



Washington Butterfly Association

G'num*

The newsletter of the Washington Butterfly Association

P.O. Box 31317 Seattle WA 98103
www.naba.org/chapters/nabaws

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

Recent Programs



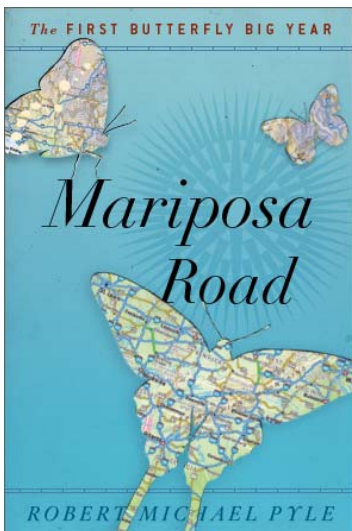
In February, with "Butterflies, Bears, and 12-Foot Fennel: Exploring Sicily and the French Pyrenees," **Bill Yake** covered everything from butterflies and bears to ancient cave art.



In the March program, "Identifying Hairstreaks of Washington," **Bob Hardwick** covered identifying Washington hairstreaks and where to find them.



WBA & LepSoc Joint Conference in Leavenworth



WBA's 11th Annual Conference, July 9 – 11, will be coordinated with The Lepidopterists' Society's first conference in Washington State, July 8 – 11. This international conference will provide a great opportunity for WBA members to meet scientists and amateur naturalists from across North America and around the world. It will be held in the beautiful Bavarian-themed village of Leavenworth and will convene at The Enzian Inn (www.enzianinn.com) at the base of the 8,000-foot high Cascade Mountains.

The keynote speaker on Saturday evening will be Dr. Robert Michael Pyle, a lepidopterist and professional writer. He will read from his forthcoming book entitled "Mariposa Road: The First Butterfly Big Year."

We're also delighted that Bob Pyle will be contributing his thoughts and wisdom in a column for each issue of G'Num. See his first on page 3.

Conference Registration Options

WBA Conference Package

\$55.00 registration, plus meals. (*Times are tentative; please check the WBA Web page for updates.*)

Friday, July 9

5:30 – 7:30 pm Check-in and registration at The Enzian Inn
5 – 7 pm Barbeque at Red Tail Canyon Farm for those who signed up
7:30 pm Short business meeting, including election of WBA officers
At dark Moth black-lighting field trip

Saturday, July 10

8:30 am Meet for an all-day field trip
9 – 4 pm All-day field trip
6:30 pm Dinner for those who signed up
7:30 pm Keynote speaker: Dr. Robert Michael Pyle

Sunday, July 11

8:30 am Meet for morning half-day field trip
9 am – 1 pm Morning (watchers?) field trip
1 - 4:30 pm Afternoon (collectors?) field trip (may overlap with morning trip)
After field trips Leave for home

An Alternative: The Entire LepSoc Conference

\$100 registration, plus meals. Registration fees go up after May 21.

WBA members can register for the entire Lepidopterists' Society program, which includes admission to the symposia and professional sessions, at the LepSoc member price. Its theme is *The Young Ones!*, a double entendre for immature Lepidoptera and youthful lepidopterists! Two symposia, "The Young Ones: Research on Immatures" and "The Young Ones: Youngling Research" will feature invited presentations on immature stages of butterflies and moths and the research of young lepidopterists. In addition, contributed papers and posters on any aspect of Lepidoptera will also be featured. For more information or to register, visit www.lepsoc2010.com or e-mail david_james@wsu.edu.

Upcoming Programs

WBA meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month. They are held at the UW Center for Urban Horticulture (3501 NE 41st Street, Seattle) and begin at 7:00 p.m. The first fifteen minutes are used for social reception and viewing of displays.

