



# PEAK EXPERIENCE

The Newsletter for Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness, Inc.  
Volume 3, Number 4 • July / August, 2007



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

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## Birds Found on the Scotchman Peaks

### Harlequin Duck By Earl Chapin

There are so many ducks I don't intend to write about them. But the Harlequin Duck's feeding habits are so much like the American Dipper that I thought it would tie in with the prior column.

The Harlequin Duck is a beautiful, uncommon and shy sea duck that is nearly as beautiful as the wood duck that you may be more familiar with. This duck is a small (16 inches long), heavy bodied duck with a thick neck and small bill. It has a long tail that sticks up as it swims. Harlequin Ducks winter in open sea and favor rocky, extremely turbulent water.



### Harlequin Duck

Photo courtesy of Don Jones,  
[www.donaldmjones.com](http://www.donaldmjones.com)

These beautiful ducks nest along very turbulent mountain streams. They feed in these fast running streams and walk under water just as the American Dipper does. In the Scotchman area, I have seen them on Spring Creek and the East Fork of Lightning Creek. They nest each year between the bridge on Highway 200 and the fish hatchery. They are very hard to see because they blend in so much and they are under water so much. I have seen them several times up Lightning Creek, about 300 feet from the highway bridge.

The male and female arrive in this area about the 5th of May. After breeding season is over and the female begins to incubate the eggs, the male leaves and goes back to the sea. The female stays until the chicks are old enough to fly and then goes back to the sea.

Harlequin Ducks are seen on many North Idaho streams including the Moyie River and Granite Creek above Nordman, near Priest Lake. They may be found on any extremely turbulent river or creek.

## Along the Trail

### IDAHO

**June 7:** Lexie DeFremery made an FSPW presentation to the North Idaho Backcountry Horsemen, which was well received.

**June 19:** See article on page 6 on the State of the Scotchmans.

### MONTANA

**May 4:** Doug Ferrell made a presentation to the Thompson Falls Chamber of Commerce; many members expressed support.

**June 21-23:** Eileen Carney coordinated an FSPW booth for Libby Logger Days.

**June 24:** The annual Bull River State of the Scotchmans Picnic, coordinated by Doug Ferrell, was held at the Bull River Campground Pavilion. Burgers, smokies, a keg, and potluck sides and desserts provided a fun feast. Guests were updated on the progress of the FSPW campaign. Certificates and a gift were presented to hardworking volunteers Ernie Scherzer and Don Clark.

## Scotchman Past

### The Star Peak Lookout

By Gary Weber

*North Idaho/Montana regional Director and Treasurer, Forest Fire Lookout Association ([www.firelookout.org](http://www.firelookout.org))*

(Clark Fork native, Conrad Vogel, maintains an excellent website on local lookouts, [www.conradlookouts.com](http://www.conradlookouts.com))

The first lookout on the Cabinet National Forest (and in the state of Montana) was established in 1907 on Squaw Peak. The lookout camped in a tent just below the summit. Three years later, Noxon's first ranger, Granville "Granny" Gordon and his wife Pauline built the stone cabin that still stands just below the existing lookout structure. Photos also show a rock cairn on the summit itself. In 1930, a gable-roofed L-4 lookout house was built on the summit. Squaw Peak was one of nine regular lookouts on the Noxon district during the late 1930s; one of the primary "valley" lookouts with the great view up and down the Clark Fork Valley, as well as portions of Bull River. Even in the 1930s, Squaw Peak was a popular destination for local hikers.



**1930's gable-roofed L-4 Lookout.**

*Photo by John Ovnicsek, courtesy of Gary Weber*

When the Cabinet National Forest was dissolved in the early 1950s, the Noxon and Trout Creek Ranger Districts (the current Cabinet district) became part of the Kaniksu National Forest, headquartered out of Sandpoint. (note: although the area has been administered by the Kootenai NF since 1973, it is still legally part of the Kaniksu, since Congress has never officially made the change. Similarly, the Idaho Panhandle National Forests are the administrative combination of most of the Kaniksu, Coeur d'Alene, and St. Joe NFs, but the three forests still exist legally.)

In 1956, Kaniksu Forest Carpenter Fulton Messmore led construction of the hip-roofed L-4 lookout house that still stands atop Squaw Peak. The lookout was regularly staffed into the 1980s, providing summer employment for several local residents. For a period of time, the lookout

was included in the USFS cabin rental program during the off-season, but was discontinued due to winter safety and maintenance concerns. During the 1990s, Squaw Peak was again regularly staffed, but has only sporadically been staffed in recent years.

