



PEAK EXPERIENCE

The Newsletter for Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness, Inc.

Volume 7, Number 5 • September / October 2011

Mission Statement

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



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

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

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Taking Artistic License in the Scotchmans

Artists Aaron Johnson (left) and Jared Shear put their visions of an icy Little Spar Lake to canvas at the start of the 2011 Extreme Plein Air expedition into the Scotchmans Peaks Wilderness, July 27 - 30.

Photo by Neil Wimberley

Extreme Plein Air Expedition V 3.0

The third annual Scotchman Peaks Extreme Plein Air Expedition, July 27 – 30, began with an artists’ revolt — well, maybe it was just a strong suggestion. Evidently, the artists were tired of being dragged endlessly across ridges and through tag alder jungles on disappearing elk trails by hike leader Sandy Compton (FSPW program coordinator), and so asked if this year a base camp could be established where they could camp for a few nights and just make art.

And so, a small artist’s colony came into being for three nights on the divide between Spar and Savage Creeks in the central Scotchmans. While artists Aaron Johnson, Jared Shear, David Herbold and Lauren McCleary gathered and recorded imagery, observer Jeff Pennick, intern Lauren Mitchell and Compton explored around the camp, climbed Vertigo Ridge to Scotchman Two as well as Son-Of-Savage, and made incursions into the Savage Creek drainage.

“Upper Savage Creek may be the wildest place in the wilderness,” Compton opined. “We tried a couple of approaches to the creek from above — way above — and were stymied by some incredible cliffs both time. I’m not sure I want to get into that canyon after the recon trips.”

Continue on page 11



Over the Top Volunteers

John Harbuck and Susan Bates-Harbuck: A Pair to Draw To.

By **Sandy Compton**

In the 1970s, John Harbuck, ex-Fresnoite, chem lab expatriate and budding Cutco knife salesman, left cutlery behind and accepted a job with the National Outdoor Leadership program. Before he knew it, he was in Yellowstone Park, teaching a ski camping course.

In the meantime, a young woman from Bakersfield named Susan Bates, tired of “growing fat and indolent” in Texas, did something about it and signed up for said ski camping course. The instructor was impressed by her ability to pitch forward into the snow onto her face with a full pack on.

“She was incapable of moving,” John says, “and I’d have to pick her up.”

“He wasn’t actually the one to pick me up,” Susan says “I was at the end of the line. And in my defense, it only happened once.

However, she was capable of cooking, and negotiated that most well-advertised path to a man’s heart: the stomach. “She made great tortillas,” John says with a grin. Susan and John were married in 1978.

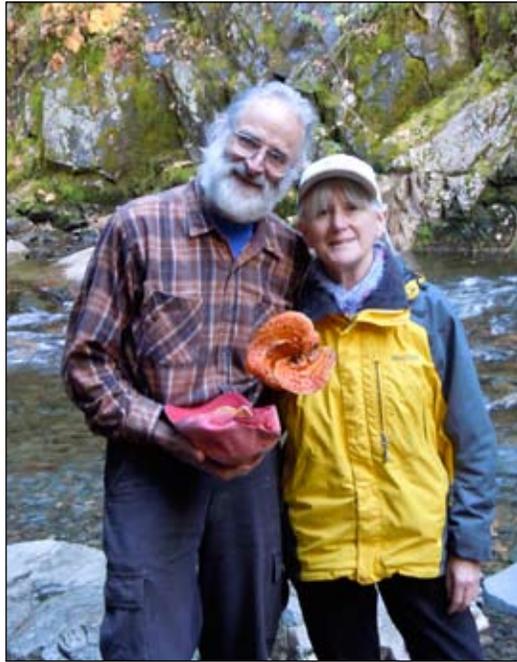
Susan, the quieter of the two, is still cooking. A walk into her kitchen is a sensory experience. As John returns from rummaging for greens in their huge garden, she stirs a pot with a hand full of something hovering over the chicken sauté. “Hot or medium,” she asks. There appears to be no “mild” on her menu, and don’t say “hot” unless you mean it.

These two have not lived an idle life. Since moving to Sandpoint a year after being married, Susan and John have lived in a number of houses, including two houses and one workshop they have built themselves on the property they live on in the Selle Valley, about half way between the Selkirk and Cabinet ranges, in which they have both hiked extensively.

Their first trip up Scotchman was in 1983.

Among other things they have done for fun and money, they participated in a 1980s wolf study in the Clearwater drainage of central Idaho, and an acid rain study in the lakes of the Selkirks and Western Cabinets. Susan has taught school full time and as a substitute and tutored extensively (she received her Masters in Teaching Mathematics in 2005).

She has also been a 4-H leader, a Girl Scout leader and a co-superintendent of the rabbit barn at the Bonner County Fair. For the past 8 years, she has worked at East Bonner County Library.



John and Susan on a fungi-hunting forray in the Cabinets. These were not edible, much to their disappointment.

Once, Susan, with two other women, signed a piece of paper that saved the Panida Theater in downtown Sandpoint from a date with the wrecking ball. In 1985, Susan was “induced” by her friend Laurel Wagers to sign off on a mortgage on the theater with Laurel and Sandpoint maven Jane Evans.

Sticking out their personal necks was the only way they could figure out how to save the building, and it worked. Ten years later, the historic building became a community owned venue used by many groups and individuals, including the Friends, for public events and entertainment. “We weren’t really too much at risk,” John says, with a note of relief in his voice. “I think.”

John and Susan have been involved with FSPW from the beginning. Their first FSPW hike was a

Continued on page 11

From the Top

Despite the cooler weather this summer, for FSPW things have been smoking hot as evidenced by this packed issue of Peak Experience. Three of our popular summer hikes were made possible by the FSPW/Idaho Master Naturalist, Pend Oreille Chapter partnership. Brian Baxter, Glacier Institute faculty member, led a successful tracking hike in the riparian area around Blue Creek. Spokane naturalist, author and teacher Jack Nisbet led groups up Scotchman Peak and Morris Creek focusing on plants in the area and how they are used by Native Americans.