April 7 - HesperIIDae (Skippers) of Ecuador and Peru

Join **Richard Lindstrom**, a co-founder of WBA, in the jungles of Ecuador and Peru where he has spent much of the past several years photographing and documenting the skippers occurring there. Be prepared for his superb photos of many beautiful and unique butterflies, some perhaps the first for their species in the wild.

May 5th - Identifying Swallowtails, Whites and Sulphurs of Washington

David Droppers will review the Swallowtails, Whites and Sulphurs of Washington with photos and tips on identification and habitats in which they are found for beginners and advanced butterflyers. Whether new to WBA or a long-time member, you will benefit from David's excellent teaching and identification expertise. This is the second of our "species review programs."

June 3 - Color Vision and Color Blindness in People and Butterflies

With **Gary D. Bernard**. Some can tell Red from Green, others can not. Some can see Red, others can not. Some can see UV, others can not. Why? How? So what? Objects of discussion include Monarchs, Viceroys, Metalmarks, and Heliconian mimicry.

Watching Washington Butterflies with Bob Pyle

Number One: What's in a Name

When WBA President Al Wagar asked me to write a column for *G'num*, I jumped at the chance. What fun, to be able to share some thoughts, tales from the field, mysteries, intrigues, and other butterfly fun with our charmed coterie of Lepidoptera lovers. I am flattered to be asked to do so, and as long as I can think of something to say or am tolerated, I will be contributing these notes to each issue.

So what to call such a series? Why not go back to the beginning, I thought, and resurrect the serviceable name of my first book, *Watching Washington Butterflies* (Seattle Audubon Society, 1974)? Perhaps not all of our members know that President Wagar was on my College of Forest Resources faculty committee when I wrote that book as my master's thesis at the UW in the early seventies. He was tough, insisting that I get the science right and keep the poetry in bounds; after all, it was a



Vanessa virginiensis

Master of Science degree. He held me up for an extra term after a year abroad studying butterfly conservation, but that enabled me to live in a houseboat for spring quarter, an ambition I'd held all through college. It's a delight

to me that all these years later we've both come together again over the love of butterflies.

I might as well stick with the question of names for a beginning. Why do we call a given butterfly by a given name? Naturalists and biologists have, over the centuries, adopted a series of conventions to guide naming choices, to facilitate discovery, and to clarify communication. Vernacular (common) names have no official arbiter, though NABA provides a useful list of recommended names, as has the Xerces Society. Standardization has its benefits, but colloquial and regional usage can be colorful and worth preserving--so the American painted lady is known in some quarters as the Virginia lady, and in others as Hunter's butterfly. Yet the standard scientific name, *Vanessa virginiensis*, covers all these English names. In *The Butterflies of Cascadia*, under *a.k.a.*, I gave all the names used for each species.

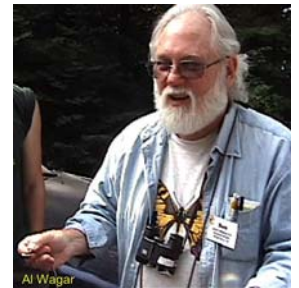
Scientific names are regulated by the International Commission of Zoological Nomenclature. ICZN provides certain helpful conventions of usage. For example, all taxonomic levels (taxa) are always

capitalized, except for species and subspecies; the genus, species, and subspecies are italicized, but no other taxa. So: Lepidoptera, Nymphalidae, *Vanessa virginiensis*. These conventions give consistency.

It sometimes seems that scientists change names for the fun of it, as if to befuddle amateurs (an honorable state: the word means "one who loves"). But name changes actually reflect greater understanding of relationships, often revealed through anatomical or genetic (DNA) investigations. We are fortunate to have the leading scholar of the history of American butterfly names as our WBA guru, Jon Pelham. Jonathan's stupendous *Catalogue of the Butterflies of the United States and Canada* is the indispensable source for exactly which names apply, how they came to be recognized, and who is responsible for their study and description. The *Catalogue's* entries often read like historical mysteries, whose solution helps us to appreciate the actual people upon whom our knowledge of butterflies depends: Boisduval, Lorquin, Edwards, Scudder, Burdick, Austin, Warren, and so on.

