



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



FSPW program coordinator Sandy Compton leads the fifth grades from Noxon and Hot Springs on a tour of the Clark Fork watershed during the annual Sanders County Waterfest at Thompson Falls State Park

FSPW was privileged this year to participate for the first time in Sanders County Waterfest, an educational field day at Thompson Falls State Park sponsored and organized by the Green Mountain Conservation District. Waterfest, held this year on a misty October 4, brings all of the fifth graders in Sanders County to the shores of the Clark Fork River for a connected series of “teaching moments” set up as six stations where the kids learn about water and its place in our world. The kids and their escorts (teachers and high school kids from the Thompson Falls High School environmental club) spend 30 minutes at each station learning about fish, wildlife, forests, weeds and watershed.

Friends of Scotchman Peaks program coordinator Sandy Compton gave 120 or so students and adults a short tour of the Clark Fork watershed featuring 6 hand-drawn maps (one for each session) with major streams and a variety of towns drawn in but unnamed. The kids were invited to find their home town and then go from there in naming the features of the watershed so they might understand how big it is and how it works.

“I’d say it was a success,” says Compton. “I had fun and so did the kids. In fact, it was sometimes hard to keep the adults from jumping in with the answers, so I guess they had fun, too.”



Fourth Annual Plein Air Paintout – Artists Working For Wilderness

By Neil Wimberley and Kally Thurman

The 4th Annual Scotchman Peaks Plein Air Paintout convened in Hope, Idaho, on September 23, 24 and 25, the first weekend of fall, with Kally Thurman’s Outskirts Gallery and the Hope Marketplace at the epicenter of activities.

Twenty-two avid and accomplished artists fanned out in and around our favorite wilderness, bringing 64 fresh paintings back to the Gallery Sunday for hanging, viewing, and judging.

The artists’ choice for Best of Show resulted in a tie between Greg Caudell of Republic, WA, and Patsey Parsons of Spirit Lake, ID. Greg produced a striking spontaneous study of Cabin #2 behind the Hope Marketplace titled “Veracity”, and Patsey produced a beautiful luminescent study of the Clark Fork Delta entitled “Birds and Wetland”.

The formal judging was done by Ben Mitchell, a NW art curator and author of books on Harold Balazs, Ruben Trejo, and Theodore Waddell of Montana. The First Place Purchase Award was given to Aaron Johnson of Moscow, ID, for “Birch Trees on Oden Bay” which captured his passion and reverence for nature and trees. Second

prize was awarded to Jared Shear of Thompson Falls, MT, for deftly bringing to life the light falling on shoreline rocks. Diana Moses Botkin of Bonners Ferry, ID, placed third with



Above: Outskirts Gallery owner Kally Thurman and art expert Ben Mitchell ponder the new art created in the 2011 FSPW Scotchman Peaks Plein Air Paintout. Below: Painter Greg Caudell creates his painting “Veracity,” which tied with Patsey Parsons’ “Birds and Wetlands” for the artists’ choice award.

Photos by Neil Wimberley



“Morning Trees by the Lake” showcasing her refined hand in very small works.

In addition to business, Outskirts Gallery and FSPW hosted two evenings of “meet & greet” where the artists had a chance to kick back and share their enthusiasm for art and nature, their expertise, and camaraderie.

Eight paintings were sold that Sunday, and the Outskirts Gallery will continue the exhibit through December inviting the public to view and Buy for the Legacy of Scotchman Peaks with part of the proceeds going to FSPW. The Gallery is open Wed-Sun from 11AM to 5PM. For more information call Kally at (208) 264-5696, or go to www.outskirtsgallery.com. These are Buy Fresh, Buy Local holiday gifts guaranteed to give pleasure for generations.



Message from Chair – Searching for Wolverines

The transition from fall to winter begins in earnest in November. The lingering warm days shorten dramatically and fade to the cold truth of pending winter. The bears make their last rounds fattening up on berries, bugs and whatever else they can scavenge before denning up for the winter. Colors fade from the hillside, leaves cover the stream banks and the first snows changes the landscape to winter white. Our friends the fisher, marten and wolverine, come into their own as the dominant scavengers and wander about at will, though usually unseen. They relish the change of seasons, and so do we.

