



PEAK EXPERIENCE

The Newsletter for Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness, Inc.

Volume 8, Number 3 • May / June 2012

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.

If you are receiving this newsletter by mail and have an email address please help us save postage by sending us your email address.

Editor: Ann Wimberley

Layout and design: Sandy Compton



Seth Bachman (right) and Henry Schmick admire the fruits of their citizen science labors (read more about them and their hardy crew in *Over The Top Vounteer(s)* on page 4)

Photo by Chris Bachman

“...environmental leaders...attributed their commitment to a combination of two sources: many hours spent outdoors in a keenly remembered wild or semi-wild place in childhood or adolescence, and an adult who taught them respect for nature.”

— Richard Louv,
The Last Child in the Woods

Nurturing the Roots of a Greener Tomorrow

By Chris Bachman

Promoting a philosophy he developed long before the Sierra Club's founding on May 28, 1892, John Muir encouraged the public to enjoy the outdoors, to “climb the mountains and get their good tidings,” in hopes that they would become interested in the fight to preserve natural lands. Muir's philosophy has played a key role in the Club's history, and is the guiding principle behind the Upper Columbia River Group's Spokane Inner City Outings Program (ICO).

Sierra Club Inner City Outings-Spokane Chapter was established as part of the Upper Columbia River Group, Washington State Chapter of the Sierra Club in the summer of 2006. Spokane Inner City Outings is part of the national Sierra Club Inner City Outings program, which is a community outreach program that provides opportunities for urban youth and adults to explore, enjoy and protect the natural world. The goals of the program follow the original philosophy of founder John Muir; to promote appreciation and protection of the natural environment through wilderness adventures and environmental education and to create opportunities for personal growth, and development by linking participants from different cultures,

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From the Top

The editing for this issue of Peak Experience was literally done on the road as Neil and I returned from a trip South. Family and old friends will always draw us back to the soft-Southern air, the sugar sand Gulf beaches and the Spanish moss draped ancient oaks but we are happy to be ever closer to the mountains we have come to love...and lovesharing with our granddaughter when she visits us. As first a cub scout den mother and then a girl scout leader, I experienced first hand many years ago the joys of seeing city children's delight in wild things. Thank you Chris Bachman for the gift you are giving children in Spokane.

Ann Wimberley

Along the Trail

March 1: Wolverine project coordinator Kelsey Brasseur made a presentation on the project to the Kootenai Environmental Alliance at a luncheon in Coeur d'Alene.

March 16: FSPW and Idaho Conservation League hosted 50 folks for the Winter Wildlands Film Festival at the Pearl Theater in Bonners Ferry.

March 21: Wolverine project coordinator Kelsey Brasseur made a presentation on the project to Sandpoint Rotary Club's weekly meeting.

March 25: Last wolverine station removed.

April 1: Wolverine volunteers gathered for a season-end debriefing, tale swapping and beer drinking at Eureka Center West in the Old Granary District in Sandpoint.

April 14: Lincoln County Coordinator Molly Kieran had a table at the St. John's Hospital health fair in Libby; signing up **16 new Friends!** The Pend Oreille Chapter of the Idaho Master Naturalist and the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness sponsored John Livingston of the Spokane National Weather Service, who shared insight into the weather of North Idaho and surrounding areas;

April 22: FSPW and a host of other environmental groups joined together for an Earth Day celebration from noon to 4 pm at Sandpoint Charter School.

April 26: FSPW and the StoryTelling Company teamed up for a fundraiser at the Panida Theater in Sandpoint.

April 27-29: FSPW staff and board members attended the Montana Wilderness Association annual convention in Helena.

Want to scratch your creative itch?

Learn InDesign, Photoshop and production and layout skills! Friends of Scotchman Peaks is seeking a volunteer to work on Peak Experience. For details, contact sandy@scotchmanpeaks.org

The Future Looks Bright

May 1: Forest plan informational gathering at the Hereford Restaurant, MP 16, Montana Highway 200.

May 5: Last hike of the 2012 winter hike season and last day of the 2012 winter photo contest.

May 7: The last day to comment on the Forest Plan (extended from April 5). Go to <http://www.scotchmanpeaks.org/take-action-forest-plan/> to learn more

May 12: FSPW volunteers will man the first stop along Yaak River Road for STOKR, a 99 mile benefit bike ride for Habitat for Humanity; **Hikin' for Lichen** with Lichenologist Toby Spribille at Ross Creek Cedars, the first hike and our first **Scotchman Peaks Education Series (SPES)** hike of the 2012 Summer season. (See pages 6 and 7 for more information)

May 16: FSPW Executive Director Phil Hough and Deb Hunsicker will give a presentation on their Triple Crown accomplishments at the Community Hall in Sandpoint at 6 p.m. Proceeds will be split between FSPW and the Kinnickinnick Chapter of the Native Plant Society.

May 17: FSPW Exec Phil Hough and Program Coordinator Sandy Compton will make a presentation on the wolverine project to our major funder for the project, Zoo Boise.

May 18-20: FSPW staff and board members will attend Wild Idaho, the Idaho Conservation League annual meeting at Redfish Lake in the Stanley Basin. Phil Hough and Sandy Compton will make a presentation on the wolverine project.

May 26: The Annual State of the Scotchmans will be held at Oden Hall on Sunnyside Road, 4 to 7 p.m. The meeting will be a potluck with an update on the progress of both our advocacy and stewardship programs.

June 2: National Trails Day, and first hike of our 2012 Hike Series: Phil Hough and Deb Hunsicker will lead a hike along the newly reclaimed Regal Creek trail.