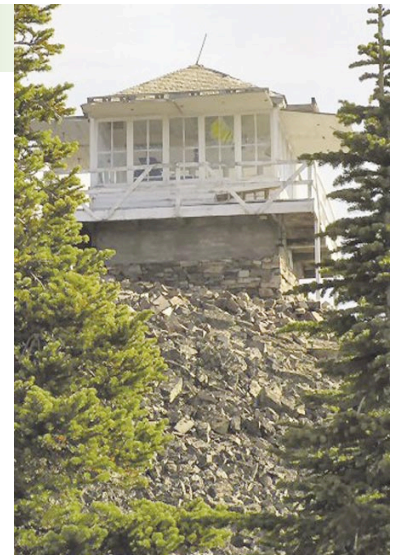
Squaw Peak has been named to the National Historic Lookout Register.

While the lookout is now over 50 years old and thus eligible for historic protection, the downside is that being 50 years old, maintenance needs continue to increase. Without help, funding and logistical challenges will increasingly become issues in the future.

In a "politically correct" move in 2004, Squaw Peak was renamed "Star Peak". But to many who grew up in Heron looking up at it, it will always be "Squaw Peak", with no offense intended.

The Board of the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness

passed the following resolution on May 15, 2007: "FSPW desires to maintain and preserve the wilderness and historical characteristics of the proposed Scotchman Peaks Wilderness including the Star Peak historical structure."



**Extended Rafter Lookout, 2006**

*Photo courtesy Conrad Vogel, [www.conradlookouts.com](http://www.conradlookouts.com)*



**Lookout and stone cabin, 1998**

*Photo courtesy Gary Weber*



**Heron readers may recognize some of these youths at the Squaw Peak Lookout on April 29, 1934.**

*Weber family photo courtesy Gary Weber*



## FSPW Welcomes the Great Old Broads for Wilderness

The Clark Fork Field Campus will be the base for the Great Old Broads' Broadwalk in support of the Scotchman Peaks Wilderness. Every year the Great Old Broads for Wilderness focus attention on wild areas in need of protection by "Broadwalking" across them. Great Old Broads from all over the US will assemble in Clark Fork on July 26.

Ernie Scherzer and his committee have been busy planning an interesting visit. Kay Kiebert will provide a tasty breakfast and dinner for them and their invited guests each day. The program starts Thursday night with a presentation on Scotchman Peaks by Board Chairman, Phil Hough, followed by an entertaining presentation on local life by Sandy Compton. On Friday, after a trail work service project for the Forest Service on the Scotchman Peak Trail, they will hear presentations by Rick Price, a Sandpoint Board Member of the Idaho Conservation League, and Sarah Lundstrum of the Montana Wilderness Association. Three levels of hikes are planned for both Saturday and Sunday. The easy hike on Saturday will be to Clouds Ledge for a look at the landscape in the Ice Age Floods area with Jon Burkhardt, president of the local chapter of the Ice Age Floods Institute. Phil Hough will lead the moderate hike to Delyle Ridge. John Roskelly of Spokane and climber of Mount Everest, and Jan Griffiths will lead the strenuous hike to Scotchman Peak. Jack Nisbet, also of Spokane and author

of "Sources of the River" and other books, will speak on the history of the area, with accompanying historical photographs. On Sunday, Bill Martin will lead a geology road trip, stopping to look at trilobites, at the Ross Creek Cedars, and Kootenai Falls. The moderate hike will be from the Clark Fork Field campus up adjacent Antelope Mountain with survival experts, Lanie Johnson and Ken Fischman. The strenuous hike will be up Star Peak with a chance to see the old fire lookout, lead by Holly Clements and Rodd Galloway. Gayle Joslin, of Montana Fish, Parks, and Wildlife will present the evening program on the monarch of the Scotchmans, the mountain goat. The Broads will depart on Monday morning, with an opportunity to further explore surrounding areas of interest on their own.

The Great Old Broads enjoy meeting local people on their Broadwalks. A few spots will be open to accompany them on these hikes. To reserve your spot, call ahead.