Last winter we partnered with Idaho Fish and Game to study Rare Forest Carnivores (mostly mustelids) in the West Cabinets. Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness volunteers on snowshoes and back country skis assisted with setting up and monitoring several bait stations in order to attract the crafty critters. Motion sensitive, infrared cameras silently captured photographs, even at night. Our volunteers returned to collect the cameras memory cards and hair samples for DNA analysis. The results were very encouraging with wolverine tracks found and photos taken of over 18 individual fishers visiting locations in the general area of the Scotchman Peaks! Other sites in the Panhandle region turned up further evidence of both Wolverine and Lynx activity.

This year we have partnered with Idaho Fish and Game, the Idaho Conservation League and other community groups and applied to the Zoo Boise Conservation Fund for a grant that would allow us to buy additional cameras, hire a part time coordinator and more than double the number of monitoring locations set up. We've made it past the original screening and are one of 8 finalists from which 4 projects will be selected for funding. We should find out about the grant the first week of November whether or not we will receive the grant.

This newsletter will be printed and in distribution before we know about the grant, so watch our website, listserv alerts and Facebook page for the results. Whatever happens with the grant results, get ready to go searching for Wolverines. Whether we get the grant or not, the Friends of Scotchman Peak and our partners will continue to work on this important monitoring project using the resources available to us!

We look forward to the first snow falling because many of us are excited to be able to spend some time this winter looking for Wolverines. Consider joining us for this great opportunity for a fun and very useful volunteer experience!

— **Phil Hough**



A selection of last year's wolverine hunters

Cinnabar Challenge Grant is close!

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

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

The sooner we reach our goal of \$3,000 in individual contributions, the sooner we will benefit from Cinnabar's match — so, don't delay! Your contribution will help us protect the Scotchman Peaks for our families, for tomorrow.

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





From the Top

The changing seasons are accompanied by changes at the newsletter. Board Member Doug Ferrell is stepping down as the columnist for "Wild Creatures of the Scotchmans", a position he has very ably filled since the initial issues of the newsletter. Beginning next issue, Michael Lucid, Regional Wildlife Biologist, Wildlife Diversity Program, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, will be our columnist. Lauren Mitchell, our first

FSPW intern, has moved on to a new job in South Dakota, leaving us to follow her outdoor exploits from a distance.

Although the weather may be cooling down, there are lots of fun events on our schedule. Check out the newsletter, then bundle up and join us.

— Ann Wimberley

Along the Trail

August 2: Lincoln County Coordinator Molly Kieran made a presentation to the Libby Tourism Bureau

September 17: FSPW volunteers "walked the dogs" for Panhandle Animal Shelter at Farmin Park in Sandpoint during the Farmer's Market.

September 14: Lincoln County Coordinator Molly Kieran made a presentation to the Libby Chamber of Commerce.

September 23-25: The 4th Annual Plein Air Paintout on was held as 22 painters hung 64 new works at the Outskirts Gallery in Hope. (See story on page 2)

September 24: Eight Scotchman Peaks volunteers worked Saturday morning on the FSPW Adopt-A-Highway section, MP 52-54 on Highway 200.

September 30: FSPW, Idaho Conservation League and Selkirk Outdoor Leadership Experience hosted a highly successful appreciation event, Wild Night For Wilderness, at Evans Brothers' Coffee in Sandpoint.

October 4: Program coordinator Sandy Compton participated in the Sanders County Waterfest at Thompson Falls, a water education day for county 5th graders sponsored and organized by Green Mountain Conservation District.

October 4, 12 and 18: Volunteers from Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness and the Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society planted 2300-plus white pine seedlings along decommissioned roads in the Lightning Creek drainage.



Lucy the trail dog is also a white-pine planting volunteer for FSPW.

Photo by Jim Mellen

October 13: Friends of Scotchman Peaks volunteers had a table at Radical Reels at the Panida Theater in Sandpoint.

The Future Looks Bright

November 9: Phil Hough will make a presentation to the Gonzaga University Environmental Studies Program

November 10. Friends Appreciation Night in Lincoln County at the MK Steakhouse, 6:00 pm

November 18: Deadline for inclusion of Scotchman Hikes in the MWA Winter Walk booklet.

November 26: First StoryTelling Company of the season, at the Little Panida Theater. 6:30 doors, 7:15 show. Hors d' oeuvres, no-host bar, live music and tales from Shoreline, sponsored in part by FSPW.

November 28: Scotchman Peaks Sip'n'Shop at Pend Oreille Winery, 5 p.m.

December 1: Mustelid-finding season begins for FSPW volunteers.

December 3: Winter awareness training for volunteers: hike leaders and mustelid research volunteers are urged to attend. 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the Forest Service offices, 1602 Ontario in Sandpoint.

