



PEAK EXPERIENCE

The Newsletter for Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness, Inc.

Volume 7, Number 4 • July / August 2011

Mission Statement

“Spanning the Idaho/Montana border, the Scotchmans are one of the last, and largest, wild areas in our region. We conduct education, outreach and stewardship activities to preserve the rugged, scenic and biologically diverse 88,000 acre Scotchman Peaks Roadless Area. We believe the Scotchman Peaks deserve congressional designation as Wilderness for the benefit and enjoyment of current and future generations.”



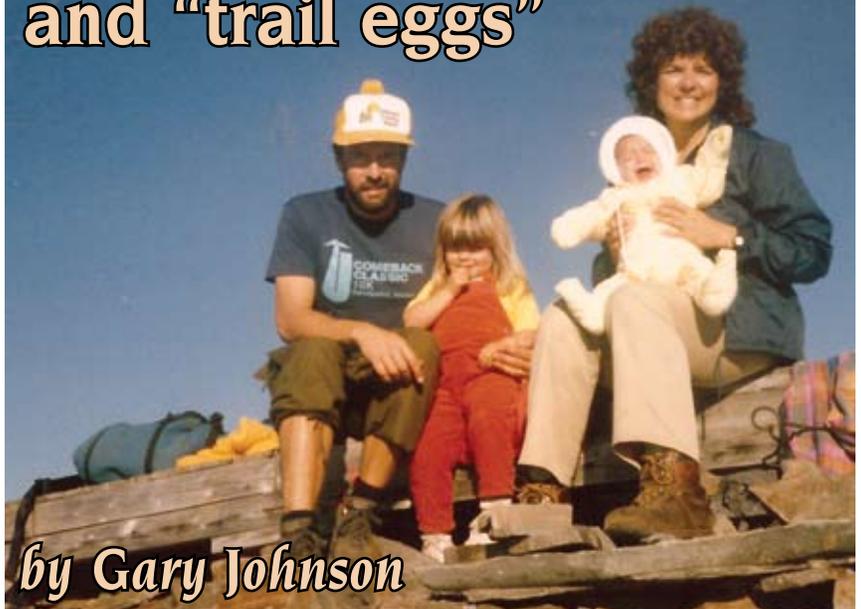
Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness, Inc. (FSPW) is a non-profit organization. The proceeds from all events and sales benefit our wilderness preservation efforts. Donations are tax deductible.

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Editor: Ann Wimberley

Layout and design: Maria Trujillo & Sandy Compton

Cougars, cartridges and “trail eggs”



by Gary Johnson

My wife Diane and I climbed Scotchman Peak many times in the 1970s and 80s and always enjoyed the magnificent scenery. We bought our first snowshoes from the Pend Oreille Sport shop in the winter of 1980 and, shortly after, snowshoed up Scotchman. In those days and at that time of year we had to leave our vehicle a mile and a half short of the trailhead, so it was a long day even for youngsters! We naturally were anxious to share the experience with our 2 daughters.

It was 1986, a beautiful autumn day in North Idaho. I'd just finished another year as a smoke jumper in Alaska and Montana. Diane and I decided to hike Scotchman with our two small girls, Dawn 3 years old (a reluctant participant, or “allergic to uphill”, as we affectionately referred to it!), and Emily, 3months old (obviously no vote in the planning process!) Off the four of us went, Diane carrying Emily, cozily snoozing in her day pack, and Dawn, my responsibility (unsure of just how far her little legs would make the long trip!) At the last minute I threw my revolver and a brand new box of 50 cartridges into the bottom of my pack, just in case! I would coax Dawn up the hill with colored “trail eggs” (peanut M&M’s). We were determined to have bragging rights about the age of our kids the first time they were up this mountain! I would not-so-carefully hide these “eggs” about 100 feet ahead of her all the way up the trail. This treasure hunt of sorts gained us valuable distance on our quest for the summit.

Everything was going well. We were about half way to our destination, but, at about that time, Emily began to fuss. At the same time, Diane called for us to

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Message from Chair – Crafting a Community Vision

We are committed to creating — and fulfilling — the vision of the Scotchman Peaks area as permanently protected through congressional Wilderness designation. This outcome provides the highest protection for the biological diversity of this rugged landscape and will ensure that we have areas for solitude, quiet recreation and traditional activities such as hunting, fishing and berry picking. Preserving these lands would help to maintain the quality of life which makes our communities a desirable place to live, which in turn helps to create and sustain a diverse economy. For these reasons, protecting the Scotchmans should be part of a community vision of a vibrant future.

A flatland farmer from the Great Plains visiting our area would be in absolute awe of the Scotchmans. With apologies to my relatives who still live in Kansas, most of the towns they live in would be ecstatic if they had an attraction nearly as desirable Scotchmans. It would be a treasure worth its weight in gold and preserving it would likely be a high priority. No wonder that, once again, Sandpoint is in the running for a “best of” places to live honor.

A Scotchman Peaks Wilderness is not only our vision; it is indeed a community vision. As we continue having conversations with diverse groups, organizations, individuals and other stakeholders throughout our three county region who have an interest in land management we find an increasing appreciation for the benefits of preserving some public lands just the way they are today.

The Greater Sandpoint Chamber of Commerce, in a recent endorsement, notes that: *“We strongly believe one of the ways we can build a future of prosperity is to help protect the natural beauty and resources of our area and all it has to offer. The Greater Sandpoint Chamber of Commerce supports the Scotchman Peaks area as a Wilderness area to ensure our public lands continue to offer the quality of life our community desires while protecting its unique qualities for future generations.”*

Wilderness is good for our community’s pride and good for our communities’ prosperity; and it’s good for us and for our souls. The Rotary Club of Sandpoint recently noted that: *“Our members,*

indeed, most of the citizens of Sandpoint, have a direct and close relationship with this land, a quality that works quietly inside us to allow the “better angels of our nature” to have full voice. We are continually inspired and fulfilled by the mountains here...”

We believe that for our future, for our families and for our communities, we deserve a gem like a Scotchman Peaks protected as Wilderness. But, for our collective vision to become reality we must continue to seek out and build additional support; the stronger the community consensus, the greater our chances of success. Talk to your neighbors, to your town’s leaders and officials and let them know that you, too, have a vision where the Scotchman Peaks are protected as Wilderness.