The Extreme Plein Air Expedition was again a celebration of both wilderness and art. View the results at the upcoming Plein Air Paint Out.

Our columnists continue to teach us more about the natural science of this special area. Photographs of its beauty abound. Join us on the trail and experience fall in the Scotchmans firsthand

— **Ann Wimberley.**



Message from Chair – A Salute to Aldo Leopold

Sept 3rd marks the 47th anniversary of the signing of the Wilderness Act. To celebrate, let's salute Aldo Leopold, a visionary conservationist, forester, philosopher, educator, author, and outdoor enthusiast.

I first encountered Leopold 20 years ago when I read *A Sand County Almanac*, a compelling book about environmental degradation, conservation values and land ethics. Leopold's writing leaps off the page with a strong sense of place and personal involvement. I was half way through the book before realizing it was written in the 1940s. It is still as fresh and forward thinking even today.

Leopold, considered by many to have been the most influential voice for conservation during the 20th century, defined the emerging concepts of ecological thinking and land ethics. In 1948, Aldo Leopold wrote in *A Sand County Almanac*: "A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise."

In 1909 Leopold was one of the first to graduate from the Yale University Forestry program and promptly went to work for the US Forest Service in the Southwest. He brought a knowledge of sound science and applied it to public land management. He also continued to observe, learn and develop concepts about how the natural world is a web of communities in which prey and predator are integral to the overall health of the environment.

At the age of 24 he was promoted to Carson National Forest Supervisor in New Mexico. He was instrumental in developing a proposal to manage 500,000 acres of the Gila National Forest as a wilderness area. The forest service responded in 1924 by administratively declaring this wild jumble of desert, canyons and mountains as the nation's first Wilderness area.

Moving to Wisconsin in 1924 to take a research position with the Forest Service, Leopold continued his investigations into ecology and conservation. Leopold, considered the father of Wildlife Management, became the country's first professor of

"Game Management" in the 1933 at the University of Wisconsin, literally writing the first textbook on managing game: "Game Management".

Not content with administrative declaration of Wilderness, Leopold along with 7 others founded the Wilderness Society in 1935 and began the long march towards passage of the Wilderness Act. We owe a debt of gratitude to Aldo Leopold whose vision and accomplishments created a legacy and whose work continues to guide and inspire.

The Aldo Leopold Institute, the Center for Humans and Nature and the US Forest Service have recently produced a stunning film, *Greenfire*, documenting the life and work of Aldo Leopold. Some of you may have seen it recently in Sandpoint, or in other places around the country featuring early showings. The producers are working to place it on PBS in 2012. Check your local theater and TV listings. In the meantime, pick up a copy of the *Sand County Almanac* and delight in its treasures.

— Phil Hough

Cinnabar Challenge Grant

For the sixth consecutive year the Cinnabar Foundation has awarded a challenge grant to the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness. If you are considering a contribution to assist us in our efforts to protect the Scotchman Peaks as Wilderness, this is the perfect time to send 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!



Be goat aware: Keep 'em wild!



Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness remind you:
Mountain Goats are wild!

- Do not assume that mountain goats are tame. Respect their personal space and respect their presence as the "kings of the mountain."
- Do not feed mountain goats. This makes them associate humans with food and sometimes even dependent on humans as a source of food.
- Do not urinate close to the trail. Goats have very little sodium in their diet and have discovered that human urine is a great source of salt.
- Do not leave your backpack unattended. Mountain goats will chew off the sweaty straps.

Help Keep Our Furry Friends Wild!

In cooperation with:










Along the Trail

- July 2:** FSPW volunteers had booth at the Clark Fork centennial
- July 4:** FSPW volunteers marched in parades in Sandpoint, Clark Fork, Heron, Noxon, and Troy.
- July 7:** FSPW participated in First Thursday, downtown Sandpoint.
- July 8:** FSPW had an open house at their new office, upstairs, 323 N. First.
- July 9:** FSPW volunteers tabled at the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band concert at J. Neils Park in Libby.
- July 9 & 10:** FSPW volunteers assisted Idaho Panhandle National Forests crews in reclaiming Regal Creek Trail #556 in the Lightning Creek drainage. **A National Trails Day event.** (See stories on pages 8 and 9)
- July 17:** Brian Baxter led a tracking class and hike in the East Fork of Blue Creek, cosponsored by FSPW and the Idaho Master Naturalist Program.
- July 24 and 25:** FSPW Volunteers joined the USFS Cabinet Ranger District on the Pillick Ridge Trail#1036, with assistance from Mary Franzel and her horses. **A National Trails Day event.**
- July 27 - 30:** The third annual Extreme Plein Air expedition was undertaken in the Spar Creek and Savage Creek drainages. Artists Jared Shear, Aaron Johnson, David Herbold and Lauren McCleary created art in the wilderness.
- July 30:** FSPW summer intern Lauren Mitchell was present at Yaak Wilderness Fest in the Hot Club at Troy.
- August 2:** FSPW administrative assistance and wilderness advocacy trainee Jim Murphy. Jim will work 18 hours per week in a position funded by Experience Works, a national program dedicated to training second-career individuals
- August 4:** FSPW was at First Thursday, downtown Sandpoint.
- August 6 and 7:** Author Jack Nisbett led hikes **cosponsored by FSPW and the Idaho Master Naturalist program**, to Scotchman Peak and in Morris Creek.
- August 12 - 14:** FSPW volunteers worked in a Friends' booth at the Huckleberry Festival in Trout Creek.
- August 13:** FSPW program coordinator Sandy Compton and trainee



Our youngest Friend and 4th of July hiker, Kurt, grandson of FSPW vice-chair Carol Jenkins, marched the whole parade route in Sandpoint. Watch out, Scotchman Peak, here he comes!