December 15: Deadline for inclusion of Scotchman Peaks winter hikes in the January/February newsletter.

December 18: The StoryTelling Company's Christmas show will be at DiLuna's Café in Sandpoint

January 1: The winter hiking season begins, as well as the 2012 Winter Photo Contest. See page 9 for more details.

January 13: FSPW and Idaho Conservation League will present the Winter Wildlands Film Festival at NIC in Coeur d' Alene.

January 26-28: FSPW will have a table at the Banff Mountain Film Festival at the Panida Theater in Sandpoint

January 29-30: FSPW will have a table at the Banff Mountain Film Festival at the Kroc Center in Coeur d' Alene.

On the Horizon:

February 10: FSPW sponsors the International Wildlife Film Festival in Libby

February 11: FSPW sponsors the International Wildlife Film Festival in Thompson Falls.



Scotchman Natives

Mountain Hollyhock:

A gift from Nature

By Valle Novak

The Mountain Hollyhock (*Iliamna rivularis*) is a member of the Mallow or *Malvaceae* family, and a lovely pink-and-green delight when stumbled across in the woodlands.

Deceptively delicate looking, it is a hardy perennial small shrub found generally in rich, moist soil in a variety of venues. I've found it just as the late Edie Kinucan described in her 1991 book *Wild Wildflowers of the West ...* "along streams, in canyons, on roadsides and in open areas from foothills to almost 9,000 ft. from British Columbia south to Nevada and Colorado."

As a youngster exploring the Coeur d'Alenes (now Panhandle National Forest) with my outdoorsman daddy, I saw my first Mountain Hollyhocks and was disappointed when Dad said they weren't to be picked. Later, I found them in the Selkirks and now here, from a clump on the high open berm where Boyer Avenue meets the Fairgrounds/Schweitzer road, to high in the Scotchmans and all sites in between. Fortunate sightings are always savored because of their soft beauty. Growing singly or in great established clumps three to six feet tall, the spikes of flowers — white to light to dark pink — resemble domestic hollyhocks, but are smaller. Large, maple-like leaves are borne on stems that are coarse, woody and hairy, often irritating to the skin.

Mallows have a long history over many centuries. They were lauded in a Greek Herbal in the Second Century B.C., for the mucilage contained in the stems, leaves and roots which was used in medicinal applications as well as making the sweet called marshmallow (now made of gum, egg white, sugar, etc.). Culpeper's Herbal in 1649 recommended the roots boiled in water as a cure for urinary tract, intestines, and respiratory problems. Kinucan wrote that area Indians often "chewed the stems of some hollyhocks as gum."

Landscaping with Native Plants, the fine new book by the Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society points out that the Mountain Hollyhock is a true perennial unlike the biennial garden variety, which makes it a great garden plant. It is reported to be easily grown from the seeds. I wouldn't recommend digging one, since the roots are tough, intertwined and go "clear to China," and transplanting into a like habitat would probably not be likely. Better to collect some seed pods if possible.



Mountain Hollyhock (*Iliamna rivularis*)

Photo by Marilyn George

While I have seen Mountain Hollyhock in several locations in the Scotchman area, most have been in the Spar Lakes area and around the Dor Skeels Campground in particular.

My most memorable sighting, however, was when we spied a clump of hollyhock on a Monday Hikers foray into the Cabinets a good 15 years ago. My hiking companion was Hazel Hall (even then "pushing 80"), and her delight over it and our ensuing conversation about it was, and still is, a buoyant memory. Like my Dad, she knew the importance of learning, appreciating, and taking joy in everything new that Nature has to offer regardless of age.

Even though they are not really "rare," the Mountain Hollyhock is not truly abundant either, so that when one comes across a cluster it's truly a gift to revel in, photograph and be tickled pink to have been chosen for the "discovery".

Wild Holiday Shopping

Complete your holiday shopping and head out to the wilderness. Check out the cool, reasonably priced Scotchman Swag at our outlets. Our bandanas, tees, sweats and hats are available at Mountain Meadows in Libby, MT, Huckleberry Thicket in Trout Creek, MT, The Hope MarketPlace



in Hope, ID and Foster's Crossing, Eichardt's, and Outdoor Experience in Sandpoint, ID. Out of the area, contact jim@scotchmanpeaks.org.