— Phil Hough

Cinnabar Challenge Grant

For the sixth consecutive year the Cinnabar Foundation has awarded a challenge grant to the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness. If you are considering a contribution to assist us in our efforts to protect the Scotchman Peaks as Wilderness, this is the perfect time to send in that contribution - Cinnabar will provide matching funds for up to \$3,000 in donations. This is a great opportunity for you to double the value of your money! If we are able to raise \$3,000 from our supporters, we will receive that amount from Cinnabar, resulting in \$6,000 to support our outreach efforts.



Through your individual contributions, we have met this challenge in each of the last five years. No matter how large or small, each makes a big difference; any amount helps. In fact, many small contributions from a large number of people help to show that the community is actively involved and supports the designation of the Scotchman Peaks as Wilderness.

We would like to raise this money by September 1st, but the sooner we reach our goal of \$3,000 in individual contributions, the sooner we will benefit from Cinnabar’s match – so, don’t delay! Your contribution will help us protect the Scotchman Peaks for our families, for tomorrow.

Visit www.ScotchmanPeaks.org to monitor our progress in achieving this matching grant, and watch our goat climb that mountain!

From the Top

As I sit here is the cool wet early summer weather watching my garden refuse to grow, putting together this newsletter reminds me that it will indeed be hot soon. After a busy spring, things are heating up for an even busier summer for FSPW with many fun events in the works. Good thing we have an intern to help us. The partnership between FSPW and the Idaho Master Naturalists has continued to progress with three of the hikes on our schedule co-sponsored by the two groups. Come on out and celebrate summer in the proposed wilderness area.

— Ann Wimberley



Scotchman Creatures

The Family Mustelidae

By Doug Ferrell

Animals from the Mustelid family have been much in the news lately, especially in the news about the Scotchmans. It is easy to confuse these animals, and interesting to consider how they compare to each other. What is a mustelid and why are they interesting?

The mustelids, sometimes referred to as the weasel family, are energetic carnivorous mammals. Most have short legs, short round ears, thick fur, and are mostly solitary and active year round. Local species include the marten, fisher, wolverine, mink, several weasels and the badger.

The first three are rare in the U.S. and are quite dependent on wilderness habitats. Recently, remote cameras from hair snagging research conducted in the Scotchmans have captured dramatic images of martens and fishers. Researchers have confirmed wolverine tracks, and a wolverine was caught on a remote camera in the Cabinets this past winter.

Martens, fishers and wolverines share many characteristics and look surprisingly similar, though they differ greatly in



A marten turns its back to the camera in favor of beaver remains wired to a tree in the Scotchmans.

Photo courtesy Idaho Fish and Game

body size. Marten males weigh two to three pounds. They possess tremendous speed and agility and can pursue and catch squirrels in the tree tops. Fisher males weigh six to twelve pounds and feed on a variety of birds and mammals, including porcupines. Wolverines weigh up to 60 pounds and eat most anything, including carrion. They are legendary fighters and have been documented to cover a lot of rough country in a small amount of time.

Researchers were surprised to find evidence of so many fishers in the Scotchmans. In this winter's research, fishers were documented in 8 out of 10 grid locations, and represent some 17 individuals. Such a high density of fishers has not been found in similar trapping efforts elsewhere, including in Yellowstone Park. Something about the Scotchmans must be very favorable for these beautiful creatures.

Monte joins the Brigade

photos by
Neil Wimberley



The 2011 David Thompson Columbia Brigade voyageurs (above) arrived in Jay White's lagoon in Clark Fork on Sunday afternoon, June 12 at 3pm, exactly on time. They were clocked traveling on the high water at speeds up to 18 km/hour. The group left the Columbia source lakes in Invermere, B.C. on June 3, stopping in multiple towns along the Kootenai River including Libby, MT. They then portaged to Thompson Falls and also stopped in Noxon. They were greeted by musket fire, bagpipe music and Clark Fork Mayor Jeff Jeffers. The group, including a descendent of David Thompson, then paraded to their campsite at the Clark Fork Senior Center. The following morning they paddled across Lake Pend Oreille at about 7-8 kms per hour visiting in Dover Bay and Oldtown before leaving Idaho.

The communities along the brigade route were invited to design banners to commemorate their communities and 29 did so. The Clark Fork banner, designed by Mayor Jeff Jeffers, will accompany the group on the rest of their trip to Astoria, Oregon, as they follow the route taken by David Thompson two centuries ago. The banners will be displayed at each stop along the way and then returned to the town of origin next year. The bright Clark Fork banner features Scotchman Peak with our mountain goat mascot standing proudly on top (below).



Follow the progress of the Brigade at http://voyageurbrigade.org/thompson/2011_Thompson_Columbia_Brigade/2011_David_Thompson_Columbia_River.html. Check out Libby and Thompson Falls banners at <http://2011brigade.com>, click on community info.



Along the Trail

May 12: Michael Lucid and Lacy Robinson from Idaho Fish and Game presented at the East Bonner County Library to 45 folks on the rare carnivore study and wolverine search that took place in the Scotchmans over the winter with assistance from many Friends.

May 14: FSPW volunteers and Lincoln County coordinator Molly Kieran helped out with STOKR, a 99-mile bike race in Lincoln County to benefit Habitat for Humanity.

May 20: FSPW volunteers Mary Franzel, Sandii Mellen and Laura Flannery rode for the cause in Friend Marty Stitzel's little red Fiat in the Sandpoint Lost in the 50's Parade

May 20 – 22: Phil Hough, Sandy Compton and Doug Ferrell attended Wild Idaho, the Idaho Conservation League annual meeting, at Redfish Lake Lodge in Stanley Basin.

May 21: FSPW volunteers Jacob Styer and Jim Mellen tabled at the Panida Theater during Sandpoint Bike Week.

May 26: Lauren Mitchell of Bath, NY, began a 16-week stint as a Student Conservation Association intern with FSPW (See her blogs at www.scotchmanpeaks.org/blog)

May 31: The Annual State of the Scotchman took place at Sandpoint Community Hall, featuring volunteer appreciation presentations, short films, an update from FSPW exec Phil Hough and an overview of stewardship projects for the summer.

June 2: Intern Lauren Mitchell tabled at the First Thursday event in Sandpoint.

June 4: National Trails Day was celebrated with the first of the FSPW 2011 summer hiking season, a hike up into Thunder Creek led by Phil Hough and Deb Hunsicker.

June 6: Phil Hough made a presentation to the residents of Luther Park in Sandpoint; • Sandy Compton and Lauren Mitchell led ten children and four adults from Carden Academy in Sandpoint on a "Practice Mountain" hike.