For Clouds Ledge, contact Neil or Ann Wimberley, (208)264-5379 or [neilwim@yahoo.com](mailto:neilwim@yahoo.com); for Delyle Ridge, Phil Hough (208)255-2780 or [nowhere\\_man97@hotmail.com](mailto:nowhere_man97@hotmail.com); for Scotchmans, Judy Hutchins at (406)847-2717 or [jhutch7494@aol.com](mailto:jhutch7494@aol.com); for the Geology Roadtrip, Ernie Scherzer at (406)827-0305 or [xberea@blackfoot.net](mailto:xberea@blackfoot.net); for Antelope Mountain, Ken or Lanie at (208)265-8580 or [bigfish@coldreams.com](mailto:bigfish@coldreams.com); and for Star Peak, Holly Clements at (208)255-4198 or [Blckbr8@cs.com](mailto:Blckbr8@cs.com).

## Peak Views

The Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness is proud to present our summer 2007 hiking series! We have a hike for everyone, from easy family hikes to overnight trips for experienced bushwhackers. Come join us for one of our organized hikes and see first hand why the Scotchmans deserve the protection of wilderness designation. Group size is limited and reservations are required. To sign up contact the hike leader listed. For more details go to our website at [www.scotchmanpeaks.org](http://www.scotchmanpeaks.org).

As summer progresses, we may offer additional hikes, so check back often.

E = Easy	M = Moderate	S = Strenuous	D = Difficult-Experienced Only
Jun 30 – Jul 2	S	Savage Mountain Multiple Day Excursion – <i>Cesar Hernandez (406) 883-5019</i>	
July 5 – 9	S	Compton Crags Summer Tour – <i>Sandy Compton 406-847-2396, scenic.route@sandycompton.com</i>	
Fri July 6	S	Bear Mtn and Twin Peaks – <i>John Harbuck (208)263-9894, harbuck@norlight.org</i>	
July 14 -15	M	Little Spar Lake Overnighter (with a one day trip option if you like) – <i>Bill Martin 406-295-5258</i>	
Sat July 14	E	Clouds Ledge Ice Age Floods Hike with Jon Burkhardt - <i>Neil Wimberley (208) 264-5379, neilwim@yahoo.com</i>	
Fri Aug 3 & Sat Aug 4	M	Volunteer Trail Maintenance Service Project Scotchman Peak Trailhead/Water Bars, come for just one day or for both - <i>Jim Stern 208-265-6733</i>	
Tue Aug 14	S	Scotchman Peak - <i>Lexie de Fremery (208) 265-9421 lexie@nidaho.net</i>	
Sat Aug 18	S	Clayton Peak Day Hike – <i>Sandy Compton 406-847-2396, scenic.route@sandycompton.com</i>	
Fri Aug 24	M	Little Spar Lake day trip, with an overnight option – <i>Led by Susan Drumheller 265-9565, sdrumheller@wildidaho.org</i>	
Sept 1-5	S	North/South Scotchman Spine - <i>Jim Mellen (208) 265-5261 jmellen@imbris.net</i>	
Mon Sept 3	S	24 Hour Pass Labor Day Scramble – <i>406-847-2396, scenic.route@sandycompton.com</i>	
Fri Sept 14	S	Sawtooth Peak via Ross Creek – <i>John Harbuck (208)263-9894, harbuck@norlight.org</i>	
Sun Sept 16	E	Mushroom Identification Field Trip with Mycologist Larry Evans – <i>Ann and Neil Wimberley (208) 264-5379, neilwim@yahoo.com</i>	
Sat Sept 22	E	Ross Creek Cedars – <i>Carol Jenkins (208) 265-9204, irvorcarol@imbris.net</i>	
Sun Sept 23	S	Scotchman Peak Ascent, Hop to Goat Mtn and Morris Creek Descent – <i>Phil Hough (208) 255-2780, nowhere_man97@hotmail.com</i>	
Sat Sept 29 - Sun Sept 30	S	Sawtooth Overnighter - <i>406-847-2396, scenic.route@sandycompton.com</i>	



## Wild Creatures of the Scotchmans

(This month's column, by **Daryl Bird of Wolf People** in Cocolalla, is about the area wolf pack. The accompanying picture is of Mimi, one of the wolves who sometimes visit the store.)

### Was That A Wolf?



**Mimi, part  
Timberwolf and part  
Artic Wolf**

*Photo courtesy of Daryl Baird*

The proposed Scotchman Peaks Wilderness Area (SPWA) lies within the Northwest Montana Wolf Recovery Area; one of three areas officially designated by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in 1995.

