

Amelia

By Elle Cee Wallace

"[The island marble butterfly] was nicknamed Amelia after another adventurous flier."

–Kathleen Foley, SJPT Stewardship Manager

It is only when the eye rests
you see it

the creamed surface
the marbled brush of lemony-lime
across her underwings

In a tiny section

at the southern tip
of the San Juan Islands
timing is everything
counted not just in days but hours

The wild mustard must bloom

right as she emerges
from chrysalis
lays white-blue eggs
on a single bud

Inside the open fields

and coastal dunes
she lands lifts
the fence stays put
a little longer

Where the eye rests

at the southern tip
of the San Juan Islands
for a conservationist she says
timing is everything