June 9: Phil Hough, Sandy Compton and Lauren Mitchell made a presentation to the Sandpoint Chamber of Commerce, during which Chamber exec Kate McCallister presented FSPW with a letter of endorsement.

June 10: FSPW and Bonner County Historical Museum cosponsored a talk by Jack Nisbet about explorer David Thompson at the Clark Fork Senior Center.

June 12: The FSPW Sanders County picnic was held at Bull River Campground. About 50 Friends (and a million mosquitoes) attended.

June 15: Lincoln County coordinator Molly Kieran made a presentation to the Red Hat Society in Libby.

June 18: FSPW treasurer Jacob Styer and merchandise manager Jim Mellen and other Friends began the Race Across America with the Team Laughing Dog, sponsored in part by FSPW, and riding 24/7 across the United States to raise funds for autism.

June 19: FSPW hosted the Troy Boogie at Roosevelt Park, featuring the live music of Fiddlin' Red, from Sandpoint, and the Meadow Blasters, from Troy.

June 25: FSPW tabled at and cosponsored the Disc Golf Tourney in Troy.

June 25 and 26: FSPW volunteers and Idaho Panhandle National Forests crews cleared and rehabilitated trails at Regal and Morris Creeks in the Lightning Creek drainage. This was a National Trails Day event.

The Future Looks Bright

July 2: FSPW volunteers will have a booth at the Clark Fork centennial; • FSPW volunteer Andrew Klaus will lead a hike to Star Peak (See page 8 for our summer hike schedule.)

July 4: FSPW volunteers will march in parades in Sandpoint, Clark Fork, Heron, Noxon, and Troy. Join the parade! (Contact lauren@scotchmanpeaks.org if you want to walk in the parades!)

July 7: FSPW will be at First Thursday, downtown Sandpoint, 4 to 8 p.m.

July 8: FSPW will host an open house at their new office, upstairs at 323 N. First (above Hallan's Gallery and Ward Tolbom's Hen's Tooth Studio.) 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

July 9: FSPW volunteers will table at the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band concert at J. Neils Park in Libby. Gates open at 8:00.

July 9 & 10: FSPW volunteers will assist Idaho Panhandle National Forests crews on trails in the upper Lightning Creek drainage. **This is an American Hiking Association and National Trails Day event.** (Contact trails@scotchmanpeaks.org to work on trails)

July 17: Brian Baxter will present a tracking class and hike in the East Fork of Blue Creek, cosponsored by FSPW and the Idaho Master Naturalist Program

July 24 and 25: FSPW Volunteers join the USFS Cabinet Ranger District and Backcountry Horsemen on the Pillick Ridge trails. **This is an American Hiking Association and National Trails Day event.** (Contact trails@scotchmanpeaks.org if to work on trails)

July 30: FSPW will have a table at the Yaak Wilderness Fest in the Hot Club at Troy.

August 4: FSPW will be at First Thursday, downtown Sandpoint, 4 to 8 p.m.

August 6 and 7: Author Jack Nisbett will lead hikes **cosponsored by FSPW and the Idaho Master Naturalist program.** August 6, the hike will be to Scotchman Peak. August 7, the hike will be in Morris Creek.

August 12 – 14: FSPW volunteers will be in a Friends' booth at the Huckleberry Festival in Trout Creek. (To volunteer at the Festival, contact lauren@scotchmanpeaks.org)

August 13: FSPW will have a booth at the Sandpoint Eco Fair at Evan's Brothers Coffee in Sandpoint from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

August 14: Old growth ecology with Brian Baxter at Ross Creek Cedars. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Contact lauren@scotchmanpeaks.org.

August 20: FSPW volunteers join the Three Rivers District trail crew on the Little Spar Lake Trail. **A National Trails Day event.** (Contact trails@scotchmanpeaks.org if you want to work on trails)

August 23 – 27: FSPW volunteers will work in the Friends' booth at Bonner County Fair. (Contact lauren@scotchmanpeaks.org if you want to work at the fair)

August 31: FSPW and the US Forest Service will show the film *Green Fire* — the life story of conservation great Aldo Leopold — at the Panida Theater in Sandpoint. Doors at 6 p.m. Movie at 7.

On the Horizon:

September 1: FSPW will be at First Thursday in °Sandpoint, 4 to 8 p.m.

September 17: FSPW volunteers will "walk the dogs" for Panhandle Animal Shelter at Farmin Park in Sandpoint during the Farmer's Market. (Contact lauren@scotchmanpeaks.org to help walk the dogs)

September 23-25: Fourth annual Scotchman Peaks Plein Air Paint Out, headquartered at the Outskirts Gallery in Hope.

September 24: Public Lands Day • Scotchman Peaks Adopt-A-Highway cleanup day, MP 52-54 on Highway 200. Clean up the road and then join a potluck dinner with the plein air artists. (Contact jacob@scotchmanpeaks.org to help)



Photo contests are for all seasons

Winter might seem far away — until you look at the Scotchmans and see the white stuff left over. And, our 2010-11 winter photo contest didn't close until the day before the last issue of *Peak Experience* came out — as always, the same day as the last hike, which was the traditional snowshoe jaunt to Scotchman led by Jim and Sandii Mellen on April 30.

We simplified our winter format to include just two categories, Winter Wonders and Winter Critters. We added "Funniest," and when you see the picture, you'll understand why we just had to (it's on our Facebook page)

This year, a couple of "ringers" were in the contest. We gave top places to remote cameras used in our cooperative mustelid hunt with Idaho Fish and Game. When you see the pictures, (also on Facebook) you will understand. We warned photographic Friends that if they didn't get out and take some pictures — and submit them — they might lose out to a robot. And, it happened.

First Prize, Winter Wonders: "One Wilderness from the Other" by Andrew Klaus.

Second Prize, Winter Wonders: "Ice Detail" by Deb Hunsicker

Honorable Mention: "Our Lady of the Scotchmans" by Maria Trujillo

First Prize, Winter Critters and Grand Prize, chosen by

Facebook "likes": "The Marten," by Remote Camera (credit Lacy Robinson and Michael Lucid) (See page 3 of this issue.)

Second Prize, Winter Critters: "Coya" by Andrew Klaus

Honorable Mention: "My Beaver!" by Remote Camera (credit Robinson and Lucid)

Funniest: "Is this thing working?" by Remote Camera.

