

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 is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit corporation. Proceeds from all events and sales benefit our wilderness preservation efforts and are tax-deductible.

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PEAK EXPERIENCE

The Newsletter of Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness
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Celebrating 10 years of Working for Wilderness

Bonner County Commissioners send resolution to Idaho Delegation. See "Steps" on page 2.

New Faces in the Peaks



Nathan Mynatt on Scotchman.

Matt Majors



Justin Randall above Leigh Lake.



Brita Olson hiking in Glacier.

There are three new faces in the Scotchman Peaks world that our Friends will be seeing quite a bit of in the coming months. First up is Nathan Mynatt, who came on board as a permanent part time employee on April 13. Nathan is the new Assistant Program Coordinator, and will be working primarily out of the Sandpoint office.

Nathan hails from the great state of North Carolina, where he graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill with a BA in Political Science.

Nathan began his career in conservation as a Wilderness Conservation Corps Intern in the summer of 2013 with the Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards (SAWS). He returned to SAWS the following year to work as a Wilderness Ranger in the Chattahoochee National Forest, located in North Georgia, where he became passionate about bringing people together to protect wild places.

In his spare time, Nathan enjoys backpacking, cycling, skiing, climbing, and anything else that gets him outside. If you can't find him in the office, chances are he is off enjoying the natural beauty of North Idaho, western Montana, and the Pacific Northwest.

We also have two summer interns coming on duty, Brita Olson, a Sandpoint native, and Justin Randall, who grew up in Troy. Brita graduates from the University of Idaho in May 2015 with a degree in Ecology and Conservation Biology. While

at the U of I, she's participated in landscape genetics, limnology, and soil research, volunteered on a restoration project at a local wetland, helped run the student market garden, and competed on the logger sports team.

Brita will put those skills to work as a back country ranger and trail crew member, as well as helping with outreach events such as the Bonner County

Continued on page 11



Message from the Executive Director: Season of transition

If we think of spring as a season of transitions, of new beginnings, then the campaign for designating the Scotchman Peaks is definitely in “spring mode.” Our efforts are building critical mass and moving the campaign to a new level.

In Idaho, the Bonner County Commissioners and Greater Sandpoint Chamber of commerce are being joined by many other community leaders in calling upon the Idaho delegation to introduce legislation to designate the Scotchman Peaks as Wilderness.

In Montana, Governor Bullock has written a strong letter endorsing the Scotchman Peaks as Wilderness and we see our efforts at building community support through collaboration bringing about a change in the conversation. Wilderness is increasingly being seen as a valuable asset which does not hinder, but rather, supports building vibrant communities.

Our organization is undergoing some transitions this spring as well.

Kristen Nowicki, our Programs and Projects assistant is leaving after two years to pursue her “dream job” as a forest service botanical field technician. We wish her well!

Coming on board, as part of our year-round team, is Nathan Mynatt, with a passion for Wilderness and politics and a couple years of working for SAWS (Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards) under his belt.

Our summer backcountry ranger will be Brita Olson. Brita hails from Sandpoint and will graduate this spring from the University of Idaho with a degree in Ecology and Conservation Biology.

Brad Smith may not be on our staff, but you may see more of Brad at our events or hear more about his work on the Scotchmans. Brad is the Idaho Conservation Leagues’ Public Lands Associate for North Idaho. Sometimes our work is more effective when we can coordinate closely with partners – one such coalition partner is Brad - with his background on forestry, public policy and communications he coordinate closely with us and be a part of the team effort which advances our goals.

Longtime Lincoln County Coordinator, Molly Kieran, will be easing into retirement this spring. While others will carry the day to day work forward, building upon the excellent community organizing work that Molly has done, she will stay connected to our campaign.

Another important coalition partner is Montana Wilderness Association. Our shared office in Libby and shared programs

are growing. Ashley South has been hired by MWA an outreach coordinator in Libby will be spending part of her time in support of our programs in Lincoln County.

Our final new introduction is Justin Randall. From Troy Montana, Justin is currently attending Macalester College in Minnesota. This summer, Justin will be our outreach intern in Libby where he will be working closely with Ashley South. Justin will also extend some of his outreach into the field, so keep an eye out for him.

Well that’s about enough transition – let’s move on to summer now!
— Phil Hough

Baby Steps and Giant Steps

By Sandy Compton and Phil Hough

Do you remember “Captain, May I?” If you played this game as a kid (or perhaps “Mother, May I?,” you will remember giant steps, baby steps, and maybe even regular steps. In the Wilderness “business,” it seems we are often taking baby steps. Some days our work is incremental, where progress is measured by each supporter we sign up as a friend, by each conversation we have with a community leader, by each event we host. Progress can seem pretty dull. But, this winter and spring, we have taken some giant steps!

First giant step: In February, the Greater Sandpoint Chamber of Commerce sent a letter to the Idaho Congressional delegation asking that they introduce legislation to designate

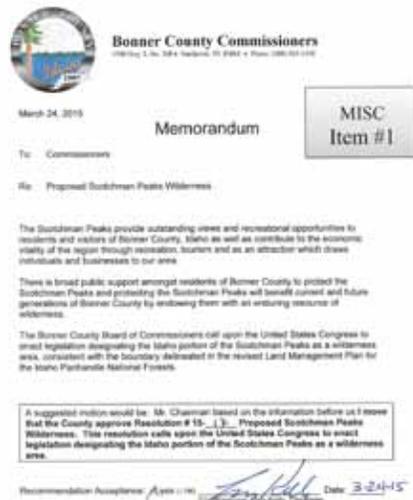
the Scotchman Peaks as Wilderness. This letter, signed individually by each Chamber Board member, represents a very impressive list of prominent business people from our community! (*Read the Chamber letter here: bit.ly/2015SandpointChamberLetter*)