June 9: Old Growth Ecology Class with FSPW volunteer Brian Baxter. All day. Classroom work in Heron, field work at Ross Creek Cedars. **This is a National Trails Day event and a SPES hike**

June 10: Annual Sanders County picnic at Bull River Campground

June 22 – 24: Idaho Native Plant Society gathering at Sam Owen Campground. June 22, 6 p.m. FSPW will make a presentation on the wilderness to the Society. June 23, FSPW volunteers will lead Society members on field trips to Scotchman Peak and Morris Creek

June 30: Riparian Ecology Class with FSPW volunteer Brian Baxter. All day. Classroom work in Heron, field work near Ross Creek Cedars. **This is a National Trails Day event and a SPES hike; USFS Archeologist Rachel Reckin** will lead an archeological history hike into Little Spar Lake. **This is an SPES hike.**

On The Horizon

July 4: FSPW volunteers march in 4th of July parades everywhere!

August 10 – 12: FSPW will have a outreach booth at the Huckleberry Festival in Trout Creek.



Message from Chair – Take a hike! Edward Abbey insists.

As spring slips into summer the high country opens up to hiking again and the Scotchmans beckon many of us. We encourage our supporters to spend time exploring the Scotchmans. Sure we also encourage people to be advocates and volunteers. But we know that advocates and volunteers become more dedicated when they have been inspired by personal connections to the land.

There are other, more important, reasons to take time to stop and smell the glacier lilies. Our hope that you get out for a hike this spring is about more than building a dedicated base of supporters. Personal enjoyment of the Scotchmans backcountry is the very reason that we pursue the challenge of protecting this special area.

Edward Abby put it best: *Do not burn yourself out. Be as I am—a reluctant enthusiast...a part time crusader, a half-hearted fanatic. Save the other half of yourselves and your lives for pleasure and adventure. It is not enough to fight for the land; it is even more important to enjoy it. While you can, while it is still there.*

Abby was following the lead of the early founders of the Wilderness Society, who were clearly interested in recreation when they began advocating for Wilderness in the 1920s and 1930s. Aldo Leopold defined wilderness by the space needed for a two week pack trip. Bob Marshall was legendary for walking 35 to 40 miles per day as part of his job with the forest service. Benton MacKaye, the father of the Appalachian

Trail, famously stated the trail's purpose as "to walk, to see, to see what you see". Personal rejuvenation was at the core of their belief about the value of wilderness and they incorporated this into their own lives.

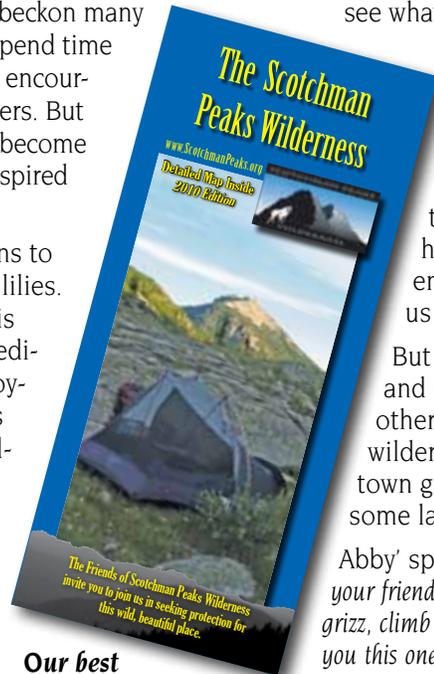
We want you to write to the forest service before the May 7 deadline, commenting on the forest plan, and to volunteer for trail maintenance projects, and see the Scotchmans first hand so that you will be more passionate, and engage in our community on Facebook, and join us for one of our naturalist led outings.

But we also want you to simply enjoy the wilderness and learn from what it has to offer. And encourage others to do the same, especially those for whom a wilderness walk is a new experience. Bring your out of town guests, your new neighbors who have moved from some large city, and bring your children.

Abby' speech continued: *So get out there and mess around with your friends, ramble out yonder and explore the forests, encounter the grizz, climb the mountains...and I promise you this much: I promise you this one sweet victory over our enemies, over those deskbound people with their hearts in a safe deposit box and their eyes hypnotized by desk calculators. I promise you this: you will outlive the bastards.*

If you do nothing else in support of the Scotchmans, pick up one of our free hiking maps, drive to a trailhead and make Benton MacKaye proud: walk and really see what you see. After all we want you to outlive those who oppose conservation. So for goodness sake, for conservation's sake, for your own sake, get out there and take a hike this spring!

Phil Hough



Our best stress reduction tool

Scotchman Creatures: We BEARLY Made it.

2012 Forest Carnivore Season Comes to a Close by Michael Lucid, IDFG

April 7, 2012: 0800 hours: Idaho Fish and Game Wildlife Research Biologist, Lacy Robinson, paused at the Long Canyon trail register box long enough to take note of the one person who signed in all winter. That was me back in February when I hauled two forest carnivore bait stations as far up the trail as my two days of food would let me.

2100 hours: After a long day of taking down the last two stations of the winter, Lacy heads toward the trailhead in the dark. The sky is clear and it's a perfect last night out. Tired as she is, she still notices

the trail register box is gone. Wasn't that there this morning? Upon examination by headlamp she finds bear hair on the nails that had held the box to the post just hours before. In the mud next to the sign is a fresh, somewhat smallish, Grizzly bear track. Looks like a bear ripped the box off the post and used the nails

for a much needed post-hibernation back scratch. Lacy takes the time to record the coordinates on the sample envelope and place the sample, hopefully tough-to-come-by Griz hair, in the envelope. It's not far to the truck from here, but she makes sure to make plenty of noise as she and her dog make their way through the brushy end of the trail. "Hey Bear!"

"Hey, bear!" In April of the 2011 season, this Griz was happy to help itself to leftover bait, and it also felt the need to rip the camera from the tree. IDFG Photo



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Over-the-top Volunteer(s) : The Station 85 Kid Crew

By **Sandy Compton**

Sometimes political correctness is trumped by — well, gutsiness. And, so it was that the First Annual Badass Award for FSPW wolverine warriors who performed above and beyond the call of duty went to a group who aren't even supposed to say, um, well, you know — that word.

The ringleader of this bunch is Chris Bachmann, who is old enough, father of two of the Station 85 Kid Crew, a bunch of youngsters who, with a bit of adult supervision, successfully managed a camera station during last winter's rare carnivore study.