Photo by Phil Hough

- Jim Murphy, as well as volunteer Andy Kannelly, worked at the first annual Sandpoint Eco Fair at Evanis Brothers Coffee in Sandpoint.
- August 14:** Brian Baxter led an educational hike about old growth ecology with at Ross Creek Cedars.
- August 20:** FSPW volunteers joined the Three Rivers District trail crew in rebuilding tread on the Little Spar Lake Trail. **A National Trails Day event.**
- August 23 - 27:** FSPW volunteers, summer intern Lauren Mitchell and trainee Jim Murphys worked in the Friends' booth at Bonner County Fair.
- August 31:** FSPW and the US Forest Service showed the film *Green Fire*—the life story of conservation great Aldo Leopold.

The Future Looks Bright

- September 17:** FSPW volunteers will “walk the dogs” for Panhandle Animal Shelter at Farmin Park in Sandpoint during the Farmer’s Market. (Contact lauren@scotchmanpeaks.org to help walk the dogs)
- September 24-25:** Kally Thurman’s Outskirts Gallery & Hope Marketplace along with FSPW are sponsoring the 4th Annual Plein Air Paintout on Saturday and Sunday, September 24 and 25. On Sunday at noon twenty of this regions finest artists begin hanging their fresh paintings from the weekend’s work at the Outskirts Gallery in Hope, Idaho. The art will be judged at 2PM, and will go on sale at 3PM. The artists will be available Sunday afternoon for the public to meet and discuss their work. Come join the fun on a beautiful Fall day. Contact Kally Thurman (264-5696) for details.
- September 24:** Public Lands Day • Scotchman Peaks Adopt-A-Highway cleanup day, MP 52-54 on Highway 200. Clean up the road and then have dinner with the plein air artists. (Contact jacob@scotchmanpeaks.org to help)
- September 30:** FSPW, Idaho Conservation League and Selkirk Outdoor Leadership Experience will host a hike leaders appreciation event at Evans Brothers’ Coffee in Sandpoint.
- October 8:** FSPW executive director Phil Hough will lead the last hike of the 2011 summer season to Scotchman Peak.
- October 9:** Proposals for hikes for the 2011-12 winter season are welcome. Hikes should be scheduled between January 1 and April 30.
- On the Horizon:**
- November 16:** Lincoln County Volunteer Dinner at the MK Steakhouse in Libby
- November 18:** Deadline for inclusion of Scotchman Hikes in the MWA Winter Walk booklet.
- November 28:** Scotchman Peaks Sip’n’Shop at Pend Oreille Winery, 5 p.m.



Tales of the Scotchmans — The Call of the Mountains

By **Lauren Mitchell** — FSPW Summer Intern

Editor's note: Lauren Mitchell, FSPW's first intern, will be greatly missed as she heads for new adventures this fall. Next year's intern will find her a hard act to follow.

Why is it that mankind feels the need to climb mountains? To head into wilderness carrying what we need to survive on our backs? Why do we force our legs to carry us higher and higher, to places where the only big mammal is the mountain goat? The answer I think is different for all of us.

For me, I identify it as "the call of the mountains." The draw, the pull, to see the world from a different height, to look beyond the ranges, is one I can never seem to completely satisfy or understand, and one I don't want to.

July 17th was the day I was leading a hike up the namesake mountain Scotchman Peak. I had had a number of people email me to sign-up but there was one person who signed up that I was particularly excited about! My dad had emailed me saying he wanted to go on my Scotchman hike. At first I had thought it was a joke, as my parents live in New York, but as I continued to read the email I realized that he was really coming – he asked me to pick him up at the airport!

The few days before July 17th were a whirlwind. My dad arrived and I began showing him around my new world. He was a little worried about climbing Scotchman because it's been awhile since he's climbed a big mountain. I assured him that he could do it.

The morning of the 17th, a mixed group of people gathered at the trailhead to Scotchman Peak. I knew right away that we



Sitting on top of the world, FSPW intern Lauren Mitchell and her dad, Mark, enjoy some family time on Scotchman Peak

wouldn't be able to stay all in one group; there was too much variability in age and physical strength. So we decided to have some 'check points' where everyone would wait for those behind them. We decided to meet in the meadows and to do the summit together.

It was a hot and beautiful day! Every piece of shade was a welcome respite from the baking sun. But the wilderness was beautiful! It seemed Scotchman was trying to show off just for us. Wildflowers were blooming, birds were singing, and our calves were screaming as we headed up, and up, and up!

When we reached the top of Scotchman Peak there were a few people, but no mountain goats to our disappointment. But as we ate our

lunch and tried to identify the peaks around us, the mountain goats began to slowly arrive; first two, then one more, and finally two big males. When the big males arrived all the other goats seems to lose their fear of humans. The goats were never extremely aggressive, but they weren't backing down, they were after food and salt. So just a friendly reminder: goats are wild animals, respect them and their space, and don't feed them!

Our encounter with mountain goats over, we headed back down the mountain. The best part was sliding on the snow patches that still remained in the higher elevations. My dad especially had fun glissading down the mountain. It was an enjoyable hike down, with some great people in a beautiful place.

We reached the bottom, and then my dad and I climbed into my pick-up. "Dad," I said, "we just climbed the highest point in Bonners County together." I guess he heard the call of the mountains even 3,000 miles away in Bath, New York.

Bearly curious? Sign up to hunt for griz sign.

Study in the Cabinet- Yaak seeks volunteers

We all enjoy a good wildlife sighting when we're out for a hike, especially of those creatures seen rarely and remotely. But along the way, we likely pass other wildlife signs by unnoticed, those that allow a more intimate understanding of the forest's life.

