at our next work party or visit the site and be inspired in your own yard or community.

Liz and Julie

Oregon-grape. (R. Johnson)



Dicentra formosa. (R. Johnson)



Giant Camas, Capitol Campus, Olympia.



Preschooler as a Monarch; and infant sibling as the chrysalis. And check out the wood duck and peacock in the background, at Olympia's Procession of the Species. This is what you get when you're the headquarters for the state wildlife agency—a lot of people who know their natural history. (R. Johnson)



*Big Butterfly Month
A WBA Citizen Science
Project
June 20 through July 20,
2026*

WBA is having a statewide, month-long butterfly count this summer, the second year for this WBA citizen science project. Let's see how many butterflies everyone observes around the state. You can document butterflies from your yard, while camping, hiking, at a park, or wherever you may find yourself throughout Washington. It is easy to participate. First, create an account on iNaturalist either using the phone app, downloaded from the Play Store, or through the web on a computer, at <https://www.inaturalist.org>. Then join our project on iNaturalist: —[Big Butterfly Month Washington State](#). For those new to iNaturalist, we have provided a [link](#) to a short page on How to Sign up for an iNaturalist Account. There is no charge.

Take a photo of a butterfly with your cell phone or camera and upload it to iNaturalist. Once it's uploaded, you'll need to check a box to include your observation in our project, which should show up as an option towards the bottom of the creating observation page. If not, make sure you joined our project. There are 3 different versions of the smart phone app, plus the web interface used by desktop or laptop computers. You may use any, or all! There's an Android version, and for iPhones there's a Classic and a New version. Directions will vary slightly between all the different versions. The web version only allows you to upload one photo to initiate the observation, and then you add any others, while the smart phone apps allow you to add multiple photos at once. You also get the option with the phone apps to select photos from your gallery, or taking a photo through the app. Once you have a photo uploaded, the app can suggest an identification, *if* you have cell reception. First off, iNat can be wrong, so don't take its suggestion as absolute truth. Second, if you don't have reception, you'll have to add the identification later. Third, if you don't have Location turned on, iNat won't know what to suggest. Many people like to use a real camera to photograph their butterflies, and then upload through the web interface on a desktop, where they have an internet connection and access to their field guides to verify identifications. You'll have to add the location manually.

More thorough directions [here](#).

You'll need to make sure that you gave iNat permission to access your location—iNat observations need to have a GPS location and a date. The phone app makes it easy to upload your photo while in the field, but if there is a problem or you are using a real camera, images can be uploaded at home on a desktop computer. If you're uploading from a camera that does not record GPS location, you can add that manually in the web interface. An observation without a location or a date will not be added to our project, since it's limited by both location and date. You may post as many sightings as you wish (of different butterflies!) on as many days as you like within the date range above. The project will close after that date.

Acknowledgement will be given for the highest number of observations (of different butterflies!) and the most species.

Join us for this citizen science adventure!

If you need additional help on getting started on iNaturalist, feel free to contact one of our Board Members below:

Karen Holtrop: sec@wabutterflyassoc.org Regina Johnson: tres@wabutterflyassoc.org Melanie Weiss: tl_MelanieW@wabutterflyassoc.org.



WBA on the Radio!

Where on the dial: KPTZ, 91.9 FM, podcast #760 "Butterflies of Washington, Part 1"

When: Recorded, 9 Feb 2026; First aired, 11Feb 2026

Who from WBA: Dan Dunphy, Regina Johnson

Representatives from your butterfly association were invited to the KPTZ studios in Port Townsend this past February to sit down with Nature Now host Debaran Kelso and talk about Washington butterflies. The Nature Now podcast is a gem of a show covering a diverse range of nature topics in our bioregion: birds, butterflies, plants, ecology, &c. Guests are interviewed in studio and sometimes out in the field. WBA's own Karen Holtrop and Robert Michael Pyle have been featured on Nature Now. Recordings of most podcasts are archived on the KPTZ website - please check them out (<https://www.kptz.org/podcasts/nature-now/>). Special thanks to Karen Holtrop for introducing us to Debaran and the KPTZ Nature Now crew! (photo courtesy of KPTZ.)

Link to Dan and Regina's interview with Debaran:

[#760 Butterflies of Washington, part 1](#)

Who Calls Who?

By Melanie Weiss

A friend recently asked me, "Who calls who? I think flowers seduce butterflies."

It's a good question. Yes, [flowers seduce butterflies, but their relationship is a two-way dance of attraction and exchange](#). It's all about reproduction and survival of the species. Flowers create patterns, colors and fragrances that are attractive to butterflies and other pollinators. Pollination occurs allowing the flowers to reproduce. [Butterflies visit flowers for the life-sustaining nectar that nourishes them](#) as they mate and lay eggs. I recently read that pollinators have a negative electrostatic charge caused by flying. Flowers, which are stationary, have a positive electrostatic charge. As a pollinator approaches a flower, the pollen literally rises to meet it...albeit only a very small distance! This is similar to what we see when we rub a balloon on a rug causing our hair to rise as we move it close to our head. Butterflies pollinate flowers by carrying pollen on their wings and body. They're not as loaded with pollen as bees, but they're part of the dance. The wonders of the natural world are boundless!

(The attraction between butterflies and their host plants, as opposed to nectar choices, has a few additional twists.)



Pale Tiger Swallowtail. (M. Weiss)

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.

More Procession of the Species butterflies. (R. Johnson)



Board Members

Committees

President	Liz Kuehn	pres@wabutterflyassoc.org	Science Advisor	Jon Pelham
Vice President	Dan Dunphy	vp@wabutterflyassoc.org	Membership	Reg Reisenbichler
Secretary	Karen Holtrop	sec@wabutterflyassoc.org	Annual Conference	Available
Treasurer	Regina Johnson	tres@wabutterflyassoc.org	Field Trips	Melanie Weiss
At-Large	David James	tl_DavidJ@wabutterflyassoc.org	Programs	Paulette Murphy
At-Large	Carolyn Heberlein		Publicity/Website	Carolyn Heberlein
At-Large	Paulette Murphy		Newsletter	Regina Johnson
At-Large	Alex Corsten	admin@wabutterflyassoc.org		
At-Large	Melanie Weiss	tl_MelanieW@wabutterflyassoc.org		
At-Large	Jim Reed			

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