



BUTTERFLIES OF THE METOLIUS PRESERVE



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METOLIUS PRESERVE BUTTERFLIES

The Metolius Preserve is a butterfly hot spot—home to more than 50 different species! Here are a handful to watch for as you explore the Preserve:



RANDY TOMER



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Echo azure

Celastrina echo

These small, bright blue butterflies herald the arrival of spring! Look for them in wet spots along trails where they “puddle,” sipping salts and minerals from damp soil.

Best time to see: early spring.



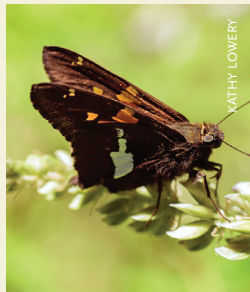
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Western pine elfin

Callophrys eryphon

A small mauve-brown butterfly with jagged bands of color near the edge of wings. Look for them around young pine trees where they chase people or insects away from their perches.

Best time to see: spring-early summer.



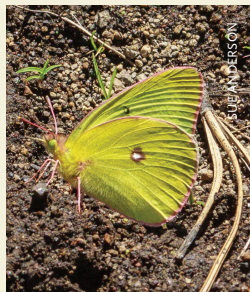
KATHY LOWERY

Silver-spotted skipper

Epargyreus clarus

This skipper is the largest and most colorful skipper at the Metolius Preserve. Look for its unmistakable brown-black wings with a silver band on the underside.

Best time to see: early-mid summer.



STEPH PERSON

Western sulphur

Colias occidentalis

This medium-sized butterfly has bright yellow wings with pink borders and pink antennae. They usually race through the forest, so consider yourself lucky if you spot one at rest or nectaring.

Best time to see: early-mid summer.



STEPH PERSON

Elegant day moth

Hemileuca eglanterina

Not a butterfly, but a colorful daytime flying moth! Keep an eye out for these large fuzzy, pink, yellow, and black winged wonders at the Metolius Preserve. Their rainbow sherbet palette lends a little magic to the air.

Best time to see: early-mid summer.

Pale tiger swallowtail

Papilio eurymedon

Large, striking butterfly with pale white wings and black tiger stripes. Look for bright orange and blue marks near its long slender tails.

Best time to see: all summer.



JAY WATHER

Lorquin's admiral

Limenitis lorquini

Large jet black butterfly with white diagonal stripes. Look for its orange wing tips on top, and brick red and white below. Find these around Pacific ninebark shrubs along Lake Creek at the Preserve.

Best time to see: mid-summer.



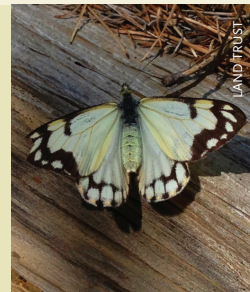
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Pine white

Neophasia menapia

A medium-sized butterfly that loves forests like the Metolius Preserve. Look for these milky white insects in the treetops. They lay their eggs on pine and fir needles so their caterpillars can eat them.

Best time to see: mid-late summer.



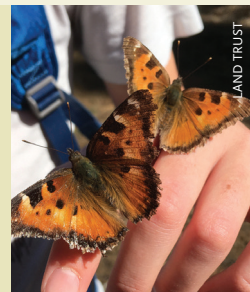
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California tortoiseshell

Nymphalis californica

A medium-sized bright orange butterfly with black wing borders and black spots. Some years they swarm by the hundreds or thousands in summer in the mountains.

Best time to see: spring-fall.



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Common wood nymph

Cercyonis pegala

A medium-sized brown butterfly with distinctive yellow-ringed eyespots on the wings. These eyespots help the wood nymph avoid being eaten by birds!

Best time to see: mid-late summer.



RANDY TOMER



Butterfly Fun Facts!



Butterflies use their feet to taste and their antennae to smell! They use their proboscis, the curled straw below their head, to sip nectar from plants.



Butterflies puddle! They gather together on wet spots on the ground to drink water and take in the salts and minerals they need to thrive.



An easy way to tell the difference between moths and butterflies is to look at their antennae. Butterflies have long antennae with a bulb at the end. Moth antennae can be feathery (like the one pictured above), saw-edged, or a long shaft.



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