First place winners receive a Scotchman sweatshirt; second, a hat of choice; honorable mentions, a Scotchman Peaks t-shirts. Grand prize gets a framed copy of their photo.

This summer, we are giving a prize for the best photo taken on each volunteer-led hikes.

Submissions are posted on Face book and winners chosen by the number of "likes" each receives. Winners have a choice of a FSPW hat or t-shirt and are entered for the grand prize of a professionally framed copy of their winning photo. Limit three photos per hike per hiker. Send them to info@scotchmanpeaks.org.

We are also asking for literary submissions. Submit

your best story, essay or poem (limit of one submission per hiker per hike) to info@scotchmanpeaks.org. The best poem, essay and story get published in *Peak Experience* and win a Scotchman Peaks hooded sweatshirt.

Let us hear from you this summer — while the remote cameras are hibernating.



Winter photo contest grand prize winner waits patiently for a mustelid somewhere in the Scotchmans.

FSPW helps out at STOKR

By Molly Kieran

On May 14 over 120 bicycle riders hit the highway for a 98 mile ride starting in Libby, Montana and making what is called the Yaak Loop. The fundraiser, put on by volunteers for Habitat for Humanity in Libby, is called STOKR, Scenic Tour of Kootenai River and what a scenic tour it is! The route takes riders along the Kootenai River on Hwy 2, heads up the Yaak River Road along the Yaak River makes another turn along the South Fork of the Yaak River, and then follows Pipe Creek. The riders are almost to the finish line when they hang another right, this time on Highway 37 and over the Kootenai River.

The day couldn't have been more beautiful for the riders, plenty of sun with no rain. The route is not an easy one with a great deal of it heading up and down winding mountain roads. FSPW merchandise manager Jim Mellon and Treasurer Jacob Styer were the second and third riders to



FSPW volunteers were happy to help with STOKR

arrive at the FSPW check point for a break which was the first stop on this long journey. The riders had already pedalled over 35 miles by the time they got to us.

We had a great group of volunteers working to get these riders some food and water - a few hundred gallons worth which we had to drive down the road to the Golden Nugget Saloon to obtain in 5 gallon containers. It was a constant water relay.

Many thanks to our volunteers, Dennis Kyle, Charlie Clough, Don Clark, Molly Kieran Lincoln County Coordinator, Monni Clark and Shane Anderson of FSPW, and Matt Bowser of the Yaak Valley Forest Council.

Bicycle riders came from many locations to participate in the challenging fundraiser. We saw folks from Montana, Idaho, Washington, Oregon and Canada. Many of the riders camp in Fireman's Park in Libby where there is a great feeling of comradery during this fun and meaningful event. We volunteers from FSPW had a great time and are looking forward to participating in next year's event.



Birds of the Scotchmans

Home Tweet Home

By Jon Isacoff, PhD

Summer is in full swing. This means early morning tweets and songs. Chicks are in the nest and by the latter half of the season fledglings will be out and about. While the peak abundance of May and June migration has subsided, this is still one of the most active and exciting times of the year for Scotchman birds. All year-round residents and migrant breeders are at home.

This is also peak hiking season. There are many kinds of birding, from sitting by the window and watching your feeder to braving 10-foot seas on a pelagic boat trip. All else equal, I prefer a 4 or 5 hour hike in the forested mountains – no cars, boats, skis, or bikes, thank you! Perhaps wetlands and swamps have more birds, but only in mid and late summer can one access the mountains without the aid of skis, snowshoes and so forth. So what's up there?

Many birds you'll encounter on a hike up Scotchman or a similar peak in the region are not as different as you'd think. Robins, one of the most adaptive birds in North America, are common. So are other birds you'll see at your feeders: Chickadees, Nuthatches, and Flickers. Another master of adaptation, the

Raven, can live almost anywhere from Southwestern deserts to the summit of Scotchman Peak! Red-tailed Hawks and Kestrels will perch prominently on snags. If you're especially lucky, you'll see the elusive Northern Goshawk soar across a mountain meadow from one forested edge to another, as happened to a field trip I was on several years ago near the Scotchman Peak trailhead.

At higher elevations, you can find rare birds. The Dusky Grouse looks like a good-sized charcoal-blue chicken. Rarer yet is the smaller Spruce Grouse. These birds will often sit frozen on



Dusky grouse

Photo by Donald M. Jones, www.donaldmjones.com

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Scotchman Natives

"I Got Yew, Babe"

By Valle Novak

Anyone remember Sonny and Cher? Though I'm sure they certainly weren't singing about *Taxus brevifolia*, I couldn't resist such an opener.

I've always been a little in awe of the Western Yew, probably since it's so rarely seen. To run across one unexpectedly is sort of like finding a Bristlecone pine or a Dawn redwood, though the Yew isn't quite that unique. A decade or so ago, however, the health-food gurus touted the Yew as a super tree, whose bark might cure cancer or some other affliction, and it was for a time in the spotlight.

With this in mind, when I decided to write about the Yew, my first resource was Jeff Hart's *Montana — Native Plant and Early People*, a long-time favorite of mine for its stress on Indian plant use and lore. I was surprised to find only mention of the fact that Flathead (and probably other Indians) carved bows from yew branches. He quoted the late Pete Beaverhead, a well known Flathead medicine man, "as recommending that the



Pacific Yew, *Taxus brevifolia*

Photo by Marilyn George

wood first be seasoned and that the finished product be varnished with boiled animal sinew or muscle before use". Hart went on to mention that the foliage, bark and seeds of the various yews contain a toxic alkaloid, taxine, which is "extremely poisonous if ingested, and often fatal." This makes one wonder what part is left for medicinal use. All resources and guides which I researched describe the yew as a large evergreen shrub to a small tree, from 10 to 40 feet tall, having upright branches with drooping needled ends and dark green foliage. The Idaho Champion Yew (in 1967) is or was 28 feet tall, 105.8 inches in circumference and located in the Nez Perce National Forest. The aforementioned drooping foliage and sparse needle arrangement at first glance can cause one to mistake the tree for a Hemlock; however, the more rounded shape of the tree, the darker green of the needles (lighter below) and the addition of single red cup-like "berries" at the leaf axils soon

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Over the Top Volunteers

The publican: Jeff Nizzoli

By Sandy Compton

Jeff Nizzoli is a world citizen. Soccer is his favorite spectator sport as well as a game he plays on a regular basis. He's been to most continents at least once, and many of the planet's larger islands. In fact, his business is named for a place he discovered on a sojourn in New Zealand — Eichardt's Pub and Coffee House on Cedar Street in Sandpoint. Besides being a purveyor of good food and great beer — or is that great food and good beer, Eichardt's retails Scotchman Peaks swag.