Wildlife sign is everywhere if you take the time to look, and current technology allows us to look even further into what their sign can tell. A research project in and around the Cabinet-Yaak Grizzly Bear Recovery Zone is currently looking for bear rubs on roads and trails in order to set up hair sampling stations. The project will use DNA from these samples to estimate the population of grizzly bears within the study area.

You can volunteer to help our technicians find rubs and set up sampling stations in the Scotchman Peaks area or anywhere else within the study area. This will involve hiking trails and roads with an eye for bear sign, particularly rubs, and assisting with data collection.



Possible dates are: Sept 4 - 8, 14 - 22, and Sept 28 - Oct 6. If you are interested in volunteering, please call Kristina Boyd at (406) 890-4353 to inquire.



Scotchman Natives: Choice Native Poorly Named

False Bugbane

By **Valle Novak**

False bugbane (*Trautvetteria carolinensis*), is a member of the Buttercup Family (*Ranunculaceae*), and whoever chose its unfortunate name wasn't too "up" on its background.

Its tiny clustered white/pale green flowers do bear the narrow petals associated with fleabane (*Erigeron*, a member of the Aster family), but its large, lovely leaves more resemble thimbleberry or Mayapple than the asters.

When False bugbane established itself in my landscape, I was delighted and at first thought it was Mayapple — which is rare here. I had seen False bugbane only rarely in the moist lowlands around the Selkirks and admired it for its real beauty. When it became my guest, I kept watching for the "apple" to appear, but had to do some research to establish its identity as a "deciduous, rhizomatous, perennial forb" (from "Subalpine Flora of the Selkirk Mountains") ... that could be "confused with globeflower or Trollius."

I disagree with the latter, since bugbane's leaves are not as shiny of the *Ranunculi*, and tend to a more lavish, bushy growth. Supporting me (albeit unknowingly) Arthur Kruckeberg* feels it "looks more like a small goat's beard



False bugbane (*Trautvetteria caroliniensis*)

Photo by Marilyn George

(*Aruncus*) with large, triangular, deeply lobed and toothed basal leaves." Too, he calls it a "pretty woodlander" that "grows in moist woods all across the continent and then reappears in Japan."

He sees it as an asset to any shady/moist woodsy setting, as do I. I have successfully transplanted parts of it to a more likely section of my garden, and it took hold beautifully. The mother plant was undisturbed and continues to grow, thrive and enlarge its chosen area on the north side of my house. There it has ignored winter winds, drifts of snow often falling off my chalet roof to depths of eight-plus feet, and dry, hot summers.

If you find a large plant, do yourself a favor and dig sharply into the outer edge to capture plant/rhizome and give it a home in your native landscape. If you come across it in the late fall, gathering seeds will serve as well.

By the way, just as the name "fleabane" has not proved any resistance to fleas, False bugbane does not repel bugs. Bees and other pollinators work busily on the pretty little flower heads of my plants. Too, where the "False" came from, I have no idea: I have never found a "true" bugbane in any of my books. How about you? I'll pass on any information I receive!

* Arthur Kruckeberg, former botanist at the University of Washington, specialized in flora of the Pacific NW for over three decades. His illustrated book (my botanic bible) is *Gardening with Native Plants of the PNW*, U or W. Press, ISBN 0-295-96853-2

Birds of the Scotchmans: Uncanny Corvids

By **Jonathan Isacoff, PhD**

Corvids deserve some appreciation. But first: What are Corvids? Corvids on average are the largest songbirds by size in North America, a family consisting of Crows, Ravens, Jays, and Magpies. Though they are large and occasionally hunt, they are more closely related to Finches and Sparrows than to Hawks and other raptors. Most parts of North America are home to three or four species of Corvid; the Scotchman's host six of the most charismatic ones: Black-billed Magpie; Common Raven; American Crow; Stellar's Jay; Gray Jay, and Clark's Nutcracker.

No visitor to the Scotchman's is unfamiliar with Magpies, Crows, and Ravens. What some may not know is that these birds, particularly Ravens, are along with Parrots the most intelligent birds in the world.



Stellar's Jay is a common sight in the Scotchmans

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

Ravens can make dozens of vocalizations that cumulatively are quite similar to a primitive language. They can be trained to send messages like Passenger Pigeons. They have social orders, which they use to trick larger birds, especially Eagles, out of their meals, and to coordinate symbiotically with Wolves on the location of kills. Like nearly all Corvids, Ravens, Crows, and Magpies have very diverse diets consisting of carrion, nuts, berries, garbage, bird eggs, insects, and occasionally young birds and rodents.

Those who hike the Scotchman trails are likely to encounter Stellar's and Gray Jays. In the Scotchman's, these two species share similar habitat and diet, consisting of cone nuts, berries, and insects. Both of these species are excellent mimics: they can learn and imitate the cries and hoots of Hawks and Owls. I personally have been completely fooled by a "Red-tailed Hawk" that turned out to be a wily Stellar's Jay trying to scare me away from a nest! Both Jays can be very tame and will often hop right up to snacking hikers and try to steal food.

Continued on page 10



Scotchman Creatures: The Eye of the Beholder

By Micael Lucid, IDFG

Editor's note: This month we feature guest columnist, Michael Lucid, Regional Wildlife Biologist, Wildlife Diversity Program, Idaho Department of Fish and Game. FSPW volunteers participated in the wolverine research led by Michael and fellow IDFG researcher Lacy Robinson. Michael also taught the Climate Change section for the Idaho Master Naturalists, Pend Oreille Chapter.

Beauty is easy to find in the Scotchmans. From alpine lakes to goats to wildflowers a hike almost always makes me wonder why I don't do it more often. If you're anything like me it's easy to get caught up in achieving goals like bagging the next peak or finding a group of elk.