Limited edition sweatshirts (at left) 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/html



Scotchman Tales:

An Old Friend of Scotchman

by Emory Clark

Editor's note: On the FSPW / Master Naturalist Scotchman hike led by Jack Nisbet, our group met fellow hikers Emory Clark, his children and grandchildren. Emory grew up in Clark Fork and paid for his school clothes picking huckleberries with his family on Scotchman Peak. He shares a poem and a picture of his daughter on that August hike.

I grew up in the foothills
of mighty
Scotchman Peak
on a farm overlooking
upper Mosquito Creek.
In the winter
It's but a muffled flow
hidden deeply
by January snow.
Held captive,
It tinkles like
a tiny tambourine,
inside walls
of frosty glassine,
channeling water
down ravines
and steep draws,
pressing ever
to the river
far below

Short weeks later
in contrast,
this dozing stream
awakens to
rabid adolescence
its noisy force
jarring us awake.
We are in awe.
Giant drifts
on Scotchman
begin to thaw
and myriads
of icy springs
gather as one
under the
relentless gaze
of the robust sun
in mid May.

Pristine glaciers
Inch down the glades,
smoldering
massaged,
caressed,
plundered by

heated winds,
precipitating
roaring cataracts
sending boulders
rolling, tumbling,
rending mammoth trees
into splinters;
emitting booms
of thunder
at every corner;
Succumbing,
smashing...
until we're left to wonder
"is this, indeed,
the crest?"

But, moving into June,
the earth trembles
the house shakes,
Aspen leaves quake.
This unbridled

power
strips and drains
and taxes terrain
beyond repair
as it has
for centuries
and I in my
wilderness house
of logs
feel as would a sentry
waiting, guarding
in vain.

Then lady slippers
disappear along the
shaded trail,
and milkweed glistens
in the meadows
of summer.
No longer Mosquito
Creek roars,
Scotchman Peak
at last, is green!
Streams become
faint melodies
And I know
it is done.

I fetch
grasshoppers,
my willow pole,
and sinkers.
Trout are darting
in the deep pools
and what a Sunday
breakfast
they make
crispy fried
with mommy's
hotcakes
spread with
huckleberry jelly
from Scotchman Peak
picked last August.
Swishing, swirling
In my cheeks.

Later one morning
I awake
to Papa grumbling,
rattling buckets
brothers and sisters,
pulling on their socks,
and mom's long spoon
beating batter
in the crock.
I lie still
smelling cooking smoke.
I hear the
first cake sizzle
So early!
Berry harvest
has begun.
And I, a lad of six
With siblings
All much older
Watch them disappear
from the back yard;
Evelyn, Ella Mae,
Burns and Girard
swinging five gallon
buckets
And lunches
in a pack sack.
I envy them
Or do I?



The family love affair with Scotchman Peak continues: Emory Clark's daughter, Teresa Kincaid, makes an August snow angel near the top of the mountain. Note that she has no 30 pounds of huckleberries to carry home.

Photo by Emory Clark

Up the steep face of
Scotchman
Destinies downtrodden



Birds of the Scotchmans: Find a Fall Rarity

By Jon Isacoff, PhD

Late fall is a time when there just aren't too many birds around other than Ducks and Geese, of which there are a' plenty. Most songbirds have exited Northern Idaho and Montana and those that remain aren't singing. So with choices diminished why not try to find a rarity? Seeking out rarities isn't for everyone; like hoping for a view of a Cougar or a Wolverine, expect to get skunked many times before one lucky success (or maybe just none).

OK, where might you find a rarity? The best bet is to stray slightly away from the Scotchman's proper and explore Lake Pend Oreille. During late fall, there will be well over a million Ducks and Geese on the water along with huge flotillas of little black birds that people sometimes call "mud hens." The "mud hen" is actually the American Coot, a duck-like swimmer that's not a duck at all but is closely related to Rails and Cranes. Back to those rarities: amongst the Ducks and Coots, if you see a black or brownish-black Duck that is slightly larger than the coots

and diving deeply like a Loon might, you may have a Scoter. Surf and White-winged Scoters are common coastal birds that typically don't drift out of sight of saltwater. But each year a few birds wander inland to Lake Pend Oreille.

Common Loons are no rarity to Lake Pend Oreille and anyone who's spent time in the area loves these beautiful birds. But if you see a curiously small Loon you might have a Pacific Loon that's drifted in from the coast, much like its Scoter compatriots attracted to the big, deep water of Idaho's largest lake. For a very lucky few: be on the lookout for an especially large Loon with

a slightly up-turned, oversized yellow bill, the trademark of the rare arctic Yellow-billed Loon. Though not annually seen, Lake Pend Oreille is a known spot for these super-rarities.