How does that make Jeff an over-the-top volunteer? Strictly speaking, it doesn't, but behind-the-scenes work he's done and continues to do for FSPW and other good causes has earned him a green volunteer hat several times over (Sorry, Jeff. Only one per customer.) He, his bartenders and his custom-made portable bar are found at many events around Sandpoint, either as a continuation of support — such as that he gives FSPW, Waldorf School, Idaho Conservation League and KRFY Public Radio — or as one-off benefits for families and causes in need.

Jeff grew up in Wilton, California, 30 miles southeast of Sacramento, with Montana roots on one side. The Irish contingent of his Irish-Italian roots are the Courtneys, who lived and worked in around Butte and Phillipsburg from the late 1800s until the mid part of the last century. In fact, the brick building that houses city offices and the museum in Phillipsburg still says "Courtney Brothers" on the façade. His grandfather was born in Phillipsburg in 1907, graduated from Carroll College in Helena and worked for The Company (Anaconda Copper) until the 40s, when a labor strike put him on the wrong side of Anaconda politics. Though he was a manager, he sided with the miners, and was blackballed from the industry. So, he moved to Grass Valley, California, where he worked on dams. His daughter met a second generation Italian named Nizzoli and married him.

Jeff's — and Eichardt's — presence in Sandpoint was not the result of the straightest line between two points. He had to travel around the world — missing only the continents of South America and Antarctica in doing so — to find out what he wanted to be when he grew up, and he found his answer in New Zealand at a traditional pub named Eichardt's. He and his traveling partner at the time — David Marx — had one of those "what if" conversations. "What if we found the right spot and started a pub like this one in America?"



Jeff Nizzoli shows off his new FSPW volunteer cap in front of Eichardt's.

Photo by Sandy Compton

In the winter of 1994, they set off on a search. The town had to be small, have a ski hill, be near big water and sport a laid-back, friendly attitude — and, it had to need a pub. They picked a number of places to visit, and the last place on the list was Sandpoint, Idaho. "We wandered into a blues jam at what was then the second edition of the Donkey Jaw one night, and the building and its character was what we knew we were looking

for. We randomly picked a real estate agent — Ken Earl — because he had a chalkboard sign out front that said, "Buy land for beer money."

When David described what they were looking for by making reference to the Donkey Jaw, the realtor said, "I think that place is for sale." It was. Nine or ten weeks later, on April 29, Eichardt's opened its doors.

David has since left the business (but not Sandpoint — he now builds backcountry skis under the 7B Skis name), but Jeff will have celebrated his 17th anniversary at Eichardt's by the time this comes out. Sandpoint, the last place on the search for a town in need of a pub, has been very good to Jeff, and in return, Jeff has been very good to Sandpoint. Or is it the other way around?

Like the chicken and the egg question, the answer is inef-fable and inconsequential. It's a great partnership that Jeff works hard at, and a great deal of that work is volunteer. On top of the many hours he spends setting up, tearing down and transporting beverages from place to place, a healthy percentage of the take from the bar often ends up in the coffers of the cause. He hustles tickets for benefit events and donates dinners to silent auctions. Eichardt's also retails Scotchman Peaks swag.

Eichardt's has grown its own personality over the years, to become a hangout for free thinkers, including, but not limited to, environmentalists, conservationists and wilderness advocates. "The word 'pub' is a shortening of 'public,'" Jeff says, "so you leave your doors open to everyone."

So, many a plan has been hatched at the "C Bar," the five or six-stool section at the rear of the pub, north of which you can actually view the southern boundary of our proposed wilderness. A hand tinted Ross Hall photo of the Cabinet Gorge is mounted on glass in the rear of the pub, and in the photo background is the familiar profile of Clayton Peak, Billiard Table with the defile of the East Fork of Blue Creek in between. In fact, it wouldn't be surprising to find out that the first inkling of Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness happened in that room. For that alone, Jeff could have earned his green hat. But, we're glad he didn't stop there.