But stop for a minute. Take a load off and look under a rock. You might be amazed at what you find. Ants, beetles, and millipedes to be sure. And if you're lucky, maybe you'll find one of Idaho's native slugs. I'm not talking about the slugs that hang out in gardens and eat your lettuce; those are primarily exotic species that thrive near humans. As you leave the valleys and civilization behind, the invasive slugs disappear and our native fauna take over. Magnum mantleslugs and jumping slugs are two types of slug you might find.

It's easy to tell a magnum from a jumper. Just take a look at the 'mantle'. Since slugs are basically snails without shells, think of the mantle as a soft shell. A magnum's mantle covers the entire body while a jumper's mantle looks more like a compact hump.

Magnums hadn't been found in Idaho since 1948 until an IDFG wildlife diversity crew found a specimen in the Selkirks in 2010. Since then we've found specimens at over 20 sites in the Selkirks, Purcells, and West Cabinets. Conducting surveys for poorly known species is important because often species are thought to be very rare due to lack of survey effort. Comprehensive surveys help focus limited resources on species that truly need conservation actions.

Rare or not, any gardener knows slugs like to eat! Magnums are no exception. While most slugs feast on lichen, algae, and plants; magnums may have a carnivorous leaning. Last fall a colleague of mine had the idea to break apart a magnum scat. Imagine our surprise when we found a whole ant! Did this slug somehow chase down an ant? Did it find one already dead to scavenge? Or did it somehow corral an ant in its slime trail?

We don't know the answer yet, but we do know slug slime is an amazing substance. Watch a slug and you'll see its 'slime trail' behind it. The chemical properties of slime allow it to become less or more sticky as pressure is applied. So slugs can either 'surf' the slime to move or put the pressure on and hang upside down. Slugs use slime trails to find each other, avoid each other, and just find their way home. One study shows slugs can follow slime trails for up to forty days.

This might be helpful for a slug if it had to move off its trail fast like jumping slugs sometimes do. To escape from predators these slugs

engage in some impressive acrobatics. When resting, they sometimes wrap their tail forward around their body. When a predator approaches; the slug can swing its tail back making the whole slug 'jump' up to an inch! There are several species of jumpers which are very difficult for the casual observer to tell apart. In fact the only way to tell some jumpers from one another is by dissecting them to look at their internal sex organs – an intimidating task!

Internal sex organs come in an incredible array of shapes and sizes specific to each species, which ensures mating is only with their own species. Slugs are not the fastest animal around, so you may not be surprised to learn slug courtship is often a long and elaborate process. Depending on species, each slug in a pair will do a slow 'dance' circling each other and making ritualized movements. Slugs are hermaphroditic, meaning they possess male and female genitals. So if a slug can't find a mate via mucus trail, no worries, dancing with itself will do.

Slugs hold secrets to questions humans just need to be smart enough to know how to ask.

Researchers at MIT have studied the chemical properties of slug slime to perfect wall climbing robots. Researchers at the University of Washington used

slug slime to develop a cancer treatment which delivers 'megadoses' of medicine to sick cells. Slugs are important members of the ecosystem. They help decompose fallen trees and leaf litter on the forest floor and they are important prey for many of the vertebrate species we love. Owls, ducks, songbirds, snakes and more all rely on slugs for at least part of their diets.

Summer is gone and the rains are coming – this means it's a great time to go slug watching! Slugs like it cool, wet, and dark. To see them in action on the ground surface just pick a cool and wet fall night. But if you prefer to be out in the daytime, that's okay too. Just turn over rocks and logs in moist areas and you're likely to find one. Be sure to minimize the disturbance and return rocks and logs the way you found them. Then tell us about it at: <https://fishandgame.idaho.gov/ifwis/observations/>. This website is available to report sightings of slugs and all other wildlife.

So while you're out this fall chasing elk or bagging that last peak of the season. Slow down for a minute and take your eyes off the obvious beauty of the Scotchmans. Take your flashlight out, get on your hands and knees, be patient, and you may find beauty in a place you never thought to look before.



Slugs of the Scotchmans, the magnum (above) and the jumper (upper right)

Photos courtesy IDFG



The Summer 2011 Hike and Stewardship Series

8/28/11	Strenuous	Sawtooth Mountain	Sandy Compton	Contact info: 208-290-1281 or sandy@scotchmanpeaks.org From the East Fork of Blue Creek, climb 6500-foot Sawtooth and exit through the South Fork of Ross Creek. Arguably the hardest day hike in the Scotchmans, but well worth the effort. Round trip: 12 + miles. Elevation gain, 3500 + feet.
9/10-11/11	Strenuous	No-Name Lake	Sandy Compton	Contact info: 208-290-1281 or sandy@scotchmanpeaks.org This is an exploration trip into the proposed Scotchman Peaks wilderness to a small lake below No Name Peak in the Dry Creek Drainage, an "initial foray" that may require "backing and filling." Participants should be flexible thinkers and ready for an off-the-trail adventure. 10 to 12 miles round trip. Elevation gain will vary, but is minimally 4,000 feet.
9/24/11	Easy/ Moderate	Highway 200 Cleanup Day	Jacob Styer	Contact info: jacob@scotchmanpeaks.org Help clean up our adopted stretch of Highway 200 between Hope and Clark Fork, and enjoy a meal with the Scotchman Peaks Plein Air Paintout painters in Hope at the end of the day.
10/08/11	Strenuous	Scotchman Peak	Phil Hough and Deb Hunsicker	Contact info: 208-946-9127 or phil@scotchmanpeaks.org The classic hike up the namesake peak for our proposed wilderness, short but steep. We go at a slow pace so steady effort is all that is needed to summit. Panoramas and stunning views of lake Pend Oreille, fall colors and possibly late season huckleberries will be highlights. Wear hunter orange. 8 round trip with an elevation gain of 3,800 feet.
10/08/11	Strenuous	Scotchman Peak Redux	Brad Smith	Contact info: 208-340-3161 or bradley.eugene.smith@gmail.com Our October 8 hike was full, so Brad Smith of the ICL stepped up to lead another. Our last hike of the 2011 Summer season, and it's still 8 round trip with an elevation gain of 3,800 feet.