Second giant step: In a letter dated March 17th, Montana Governor Steve Bullock expresses his support for Wilderness designation for the Scotchman Peaks. (*Read the governor’s letter here: bit.ly/SteveBullockLetter*)

Third giant step: On March 24th, the Bonner County Commissioners unanimously passed a resolution calling upon the Idaho Congressional delegation to take action on legislation to designate the Scotchman Peaks as Wilderness! The commissioners’ vision and leadership represent strong support from the community, from a wide range of people. (*Read the resolution here: bit.ly/2015BonnerCountyResolution*)

This is big news; giant steps! The impact of the commissioners’ resolution will be huge, especially seen in concert

Continued on page 11





The Future Looks Bright

May 3, 5 and 6: Session One of FSPW Wilderness First Aid with Carol Jenkins instructing. Enquire at info@scotchmanpeaks.org

May 7: FSPW and several other Sandpoint nonprofits will take part in Idaho Gives Day at the Idaho Pour Authority.

May 9: FSPW will host an aid station for the STOKR bike event in Lincoln County

May 15, 16 and 17: Phil Hough and Sandy Compton will attend the ICL Wild Idaho gathering in Stanley Basin.; Session Two of FSPW Wilderness First Aid with Carol Jenkins

May 16: Our first hike of the 2015 Summer Hike Season (See the whole schedule on pages 6 & 7 or visit www.scotchmanpeaks.org/hiking/current-hiking-schedule)

May 21: FSPW Staff will take part in an outdoor education day at Trout Creek Elementary School in Montana

May 23: Phil Hough will make a presentation to Kinnickinnick Native Plant Society on the FSPW proposal and possible legislation.

May 26: FSPW Intern Brita Olson begins summer work.

May 27: Meet Doug Scott at the Well-Read Moose Bookstore at 2048 N. Main in Coeur d'Alene at 5 p.m.

May 28: State of the Scotchmans annual meeting will feature nationally known wilderness historian and advocate Doug Scott.

June 3: FSPW Lincoln County intern Justin Randall begins work.

June 6: National Trails Day and FSPW Trails Skills and Hike Leader Training Day.

June 7th: FSPW will have a table at the Pend O'Reille Bay Trail Fun Run

June 12: We begin Field Day Fridays with a Old Growth Hike in Ross Creek Cedars led by Brian Baxter. See the story on Page 7.

June 14: Sanders County Picnic at Bull River Campground with special guest Pat Williams.

June 25 - 27: FSPW will have an information booth at Libby Logger Days.

June 26: 2015 Trail Stewardship Season kickoff at Scotchman Peaks Trail #65 beginning realignment of the lower mile of trail.

On the Horizon

July 4: Parades Galore to march in; FSPW will have a booth at the July Fourth celebration in Troy. Start deciding which FSPW swag you will wear.

July 10 – 11: Dry Creek/Star Gulch work weekend with the Cabinet Ranger District.

August 11 – 15: FSPW will have a booth at the Bonner County Fair. Start deciding which FSPW swag you will wear.

August 14 – 16: FSPW will have a booth at the Huckelberry Festival in Trout Creek.

Sanders County Picnic: June 14

Special guest will be Pat Williams

The annual Sanders County Picnic returns to Bull River Campground on June 14. Burgers, beer, and great potluck dishes are always part of a fine day on the Bull, and this year, as part of the Friends' 10th Anniversary celebration, we have a special guest in former US Representative Pat Williams.

Williams served in the House of Representatives from 1978 to 1997, and is one of the great Western champions of conservation. He played a pivotal role in the preservation of Wilderness areas, aiming to protect current wilderness under the Wilderness Act of 1964 and extend the Act to cover further National Forest lands, including the Scotchman Peaks. Williams also campaigned for higher taxes for large corporations and cutting defense spending to lower the federal deficit.

FSPW is honored to have Pat as our guest. The picnic begins at 3 pm Mountain Time. Bring a dish to share and a favorite beverage. See you at Bull River Campground Pavilion on June 14.

State of the Scotchmans is May 28

Featuring Wilderness historian Doug Scott



Doug Scott in the Scotchmans.

The annual gathering of the Friends will be held again at Forrest M. Bird Charter School this year, on Thursday, May 28 at 6:00 pm. Friends old and new are invited to come witness the crowning of the Scotchman Peaks Old Goat for 2015 and recognition of some others of our great volunteers, sample tasty complimentary appetizers from the Charter School Kitchen and enjoy a glass of wine or beer from the no-host bar.

Wilderness advocate, historian and Earthday co-founder Doug Scott will

be the featured speaker for the night. Scott has authored several books about the value of Wilderness and worked for decades as a lobbyist and advocate in Washington, D.C. He has some fascinating stories to tell about the advent of the Wilderness Act and the personalities that have been forces to deal with in the Wilderness movement over the years.

Doug will also be present for a FSPW meet and greet at FSPW volunteer Melissa DeMotte's Well-Read Moose Bookstore in Coeur d'Alene on May 27, beginning at 5 pm. Spokane and Kootenai Friends will have a chance to visit with Doug as well as get a look at a classic independent book store, coffee house and beer and wine bar.

To learn more, visit www.scotchmanpeaks.org/stewardship/events-schedule/



Over the Top Volunteer: Ward Tollbom, “starving artist” and outdoorsman

By Sandy Compton

If Friends of Scotchman Peaks needs professional framing of a picture for our annual photo contest winner or a piece of art donated for a fundraiser, we don't have to go far. Just downstairs from our office is Hen's Tooth Studio, operated by Sandpoint native Ward Tollbom, who has a pattern of working for swag. Scotchman Peaks tees, hats and sweatshirts are big in his family. He wears his FSPW volunteer hat a lot.