Chris, who grew up in several parts of the world as an Air Force brat, is married to Wendy, a clinical research scientist. They have lived in Spokane since 2002. Chris has a degree in biological science from Southern Illinois University and will enter a Master's in Teaching program at Whitworth College beginning in the fall.

His involvement as a volunteer with FSPW complements his participation in Inner City Outings (ICO), for which he received the 2010 Madelyn Pyeatt Award, honoring Sierra Club members who make outstanding contributions through working with youth. ICO has been a national program of Sierra Club since the early 1970s, with about 50 ICO programs nationwide providing instructive year-round nature experiences for thousands of urban youth. (<http://ico.sierraclub.org/spokane>),

"A buddy and I recognized the need for ICO in the Spokane community and started the local program in 2006," says Chris. "Spokane ICO operates as an all-volunteer organization in cooperation with local community agencies. We are currently working to serve the youth of the West Central neighborhood of Spokane, providing opportunities to experience, learn about, and enjoy the local outdoors.

"ICO volunteer leaders are certified and trained in recreational, outdoor and safety skills, as well as environmental education and working with youth. ICO leaders enable youth of diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds, or who are hearing or visually impaired or physically disabled, to participate in a wide variety of outdoor recreational and environmental stewardship activities."

What that basically means is that Chris believes in the power of taking kids out into the woods, which is how the Kid Crew ended up taking on Station 85.

The entire crew consisted of Chris, his (adult) friend Matt Side, and five kids under 12: two girls, Brooklyn Side and Alex Bachmann, 7 and 9 respectively; and three boys, Seth Bachmann, 8; Ethan Side, 10; and Henry Schmick, 11. The Kid Crew set up their station on February 25, a trip on snowshoes



On the wolverine watch trail. The Station 85 Kid Crew were (l. to r.) Brooklyn Side, Seth Bachman, Chris Bachman, Henry Schmick, Alex Bachman, Matt Side, Ethan Side. Photo by Jim Schmick.

that resulted in a familiar trail-related injury for both girls, and other camera-station-related unpleasantness.

"I got blisters on my heels," Alex confessed, definitely a boot failure, and a malady that was shared by Brooklyn, also. Her advice was to either have broken-in boots or tough feet or both.

Ethan had what was a common complaint among wolverine volunteers: "The beaver didn't smell as good as it could have." Being that it was a 39-degree day, many of the wolverine volunteers can commiserate about that.

Henry said he had fun. "We walked three miles round trip on snowshoes," he said proudly, but he advised nose plugs for future beaver haulers.

For Seth, his favorite part was going in to take the station down. "It was cool to see the scratched up tree and the bent gun brushes." They knew something had visited, even though it took two trips to get it done, which prompted Ethan to offers some further advice. "When it rains, take something to cross a river with."

The first attempt to take the station out was interrupted by a fast-flowing stream where a dry creek bed had been on the initial foray. When they went back with a bridge Chris had constructed to make the crossing, they found it was a few inches too short, but the stream had fallen far enough to wade, which they did successfully. Ethan, who had remembered to bring his gaiters, didn't even get his feet wet.

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Trail Talk: Summer's Comin'!



Just one of the big views of the Clark Fork river valley that the historic Star Peak tread will afford hikers when the trail is done.

Photo by Sandy Compton.

By Sandy Compton

Summer's coming, and a brand new hiking season, as well as intriguing stewardship opportunities. Besides being hike leaders, FSPW volunteers will swing Pulaskis and toss rocks, as well as flip pancakes and burgers and even help load a mule train.

Thanks to huge snowfalls in February and March, some trails in the Scotchmans may be melting out late, particularly those on shaded or north-facing slopes like Star Gulch, Napoleon Gulch, Hamilton Gulch, Spar Peak and Little Spar Lake trails. In fact, a June 30 hike led by Rachel Recken, archeologist on the Kootenai National Forest, might be wintry. Rachel will lead an archeological history hike into Little Spar Lake. Hikers might consider bringing snowshoes for the upper part of the journey.

Rachel's hike is one of five Scotchman Peaks Education Series (SPES) hikes to be held in 2012. On May 12, lichenologist Toby Spribille will introduce hikers to the quiet, unassuming world of lichens. Naturalist and tracking expert Brian Baxter will lead an old growth ecology hike and a riparian ecology hike on June 9 and 30 respectively, and Dennison Webb of Selkirk Outdoor Leadership and Education will teach a leave-no-trace class and lead a site rehab project in Lightning Creek on June 16.

Of note are two outings on our schedule for small people, led by Mindy Ferrell on June 10. Little Waders and Streamside Detectives will check out the riparian areas along the Clark Fork River and Pilgrim Creek. John Harbuck will explore an alternate route to Scotchman on August 4, and Jim Mellen has cooked up a down-and-dirty endorphin-inducing trek from the Little Spar trailhead to the Goat Peak

trailhead on July 14 (and 15, if need be). Only the *very* fit need sign up for that one.

That's a sampler of seventeen volunteer-led expeditions in or near the Scotchman Peaks this summer. Details for all of our hikes are available in the hike schedule on pages 6 and 7 and at www.scotchmanpeaks.org/hiking/current-hiking-schedule/

FSPW has some exciting stewardship projects coming up, too. In a continued effort to help improve trails around the proposed wilderness, FSPW has committed to three trail projects with the Forest Service, one on each of the Ranger Districts that encompass the Scotchmans. On the Sandpoint District, we will help rebuild the lower portion of the Morris Creek Trail in the Lightning Creek drainage. On the Three Rivers District, we have agreed to help finance (and feed) a Montana Conservation Corp trail crew. The MCC kids will do some badly-needed repair and rebuilding — perhaps even some relocation — of the upper Little Spar trail, where the tread has become a trench because of erosion. This crew will be encamped near the trailhead, and FSPW volunteers will help with the care and feeding of hungry young people as well as work on the trail. This is a multi-day opportunity that could be a fun and truly satisfying family outing.