Late fall is also a great time for Winter Finches, discussed last year in Peak Experience. Winter Finches are not all "rare" per se, but again, rare is relative to the beholder. The least rare are Pine Grosbeaks and White-winged Crossbills, which breed in the remote upper elevation coniferous forests of the Scotchman's but are apt to drift closer to civilization as the weather changes. Rarer are Gray-crowned



A pair of pine grosbeaks grace a spruce branch

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

Rosy Finches; a ground-loving Finch that could easily be confused at a distance for Juncos, which are the same size and have a very similar flocking and feeding style. These birds love barren, rocky, tundra-like habitats, typically found near exposed ridges, but they'll go to any elevation where they can find that terrain, even gravel roads. Usually seen in flocks of 5-20, occasionally a "mega-flock" of 200 or more birds will pass through North Idaho.

If rare birds elude you this season you can always look for something even rarer: a sunny, warm day in the Scotchman's in late fall!

each will pick five
gallons
and papa, more!

And tomorrow?
The promise of
A sweet rest
does not await them;
only steady hiking
plinking, thinking,
pretending
it is something
worth the liking.

Later looking back,
they will agree
love kept them going
Love, each for the other,
the sisters, the brothers.
Love for father
Love for mother
Love for laughter
aimless chatter
logs to sit on
each bush bent and picked
until every pail is filled
and all that's left is
running home as quickly
as legs will carry them
and
an extra thirty pounds
of berries
down the trail
To mama's stew;
To mama's roast chicken;
To mama's fresh parsnips;
To mama's
huckleberry cobbler;

One can only guess
What they recall
sixty years later.
The rugged trails?
The endless patches above??

Well friend
I'll tell you,

When they speak of
Scotchman Peak
It is with unabashed
Love!



Over the Top Volunteers

Man with a maddock: Dan Simmons by Sandy Compton

Dan Simmons likes to keep moving, which may be explained by his confession that he “grew up all over the West” before graduating from Cascade, Idaho, High School. After two years of college, he joined the Army, and spent “the only time of my life when I got my mail on the east side of the Rockies.” The Army sent him to Fort Gordon, GA, where he learned to be an MP, and then took him back across the mountains to Dugway Proving Grounds in Utah, where biological and chemical weapons are tested, “in case you wonder why I think like I do,” he quips.

In spite of that, and all of his wanderings, he’s pretty stable. After service, he went to California and got a job running a jackhammer. “They must have seen some promise in me,” he says, “because a few weeks later, they gave me a shovel.” He spent a bit more than three decades in the construction business. He’s also been married to the same woman for 30 years. He and Fina, short for Josephine, put together a “Brady Bunch family” — two of his and two of hers from first marriages — and raised them in California while Dan became a contractor and concrete guy.

When retirement began crooking an attractive finger in their direction, Dan and Fina really started moving, and spent half a decade on an extended Western tour looking for the spot they wanted to resettle to. The one they both liked was Sagle, and they made their move in 2003.



Dan Simmons whacks away at Trail #65 with his mattock — “. . . just a two-count movement.”

Sandy Compton photo

for, as a former contractor, he’s become a lookout construction aficionado. “It’s unfortunate, I think, that as lookouts became obsolete, the Forest Service started tearing them down. The one that used to be on Scotchman Peak was a ‘cupola style,’” he explains, “while the one on Star Peak is an L4 cabin, which became a standard in its day. It’s a prefab kit — the Model T of lookouts — the first to be mass produced and universally used.”

Whether there is a structure on the site or not, he says that the attraction is their location — they are still spectacular, and he will continue to visit them. His favorite site so far is Iron

Since then, Dan’s done a lot of more moving around, much of it afoot. He and friend John Dale have climbed Mickinnick Trail hundreds of times, and Dan has spent an abundance of time hiking to 59 lookout sites in the region. Inspired by Ray Kresek’s book, *Fire Lookouts of the Northwest*, Dan says, “I’m trying to do about 20 a summer.”

Of the 59 sites he’s visited, only 6 or so still have lookouts left on them, which he finds regrettable,

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Photo contests: Summer was sweet and simple . . .



Jason Dewitt’s Majestic was voted the best picture of the 2011 summer hiking season by Facebook Friends of Scotchman Peaks.

Our photo contest format has changed over the years. Some have worked better than others, and this summer’s contest was one of the better. We made it simple by letting our Facebook Friends pick their favorite from each hike of which pictures were submitted, and then putting up a variety of “independent” entries with the same sort method. It all came down to eight finalists, seven from various hikes and the favorite independent, a stunner called “Majestic” by Jason Dewitt that was voted best-of-season by Facebook likes.