When he's not framing — or running around in the woods — Ward paints birds; water colors so delicately drafted that — if you had time — you could count every single feather. His paintings take so *much* time that he can't sell them for enough to justify doing them. But, still, he paints them.

“I can't afford to paint as much as I'd like to. I do it mostly to feed my ego — or something that needs fed. Whenever I finish one, I take it up and down the street and show it to the neighbors and they tell me how great it is.”



Ward demonstrates his woodsman skills with a very nice Whitetail taken in the Cabinets.

“The street” is First Avenue in Sandpoint. Ward's shop at 323 N. First is jammed with art and photos waiting to be framed or waiting to be picked up after being framed. Occasionally, one of his own paintings appears in the mix. His latest is itself awaiting a frame — an incredible portrait of a raven executed on black paper. The bird is represented in subtle lines of tiny sparkling facets that change color with the angle of light, just as a raven's wings will. “Someone else already painted a polar bear in a blizzard,” he said, “so, I thought to paint a raven at midnight.”

The first person he showed it to bought it. For not enough, of course. But still. He laughs. “I may be a starving artist, but I'm still a successful woodsman.” His family eats lots of venison, fish and huckleberries.

Ward is a convert to Wilderness. He wasn't always a fan. “I had little use for it, because my dad was an amputee. His Jeep was his freedom

Continued on page 10

Sater's Seasons: Proceeding through a year in the Scotchmans

By Shane Sater

This is the second of a year-long series looking at the seasons of the Scotchman Peaks. Shane's series is also being posted online at scotchmanpeaks.org.

By the beginning of May, the Western Larch needles are fully out of their buds at the lower elevations, and many shrubs and grasses have become green with chlorophyll. Yellow Glacier Lily is showing its bright yellow, down-turned flowers, often in large patches on moist sites in the mountains. More migrant birds have arrived, including Red-naped Sapsuckers, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Nashville Warblers, and Rufous Hummingbirds.



Rednaped Sapsucker. Dennis Garrison

As the days grow longer and the sun traces a higher arc across the sky, its heating effect is apparent in the moderating weather. Morel mushrooms are poking their fruiting bodies up through the ground, and you may notice the bright yellow flowerheads of Arrowleaf Balsamroot in dry areas, like miniature sunflowers. The mountain peaks and ridges are still white, and will be for another month or two, but the snow is melting fast, and

spring is moving up the mountain. This is one of the fascinations of spending time in the mountains: as you climb in elevation you see the seasons marching backwards.

Columbia Spotted Frogs appeared more than a month ago in the lowlands, but at the higher elevations they are just now emerging from where they wintered under the ice. Sometimes even while ice remains at the water's edge, these relatively common frogs of the mountains gather to breed. The males give their quiet calls from ponds with both aquatic vegetation and open water. Once the females have arrived and paired up with a mate, they will lay their eggs communally in shallow areas.



Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Donna Dewhurst, USFWS

As May comes to a close, the low-elevation Huckleberries already have green fruits developing, those at the mid-elevations are in bloom, and yet higher the bushes are still covered

Continued on page 9



Along the Trail

March 5: The eighth graders from Forrest M. Bird Charter School in Sandpoint traveled to Round Lake State Park for a day of tracking fun as part of the FSPW Winter Tracks program.

March 6: 12 fourth and fifth graders from Pioneer School in Spokane traveled to Round Lake State Park as the finale of FSPW Winter Tracks program.

March 11: Lincoln County Prosperity Forum on Tourism Marketing was held in Libby with more than 50 in attendance. The focus was tourism.

March 17: We received a letter of endorsement from Governor Bullock of Montana

March 24: Bonner County Commission unanimously passes a resolution asking the Idaho Congressional delegation to introduce legislation to designate the Idaho portion of the Scotchman Peaks as Wilderness!!!

March 27: A Tenth Anniversary Celebration was held at the Venture Inn in Troy, featuring Jack Nisbet, speaking on David Thompson. Approximately 50 pounds of food and \$175.00 were donated by attendees.

March 28: A Tenth Anniversary Celebration was held at the

When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world. — John Muir.

Rex Theater in Thompson Falls, featuring Jack Nisbet, speaking on David Thompson. Brian Baxter taught Advanced Tracking to 10 participants at Heron Community Center and the surrounding area

April 4: Twelve happy birders attended Brian Baxter's Birds of Prey class at Heron Community Center, then spotted eagles, hawks, kingfishers, herons, mergansers and myriad other birds and animals at several field locations.

April 9: At a FSPW fundraiser, MickDuff's Brewing released Goat Hop Ale at their Brew House on Cedar with 60 folks in attendance. New Assistant Project Coordinator Nathan Mynatt was introduced.

April 10: Phil Hough gave a presentation to NARFE at Connie's Café in Sandpoint.

April 11: Ashley South worked at the FSPW and Montana Wilderness Association table at the Cabinet Health Center Health Fair in Libby.

April 13: Phil Hough gave a presentation at Gonzaga University in Spokane; Nathan Mynatt's first day on the job.

April 17: Kristin Nowicki's last day with FSPW

April 29: A Community Prosperity Forum was held at the Little Theater in Libby featuring a look to the future.

Winter Tracks with the Charter School

By *Kristen Nowicki*

On March 5th, 54 Forrest M Bird eighth graders climbed aboard the bright, safety-yellow school bus and rode to Round Lake State Park, where 20 FSPW Volunteers awaited, for their arrival at the FSPW Winter Tracks field-day.