The fact is, butterflies (and any other organisms) become much more interesting if we take the trouble to understand WHY they are called WHAT they are called. Also, don't you find that you care about your neighbors more, if you know who they are? Conservation in this and other countries would be leagues ahead of where it is if the general populace had even a nodding relationship with more than a few of our non-human neighbors. The Washington Butterfly Association can be seen as a brother- and sisterhood of initiates into the wonders, mysteries, and pleasures of close acquaintance with butterflies. So when you encounter the first echo azures, margined whites,

tortoiseshells, and anglewings (*a.k.a.* commas) this spring, ask yourself why they are known as they are; learn a scientific name or two; when a name changes, instead of cursing the taxonomists, celebrate the advance in our understanding; and go happily and upright into the field, knowing that you are helping to keep knowledge alive. Names are how we get to know and love the individual parts that keep the world running, and keep it worth living in.



Bob Pyle

WBA Outreach



We are continuing with outreach efforts. On March 2 we participated in Science Night (left) at Lake Forest Park Elementary School. David Droppers presented to the Pilchuck Audubon Society on March 12 and the Washington Koi and Water Garden Society on March 17. He will be presenting to a Master Gardener's group in Federal Way on June 28 as well as showing some live butterflies at the Everett Imagine Children's Museum Shoebox Zoo Day. Paul Doan will give a program at Bellevue's Mercer Slough on May 8. If you are interested in helping with outreach, please get in touch with Al Wagar at (206) 546-851 or alwagar@verizon.net.

The Field Trip Season Gets Underway

The March 27 trip to Schnebley Coulee was a great success, joined by Cliff & Betsy Hassell from Leavenworth and John & Brenda Baumann from Spokane. (Great to see field trips including more than the Seattle crowd.) Species seen: spring whites, Sara's orange-tips, gray and Sheridan's green hairstreaks, Milbert's tortoiseshell, mourning cloak, anise swallowtail, and probably silvery blues, plus lizards, assorted birds, and wildflowers. Check out the 2010 field trip schedule on page 6.
Photo: Shirley Sekarajasingham



Desert Marble – *Euchloe lotta*

by Dave Nunnallee



The Desert Marble belongs to the family Pieridae, a large worldwide family of butterflies which includes the whites, sulphurs, marbles and orangetips. Butterflies in this family bear a full complement of six functional legs and are typically medium-sized species which spend a great deal of time on the wing. Although some species are common or abundant they are often flighty and difficult to approach. Pierids typically have white or yellow wings, and can be very similar in appearance worldwide. In Washington there are 17 species of pierids including 7 sulphurs, 7 whites, 2 marbles and 1 orangetip.

The Desert Marble ranges from southern BC to northern Mexico, occurring east of the Rocky Mountains but largely absent in coastal areas. In Washington it occurs east of the Cascades in the shrub steppe, especially in hilly habitats. It is univoltine (single-brooded), appearing early in the season and flying late March to late June, and is sometimes common in the Columbia Basin and adjacent areas. Males emerge before females and patrol gullies and hillsides for mates. Males hilltop in April, females joining them to mate before returning to lower slopes to lay their eggs. Females are usually found flying near host plants but are elusive and easily disturbed. Both sexes visit flowers including phlox, mustards and fiddlenecks.