Trails 556, 1036 and 143 get facelifts from FSPW and USFS

By Sandy Compton

This summer, FSPW staff and volunteers have not only enjoyed hiking the trails in the Scotchmans, but have also been helping rebuilding them. Regal Creek Trail #556 has only recently been made accessible again after a number of years of "brushing in" and general deterioration. Regal Creek has been a pet project of Idaho Panhandle National Forests Trails and Recreation Manager Mary Ann Hamilton for several years. The severely overgrown trail has taken a lot of work to reclaim, and over the course of a work weekend on July 8 and 9, 14 FSPW volunteers and staffers, along with Hamilton and four trail crew members, finished the last mile of the trail, "swamping," lopping brush, kicking rocks and rebuilding tread, including building a new approach to the lower creek crossing. Up high, USFS sawyers David Betts and Anthony Copeland led the way while USFS crew members Mikaila Bristow and Carly Dexter assisted volunteers. While FSPW put the finishing touch on the trail, much had already been done by others. "We've had help from Gonzaga University student volunteers for two summers in a row," Hamilton said, "and last summer the LDS church sent 25 youth volunteers and five adults to help."

Over in Montana, FSPW put in three hard (but good) days with crews from the Cabinet and Three Rivers Ranger Districts of the Kootenai National Forest. On July 23 and 24, Forest Service Recreation Technician Joel Sather and fellow USFS employees Kari Dameron and Beca Gunderson led an FSPW crew from Idaho, Montana and Missouri to clear brush, fight hawkweed,

remove blowdowns, cut water drains and repair damaged trail tread on the first, and steepest, four miles of Pillick Ridge Trail #1036 on the Cabinet. A number of volunteers and Sather camped on the trail Saturday night and continued working on Sunday.



FSPW volunteer Holly Clements earns her green hat — again — on Pillick Ridge.

Photo by Sandy Compton

"The Friends did an awesome job," Sather said. "I was amazed at what we accomplished in two days."

The volunteer who came the furthest was Steve Blanck from St. Louis. Blanck was on his way from Stanley Basin to hike in the Canadian Rockies. He stopped to buy a pair of boots from the Missoula REI, saw an FSPW poster at the store came to work on the Pillick Ridge trail for two days.

FSPW volunteer Mary Franzel brought her horses, Echo and Jazz, and lifted packs and camping supplies to the campsite at the 3-mile mark.

The final trail project of the summer took place on August 20, when FSPW volunteers and staff worked with Mark Mason, Russ Gatreux and

Cindy Betlach from Three Rivers District on Little Spar Lake Trail #143, one of the most popular trails in the Scotchmans. Lopping and treadwork were done on the lower half of the trail and more work will be done next year on the upper half.

FSPW staff and volunteers who participated in these trail projects were enthusiastic and rewarded with a profound sense of accomplishment.

"It's terrific to be doing projects with the Forest Service," said FSPW exec Phil Hough said, "and a great continuation of the stewardship projects we began last summer on the Scotchman Peak trail. The Friends are grateful to the Forest Service personnel who came to help us and allow us to help them, and look forward to another productive season next summer."

Continued on next page



Trail Talk: Reclaiming Trail #556

By **Sandy Compton**

In landscape design is found the hidden path effect. If you wish people to enter into a place, you build the entrance so it looks as if it holds a secret. People can't resist. Maybe that's why I love trails so much. There is something about a tread climbing a mountainside to a vanishing point, whether it is man-made or an elk trace, that draws a person on. The trail might be surrounded by a tunnel of green — hemmed in by tag alder and dog-hair regen — or wend across an alpine meadow with a glorious view of creation. It still has the same effect. Trails are compelling.

Regal Creek Trail #556 is a trail like that. It takes a hard right about 50 feet off of Lightning Creek Road, and then curls sloooooowly right through dense forest as it rises along the base of the Scotchmans. At about a half-mile, the forest gives away to a wide talus slope and a huge view of Lightning Creek. One can see miles up and downstream and the basins across the stream open up; rising to Bee Top, a reflection of its slightly larger relative of the rock across the way; Scotchman Peak.

You'll not see much of the Scotchmans themselves from Trail #556. You will only move into them as the tread (really an old road that once serviced the Regal Mine) moves past the rockslide and back into the forest. At about mile One, the trail traverses a shaded ravine with a creek in it — Regal Creek — and then gets a bit more serious about gaining elevation, beginning a steady pull up a steep hillside.

Steep is a relative term, I guess, but steep in the Regal Creek drainage is defined as 70 per cent plus, often much-plus. In the tradition of the perpetual-motion-based aspect of trail maintenance, rock-kicking should be undertaken with care, for a well-kicked rock is likely to land on the trail below — far below. It might be best to kick rocks on the way out, so they can be re-kicked when found on the lower tread. And, it's a good idea to be sure there is nobody on the trail below. One thing is certain. Trail #556 is much superior to hiking the fall line if you are going into Regal Creek.

Trail #556 is recently reclaimed (see story on page 8), and adds a much-needed "M" to the trail inventory. Many of the hikes in the Scotchmans are rated "S" for strenuous, and having a moderate hike that is easily accessible gives a larger range of hikers an opportunity to enjoy the quiet beauty of the Scotchmans.