Students filed from the school bus, a backpack-strap slung over each shoulder, and into the crescent arrangement of wooden benches that comprises the park's unique amphitheatre. The late-winter morning was chilly, but the snow had since melted with spring-trending temperatures, and a warming fire crackled at the stage front.

Introductions by FSPW Project Coordinator Kristen Nowicki and Idaho State Park Ranger Chuck Gross welcomed students to the first-annual FSPW Winter Tracks field trip to Round Lake, which boasts a historical structure, an interpretive room. The students then "rainbowed" out into color groups, Red, Yellow, Green, or Blue, and sought out their colorful FSPW Volunteer Guides, who led their group to each of four "Winter Tracks Stations" throughout the day. Thanks to Diane, Holly, Sandy, Patty and Dave for being great Leaders and keeping the kids safe and on track for the day!

Ten outstanding volunteers put forth incredible effort to



Dave and Suzie Kretzchmar teach tracking at the lakeside.

Fiona Hicks (www.fionahicks.com)

present 4 outdoor-related mini-classes during this event. FSPW Volunteers ran stations spread out along the Round Lake shoreline and introduced topics to the students including Wildlife Tracking, Winter Evergreens, Habitats and Niches, and North Idaho Mammals. Thanks to Volunteers Celeste, Mary, Dave, Suzie, Brian, Mike, Shane, Bonnie, Ken, Becky, Dan and Mary for the creativity, care, and attention to detail you

Continued on page 10



Summertime, summertime, sum, sum, summertime

Trout Talk

By Brian Baxter

The signs are becoming more evident every day as we approach our relatively short summers in Northwest Montana and Northern Idaho. We begin to see more vehicles at turnouts along our rivers, streams, and lakes. There's increased activity near the boat ramps, in the sporting goods stores, and visor hats, sunglasses, shorts, sandals and fishing vests will soon be everywhere. It is as it should be. It is the onset of fishing season in the Rockies!

One of the most popular targets of these armies of anglers are the common trout species. They are tenacious fighters and excellent table fare. The Montana State Fish, the Cutthroat Trout, has two subspecies occurring in our region. The Westslope Cutthroat (*Salmo clarki lewisi*), and the Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout (*Salmo clarki bouvieri*).

The cutthroat name comes from the fact that they have a red



Westslope cuts are among the most beautiful and feisty of fish.
Timothy Knepp, USFSW via Wikipedia Commons

“cut throat” slash on each side of the lower jaw, and two dusky blotches on the cheeks. Both subspecies have small,

Continued on page 11

Peak Views: 2015 Summer Hike Schedule (scotchmanpeaks.org/hiking)

Hike date	Exertion Rating	Destination/ Hike Name	Leader(s)	Description and contact info
5/16/15	S	Star Peak / Billiard Table Mountain	Don Otis	Contact: Don Otis — don@veritasincorporated.com Star Peak is 6167' and Billiard Table 6,622'. The initial objective is Star summit which is 4,000' of vertical and 10 miles round trip. If conditions are good, we'll continue to Billiard Table Mountain; another 1,000' of vertical with a few ups and downs. Expect a long day. We will start the hike at the new trailhead — Big Eddy #999. Views from the top are terrific in all directions. The ridge to Billiard is another 3 miles of rock hopping. This will be a long day with a lot of elevation and mileage, so be prepared.
6/12/13	E/M	Old Growth Tour of Ross Creek Cedars	Brian Baxter	Contact: Brian Baxter b_baxter53@yahoo.com Tour the Ross Creek Cedars Scenic area with naturalist Brian Baxter and get a new view of the ancient western redcedar grove at the edge of the wilderness proposal. This slowpace hike is ideal for kids, parents and grandparents alike.
6/13/15	E/M	Morris Creek Ecological Mysteries Tour	Shane Sater	Contact: Shane Sater shsater@gmail.com This hike is all about asking questions, making observations, and growing in your skill as a naturalist. Come prepared with lunch, plenty of water, salty snacks, and layers for hiking or being still in all possible weather conditions. A notebook and pencil for making observations or sketches is recommended. Binoculars, hand lens, and/or field guides pertaining to a subject you're interested in could be nice, as well! This will be more like an amble than a typical hike. Please, no dogs.
6/21 -22/15	S+	Bee Top Round Top Traverse	Chuck Gross	Contact: Chuck Gross — ckgross44@gmail.com Join us on a thriller for 24 miles along the Bee Top-Round Top Trail 120 from Trestle Creek to Bee Top Mountain with an evening between near Round Top Mountain. While not in the Scotchman Peaks Proposed Wilderness, this ridge line hike to the west across the Lightning Creek valley is sure to please on many levels including the potential for great views directly across into the Scotchmans and down on Lake Pend Oreille.
6/27/15	S	Star Peak Long Light Hike	Rod Barcklay	Contact: Rod Barcklay — rabarcklay@yahoo.com Summer light is long and bright, giving lots of time to get to Star Peak Lookout, at about 6200 feet, via the new Trail #999. Bring water (the trail is dry) and snacks, lunch, a camera and your legs and lungs. 4,000 foot gain ± in just over 5 miles. Enjoy spectacular views from the new trail.
7/12/15	S	Star Peak Yoga Hike	Melissa Thompson	Contact: Melissa Thompson — melissa22thompson@gmail.com Stretch your mind and muscles with a yoga warm-up above the beautiful Clark Fork Valley, then hike to 6200-foot Star Peak for more yogi time at the iconic Star Peak Lookout. Return to the cars by early evening and then enjoy a glass of wine at the nearby Compton Pavilion. Beginning yogis welcome; hike leader is a certified Yoga Instructor.