On the Cabinet District, we have three very interesting projects. The first is a one-day effort to do maintenance on the Blacktail Creek trail, which ascends Pillick Ridge from the Clark Fork River a couple of miles east of the Big Eddy trail to Star Peak. The other two, though distinct, are tied together in the history of Star Peak.

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Peak View

The 2012 Summer Hike Series

Exertion Rating Key E: Easy, M: Moderate, S: Strenuous		All hikes are subject to group size limitations, as well as schedule and venue changes due to weather, illnesses or other unforeseen circumstances. For more details on our hikes and to check for new hikes that might be added to this schedule, visit www.scotchmanpeaks.org/hiking/current-hiking-schedule		
Hike date	Exertion Rating	Destination/ Hike Name	Leader(s)	Description and contact info
5/12/12	M	Hikin' for Lichen in Ross Creek A Scotchman Peaks Education Series hike	Toby Spribille	Contact info: toby.spribille@mso.umt.edu or phil@scotchmanpeaks.org Lichenologist Toby Spribille will introduce you to the quiet, unassuming world of lichens, half-fungus, half-alga, and a group of species with a do-or-die interest in maintaining their habitats intact. Toby will introduce trip participants to lichen basics and show species and substrates that rely on old forest structure and explain why old forests act as living repositories for so many rare lichens.
6/2/12	E/M	Regal Creek: A National Trails Day Event	Phil Hough	Contact info: 208-946-9127 or phil@scotchmanpeaks.org A hike along the reconstructed Regal Creek Trail, rebuilt as part of our 2011 National Trails Day celebration. Follow an old mining road, largely in the shade, with outstanding views of Lightning Creek as we cross a large bolder field. This walk is family friendly including your canine friends. Dogs must be socialized, respond to voice commands and be able to be leashed if needed. Overall difficulty is moderate. Space is limited, reservations required.
6/3/12	E	Ross Creek Cedars	Carol and Irv Jenkins	Contact info: 208-265-9204 or irvorcarol2011@gmail.com 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.
6/9/12	E/M	Old Growth Ecology Education Series and National Trails Day event	Brian Baxter	Contact info: b_baxter53@yahoo.com or sandy@scotchmanpeaks.org All day. This begins at 9 Pacific time with a classroom component at the Heron Community Center before transitioning to the Ross Creek Cedars. Bring a lunch and wear clothing appropriate to the weather, which can change quickly. Bring raingear.
6/10/12	E	Little Waders	Mindy Ferrel	Contact info: mferrell_9874@yahoo.com or 406-827-4341. 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. For kids ages 5 – 8. Kids will explore the shoreline along the Clark Fork River for bugs and other critters. Each participant will need to bring a day pack, water bottle, and extra shoes or sandals that can get wet. Parents are asked to join in the fun and help supervise their little ones.
6/10/12	E	Streamside Detectives	Mindy Ferrel	Contact info: mferrell_9874@yahoo.com or 406-827-4341. 1:00 – 4:30 p.m. For kids ages 9 – 11. This camp will explore both still and moving water and search out what makes each environment so special. Detectives will take samples and explore the water's edge of both a slough alongside the Clark Fork River, and the more speedy waters of Pilgrim Creek. Participants are asked to bring a day pack, a water bottle, notebook and pencil, and shoes that can get wet.
6/16/12	E/M	Leave No Trace awareness and rehab project A Scotchman Peaks Education Series hike	Dennison Webb of S.O.L.E.	Contact info: dennison.webb@soleexperiences.org All Day. This experiential workshop focuses on Leave No Trace practices and ethics. Participants will leave with a greater appreciation for our natural world, through exploring their own land ethic. Individuals will rehab a recreation area to reinforce lesson topics. Participants should be in moderate physical condition and be prepared to be on trail all day, including appropriate outdoor gear, nutritious lunch/snacks, and 2 liters of water.
6/30/12	E/M	Riparian Ecology Education Series hike and National Trails Day event	Brian Baxter	Contact info: b_baxter53@yahoo.com or trails@scotchmanpeaks.org All day. This begins at 9 Pacific time with a classroom component at the Heron Community Center before transitioning to Ross Creek Cedars. Bring a lunch and wear clothing appropriate to the weather, which can change quickly. Bring raingear, a trekking pole and waterproof footwear.

Scotchman Tales: Poems to take on a hike — by Paul Croy.

Songs the Red Gods Sing

Have you followed the streams that feed this lake
to the ends of the watershed?
Have you dreamed of a country back there
where the goat and the bighorn bed

Where the air is thin and the winds are sharp
and the moon just scrapes the peaks —
With stars so close you can reach right up
and pick them in your sleep?

Have you followed the alpine ridges out
above those steep shale slides,
Where the beargrass bloom is a sea of cream
and the spotted mule fawn hides

Well, the little waves that lap the shore
are speaking of these things,
So set your mood and listen
to the songs the Red Gods sing.

Go Lose Yourself

Have you dreamed of a lake in the wildernss
of a cove and a quiet tent
With trails to a thousand vistas?
Then go where your fancy went.

There are trout streams in virgin timber
and cedar swamps hushed with time
There are timberline prairies of bear grass
and the bracing odors of pine.



“Something hidden -- go and find it; go and look beyond the Ranges . . .”