The Summer 2011 Hike and Stewardship Series

Hike date	Exertion Rating	Destination/ Hike Name	Leader(s)	Description and contact info
7/2/11	S	Star Peak	Andrew and Dave Klaus	Contact info: 406-827-6500 This hike follows two and a half miles of old mining road and two and a half miles of switchbacking trail to the rocky summit of Star Peak in the proposed Scotchman Peaks Wilderness. Spectacular views from the top include the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness and Lake Pend Oreille. Round trip is 10 miles. Elevation gain 4140 feet.
7/2/11	E	Fatman/Blue Creek view	Judy Hutchins	Contact info: 406-847-2717 or jhutch7494@aol.com This 3-mile ± out and back on closed forest roads is an ideal entry-level hike. Gentle grades in lots of shade lead to a great view of the interior Wilderness. For the adventurous, there is a potential side-trip to summit Fatman Mountain.
7/8/11	M/S	Little Spar Lake	Sara Lundstrum	Contact info: 406-755-6304 or slundstrum@wildmontana.org A moderate hike through lush Spar Creek canyon, an example of interior rain forest, brings us to sparkling Little Spar Lake, one of the best overnight options in the Scotchmans. Distance: 8 miles round trip. Elevation gain, 2200 feet.
7/9-10/11	S	Idaho Panhandle National Forests Trail Project.	Sandy Compton	Contact info: trails@scotchmanpeak.org A National Trails Day trail stewardship weekend in the upper reaches of Lightning Creek, with two days of work on trails in Regal and Morris Creek drainages. This is a cooperative work weekend with the USFS
7/9/11	S	Goat Peak	Jim and Sandii Mellen	Contact info: jimmsandii@gmail.com 4,000 feet of climbing in under 3 miles. This is a strenuous hike with wonderful views of Lake Pend Oreille. Distance, 6 miles round trip. Elevation gain 4000 feet.
7/15/11	E	Delyle Ridge Full moon hike.	Susan Bates-Harbuck and Judy Hutchins	Contact info: harbuck@norlight.org or jhutch7494@aol.com This is a 3.5 mile hike through rolling terrain to watch sunset and moonrise over the Clark Fork valley. Delyle Ridge offers one of the most stunning views of the southern face of the Scotchmans available.
7/16/11	S	Star Peak	Jacob Styer	Contact info: jacob@scotchmanpeaks.org After gaining 4,000 feet in 5 miles, this is a well-rewarded hike when you reach the old fire lookout on the top and the views opens up 360 degrees.
7/17/11	E/M	East Fork Blue Creek	Brian Baxter	Contact info: trails@scotchmanpeaks.org This tracking class and hike, led by tracking expert Brian Baxter is cosponsored by the Idaho Master Naturalist Program . The terrain is easy, but a bit wet, so wear appropriate shoes.
7/17/11	S	Scotchman Peak	Lauren Mitchell	Contact info: trails@scotchmanpeaks.org This is your chance to go hiking with our summer intern on this classic hike up the namesake peak for our proposed wilderness. 4,000 vertical feet in 4 miles explains the "S," but views are stellar!
7/23-24/11	S	Kootenai National Forest Trail Project	Lauren Mitchell	Contact info: trails@scotchmanpeaks.org A National Trails Day trail stewardship weekend begins in the parking lot on the east end of Pillick Ridge. In cooperation with Cabinet District trail crews and Cabinet Mountains Backcountry Horsemen, FSPW volunteers will clear trail, rebuild tread and remove noxious weeds. This is a cooperative work weekend with the USFS
7/28-8/2/11	S+	Extreme Pleinair	Sandy Compton	Contact info: 208-290-1281 or sandy@scotchmanpeak.org This annual hike to explore and paint the interior of the Scotchmans is nearly full, but we will accept one or two more hikers or artists for a 4-night, 5-day paintout in the Scotchmans..
7/30/11	S	East Fork Peak	John Harbuck	Contact info: 263-9894 or harbuck@norlight.org Follow trail #563 as it clambers up the ridge from East Fork Creek to the Peak, rising about 3,000 vertical feet over about 4 and a half miles, one way. Great views of the Savage Creek basin, Savage Peak and Scotchman Two.
8/6/11	S	Scotchman Peak	Jack Nisbett	Contact info: trails@scotchmanpeaks.org This educational hike regarding alpine and subalpine flora is led by author Jack Nisbett and cosponsored by the Idaho Master Naturalist Program.
8/7/11	E/M	Morris Creek	Jack Nisbett	Contact info: trails@scotchmanpeaks.org Join author Jack Nisbett on a flora tour of the riparian area adjoining Morris Creek in the Lightning Creek drainage. This hike is cosponsored by the Idaho Master Naturalist Program.
8/14/11	M	Ross Creek Cedars	Brian Baxter	Contact info: trails@scotchmanpeaks.org An in-depth look into old growth ecosystems and the wildlife that utilize these systems. This " Hands On, Boots on the Ground " course will acquaint the participants with the concepts of old growth systems; plant diversity; insects and disease; and the wildlife that inhabit these unique ecological niches.
8/20/11	S	Kootenai National Forest Trail Project	Lauren Mitchell	Contact info: trails@scotchmanpeaks.org A trail stewardship project on the Little Spar Creek trail, in cooperation with the Three Rivers District trail crews, FSPW volunteers will clear trail, rebuild tread and remove noxious weeds. This is a cooperative workday with the USFS
8/21/11	M	Ross Creek Falls	Neil and Ann Wimberley	Contact info 208-264-5379 or afwim@yahoo.com or neilwim@yahoo.com Hike through the Ross Creek Cedar grove and past to Ross Creek Falls in the upper South Fork of Ross Creek. A lovely hike through old growth and a cool way to spend a summer day. Round trip: 6 + miles. Elevation gain, 1500 ft.
8/28/11	E	Ross Creek Cedars	Carol and Irv Jenkins	Contact info: 208-265-9204 ivorcarol@abc.net Discover the majestic forest cathedral that is Ross Creek Cedars. This loop trail winds through a grove of ancient, perhaps thousand-year-old cedar trees. Lush ferns and moss grow profusely in this magnificent example of an inland temperate rainforest. Picnic tables are available to eat lunch by Ross Creek.



More hikes

8/28/11	S	Sawtooth Mountain	Sandy Compton	Contact info: 208-290-1281 or sandy@scotchmanpeaks.org From the East Fork of Blue Creek, climb 6500-foot Sawtooth and exit through the South Fork of Ross Creek. Arguably the hardest day hike in the Scotchmans, but well worth the effort. Round trip: 12 + miles. Elevation gain, 3500 + feet.
9/10-11/11	S	No-Name Lake	Sandy Compton	Contact info: 208-290-1281 or sandy@scotchmanpeaks.org This is an exploration trip into the proposed Scotchman Peaks wilderness to a small lake below No Name Peak in the Dry Creek Drainage, an "initial foray" that may require "backing and filling." Participants should be flexible thinkers and ready for an off-the-trail adventure. 10 to 12 miles round trip. Elevation gain will vary, but is minimally 4,000 feet.
9/24/11	E/M	Highway 200 Cleanup Day	Jacob Styer	Contact info: jacob@scotchmanpeaks.org Help clean up our adopted stretch of Highway 200 between Hope and Clark Fork, and enjoy a meal with the Scotchman Peaks Plein Air Paintout painters in Hope at the end of the day.
10/08/11	S	Scotchman Peak	Phil Hough and Deb Hunsicker	Contact info: 208-946-9127 or phil@scotchmanpeaks.org The classic hike up the namesake peak for our proposed wilderness, short but steep. We go at a slow pace so steady effort is all that is needed to summit. Panoramas and stunning views of lake Pend Oreille, fall colors and possibly late season huckleberries will be highlights. Wear hunter orange. 8 round trip with an elevation gain of 3,800 feet.

Trail Talk: The Ten Essentials for Hiking

A primer for new hikers (and old):

By Sandy Compton

In 1906, a group of hikers from the Seattle area separated themselves from a larger organization, Mazama, which was based in Portland, and formed a club called simply "The Mountaineers." There were 110 original members of this adventure club, and almost half were women. The Mountaineers grew to be the third largest outdoor recreation, education, and conservation club in the country, and we share space with some of them as Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness.

Besides exploring the Cascades (they climbed Mount Baker as a group in 1908, Mount Rainier in 1909 and pioneered the trans-Rainier Wonderland Trail in 1915), they have been active in conservation and education about recreation in the out of doors since their inception.

In 1935, The Mountaineers began running a climbing course, and in that context, they established what they called "the ten essentials for hiking."