Field Day Fridays begin June 12, Regular office hours begin mid-May

FSPW staff has not always been easy to find “at home,” but beginning in mid-May, Friends will have a much better chance of finding someone in the office. Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, someone will be at FSPW Idaho headquarters to greet visitors from 10 am to 3 pm.

“We want to establish a regular presence so people know when they can stop and ask questions, drop things off, maybe even buy some swag,” said program coordinator Sandy Compton. “Our volunteers often have things to pick up or leave, and it will be good to take the guesswork out of when that’s possible.”

Field Day Fridays begin three weeks later with a Brian Baxter-led class on old growth forest at Ross Creek Cedars. From June 12 through September 25, FSPW will be doing something in the field on each Friday, whether it be an outdoor education event like the old growth hike, one of the Take-A-Kid-Hiking events or a trail work day on one of our three ranger districts.



Summer offers fun and fabulous adventures, as well as meaningful outdoor volunteer opportunities, with Friends in the Scotchman Peaks.

The main push on trails this year will be the realignment of the lower mile of Scotchman Peak Trail #65. “This is

going to be a really cool project,” said Compton. “The Friends



Continued on page 11

Exertion Rating – E: Easy, M: Moderate, S: Strenuous, S+: S+upid :-)

7/19/15	M	Ross Creek Old Growth Hike	Brian Sherry	<p>Contact: Brian Sherry — lpshowkvrz@gmail.com</p> <p>Take a hike though the giants of Ross Creek, the largest trees in Montana. This out-and-back route follows the grade of Ross Creek for a total elevation gain of 500 feet in 5 miles. Length of hike will be determined by the group. Perfect hike for a warm day, in the shade of huge old-growth trees along a beautiful creek.</p>
7/25/15	M/S	Little Spar Lake	Erick Walker	<p>Contact Erick Walker — walker_erick@hotmail.com</p> <p>Little Spar Lake sits in a rugged basin within the Scotchman Peaks. The trail follows one of the most scenic and dramatic stream valleys in the entire Cabinet Mountain range. You will pass through groves of giant cedars and Western hemlocks, skirt below cliffs, and blaze across wildlife-rich meadows. You will hike past Spar Peak and cross Spar Creek and a couple of other small drainages en route to the lake. Elevation gain is 1,800 feet. Round trip distance is 10 miles and will take between 5-7 hours.</p>
8/5/15	S	Scotchman For Unbelievers	Celeste Grace and Mary Franzel	<p>Contact Celeste Grace — celestegrace@gmail.com</p> <p>If you have dreamt of hiking Scotchman, but are unsure of your abilities or intimidated by a group of seasoned hikers, this hike is for you! We will take as much time as needed. We'll be prepared with food and other enticements. There will be no pressure, only beautiful views from the summit when you get there.</p>
8/20/15	S	Annual Walk Up the Blue Creek Canyon	Sandy Compton	<p>Contact Sandy Compton — sandy@scotchmanpeaks.org</p> <p>This annual hike is in honor of the arrival of the leader's grandfather's arrival in Montana. “August, 20, 1916. Looked over land for sale. Took a walk up the Blue Creek Canyon.” He bought the land and the family has been walking up the Blue Creek Canyon every summer since. Be ready to whack some bushes as we make our way up the West Fork of Blue Creek and into the proposed Scotchman Peaks Wilderness.</p>
9/3 – 7/15	S+	West Fork Walk Home	Sandy Compton	<p>Contact Sandy Compton — sandy@scotchmanpeaks.org</p> <p>Climb into the upper Ross Creek basin for the first night's camp at a huge spring at the base of the Craggs. Then, climb into the Craggs and traverse the divide between Ross and the West Fork of Blue Creek, a multi-peak day that will end in Melissa Basin at 48-Hour Pass. Spend two nights there, and then we will whack our way out through the West Fork Canyon, spending the final night along the West Fork of Blue and then walk “home,” back to the hike leader's house on Highway 200.</p>
9/13/15	S	Scotchman Peak September 13	Phil Hough and Deb Hunsicker	<p>Contact Phil Hough – phil@scotchmanpeaks.org</p> <p>This is the classic hike up the namesake peak for our proposed wilderness. It's short but steep, 4 miles one way, 8 round trip with an elevation gain of 3,800 feet. We will go at a slow pace so that steady effort is all that is needed to summit. Wide panoramas and stunning views of lake Pend Oreille, along with fall colors and possibly late season huckleberries will be highlights. Wear hunter orange.</p>



Seasons, from page 4

with snow. As the trails to the lofty peaks lose more of their snow, wildflowers of early spring start to bloom at the higher elevations, while the same species may have already fruited at the trailhead. In the last two



Western Tanager. USFWS

and a half months, the landscape has transformed dramatically. The contrast of dark green trees against a muted palette of brown, gray, blue, and white has been softened by an outburst of luxuriant green foliage.

Morning and evening is filled with a chorus of birdsong; most migrants have returned, and birds are using the

growing abundance of insects as fuel for reproduction. Black-capped Chickadees may be feeding nestlings. Numerous species that feed themselves and their young primarily on insects are back from their southern wintering grounds. Black-headed Grosbeaks have arrived, and their melodious, whistled songs brighten the forest - both the males and the females sing.

Western Tanagers, the males a bright yellow with black and white wings and an orange-red head, may be seen moving methodically along tree branches, gleaning insects. Listen for the distinctive, otherworldly songs of Swainson's Thrushes, spotted gray-brown woodland birds that are more easily heard than seen. Many species of Flycatchers, grayish birds that dart from perches to catch insects in midair, are back from their southern wintering grounds.