After crossing the creek, the trail continues at a steady grade through three widely-spaced switchbacks before leveling out



The collapsing adit of the Regal Mine and rusting rails are left from the prospecting era

Sandy Compton photo

somewhat and following a precipitous hill-side around into the Regal Creek canyon, and, ultimately, to the abandoned Regal Creek Mine. At the end of the trail, there is a bit of a scramble along Regal Creek to the adit, which opens nearly into the creek itself.

History lies here in the form of rusting mine rail that once carried metal carts full of broken rock from the dark tunnel, the entrance of which is now somewhat caved in and full of water. (Don't risk entering the mine! Would-be spelunkers chance being overcome by concentrations of carbon monoxide or trapped by cave-ins in old mine tunnels.) Just downstream of the adit are the faint remains of a building that might once have housed a compressor or sheltered the stalwarts who drove into the earth there in search of riches.

Near the end of the trail, another old tread with the looks of the mule-friendly construction favored in the early twentieth century crosses the current course at a steeper grade. An exploration of that older cut above the newer one will take you to the falls above the mine entrance, a spectacular and steep chute that drops several hundred feet to the old tunnel works and beyond.

Regal Creek Trail #556 is a good family hike, about five and a half miles round trip, with several good picnic spots along the way. The trail is almost completely shaded, with the exception of the rockslide portion. Water will likely be available at the lower creek crossing as well as at the mine in all but the driest years. (A filtering pump is recommended, as in all streams in the lower reaches of the Scotchmans.)

To access Trail #556, follow Lightning Creek Road #419 six miles from its intersection with Idaho State Highway 200 in Clark Fork (turn north at Hays' Chevron) The trailhead is almost directly across the road from Milepost 6.

Trail facelifts, from page 8

FSPW volunteers who participated in trail work this year were: Steve Blanck, Holly Clements, Dave Pietz, Jan McCleod, Deb Hunsicker, Denise Zembryki, Matt Davidson, Rodd Gallaway, Ron Marmajek, Chuck Gross, Dan Simmons, Jim Doudna, Deb Hunsicker, Bob and Joann Hough, Dennis and Jody Aslett, Denise Zembryki, Ron Mamajek, Melissa West and Dan Bantley as well as staffers intern Lauren Mitchell, program coordinator Sandy Compton, executive director Phil Hough and trainee Jim Murphy.



Scotchman Rocks: “Silly” Rocks in the Belt

By **Mark McFaddan, PhD**

Most of us have our eyes tuned to expect bedrock outcrops with prominent layers in our travels through the eastern parts of Bonner and Boundary counties. The ubiquitous roadside exposures of the Belt-Purcell Supergroup are great examples of bedding plane parting, with each bed representing a distinct depositional event in the barren Precambrian landscape of northern Idaho’s ancient geologic past. However, a closer look at the layers reveals that not all of them were originally sedimentary – a few were originally molten igneous rock that invaded the strata around them along the sedimentary bedding.

The history of Belt sediment deposition began when tectonic forces stretched the Earth’s crust and created a massive, downwarped, fault-bounded trough that collected the fine clastic sediment from the erosion of distant Precambrian highlands. The Belt basin was born. As countless layers of sand, silt, and clay came to rest in the depression of the early Belt basin, the weight of the sediment caused the crust to subside or sink under the load. The Belt-Purcell basin eventually accumulated up to 10 or 12 miles of sediment that lithified into bedded sedimentary rock over the roughly 100 million year lifespan of the basin.

When the Earth’s crust is stretched, it responds by cracking near the surface where the rocks are relatively cold and brittle. These fractures become true faults when one side actually moves relative to the other side of the break. In the case of the Belt basin, the center block(s) of crust moved downward due to gravitational forces, forming steep normal faults that extended deeply into the crust as the depositional trough formed.

During the early phases of Belt sediment accumulation, magma moved up from deep in the crust along the conduits of faults and commonly took the easy path, following the sedimentary layers. When invading molten rock parallels the layering of older rocks, it cools to form concordant igneous bodies known as sills. The resistant sills are within the Belt are dark and rich in iron-bearing minerals such as hornblende, making them diorites or gabbros according to igneous rock classifications. Sills tend to be internally massive, lacking the layering of clastic sedimentary rocks.

Sills in our region are most common low in the stack of Belt metasediments, and are particularly common in the Prichard Formation. They are easily visible along the north shore of Lake Pend Oreille from the mouth of Pack River east to Hope, Idaho along the rusty layers of Prichard siltites. One spectacular example of a large northern sill is obvious at the mouth of the Moyie River where it forces the Kootenai River to jog southward as it encounters this particularly tough layer of igneous rock several hundred feet thick.

A careful observer can tell that the sediment was already in place before the invasion of the magma. Inclusions of the sedimentary rock are common at both the tops and bottoms



Horizontal beds of white quartzite overlain by massive, dark igneous sill within the Prichard Formation east of Canuck Pass, northeastern Boundary County.

Photo by Mark McFaddan

of many sills, since the molten rock plucked pieces from the existing layered rock. Bake zones in the sediment and finer-grained chilled margins of the sills tell the story of the contrast in temperatures during sill emplacement. Some incredible outcrops even show that sills invaded shallow sediment that was still wet and not completely turned to stone; the overlying wet sediment was actually boiled by the molten magma, destroying all bedding and resulting in one of the weirdest rocks of all!

Birds, from page 7

The least common Corvid in the Scotchman’s is also one of the most interesting. The Clark’s Nutcracker is an alpine specialist that likes to nest near rocky cliffs and outcroppings. In California and Colorado, Nutcracker’s frequently nest above 10,000 feet. In North Idaho, Nutcracker’s historically relied primarily on Whitebark Pine nuts for food. They also are ecologically important as the primary distributor of the tree’s nuts.