We have lots of lists thrust at us in our current culture: "The Ten Best Ways to Lose Weight," or "84 Things You Shouldn't Do on a First Date," and even "50 Ways to Leave Your Lover." Some of these lists are as ephemeral as dust, but some stand the test of time, and The Ten Essentials for Hiking is one of the latter.

Here they are, pure and simple:

1. Map
2. Compass
3. Flashlight
4. Extra food and water
5. Extra clothes
6. Sunglasses
7. First aid kit
8. Pocketknife
9. Waterproof matches
10. Fire starter

Of course, the list has been refined. New technology is supplementing the compass with the GPS unit — but don't leave that compass at home. Long after the batteries on the GPS are gone, that needle will still be pointing north — umm, *magnetic* north. The pocketknife has been replaced with the multi-tool. The flashlight has given way to the light-weight LED headlamp. Wool and waxed canvas have given way to neoprene and Gore-Tex. Polarized sunglasses now filter out UV light the original

Mountaineers didn't even know was harmful. And, the first aid kit, with its tube of Neosporin, ibuprofen and epinephrine and an air splint, to boot, might look like something out of science fiction to the original Mountaineers.

The other items on the list are pretty basic. Waterproof matches are still on the list, even though lighters work *most* of the time. The key is that you need to be able to start a fire *all* of the time. Maps of the area you are traveling through are still necessary, though they have become larger scale (quad maps used to be 15 minute instead of what has become as standard 7.5 minute span) and often made of more durable papers. And fire starter for folks in 1915 might have been a blob of tree pitch wrapped in oilcloth, as compared to magnesium shavings that will burn in pouring rain if you can get a spark to them.

There's been a lot of research done since the first list was written, and four items we now consider basic have been added. They are:

11. Water filter or purification system
12. A whistle (or a cell phone, Spot, two-way radio, signal mirror or other "getting found" device)
13. Insect repellent and/or insect repelling clothing
14. Sun block or sunscreen

All this might seem like overkill for a casual stroll up a well-used local trail, and you might be right. But any time you are going to be more than a couple of miles from the car in a place where access is by foot only, most of this stuff is a very good idea to have along. You might consider it good practice to just leave it in your pack and let that extra weight not only give you a better workout but assure you that if something does go wrong you will have what you need to deal with it.

The Ten Essentials for Hiking were eventually put into a book published by The Mountaineers, *Mountaineering; The Freedom of the Hills*. The first edition was published in 1960, and it has been updated several times since. The latest edition, the eighth, was published in 2010.

The great thing about The Ten Essential for Hiking is that the basics, even if that is all you have, will still work to help you make your way into — and out of — the backcountry.



Scotchman Rocks

Another Page in the Rock Record

By Mark McFaddan, PhD

Sooner or later (actually *much* later this particular season), the raging torrents of our local streams will retreat back into their channels and regain some semblance of their normally tranquil nature. The over-bank sediments left behind by spring flooding events of various scales will disappear under the green wave of advancing vegetation and one more depositional layer will enter the rock record to commemorate a high runoff season. Eventually, the sediment deposited by the 2011 season will be just one more unremarkable layer in the sedimentary archives of countless other spring runoff events. It will take some good future geological detective work on the texture of the sediment itself to reconstruct a clear picture of the nature of this season's runoff in comparison to the rest of the rock record.

We all have a good instinctual feel for stream processes; they happen out in the open where we can observe them directly, and many happen on a reasonable, human time scale of hours, days, and weeks rather than millions of years of geologic time. Valleys are ultimately downcut as drainages erode headward into upland areas, and sediment is carried downstream to be deposited in lowland areas – we see the results in the landscape around us every day. However, the details of the processes are a little less obvious.

Sediment is transported a variety of ways by moving water. Finer particles like mud and silt usually move in suspension, carried by the turbulence of currents that give streams that classic muddy look we see every time we peer into the roiling waters of an early-season stream. When floodwaters escape the channel and spread out onto the valley floors, a blanket of fine-grained mud and silt coat the landscape. Floodplains are flat for a reason, and productive soil for agriculture in the valley bottoms is the result of centuries to millennia of muddy overbank flood layers.

Coarser particles like sand and gravel may hop, bounce, roll or slide in traction along the channel bottom. Collisions between grains knock off the sharp edges and round the particles. Because larger particles have more collision energy than smaller particles, boulders are more round than the pebbles in many streams. Sand is so small that water acts as a cushion between collisions and magnification shows that sand grains in upland channels are even more angular in shape. When all of these particles of various sizes are dropped by the water and come to rest, the texture of the sediment left behind records the conditions of deposition, or the depositional environment.



Imbrication in cobbles along the Salmon River near Riggins, Idaho, far above present river level. Current moved from left to right. Photo by Mark McFaddan

These textural clues are the key to interpreting the geological past.

The study of textures in sediments concerns the sizes (large boulders to fine clay), shapes (angular to rounded) and arrangement of sedimentary particles. We already know that the prominent layers or beds of sedimentary rocks are so distinct because they split along the boundaries between graded

beds. The texture of each layer is gradational from a coarser-grained base up to a finer-grained upper part deposited as water currents gradually slowed and dropped the particles. Recent deposits of sediment have even more clues to their depositional environments.

Once water levels (and stream energy) drop and expose the gravel bars in local streams like Lightning Creek near Clark Fork, the effects of high-energy transport are very apparent if you know what to expect. The source rocks for the sediment in the Lightning Creek drainage are mostly thinly-bedded metasedimentary rocks of the Belt Supergroup. Therefore, most of the gravel-sized clasts split along rather thin layers and are flat rather than cubic in shape. A history of tumbling and collisions in the bedload of the stream round off the corners and turn many clasts into disk-shaped “skippers” that are so fun to bounce across any standing body of water. But these skippers have a distinct texture that tells their story.

The term *imbrication* is used to describe the fabric of clasts that overlap one another like shingles on a roof. Strong downstream currents orient disk-shaped clasts with tops overlapping downstream. (Picture water running off a shingled roof, from each overlapping shingle to the next). The resultant gravel bar has been given an organized texture by the moving water, so that it is much more than a chaotic pile of loose stones. A high-energy depositional environment has been recorded in the texture, and detailed study can now determine the depth, velocity, and other features of the runoff event that moved the gravel.

The next time you see a large gravel bar in low light (early in the morning or late in the evening), look for the imbrication. The shine on the shingled pebbles and cobbles is telling a story, and the clues from this modern environment are the same ones used by geologists on ancient gravel deposits to unravel the secrets of long-vanished streams from deep in Earth's geologic history.