Bunchberry. Rob Routledge

one or several of the low-growing Fairyslippers, light pink- or purple-flowered orchids of moist, shady areas. Fairyslippers have a single elliptic leaf at the base of the stem, and when they are not blooming they are hard to spot. These intriguing plants are very sensitive to trampling, and picking the flower usually kills the plant, so admire them but tread carefully. In some places,



Mountain Goats. Ben Steele

you may find the forest floor covered with Bunchberry in bloom. Each individual flower is tiny, but the whole cluster is surrounded by four showy white bracts.

At this time of year, female Mountain Goats may be giving birth, leaving their small groups and finding a rugged, precipitous spot protected from predators. Kids are wobbly on their feet for their first day or two in the world, but they develop quickly. Very soon they are trying to climb, and in less than a week they and their mothers are ready to rejoin the larger group.

In early June, keep an eye out for Common Nighthawks, which are relatively

late-returning migrants, zooming around for insects in the twilight hours. Nighthawk populations have declined significantly in the last half century. These interesting birds seem to concentrate over low-elevation lakes to feed, but I've seen them in and above dry forest habitats as well. They require somewhat open areas to nest, and loss of breeding habitats such as open forests may be a factor in their decline. In areas of montane coniferous forest with some openings, like meadows, you might see an Olive-sided Flycatcher, another late-returning long distance migrant. This species, which winters in South America, feeds entirely on insects; look for one perched at the top of a snag, darting out to grab a meal.

Mountain Lady Slipper and Spotted Coralroot are starting to bloom, as is a pretty native vine, Western Trumpet Honeysuckle. At this time of year, you may startle a female Ruffed Grouse and her chicks, which have hatched from nine to twelve brown-spotted eggs, laid on the ground.

As we pass June 21, the summer solstice, longest day of the year in the northern hemisphere, we find spring bursting out at higher elevations. In the lowlands, look for the low, nodding pink blooms of Twinflower and the striking white flowers of Queencup Beadlily.

In an amazing variety of colors, shapes, and arrangements, plants are advertising to pollinators. Bunchberry and Lupine are still blooming, and Three-spot Mariposa Lily is showing its 3 broad, cream-colored petals. If you are observant, you may notice the bizarre purplish flowers of Wild Ginger, hiding under two heart-shaped leaves. Keep an eye out for Tiger Lily, showing stunning purple-spotted, orange blooms. Arrowleaf Balsamroot has finished flowering, and may have seeds, unless some animal has munched them. It is at this time that the early bloomers among the common introduced, invasive plants cover disturbed sites such as old



Spotted Coralroot. Carol Wilburn



Lupine. Carol Wilburn

In the meanwhile, plants have been making the most of water, warmth, and light to put on rapid new growth and to reproduce. Mallow Ninebark bushes are covered with flat-topped, white flower clusters, and another shrub, Redstem Ceanothus, is showing sprays of small whitish blooms. Some moderately dry slopes are bright with the blue pealike flowers of Lupines and yellow flashes of color from Heart-leaved Arnica.

You may be lucky to find



Mountain Lady Slipper. Carol Wilburn



Glacier Lily. William Cieslia

Continued next page



Seasons, from page 8

roadbeds with a sea of invading color: the showy white and yellow flowerheads of Oxeye Daisy, and the small but bright yellow (and orange) flowerheads of the various non-native Hawkweed species.

At higher elevations, the Rocky Mountain Maples and Sitka Alders may just be starting to leaf out; you may see blooming Mountain Arnica, Meadowrue, Glacier Lily, and Western Springbeauty. The streams are still running high and cold as the snow melts in the high country. Intrepid hikers have already been climbing peaks for a few weeks (or several months, depending on how intrepid they are), traversing the rapidly melting snowfields and experiencing firsthand the march of the seasons up the peaks. As you venture up the mountains, you can't help but notice the singing of the songbirds, as they hurry to complete their reproductive cycle in the confines of their brief, high elevation season.

Listen especially for Hermit Thrushes, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Varied Thrushes, Chipping Sparrows, Yellow-rumped Warblers,



Western Trumpet Honeysuckle.

Carol Wilburn

Western Tanagers, and Mountain Bluebirds. The emphatic, whistled "quick THREE beers" song of the male Olive-sided Flycatcher is another distinctive voice in the avian chorus; it epitomizes, for me, the high country in summer. You may hear American Pikas calling "nyeah" from rocky areas. These relatives of hares did not hibernate, but they fed during the winter on vegetation that they gathered and dried in "hay-stacks."

By the end of June, Idaho's shrubby state flower, Lewis's Mock-orange, is covered with large, fragrant, 4-petaled white flowers, offering contrast to its opposite green leaves. The small, delectable fruits of Wood Strawberry are getting ripe, as are the twin insipid, red berries of the bushy Utah Honeysuckle. Another striking red fruit is that of Canada Buffaloberry, a shrub with male and female flowers on separate plants. Buffaloberry bloomed before the Western Larches had fully grown their needles. Now, the female plants show quite a contrast between leathery green leaves and translucent reddish berries, which are rich in vitamin C but quite bitter.