Other winners (which you will see in these pages as time goes on) were “Early Summer Maple Leaves” by Deb Hunsicker; “The In-Progress Work Tree” by Denise Zembryki; “Coya out on the snow as usual” by Jim and Sandii Mellen; “Steeper than a cow’s face” by Brian Jokela; “Goats, goats, goats — big deal! I live up here full time too.” by Neil Wimberley; “Ross Creek Falls” by Marsha Gilbert; and “Where the heck are we?” by Kerrie Morrow. View all the summer winners at <http://on.fb.me/ScotchmanTopPics2011>



Peak Views

Summer hikes behind, winter hikes ahead.

By **Sandy Compton**

Winter is on its way and we are looking for winter hikers and hike leaders as well as wolverine “hunters.” The traditional Winter Hiking Series begins January 1, but anyone who wishes to lead a hike any time after December 1 is welcome to send the details to trails@scotchmanpeaks.org or submit the hike online at www.scotchmanpeaks.org and we will get your hike on the schedule. Hike leaders should submit hike proposals by November 18 for inclusion in the Montana Wilderness Association Winter Walks Series, and by December 15 for the Friends of Scotchman Peaks schedule to be published in the January / February Peak Experience

Last year, FSPW volunteers and volunteers from other organizations helped Idaho Fish and Game Department gain valuable information about wolverines and other mustelids in the Scotchman Peaks as well as other areas of the Cabinets



Brian Baxter talks to a group about old-growth ecology at Ross Creek Cedars during one of four education hikes sponsored by FSPW in summer 2011

Photo by **Lauren Mitchell**

and the Selkirks. Adventurous types who want to help seek out wolverines and other mustelids in the Scotchmans (or other places in the Idaho Panhandle), contact sandy@scotchmanpeaks.org.

Our Scotchman Peaks Summer Hikes series was spectacularly successful this year. FSPW volunteers led 20 hikes this past summer, with 173 participants. Of these, four were educational hikes, two each facilitated by well-known naturalist and author Jack Nisbet and tracking and mustelid expert Brian Baxter. Thirty-nine of the total hikers participated in the educational hikes.

In addition to the volunteer-led hikes, FSPW also organized and carried out three cooperative trail maintenance projects with the Forest Service, two two-day projects and a one-day project brought out 19 separate volunteers (12 of whom put in more than one day), plus FSPW staff, and culminated in 45 total days of trail work. It was a great summer. Here's to a grand winter.

. . . and the winter contest has a great prize!

If you are in or around the Scotchman Peaks this winter (you have to be able to see the wilderness), and you take a picture you think is really cool, attach it to an e-mail telling where you took it, when you took it, and maybe even why you took it and send the whole kit and caboodle to sandy@scotchmanpeaks.org.

Only send what you think is the very best, because you can only submit one picture per week to this contest, which starts December 1 and runs through the last hike of the winter season, or April 30, whichever comes last.

The pictures will be judged by that same highly qualified panel from last summer (the Facebook Friends of Scotchman Peaks will vote with their “likes” on pictures posted in a special album), and the best picture of each month will get the shooter a very cool Scotchman Peaks hat.

The grand prize for this contest is truly grand: a night's stay for two next summer at the Huckleberry Tent and Breakfast (<http://huckleberrytentandbreakfast.com>) near Clark Fork. The winner will be the winter picture submitted with the most



This is last winter's funniest photo, “Is this thing working?” It was taken by a Reconix remote camera at a wolverine bait station.

Facebook “likes” overall at the end of the season

The way to win: Send those weekly pictures in and invite your friends to vote for your photo(s) on the Scotchman Peaks Facebook page.



Scotchman Rocks: Geologic Maps – The Ultimate References

By **Mark McFadden, PhD**

Wondering what those rocks were alongside the road or trail on your last outing in the scenic panhandle of Idaho? A great number of geologic maps are available that will help answer the question – and undoubtedly bring up many others as you examine the patterns, colors, and symbols used by geologists to represent complex three-dimensional geology on a flat sheet of paper. Fortunately for those of us interested in Idaho geology, the Idaho Geological Survey has many free resources online to help us in our search for deeper understanding of the world around us.