6/30/12	S	Archeological history in Spar Creek, A Scotchman Peaks Education Series hike	Rachel Reckin, USFS Archeologist	Contact info: rachel.reckin@gmail.com This hike will focus on the Native American foraging lifeway that sustained people for at least 8,000 years prior to European arrival. We will talk about native plant use, hunting strategies, fishing, cooking, and what archaeology tells us about the way the ancient inhabitants of the Scotchman/Cabinet ecosystem lived. This will be an all-day trip. Snowshoes may be required. Group size limit: 8 Distance: 8 miles round trip. Elevation gain. 2200 feet
7/7/12	E/M	Montana Native Plant Society Hike to Surprise Gulch and Grouse Lake	Judy Hutchins and Peter Lesica from MNPS	Contact info: jhutchins7494@aol.com Meet at the Rest Area at the junction of US Highway 2 and Mt Hwy 56 (Bull River/ Lake highway) at 9:00am. Then, carpool to Keeler Creek, where we will check out Surprise Draw and bushwhack up to Grouse Lake in the Kootenai National Forest. Be prepared to get your feet wet as well as to tramp through forested understory. Bring all the usual food, water, bug dope, etc, you might need for several hours in the woods.
7/14-15/12	S++	Scotchman Triple Header	Jim Mellen	Contact info: jimnsandii@gmail.com Three peaks, triple black diamond rated. Begin at the Little Spar trailhead, continue to Little Spar Lake, Scotchman 2, Scotchman, Goat Mountain and exit at the Goat Mt. trailhead. Since this is several notches beyond difficult, the participants need to be prepared to spend a night if necessary. Total mileage 12 +. Elevation gain and loss and gain. 8,000 + Limited to 8 hikers.
7/21/12	M/S	Little Spar Lake	Sara Lundstrum	Contact info: 406-755-6304 or slundstrum@wildmontana.org A moderate hike though the lush Spar Creek canyon, a fine example of interior rain forest, brings us to sparkling, green Little Spar Lake, one of the best overnight options in the Scotchmans. Group size limit 8 Distance: 8 miles round trip. Elevation gain. 2200 feet
8/1-8/5/12	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.
8/4/12	S+	Scotchman Peak Southeast Approach	John Harbuck	Contact info: harbuck@norlight.org Tired of the same ol' trail up Scotchman? Then try this route, which offers much of the Scotchman Peaks experience wrapped up in one day. Start with a half mile of nasty bushwhacking to the ridge, then follow a series of game trails to the peak. This route offers outstanding views of the Compton Crags, the West Fork of Blue Creek, and the south face of Scotchman. Truly magnificent! Round trip: 10 miles. Elevation Gain: 4200 feet ±
8/11-12/12	S	Star Peak Overnight	Talasi Brooks	Contact info: 860 712 5901 or talasi.brooks@gmail.com Follow one of Granville Gordon's finest trails up Star Gulch to the spring below Star Peak for a night in the nearby meadow, then top out on Star Peak for breakfast and huge views of the Clark Fork river valley. Return to the lower elevations by the Big Eddy trail. Group size: 8.Elevation gain: 4,000 ±. Distance on the trail: 10 miles ±
8/25/12	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 the Ross Creek Falls in the upper reaches of the 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 feet.
8/31/12	S+	Sawtooth Mountain	Sandy Compton	Contact info: 208-290-1281 or sandy@scotchmanpeaks.org We will begin in the East Fork of Blue Creek and climb to the summit of 6500 foot Sawtooth Mountain and exit through the South Fork of Ross Creek. This is arguably the hardest day hike in the Scotchman Peaks, but well worth the effort. Walk across a pristine, primitive landscape and gain rare views of the internal Scotchmans and the Crags. Bring your headlamp and sense of adventure. Round trip: 12 + miles. Elevation gain, 3500 + feet.
9/23/12	S	Scotchman Peak	Phil Hough and Deb Hunsicker	Contact info: 208-946-9127 or phil@scotchmanpeaks.org This is the classic hike up the namesake peak of our proposed wilderness. It's short but steep. We go at a slow pace, so steady effort is all that is needed to summit. Wide panoramas, stunning views of Lake Pend Oreille, fall colors and possible late season huckleberries will be highlights. Round trip: 8 miles Elevation gain: 3800 feet.

Go lose yourself in God's temples;
Go pray in the shrines He blessed;
Go balance your worth against the stars
And return in humbleness

Go search for the sacred places
Go where the winds blow clean
Go where the Manito beckons
Go — and return, and dream.

Paul Croy was a poet, packer, hunter, fisherman and, for decades, an English teacher at Sandpoint High School. He was born in Hope in 1905 and grew up in the shadow of the Scotchmans. These poems from Pioneer Pencil Dust, published in 1976, were reprinted with permission from the Croy family. We are grateful to be able to do so.

Be stylin' and ready!

Our bandanas can save your bacon, with the printed-on Scotchman Peaks map. They and our other swag are available at Mountain Meadows in Libby, MT, Huckleberry Thicket in Trout Creek, MT, The Hope Market Place in Hope, ID and Foster's Crossing, Eichardt's, and Outdoor Experience in Sandpoint, ID. Out of the area, contact jimnsandii@gmail.com.



Limited edition sweatshirts saluting Team Laughing Dog in the Race Across America are available at Greasy Fingers Bike Shop in Sandpoint. Other Scotchman merchandise is available in our online store run by Café Press at www.scotchmanpeaks.org/store



Scotchman Birds: The more things change...

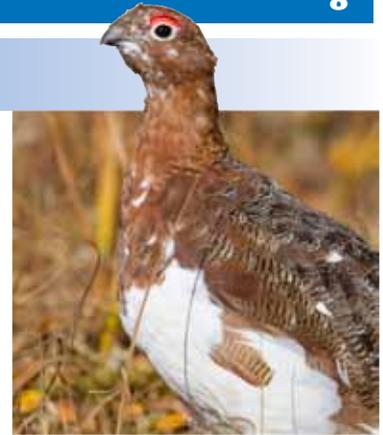
by Jon Isacoff, Ph.D.

Looking back at several years of bird columns for *Peak Experience*, I faced a daunting question: what can I (or anyone else for that matter) say about birds in the Scotchman's region that hasn't already been said? The more things change, the more they stay the same, as the cliché goes. And with birds it is so true: migrate, breed, migrate, winter, migrate, and so on. Each season brings change, but the cycle and for the most part, the names and "faces" stay the same. So, how about some reflections on what is already known?

The Scotchman's area has birds of all types for all types of birders. If you like big, easy-to-find birds, there's Lake Pend Oreille, with geese, ducks, Loons, gulls, and herons. If you like the challenge of trying to catch a glimpse of those elusive breeding warblers, a late-May or early-June hike in just about any forested area of the Scotchman's will bring you luck. Bald Eagles? Got those. Finches? Got those. Pigeons? Well maybe in Sandpoint.