Scientific names of species mentioned

American Robin - *Turdus migratorius*
 Black-capped Chickadee - *Poecile atricapillus*
 Dark-eyed Junco - *Junco hyemalis*
 Western Bluebird - *Sialia mexicana*
 Mountain Bluebird - *Sialia currucoides*
 Western Meadowlark - *Sturnella neglecta*
 Columbia Spotted Frog - *Rana luteiventris*
 Pacific Treefrog - *Pseudacris regilla*
 Varied Thrush - *Ixoreus naevius*
 Striped Skunk - *Mephitis mephitis*
 Canada Lynx - *Lynx canadensis*
 Snowshoe Hare - *Lepus americanus*
 Red Squirrel - *Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*
 Ruffed Grouse - *Bonasa umbellus*
 Tree Swallow - *Tachycineta bicolor*
 Violet-green Swallow - *Tachycineta thalassina*
 Spotted Towhee - *Pipilo maculatus*
 Western Larch - *Larix occidentalis*
 Mallow Ninebark - *Physocarpus malvaceus*
 Turkey Vulture - *Cathartes aura*

Scouler's Willow - *Salix scouleriana*
 Black Bear - *Ursus americanus*
 Grizzly Bear - *Ursus arctos horribilis*
 Yellow-rumped Warbler - *Setophaga coronata*
 Mosquitoes - Family Culicidae
 Ticks - Family Ixodidae
 Canada Buffaloberry - *Shepherdia canadensis*
 Long-flowered Bluebell - *Mertensia longiflora*
 Shooting Star - *Primula* spp.
 Round-leaved Violet - *Viola orbiculata*
 Utah Honeysuckle - *Lonicera utahensis*
 Trillium - *Trillium ovatum*
 Pacific Wren - *Troglodytes pacificus*
 Heart-leaved Arnica - *Arnica cordifolia*
 Lupine - *Lupinus* spp.
 Fairybells - *Prosartes hookeri*, *Prosartes trachycarpa*
 Westslope Cutthroat Trout - *Oncorhynchus clarkii lewisii*
 Yellow Glacier Lily - *Erythronium grandiflorum*
 Red-naped Sapsucker - *Sphyrapicus nuchalis*
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet - *Regulus calendula*

Nashville Warbler - *Leiothlypis ruficapilla*
 Rufous Hummingbird - *Selasphorus rufus*
 Morel - *Morchella* spp.
 Arrowleaf Balsamroot - *Balsamorhiza sagittata*
 Huckleberry - *Vaccinium membranaceum*
 Black-headed Grosbeak - *Pheucticus melanocephalus*
 Western Tanager - *Piranga ludoviciana*
 Swainson's Thrush - *Catharus ustulatus*
 Flycatcher - *Empidonax* spp., *Contopus* spp.
 Redstem Ceanothus - *Ceanothus sanguineus*
 Fairyslipper - *Calypso bulbosa*
 Bunchberry - *Cornus canadensis*
 Mountain Goat - *Oreamnos americanus*
 Common Nighthawk - *Chordeiles minor*
 Olive-sided Flycatcher - *Contopus cooperi*
 Mountain Ladyslipper - *Cypripedium montanum*
 Spotted Coralroot - *Corallorhiza maculata*
 Western Trumpet Honeysuckle - *Lonicera ciliosa*
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Continued, Page 11



Tolbom, from page 4

and his access to back country. He'd take it anywhere, and sometimes it was so scary, I couldn't ride with him. When they started closing roads, it was a threat to him.

"But I discovered, with the closed roads, you get out of the car and walk back even a little ways, you hear and see lots of stuff that surprises you. Things you can't hear from a car. A rutting bull moose. Birds singing. Water. Wind in the trees."

Two years ago, after getting in shape on Mickinick Trail, Ward climbed Scotchman for the first time, with his daughter Lydia. It was a good experience, even though the goats he expected to see were replaced by a ladybug irruption.

"Go there," he says. "Be there. Spend some time on top of that mountain. Realize how special it is to be in a place with no ATVs buzzing by, no parking lot with camper rigs full of beer coolers."

Ward came by his outdoor skills growing up in Sandpoint in the 1950s and '60s, where his dad operated Economy Grocery at the corner of Second and Pine. "We lived on West Main. At the end of the street was a creek full of brook trout and a woods full of grouse. To catch fish or shoot birds, the hardest thing we had to do was get past Hagadone's cows."

Hunting drew him into his love of painting birds. Sort of. "When I was ten, I shot a swallow with my BB gun. As I held it in my hand, I saw how beautiful it was. When I was in Junior High School, I passed time in study hall looking at Audubon books, thinking, 'That would be really cool to be able to do.'" When he was in high school, his dad — who had wanted to



Sometimes Ward gets one of his own paintings framed.

learn to paint — gave him a paint set, which promptly went into the closet. After graduating, he entered U of I to study wildlife management. One weekend, in a fit of boredom, he hitchhiked home. It wasn't such a great experience, and to keep from being bored enough to hitch home again, he took up the paints.

The first thing he painted was a copy of some geese on the cover of a *Field and Stream* magazine. For a while, he gave his paintings away. Not everyone kept them. Then, one fateful day, a former teacher — Joy O'Donnel — saw a pair of framed ducks hanging in his dad's grocery store and bought them. For \$25 — not enough.

"I changed my major to education and began taking art electives. I did well in my art classes, but I learned later my teachers were easy on me because I was majoring in ed, not art. By the time I found out I wasn't as good at art in college as I thought I was, I was a pretty good artist."

He opened Hen's Tooth Studio on the Cedar Street Bridge and moved it to its current location at 323 N. First after Coldwater Creek took over the Bridge. "I did a stealth opening," he says, "because I was so scared I would fail." That was 25 years ago. So, even though he might not be able to charge enough for his paintings, he has done well enough with the framing to keep painting. And, he'll always have something to wear.

Editor's note: Ward has three adult children and one grandchild. In addition to donating a framed print to our 10th Anniversary silent auction, Ward earned his volunteer hats by doing a lot of framing for FSPW. Admittedly, sometimes, he charges. But not enough.

Tracks, from page 5

devoted in developing these winter educational experiences for our eighth grade students.