Pupae overwinter, adults eclosing the following spring. Females lay eggs singly on the buds, flowers, stems or leaves of the host plant. Larval hosts are crucifers including several species of *Arabis* (rockcress), *Sisymbrium altissimum* (Tumble Mustard), *Descurainia pinnata* (Tansy mustard) and *Lepidium sp.* (peppergrass). Larvae feed on all parts of the host, preferring terminal stems, buds and flowers early but feeding readily on leaves as they grow larger. Development is rapid, likely due to the ephemeral nature of many of the mustard hosts in arid areas in late spring. Larvae are green with a

vivid lateral white stripe, sometimes slightly edged above in darker purple; the white stripe runs the full length of the larva but does not continue onto the head. There are five larval instars. Larvae wander before pupation, which occurs mostly on host stems. The pupa is light brown and streamlined with a long beak; after a few weeks it turns dark brown. The chemistry of droplets produced by setae in L1-L4 is unknown but is presumed to be for defensive purposes. No nests are made, and survival is based on camouflage and defensive chemicals. In the later instars the only larva likely to be confused with this species in Washington is *Anthocharis sara* (Sara Orangetip) which is also green with a prominent lateral white stripe. However the white side stripe in *A. sara* continues onto the head, providing an easily observed identification mark.

In Washington the Desert Marble can be confused only with the Large Marble, *Euchloe ausonides*. The two species differ in size, *E. ausonides* being significantly larger. Also the ventral hindwing coloration of *E. ausonides* is distinctly gold while in *E. lotta* it is a colder green with limited gold veins. *Euchloe lotta* usually flies a little earlier where the two occur together, and *E. ausonides* continues later into the season and at higher elevations.

Idie's Butterfly Class

Idie Ulsh is giving the class "Butterflies of the Puget Sound Area" again this spring with three classroom dates: Tuesdays May 11, 18, and 25 and option of Saturday May 15 or Saturday May 22 for the field session.

Topics:

- Learn to identify 30 butterfly species in the Puget Sound area
- Natural history of butterflies
- Butterfly gardening
- Butterflying with binoculars--how to find and enjoy butterflies
- Butterfly photography

Classes will be in the Douglas Classroom at the Center for Urban Horticulture, 3501 N.E. 41st St., Seattle. The cost is \$60 for members of WBA or the Seattle Audubon Society; \$75 for nonmembers; payable to Seattle Audubon. **Pre-registration is required for all classes.** To register, please call 206-523-4483 between 10am & 5pm, Monday-Saturday.

2010 General Membership Field Trips

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

Date	Destination	Trip Leader
Sat, Mar 27	3 - Schnebley Coulee near Vantage	Dave Nunnallee
Sat, April 3	Alternate date for Schnebley trip	Dave Nunnallee
Sat, May 1	2 - Cowiche Canyon near Yakima	David Droppers
Sat, May 15	2 - Lower Reecer Creek near Ellensburg	Dave Nunnallee
Sat, June 5	2 - Camas Creek Natural Area near Liberty	David Droppers
Sun, June 13	1 - Discovery Park Beginners Trip - 1:30 - 3:30 pm - Rain or shine	Al Wagar
Sat, June 19	3 - Quartz Mountain near Ellensburg (alternative: Hairstreak Blitz)	Maureen Traxler
Sun, June 27	2 - Chumstick Fourth of July Count near Wenatchee (NABA trip)	Al Wagar & others
July 9 - 11	Annual Conference, Leavenworth	See conference materials
Sat, July 24	2 - Fish (Tuquala) Lake near Roslyn, Kittitas County	Dave Nunnallee
Sat, July 31	4 - Corral Pass near Crystal Mt. (Mt Rainier)	Dave Nunnallee
Aug 7 or 8	5 - Mount Townsend near Quilcene (Trip will go on the day with the best weather)	Bob Hardwick
Sat, Aug 14	2 - Mineral Springs near Cle Elum	Maureen Traxler
Sat, Aug 28	1 - Ellensburg Lookout/Gold Creek	Al Wagar

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

DIFFICULTY RATINGS:

- 1 Easy, mostly by car, minor walking along roads
- 2 Fairly limited walking, some slopes involved.
- 3 Moderate, up to 1.5 miles walking with moderate slopes
- 4 Difficult, hiking on trails or terrain are steep in places.
- 5 Very difficult, extended hiking on trails or steep terrain.