What about high points and low points? Well, mid-winter can be pretty dead. It's dark, it's cold, things are frozen. But even then there are some nice perks: most lakes in Northern Idaho and Montana are frozen as thick as concrete in winter. But not Lake Pend Oreille. Even on the coldest day, unless you're socked in with fog, you can go out and see some waterfowl. And of course, spring and summer are high points. Long days, sunshine, songbirds singing (a little redundant, yes).

Unique birds? Well, the Scotchman's don't have too many endangered birds or birds that are found nowhere else. But there are some specialties. Though I confess I've never seen one, there are said to be small populations of Willow Ptarmigan in the high elevation rocky portions of the Scotchman's. While this species is common in Canada and Alaska, it's quite unusual in the lower 48, with Mt. Rainier and the North Cascades and remote parts of the Northern Rockies being the places where a few intrepid birders may find them. And... in the Scotchman's.



Willow Ptarmigan is a beautiful high-elevation bird

Photo by Don Jones, Great Gray Imagery, www.donaldmjones.com

Fringe benefits: if you hike deep into the Scotchman's in search of unusual birds, you may find unusual other things. Like, Wolverines, which are the subject of a unique remote camera citizen science project detailed in *Peak Experience*. Or for the lucky few: a Lynx or Grizzly. Better bets for charismatic animals to see are Moose, Elk, or Black Bear. But for those of us who truly enjoy the everyday pleasures, there are always the loud chirps and clicks of the ubiquitous Red Squirrel.

Happy spring!

Scotchman Natives

Clarkia: Unique wildflower has many names

By Valle Novak

Clarkia was "discovered" and named by a member of the fabled Lewis and Clark Expedition. Meriwether Lewis described it in great detail — more than one needs to know, actually — after collection near Camp Chopunnish, June 1, 1806. Co-explorer/botanist Frederick Pursh named the plant *Clarkia pulchella* in honor of William Clark, but Lewis's journal notes referred to it as "elkhorns."



Shocking pink Clarkia is definitely pulchella.

Photo by Marilyn George

Some 160 years later, *Clarkia* was "re-discovered" by yours truly on a camping trip along the Bull River in Montana. Familiar with a multitude of plants by that time, I had never seen it before and was utterly charmed by its tatterdemalion appearance. I was told it was nicknamed "ragged robin" and have also since seen it referred to in print as "pink fairies." It

is a member of the Evening Primrose family (*Onagraceae*), but its connotation as *pulchella* is very apt, since *pulchella* means "beautiful."

And indeed, it is. The unique blossoms have four rose-pink petals, each of which has three lobes. In the center, a four-lobed white stigma appears as yet another tiny flower, nestled in four tightly coiled anthers. While it appears to be short-stemmed, it can actually be four to 20 inches long, but lies

along the ground supported by its own long, narrow leaves and surrounding grasses. Lewis was so taken by the plant that he wrote: "I regret very much that the seed of this plant are not yet ripe and is it probable will not be so during my residence in the neighborhood."

Continued on next page



Scotchman Rocks: Ice Tracks

by Mark McFadden, Ph.D.

The passage of glacial ice over northern Idaho during the last Ice Age is apparent on every scale. Large sculptural features such as massive U-shaped valleys and oversteepened slopes are hard to overlook on even a casual observation of the landscape. Major modification of the Earth's surface under the erosional power of thick ice sheets leaves evidence that persists for long periods of time, even by geological standards. However, the smaller-scale clues to the exact depth and extent of perennial ice are not so enduring.

A closer look at the bedrock in many places reveals that the plucking and polishing action of moving ice has left the rock surface distinctly and unusually smooth. The best places to observe good glacial polish are generally on north-facing slopes at high elevations, where small cirque or bowl-shaped glaciers were most recently present after the main valley glaciers retreated northward as climate warmed. Harder rocks retain the polish for longer periods of time, but the relentless attack of weathering eventually destroys the fresh glass-smooth surfaces. A few thousand years of exposure to the elements will leave scant evidence that the bedrock was ever anything but jagged and rough in texture.

Bedrock of any composition contains all sorts of cracks and discontinuities from tectonic stresses over the vastness of geologic time. Rather regular and planar breaks in the rock are known as joints, and these are prime weaknesses in otherwise solid rock. The small-scale expansion of frost in joints during Winter and Spring freeze-thaw cycles pops the rock apart on an almost daily basis, creating talus slopes, causing slope retreat, and destroying glacial polish if it is present.

Clarkia, from page 8

Doubtless they took some plant specimens but nothing further was ever reported.

Considered an annual, *Clarkia* doubtless reseeds successfully, and if one is fortunate enough to find a plant in seed, it would make a great rock or shade garden plant. It may be possible that transplanting is doable, but very careful precautions should be taken: One or two small plants, preferably short-stemmed, with a generous clump of surrounding earth/loam, and quick transportation to an immediately-prepared site as like the original growing conditions as possible. Then, a good drink of water and leave it to rest.

While many sources recommend planting in full sun, the site in which I found it growing so lavishly was moist-to-dry shade in an area where riverside light forest (cedar/fir/pine) ended at an ascending rocky scarp hillside. All the specimens growing were on the forest floor rather than on the hillside. I'd say it's probably pretty hardy and if given at



Glacial polish on fine-grained, laminated metasedimentary rocks of the Belt Supergroup. Ice movement from left to right has plucked the vertical joint in the center of the photo and polished the face in the direction of movement. Hand lens for scale.

Photo by Mark McFadden

Fortunately for those of us interested in Earth history, the same weaknesses in the rock that cause it to crumble today were affected by the original movement of glaciers. The joints provide one line of evidence of the direction of ice movement, as the pressure of thick ice tends to pluck the rock on the down-ice side of the crack. The result is a steep face or edge on the upstream side of the joint, and a ramp-like polished surface in the downstream direction of ice flow. If you place your palm on the outcrop and move from side-to-side, even the tiny joint steps are obvious. Like most things geological, the small clues to the direction of ice flow don't last forever, but they give us a reason to be truly hands-on when reading the rocks for glacial history!

least part sun will do nicely. The Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society's new book "Landscaping with Native Plants" reports that *Clarkia pulchella*'s habitat includes "sagebrush prairies and lowland forests", which would indicate a reliable grower.