The kids were treated to a long, leisurely lunch at the lake thanks to volunteers Phil, Denise, and Peter (who was also our 'doorman' and video-tographer! -way to go!). These 3 volunteers were the heart-in-the-hearth for this day and warmed bodies and souls with campfire-roast favorites grilled on the fires they had built earlier in the stone chimney pavilion along the lakeshore.

With the final addition of some early afternoon sunshine, these polite, curious, and fun-loving 8th grade students from Forrest M Bird Middle School could hardly have asked for a better "school-day." Thanks to all the Students, Teachers, Parent Chaperones, and Food Caterers that supported this wonderful FSPW Winter Tracks field day.

And to our surprise and delight, our work with FMB Middle School had a pleasant after-glow on March 22nd when Travis



Kristen Nowicki thanks Travis Tuttle and Horizon Credit Union for the contribution.

(Logan is his other first name) Tuttle choose FSPW as his non-profit-of-choice when he won the 'Find-the-Pig, Win Big!' Horizon Credit Union educational contest. Winners of the financial 'scavenger hunt' learn about financial principals, get a cash award, and get to name a favorite cause to donate a matching award to. Travis chose FSPW, "because I like wildlife," he told us. Thank you, Travis, and Mr. Scotchman says thanks as well!!!

FSPW is excited to host Travis and his peers for the 2016 8th grade class trip FSPW Winter Tracks! Congratulations to this years' Forrest M Bird Middle School 2015 graduates, what a great group of kids!

Thank you to all our students and volunteers, Round Lake State Park, and ID Master Naturalists, and everyone who lent a hand or thought throughout this years' FSPW Winter Tracks. Have a great summer, and we will see you next year!



Baby Steps, from page 2

with the other endorsements we have received this spring. The front page of both the Spokesman Review and Bonner County Daily Bee carried articles the next day and within 24 hours the Associated Press spread the story to more than 50 media platforms around the regions, country and even overseas!

But there are still steps to be made; baby steps, medium steps and — hopefully — some more giant steps. We urge you to take your own steps. Now is the time to speak up for the Scotchmans. Thank the commissioners, the governor and the Sandpoint business community for their support and let your congressional delegation know that now is the time for them to get a bill introduced into Congress. We are seeing a critical mass of support develop for Wilderness designation in Idaho and working one building another one in Montana and hope that you will want to be part of it.

To take your own steps, go to our take action page at www.scotchmanpeaks.org/you-can-help/contactelecteds and add your voice to those who are helping move the Scotchman Peaks proposal along, one step at a time. And you don't even have to say "Captain, May I?"

Editor's note: To view important endorsements and letters of support, visit our endorsements page at www.scotchmanpeaks.org/about-the-friends/endorsements/

Trout, from page 6

irregular spots that are more prevalent above the belly. The spots on the westslopes are more dense towards the rear of the fish, and on the yellowstones are fewer, larger, and rounder. Check with your finger under the tongue for small teeth.

There is cross-hybridization between the two subspecies of cutthroat, as there are crosses between cutthroats and rainbows. Don't stress, life is short. If you are a catch-and-release-fisher, they still fight well and are beautiful fish. If you're harvesting, they are still great table fare, so no worries!

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Faces, from page 1

Fair and the Trout Creek Huckleberry Festival. She's excited to move back north for the summer and make the Scotchman Peaks her new classroom. "It's a privilege to work with the Friends of the Scotchman Peaks Wilderness for the conservation of the piece of nature that I first fell in love with," she said.

Her favorite activities in the outdoors include hiking, biking, rowing around Lake Pend Oreille and gardening. When she's not doing that, she'll be reading a book or strumming her guitar.

Justin attends Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota, but will be home for the summer doing outreach work for FSPW and Montana Wilderness Association, as well as spending time on trails, primarily in the Three Rivers District.

Justin grew up exploring the unique and remarkable ecosystems of northwest Montana under the gentle guidance of his grandfather, the insights of his grandmother, and the unrelenting love of his mom.

He graduated from Troy High School in 2012 and left the mountains to attend Macalester, where he is currently pursuing a degree in Environmental Studies. His work for wilderness is motivated by a desire to live in a world in which space is made, in our landscapes and our hearts, for all of the infinitely complex and beautiful forms of life with which we share this planet.

Among his experiences (so far) is a stint as Senate Page for John Tester of Montana, and a summer on fire crew for the USFS.

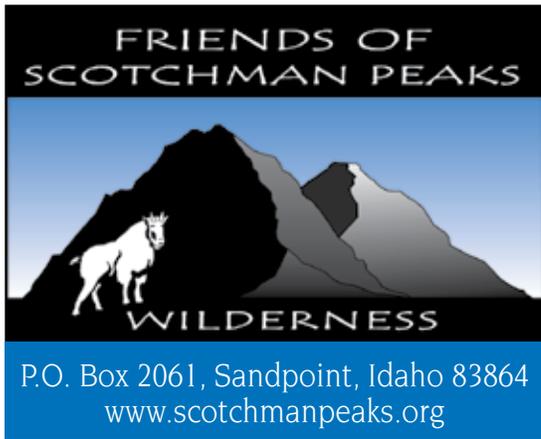
Field days, from page 7

and the Sandpoint Ranger District have been talking about this for a couple of years, and now we get to take much of the hurt out of that steep first section of Trail #65."

If all goes as planned, the first day of work on Trail #65 will be on Friday, June 26.

To see our Field Day Friday schedule, visit scotchmanpeaks.org/event/field-day-fridays/ As plans are completed, the dates will have links to sign-up forms and more details.

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Help support Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderenss

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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My optional donation is enclosed.

Please make checks to FSPW. Our mailing address is P.O. Box 2061, Sandpoint, Idaho 83864. Our offices are upstairs at 323 N. First, Suite 205, above Hen's Tooth Studios

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