Due to the 1910 fire and subsequent Pine Bark Beetle infestations, Clark’s Nutcracker’s in recent decades have expanded their diet to include large quantities of Ponderosa Pine nuts. During the cold Winter months, it is possible to see flocks of 100 to 200 Nutcrackers feeding in Ponderosa Pine groves, though such occurrences are infrequent and it’s not well understood where and why they occur. Like all Corvids, Nutcrackers are smart. How smart? This species is capable of caching – and remembering the location of – 200,000 pine nuts per year for retrieval and eating during winter. Now that’s impressive!

So on the next visit to the Scotchman’s, whether a summer alpine hike or a winter snowshoe, remember to appreciate those clever Corvids; they are, after all, pretty smart birds!



Extreme, from page 1

Compton, Johnson and Shear dropped 600 feet into the upper canyon on Saturday afternoon only to cliff out at the top of what appeared to be another 600-foot drop. On Sunday, Pennick and Compton made an foray from the south with a similar result, “only more brush,” Compton said.

One thing is sure: there will not likely be an artists’ colony in the bottom of the canyon in the upper Savage Creek drainage any time soon.

Mixed media artist McCleary, Pennick and Mitchell were newcomers to the Expeditions, while painters Shear and Johnson and sculptor Herbold are veterans. FSPW volunteers Neil and Ann Wimberley and Daniele Puccinelli accompanied the group to Little Spar Lake on the first day of the four-day, three-night trip.

Art from the Extreme Plein Air will be displayed during the Fourth Annual Scotchman Peaks Plein Air Paintout show on September 25 at the Outskirts Gallery in Hope.

Hats for hunt and farm from FSPW

FSPW has a new shipment of hats in a variety of colors including almost-hunter orange and John Deere green hats. 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 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/html.



Our groovy green hat even (almost) makes this guy look cool.

Volunteers, from page 2

snowshoe hike to Ross Creek Cedars, one of the first winter hikes organized by FSPW founding Friend Phil Hough. Since then, John has led a number of hikes, which, he complains, “nobody ever goes on.” His disclaimers, however, contain words like “strenuous,” “cold,” “arduous,” “long” and “bush-whacking.” He is always pleased, if somewhat surprised, when someone actually signs up for a hike with him.

Susan undertook her first hike leadership this summer, co-leading a hike with another FSPW stalwart, Judy Hutchins, to Delyle Ridge. Her first hike was probably more well-attended than any of John’s will ever be, but it also involved a moderate, well-marked trail and a warm summer evening.

While Susan has been doing all of these many things, John has made buttons — and belt buckles, switch plates, Christmas ornaments and other small beautiful things, all out of wood. His business, now operating as Pack River Button Works, began in the mid-70s when, in an all-out effort to not spend the rest of his life in a chemistry lab, he began to make wooden belt buckles.

If you want to get John excited, give him a beautiful piece of wood, especially apricot wood. “Apricot’s my favorite,” he says. “It’s such a great color.”

Something else he gets excited about is orienteering; the art of following map and compass across the surface of the planet, plotting a course and actually winding up where you are headed. “In theory,” he says, “I’m the president of Eastern Washington Orienteering club, but it’s purely a titular position.”

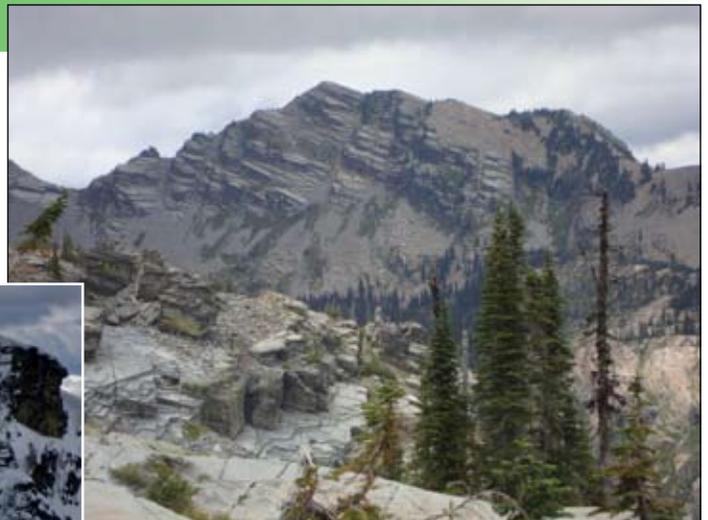
His passion for orienteering is Susan’s fault. She brought home an ad for an orienteering class in 1993, and he’s been at it ever since, pursuing it in many places, including New Zealand.

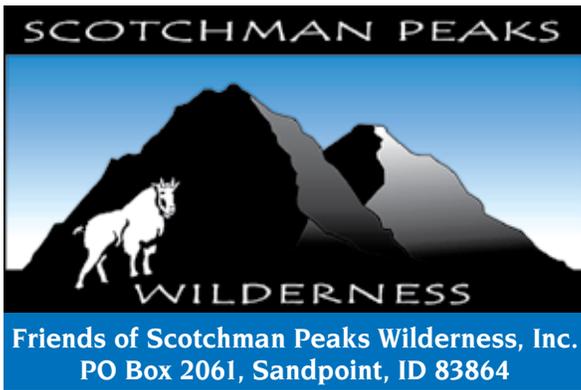
John and Susan have a daughter, Kristin, 29, who was married last year. They are somewhat patiently awaiting some news of grandchildren. *Somewhat* patiently. “There’s been no collusion with the in-laws yet,” Susan says. In the meantime, they live full lives and Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness are lucky enough to be part of the filling.

Summer and winter photo winners

First place winner of 2010 Summer Photo Contest Scenic category (at right) is *Scotchman Two from 48-Hour Pass*, taken by Daniele Puccinelle

The first place winner of the Winter Wonders category of the 2010-11 Winter Photo Contest (below) is *One Wilderness from the Other* by Andrew Klaus.





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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