Digital web maps produced as part of the Statemap program may be viewed (and downloaded) online for free at the IGS website, and are a great place to start. Although a geologic map may resemble strange abstract art to the novice, each map contains enough information to fill a small book if all of it were expressed verbally. A quick tour of the layout of a typical geologic map, such as Scotchman Peak (DWM-24), should help us get oriented.

The “Explanation” of a geologic map lists all of the rock units expressed on the map, and provides a brief description of each. The map color and symbol are shown in a small box to the left of the rock description: a capital letter indicates the age of the rock unit, and smaller case letters abbreviate the formal name of the unit. All rocks on the map are listed in stratigraphic order, with the youngest on the top and oldest on the bottom,

just as they occur in nature. References are provided for those of us who need more information about research in the area, and scales and base map information are also included.

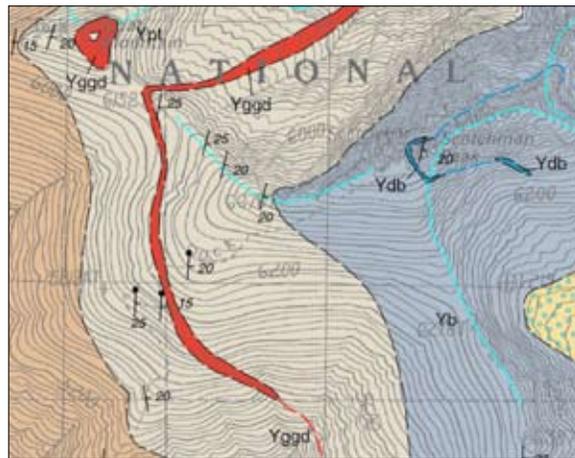
One of the really neat features of the IGS Digital Web Maps is the illustration of map symbols in small boxes adjacent to the map itself. Each box is a “snapshot” from the map, serving to

show the symbols in context as they were actually used on the particular geologic map. Some symbols are specific to the area covered by the individual geologic map, whereas many are common on most of the geologic maps you will encounter.

One of the most ubiquitous symbols on maps with layered rocks is the strike and dip symbol. The small “T”-shaped symbol indicates the orientation of the layers; it can be understood by placing your hand on the map parallel to the colored stripes of the outcrop pattern. The short leg of the “T” is the dip direction. It is labeled with the angle at which the strata dip into the planet.

By tilting your hand to approximate the dip angle, you can envision the steepness at which the layers project down into the crust. Geologists use data such as the strikes and dips of strata to construct geologic cross-sections representing slices through the map area essential to working out three-dimensional geological relationships.

The next time you plan a trip out into our local geological landscape, take a preview tour with a geological map. Knowing what to look for makes the journey even more fun!



Detail of the Scotchman Peak 7.5' Quadrangle, indicating strikes and dips of Precambrian Belt Supergroup rocks at the summit.

Volunteer, from page 8

Mountain in the northwestern Cabinets, though it's not an easy place to approach. “There's a three-quarter-mile stretch of trail leading to the spot where my heels never touched the ground.”

Dan became active as a volunteer with Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness when FSPW did their first cooperative trail project with the Forest Service on Scotchman Peak Trail #65 in June of 2010. He and John Dale showed up early and were already a long way up the trail before the rest of the crew was out of their cars. He's a guy who likes to get things done.

He's good at building tread, according to this witness, and when asked why, he says, “It's just a two-count movement. Pretty simple. Even I can do that.”

While working on a trail, Dan prefers his mattock, a heavy, ugly thing — in the opinion of this witness — when compared to a Pulaski. He has his reasons. “Zorro had his favorite sword,

didn't he? Yes, the mattock is considerably heavier, but that means there is more inertia when it hits the ground. Also, the back blade is wider than a Pulaski's, which, in the course of a day, could make the difference of a ton of material.”

And don't doubt that he can move that ton and more. His specialty is putting tread back where it once was after some natural phenomena has wiped it out.

When he's not hiking or helping with trail projects or cleaning up the FSPW Adopt-A-Highway section, Dan and Fina like to travel in their RV. They have traveled from the Florida Keys to the Arctic Circle. Their canine traveling companion, Dee Dee, “saw a griz, a gator, a moose and a manatee and barked at all of them.”

Dee Dee, a Rhodesian Ridgeback, died last year at 13; but three-year-old Dottie, also a Ridgeback, is ready to keep rolling. And so is Dan. Five years ago, at age 58, he took up downhill skiing, and now enjoys sliding down the mountains in winter nearly as much as he does climbing them in the summer.