WHERE & WHEN TO MEET:

Trips will depart from the north half of the Ravenna Park & Ride at 7:00 a.m. unless expressly stated otherwise. The park & ride is located under I-5 at Ravenna Blvd between NE 50th & NE 65th St.

On request we also stop at the Issaquah Park & Ride at 7:30 a.m. To reach the Issaquah Park & Ride: going eastbound on I-90 take Exit 15 (1st Issaquah exit). At exit stoplight turn right (south) and drive 0.45 mile to Newport Way intersection (traffic light). Turn left (east) on Newport Way and drive 0.1 mile to another light, and turn right (south) into the Park & Ride.

If you live in another part of the state, contact the trip leader to arrange where to meet the field trip group.

Tend to any personal matters such as getting breakfast, coffee or lunch food before departure time so others are not delayed.

All field trips are conducted by carpool. Without the volunteer participation of drivers, the trips are not possible. If you have a car that you are willing to drive, please have the gas tank full and ready to go.

All WBA-sponsored field trips are fully insured through our parent organization, NABA.

COSTS: Passengers are expected to share gasoline expenses. Typically this is \$8-10 each. Each rider should also pay a share of any park entry fees, ferry fares, etc.

The trip leader will collect a voluntary donation of \$5 per person (children under 12 are free) for each field trip to help offset expenses of the organization.

SCHEDULING & WEATHER:

Weather is always a major factor for planning butterfly trips in Washington, particularly March through June. For flexibility; leaders must have the right to make last-minute itinerary changes to provide you with the best possible butterfly experience.

On occasion it is necessary to cancel or postpone an outing if the weather does not permit a viable alternative. It may also be necessary to adjust some trips to earlier or later dates to best match seasonal weather patterns. WBA will make every effort to keep you informed of any changes.

CANCELLATIONS:

If you need to cancel, please contact the trip leader as soon as you can so the group does not wait for you at the park & ride.

Board Members

Al Wagar	President	(206) 546-8251	alwagar@verizon.net
Jennifer Kauffman	Vice President	(206) 729-7866	jenkauffman@earthlink.net
Jennifer Kauffman	Treasurer	(206) 729-7866	jenkauffman@earthlink.net
Donna Schaeffer	Secretary	(206) 525-5328	donut@u.washington.edu
Maureen Traxler	Past-President	(206) 782-5537	maureentraxler@yahoo.com
Jon Pelham	Science Advisor	(425) 697-6654	zapjammer@verizon.net
Richard Youel	At-Large	(206) 282-3758	cryouel@msn.com
David Droppers	At-Large	(425) 772-9849	lycaenid@gmail.com
Paul Doan	At-Large	(206) 498-0335	fpdoan@msn.com

Committees

Marty Hanson	Membership	(425) 392-2458	larmarhan@msn.com
Joyce Bergen	Annual Conference	(509) 996-7808	magpie@methownet.com
David & Jo Nunnallee	Field Trips	(425) 392-2565	nunnallee@comcast.net
Idie Ulsh	Programs	(206) 364-4935	idieu@earthlink.net
Carolyn Heberlein	Publicity/Website	(206) 633-2313	coheberlein@yahoo.com
Robin Lewis	Newsletter	(206) 297-1976	americanrobin@earthlink.net

Membership Application

Washington Butterfly Association

The Washington State Chapter of the
North American Butterfly Association (NABA)

Yes! I want to join WBA/NABA and receive *American Butterflies*, *Butterfly Garden News* and *WBA Newsletter*, as well as other member privileges.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Special Interest (circle): Listing, Gardening, Observation, Photography, Conservation, and Other _____

Dues enclosed (circle): Regular \$30 (\$60 outside U.S., Canada, Mexico)

Family \$40 (\$80 outside U.S., Canada, Mexico)

Payment must be in U.S. dollars.

Mail application form to: NABA, 4 Delaware Rd., Morristown, NJ 07960

Further information: wabutterflyassoc@earthlink.net or call Idie Ulsh at (206) 364-4935.