There is a taller version, Common *Clarkia* (*Clarkia rhomboidea*), which grows pretty much in the same range as *pulchella*, with four full-petal flowers rather than lobed. In fact, Dee Strickler's "Wayside Wildflowers of the Pacific Northwest" (ISBN 1-56044-185-2), notes that *Clarkia* includes about 30 species, none of which bear much resemblance to *pulchella*. Too, he mentions that the genus is native only to Western America — which seems to put paid to the notion that the Expedition's samples (if any) didn't make it.

If you sight this precious little gift of nature, consider its history and the fact that Lewis regretted not being able to obtain its seeds. It's worth a few close-up photos, and whether you call it elkhorn, ragged robin or pink fairies, you'll agree it's definitely "pulchella!"

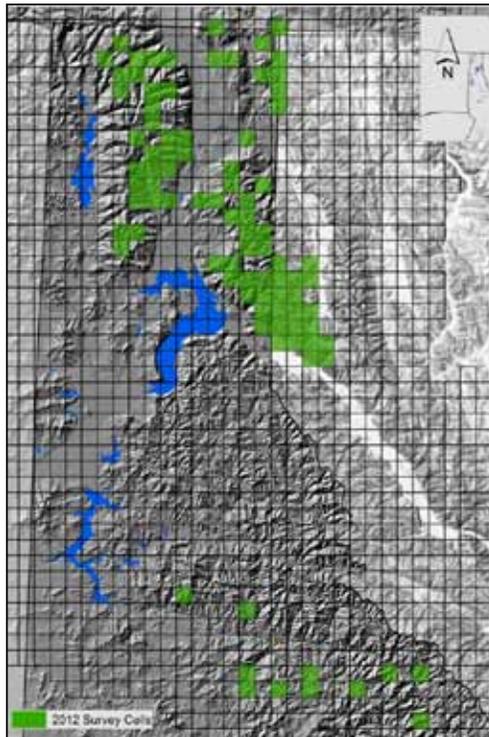


"Hey bear!" from page 3

Looks like we finished this long season just in time, the last thing we need are hungry bears tearing down our expensive cameras! Collectively our seven partner groups established over 90 bait stations this winter. This is an unprecedented effort by the Bureau of Land Management, Coeur d' Alene Tribe, Kalispel Tribe, Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness, Idaho Conservation League, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, and the Idaho Panhandle National Forest.

While it's not unusual for government agencies to work together to accomplish a project like this, one unique aspect of this project is the huge Citizen Science component. There's much debate among professional scientists as to if non-scientifically trained volunteers can collect reliable data. I'll be the first to admit I was a little nervous at first about such a large volunteer effort - but now that I see how smoothly such an operation can run - I must say: I am impressed.

Over 120 volunteers donated 2,000 working hours, 8,000 car miles, and 300 snowmobile miles to the project. Just take a look at the map and you can see the vast area we were able to cover in just one season! Volunteer citizen scientists were responsible for independently setting up 45% of these 90 stations! I would like to give every single person who volunteered a big pat on the back for a job well done. Our overall success hinged on one person and I'd especially like to thank Kelsey Brasseur for making the volunteer effort run like a well-oiled machine.



During the 2012 winter 7 different organizations worked to establish a forest carnivore bait station in each of the 90 green shaded 5x5 km cells. Volunteer Citizen Scientists ran 45% of the stations.

We're hoping to do this again next year and, by that time, hope you're all excited to strap your snowshoes back on. But since setting up bait stations can get a little bit tiring after a while, we came up with a 'top 10' list of reasons that just might mean you've set up one too many and may need to take a break:

- 10) It doesn't seem all that unusual anymore to dig your headlamp out of your pack to ski back to the car.
- 9) You know what a fisher is.
- 8) Border Patrol considers you a 'person of interest'.
- 7) Your backpack is no longer allowed in the house.
- 6) **You** are no longer allowed in the house.
- 5) 'Doing laundry' means wading all of your field clothes into a ball and setting them out in the rain.
- 4) Your dog doesn't notice anymore when you come home smelling like dead beaver.
- 3) You've replaced 'compass' with 'hammer' on your list of '13 essential items to have in the backcountry'.
- 2) You've skied 40 days for the season - but only made 7 turns.
- 1) The beaver jokes just aren't funny anymore.

Thank you so much for all your hard work this winter. I've got to admit, I'm looking forward to summer a little more than usual this year. "Hey Bear!"

Michael Lucid is Regional Wildlife Biologist with the Wildlife Diversity Program for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game

Trail Talk, from page 5

The first is what might be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Rachel Reckin and several others, including our summer intern Lauren Mitchell, did a restoration assessment of the Star Peak lookout last summer. This year, Rachel has acquired the services of the Nine-Mile Mule Pack Team, a traditional USFS pack train, to haul materials to the lookout for future restoration work. The mule team will be working on the Big Eddy trail in the last week of July, and a very limited number of volunteers will be needed to help with packing and unpacking the mules.

Last, but certainly not least, is a very exciting project to rebuild the historic tread on the lower Big Eddy trail. The reclaimed trail will begin at a new trailhead on the west side of Big Eddy Creek and climb to an intersection with

the current trail a quarter mile above where it leaves the mining exploration/logging road half-way to the lookout. Cabinet District Recreation Technician Joel Sather noted this trail on some old maps some time ago, began casting about on the mountain, and found the old tread. Last summer, a USFS intern consequently flagged out a new-old trail, which FSPW staff and volunteers walked last summer. The planned route offers spectacular views of the Clark Fork as well as relief from the tedium of the old road. After necessary investigation and a scoping period, FSPW and Sather hope to begin work this summer around the middle of July if all goes as planned. Stay tuned for dates and details on all of the trail projects.