Trail Talk: Mule Falls, a hidden wonder

By **Sandy Compton**

Some of my favorite places don't have trails leading to them, and a hiker in places like that has to use more cautious and be more observant, but adventure begins where the marked trail ends, and rewards are great. Also, the chances of running into a big group are small — which means that it's pretty much up to you to find your own way home.

The Scotchmans are full of such places; some more challenging than others. This trek is milder than some, but a great hike to a beautiful destination; Mule Falls.

If you've never heard of Mule Falls, you're not alone — it's a hidden wonder of the Scotchmans. Upon arrival, the view is both spectacular and frustrating, for there are few places one can view the falls directly, and none of them is readily accessible. But, I'm getting ahead of myself.

To find Mule Falls, drive to the end of Blue Creek Road # 409, which turns north from Montana Highway 200 1.5 miles from the Idaho border. This road requires a high-clearance vehicle and includes a ford across Blue Creek at mile 2.5 passenger cars should not attempt — especially during runoff.

At 3.8 miles, a "No Turnarounds Beyond This Point" sign presides over a large parking place. Leave your vehicle and walk up the road beside a clean and clear Blue Creek running over alluvial boulders. Beyond an open gate (don't worry — public access allowed), the road turns right across the creek, and a narrower tread continues straight ahead. Stay left and follow a newly-decommissioned road a quarter mile to where it transitions to a grown-in old road with an obvious foot trail. Scan the opposite bank at the transition and see an old adit, entrance to the Lucky Star, or Stackhouse, Mine, inactive for decades.

The ruin of a road above the mine was used to haul shake bolts out of upper Blue Creek in the early 20th century, and there are many signs of that activity along the road, including rusting cable, huge stumps and pieces of "corduroy road," which was made by laying split cedar over wet spots in the road to keep wheels from sinking into the mud.

The road continues along the creek for about a mile before ending abruptly at a big slab of rock that falls into the creek.

To your left, find a faint trace though dark climax forest on the hillside above the creek. Follow this trail upstream. If you lose it temporarily, you will be forced back to it by topography. The further from the stream, the steeper the hillside gets, and the trail stays near the stream.

A half-mile upstream, the trail passes below the end of a rocky ridge and then ascends a similar crest before falling into a thicket of Pacific yew, where some of the largest yew in the Scotchmans reside. Work your way through this patch on an elk trail and note the beds in the grasses among the trees. At the north end of the patch, the trail winds left out of the yews and then right up onto another ridge, where you will hear the timbre of the East Fork running through a rocky chute and dropping over Mule Falls. At the top of the ridge, work your way to the right, and the creek will come into view below you.

Here's the tricky part. The creek comes in from the left, runs down a stone trough and disappears over the edge of the falls, but the falls themselves are obscured by the top of the cliff it runs over. If you're sure-footed and it's not been raining, it's possible to work your way down a series of shelves and get a somewhat obscured view of the falls.

The best views, you will soon see, are from a point above the falls on the other side of the creek and from the bed of the creek below the falls. If you are willing to get scratched up and do a bit of hairy scrambling, the point across the creek is accessible by going upstream and crossing the creek above the chute, and then

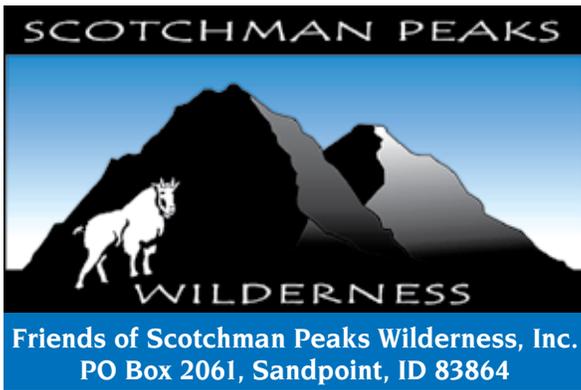
navigating a series of small shelves and cliffs back to the spot from upstream. BE CAREFUL, and remember that your best route out is the way you came in. To view the falls from below, get in the creek near the bottom of the first rocky ridge and wade up the creek. Observe the banks of the creek as you wade upstream. You'll be fully convinced that it's the easiest way through the jungle in the bottom.

Whether you get a full view or have to settle for a partial sight, the way out is the way in. If you get off track, don't worry. Stay on the right side as you go downstream, and you will surely encounter the old road, which will lead you back to your car.



Mule Falls is hidden deep in the East Fork of Blue Creek in the Scotchmans

Sandy Compton photo



How You Can Help

Support Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

e-mail: _____

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

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