

## Merrill Peterson

Merrill's childhood fascination with the Lepidoptera started him on a career in entomological research. He is now a Professor of Biology at [Western Washington University](#), where he teaches courses in entomology, ecology, and evolutionary biology. His research on the evolutionary ecology of herbivorous insects, including their population dynamics, community structure, and speciation, has resulted in numerous grants and publications. Recently, he has also focused on making obscure taxonomic knowledge about insects available to non-experts. Toward this end, he conceived of and guided the production of the user-friendly and information-packed [Pacific Northwest Moths](#) website, working with students and collaborators at several institutions. He is also writing a field guide to Pacific Northwest insects, to be published by Seattle Audubon Society.

