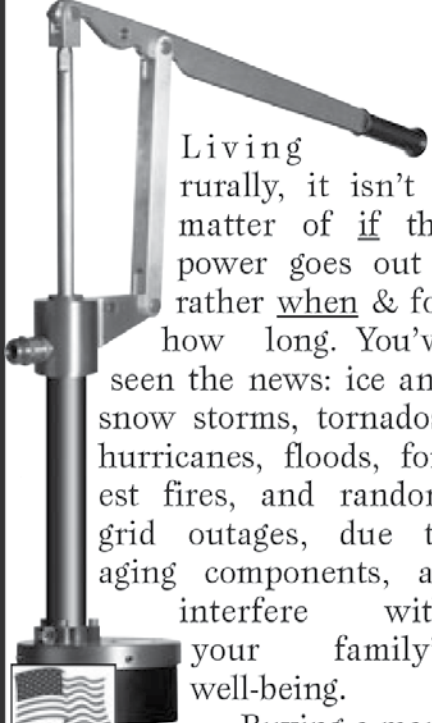




Why Buy A Hand Pump?

with Tami Quinn Hollenbeck



Living rurally, it isn't a matter of if the power goes out - rather when & for how long. You've seen the news: ice and snow storms, tornados, hurricanes, floods, forest fires, and random grid outages, due to aging components, all interfere with your family's well-being.

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Hiking with Anna's Blue butterfly

BY LINDA KAPPEN

This time we will visit the Anna's Blue (*Plebejus anna*), a butterfly of the Lycaenidae family. This butterfly family is also called Gossamer Wings.

Anna's Blue wingspan measures 1.25 inches or less. The female has a dorsal color of brownish gray and rows of chevrons, lightly to heavily marked, on the submarginal area of the wing. (A chevron is a diagnostic marking on some species of butterflies.) The male Anna's dorsal displays a bluish purple color. Variations of markings on the ventral side of wings of both males and females show rows



A male Anna's Blue butterfly.

of black dots and light orange, either heavily marked or nearly absent. The variations occur in different regions and, surprisingly, even in the same areas. I have seen this to be true in southern Oregon in



These photos show the dorsal (top) and ventral (bottom) sides of a female Anna's Blue butterfly.

areas of our local Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest.

Various legumes, including lupines and milk vetches, serve as host plants for this species. Anna's Blues are single brooded, meaning they live one generation and the eggs overwinter.

We can observe the adult butterfly from mid-June through early October with a peak flight period from mid to late July.

The range areas of this pretty blue butterfly are British Columbia Cascades; Cascades through Washington, Oregon, and California; the Coastal Range through the Olympics; the Siskiyou Mountains; as far east as the Warner Mountains; and south to the Sierra Nevada and Sequoia National Forest. We have quite a range locally, including some travel destinations in neighboring states or areas. The Anna's Blue is most likely seen in many national forests, backcountry areas, and national parks or on state park trail systems.

Habitat for the Anna's Blue is moist mountain meadows, seeps along roadsides and trails, and forest openings at 3,000 feet and above. One will often see the males puddling with other blues and various species of butterflies in seeps to get much-needed nutrients. Often the females will be busy nectaring on nearby flowers.

Anna's Blues really are a joy to see while hiking our mountains and will sometimes stay quite still for photographing and observing if one is careful and quiet. They are often referred to as a hiker's butterfly. Locally I see them in many areas of the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest and other neighboring national monuments or wilderness areas. Hopefully you will see this beauty of a blue on summer hikes throughout our watersheds.

Linda Kappen

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Photos by Linda Kappen.

Letters to the Editor wanted!

We know you have something to say, and we want to hear about it! Keep the letter to 200 words or less and submit it to gater@applegater.org. Provide your name, address, and contact information (only your name and location will be published). The deadline for the summer issue is May 1. (See more information on page 19.)

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