Summer's coming! And FSPW volunteers and hikers have a great season to look forward to.



Nurturning, from page 1

foster respect of self and others, and provide participants with outdoor skills training and leadership opportunities.

As a member of Friends of Scotchman Peaks and founder of the Spokane Inner City Outings Program, I jumped at the chance to involve youth in the FSPW 2011-12 winter rare carnivore study, or "Wolverine Watch." This was an opportunity for real "hands on" wildlife biology and I knew I could not let the opportunity pass.

Taking kids outdoors for both education and adventure adds a whole new dimension to time spent outside. The best-laid plans usually do go astray. While working with youth, I have found it best to have a rough idea of what you aim to accomplish on an outing and let the kids actions and questions dictate the pace and direction of the day. Of course, safety is the number one consideration.

With Wolverine Watch we had a specific mission for the day and we had the kids involved from step one. Prior to step-

ping into the wild, the kids assisted with mapping the latitude and longitude coordinates, and helped pick the route. This theoretical knowledge was put to practical use when we were in the field. The kids navigated, with minor guidance, to the bait station site by matching the actual terrain with the contour lines on the map and using a compass. We then switched to GPS to pinpoint our location. Once on location, adult leaders guided the kids through the entire station set up. The kids were "hands on." Smiles only faded briefly when a partially thawed beaver was revealed. Once noses adjusted to the new reality, smiles returned and attention was again directed to the task at hand. The beaver was mounted, gun-brushes placed and sterilized, and the camera set and activated. Station 85 was set and ready.

The station take down involved two trips. The first trip was a great learning experience. Our trek into our station required a creek crossing at "Dry Creek." Dry Creek lived up to its name when we were setting the station, not so on our return. The wettest March on record even

got Dry Creek wet. The creek posed an obstacle we could not overcome on our first trip. We returned a week later with a bridge built of 2x4's to cross the creek. Remember, even the best-laid plans? Our bridge was a foot to short. Fortunately, the creek was shallow enough to wade, with gaiters, this time around.

Approaching the bait station, kids marveled that there was no sign of the beaver. The tree was heavily scarred and all of the gun-brushes bent down. What could it have been? Imaginations ran wild. For fun, I suggested Sasquatch, but no one bit. The kids were convinced of a wolverine.

There is something magical about children in the outdoors. Senses are awakened, and the weight of the world becomes lighter. Smiles and wide eyes are the norm. Wolverine Watch provided a wonderful vehicle for an engaging and wild experience in nature, as well as "hands on" science. This project was a wonderful experience for all involved. Just the mention of it amongst the kids inspires a smile. We will be back next year.

Photo contests past and present

"Falls" by Marsha Gilbert was one of our 2011 Summer Contest Winners



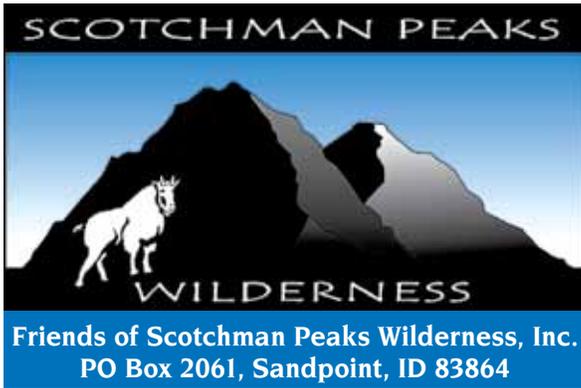
Our Facebook Winter Photo Contest is nearly over. Go to our Facebook album ([on.fb.me/FSPWWinterPhotos](https://www.facebook.com/FSPWWinterPhotos)) and vote for your favorite by May 24. Winner of the contest will be announced at the State of the Scotchmans meeting, May 26th at Oden Hall near Sandpoint.

Kid Crew, from page 4

Station 85 was not the most difficult of Chris's three stations. He and Matt skied 13 miles round trip to set up (and take down) Station 89. It wasn't 39 degrees, so they didn't have the beaver odor problem, but, "It was possibly the coldest day of the year," Chris says. "All of our batteries froze, and we got only one GPS reading. One of our GPS units quit working all together. It has yet to recover."

Chris and Matt fared better than the GPS unit, and the later takedown for Station 89 went smoothly. On Station 59, however, Chris twice found himself on his own; first when the Crew all came down with the crud, and second, when the Crew hadn't the energy to continue after the creek-wading rigors of taking down Station 85.

The Kid Crew will be back, though. After all, they are the winners of the "You-know-what" Award, and Chris has promised to take them into the Scotchmans this summer.



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.

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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.

Board Members & Staff:

Chair/Executive Director: Phil Hough, Sagle, ID
(208) 946-9127 phil@scotchmanpeaks.org

Vice-Chairman & Montana Director: Doug Ferrell, Trout Creek, MT
(406) 827-4341 doug@scotchmanpeaks.org

Vice-Chairman & Idaho Director: Carol Jenkins, Sagle, ID
(208) 265-9204 carol@scotchmanpeaks.org

Secretary: Sarah Lundstrum, Whitefish, MT
(406) 755-6304 sarah@scotchmanpeaks.org

Treasurer: Jacob Styer, Sandpoint, ID
(828) 989-8095 jacob@scotchmanpeaks.org

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(208) 264-5379 neil@scotchmanpeaks.org

Board member: Bill Martin, Troy, MT (406) 295-5258

Board member Will Valentine, Sagle, ID
(208) 255-1114 will@scotchmanpeaks.org

Lincoln County Coordinator: Molly Kieran, Troy, MT
(406) 293-2934 molly@scotchmanpeaks.org

Program Coordinator: Sandy Compton, Heron, MT
(208) 290-1281 sandy@scotchmanpeaks.org

NEWSLETTER EDITOR:
Ann Wimberley, Hope, ID
(208) 264-5379 ann@scotchmanpeaks.org