Cougar, from page 1

come see what she thought was a deer approaching where they were standing. I yelled back that we were coming. Rounding the switchback, I quickly realized that the “deer” was, in fact, a large, hungry-looking cougar, firmly fixated on Emily’s crying. I’m sure the cougar sensed that her crying was a wounded animal and therefore she would make a tasty meal for this skinny cat! The cougar was approaching Diane and Emily in a low crouch, tail straight up, ears back, and eyes fixed intently on little Emily. Diane, sensing the danger, armed herself with a large stick.

I was now on the scene, and everything was happening very quickly. I put Dawn in back of me, dropped my pack, and started fumbling to find my pistol and bullets. In trying to tear into the box of ammo all 50 bullets fell to the ground. Keeping an eye on the cat I grabbed a handful of bullets and unwanted dirt. In that handful of dirt were 4 bullets from my six-chambered pistol, leaving two chambers empty. When I quickly closed the action I did not know if I was on a live chamber! This was not good, but there was no time to change it.

The cougar was now only ten feet away. I used every expletive in the book to scare him away, waving my arms and making myself appear bigger – to no avail. The last thing I wanted to do was shoot this animal, but I had to protect my family. I also knew how dangerous a close-in shot like this could be if I merely wounded the cougar. With the pistol in my right hand I slowly bent down, grabbed a rock, and tossed it left-handed at the cat. It nicked him in his side, and for the first time, I saw the cougar relax, ears erect, in full stance, and looking right at me! At least I had distracted him away from my wife and daughters! To my surprise and relief the cougar slowly turned away from us and ambled back into the brush.

We stood there wondering what had just happened – what a close call! This memory would last forever! I often wondered if that skinny cougar ever put meat on his bones!

Debating whether or not to continue up the mountain, we decided to climb. We were now even more cautiously aware of our surroundings, and I was prepared to defend the family again, if necessary. We accomplished our goal of reaching the summit, trail eggs gathered (and mostly eaten!) All in all it was another beautiful and eventful day on Scotchman Peak.

Swag with a heart

The Friends of Scotchman Peak Wilderness salute Team Laughing Dog in their Race Across America to raise money for Autism with a limited edition hooded sweat-shirt. These are available for \$30 only at Greasy Fingers Bike Shop on 3rd and Pine in Sandpoint and the new Laughing Dog Brewery Tasting Room in Ponderay.



The remainder of our bandanas, tees and sweats are available at Mountain Meadows in Libby, MT, Huckleberry Thicket in Trout Creek, MT, The Hope MarketPlace in Hope, ID or Foster’s Crossing, Eichardt’s, or Outdoor Experience in Sandpoint, ID. Out of the area, contact jimnsandii@gmail.com. Other Scotchman merchandise is available in our online store run by Café Press at www.scotchmanpeaks.org/store/html.

Birds, from page 6

a low tree branch right next to you hoping you don’t notice them. Many of the rarer Finches make their abode in the Scotchmans, most notably the Pine Grosbeak, which looks vaguely like a giant, Robin-sized House Finch, and the White-winged Crossbill, the raspberry, black, and white cousin of the more commonly-seen Red Crossbill. Ironically, don’t expect to see one of the birds most associated with the Mountain West – the Bald Eagle. As most locals know, Bald Eagles prefer lakes and river valleys and are unlikely to be soaring at the higher elevations or far from water in the Scotchmans.

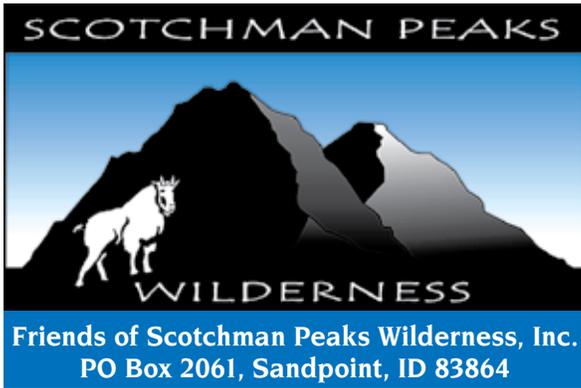
Subalpine birding can often be more hiking and less birding. Often you’ll go 10 or 15 minutes at a time without seeing or hearing birds. Food is scarce as you gain elevation in the mountains and the birds that nest in these areas are tough and wary. More oft than not smaller songbirds will be seen and not heard. But with patience and luck, you will see many different and special birds in the Scotchman uplands. Enjoy them while you can: soon winter will be back!

Yew, from page 6

prove the Yew’s identity. Also, while classed as a conifer, the only “cone” produced by the yew is a tiny, short-lived pollen cone. The seeds are borne singly in the fleshy red cups (arils). The bark is very thin, with outer purplish “scales” covering newly formed reddish inner bark.

Yews are found from western Montana northwest to coastal southern Alaska and south to California. Hart says they inhabit cool canyons, but I have run into them several times strangely enough, in dry, low elevation pine woods, foothills in the Rapid Lightning area, and near Dor Skeels Campground on Spar Lake in Montana. They are considered a preferred moose winter browse species along with *Ceanothus* or buckbrush (Wild Lilac). Apparently yew’s poisonous qualities do not affect the moose.

Arthur Kruckeberg recommends the shrubbier version of yew as “an ornamental garden plant that can compete with the more widely planted English Yew,” and points out that it is easily propagated from cuttings. Once established on its own roots, it does well in partial to full sun, preferring well-drained soil. I have never tried cuttings, but found two tiny seedlings at different times which I carefully dug and nurtured but lost for unknown reasons. In the future, I will leave them in the more competent hands of Mother Nature.



How You Can Help

Support Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness

As concerned citizens, we support protecting and preserving the Scotchman Peaks area for ourselves and future generations. Highway 56, Highway 200, Lightning Creek Road, and Rattle Creek/Keeler Road surround this 88,000 acre scenic area which straddles the Idaho and Montana border. Wilderness Designation for the Scotchmans will protect plants and wildlife, including the endangered grizzly bears, mountain goat, and bull trout; it will protect water quality; and it will preserve a special place for future generations. In addition, local communities will benefit from the unparalleled recreational and economic opportunities such wilderness provides.

Name: _____

Address: _____

e-mail: _____

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Donation enclosed (optional). Donations are tax deductible. Please make checks payable to the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness, Inc. Detach & Mail to the address above.

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