Each year the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Service publishes "snapshot" maps of each recovery area showing where wolf packs are known to be. The latest edition of the Northwest Montana Wolf Recovery Area marks the territorial boundaries of thirty-two packs of gray wolves.

If you superimpose a map of the SPWA over the latest map of the wolf recovery area you see that the Scotchman Peaks lie in a section where no wolves currently reside. There do appear to be three small packs just outside the SPWA boundary; one to the northwest, another to the northeast and another due east of the area.

Still, there may be several of you who have seen wolves, or

evidence of their presence, when hiking on or around the Scotchman Peaks. While attending Earth Day festivities in Coeur d'Alene this year, Phil Hough used a map of the area to show me where he saw wolf tracks around Lightning Creek on February 12th.

Gray wolves are not migratory but seem to move seasonally following elk, or other hoofed prey, within their territories. But, gray wolves are known to disperse widely. According to Montana FW&P, male wolves can move an average of seventy miles from their natal territories, and females forty-eight miles, before establishing a new territory or joining another pack. It is also noted that dispersal peaks twice per year; first in January/February and later in May/June. Phil pointed out the location of tracks that may have been left by a wolf wandering in from one of the packs mentioned earlier. But, some wolves are known to have dispersed up to 500 miles.

Was it a wolf you saw? Maybe. Gray wolves are 4.5 to 6.5 feet in length and they stand about 30 inches high at the shoulder. Their weight ranges from 60 to 120 pounds, and they usually have buff tan fur with gray/black tips. Their ears tend to be rounded and short compared to a coyote's. Their muzzles are large and blocky. Were those wolf tracks you found? A wolf's front paws are larger than its hind paws. They're about 4.5 inches long and 3.5 inches wide where a coyote's are only about 2.5 inches long and 1.5 inches wide.

I would enjoy reading about your wolf sightings in the Scotchman Peaks Wilderness Area. I can be reached at [idahobiard@nctv.com](mailto:idahobiard@nctv.com).

## Tales of Scotchman Peaks

### Sunshine at the Top May 19, 2007

By **Jim Mellen**

Nyle Daniel contacted us several months ago about a trip to Scotchman on May 19. Nyle is from South Carolina and had planned to hike Scotchman Peak for about a year. He could only hike on the 19th, so I agreed to lead a hike on that day. Originally, he had planned to have his daughter, son-in-law and wife accompany him. In the meantime, his daughter became pregnant (due any day now) and his wife broke her leg. So, he decided to go anyway. This was his first time west of the Mississippi. The flatlands and low elevation of South Carolina did not prepare Nyle for the challenges of Scotchman Peak. In addition, it was a cold, rainy morning with limited visibility. Nyle seemed to be suffering from the very beginning and I had a strong feeling that he would not even get close to the summit. But, he persisted and eventually made it to the ridge below the summit where he wanted to call it quits and rest. I told him to stay there while I headed to the summit with my wife Sandii and friend Rodd Gallaway. When we got to the summit, the storm broke, giving full visibility and sunshine. On the way down, I met up with Nyle, who was pressing on to the summit! I accompanied him and soaked in the magnificent views.

On the way down, Sandii taught him how to glissade (both foot and butt glissading) and I saw the first of several big grins. By the

time we reached the trailhead, Nyle was one tired puppy. But, he was most appreciative and made a \$20 donation to FSPW.

Here is an e-mail that I received from Nyle recently:

*Hi Jim,  
I had a great vacation. I went fishing and caught a ten foot sturgeon. I also went rafting twice but the hike we went on was the best part of the trip. I have a bad knee from tearing cartilage in my teenage days, which has slowed me down somewhat. I could make a better hiker if I didn't have that knee. I couldn't have picked three better people to go on the hike with. I also think that anybody that lives in the state of Idaho is extremely lucky. I will give you a call if I can make it back one day. Thanks, Nyle*

Nyle may have traveled further than anyone to participate in a sponsored "Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness" hike.

**Nyle Daniel stopped on the ridge near Scotchman Peak but later pressed on to the summit after the storm broke.**

*Photo courtesy of Jim Mellen*





## Message from the Chair

Henry David Thoreau wrote: "In wildness is the preservation of the world." Closer to home, we have opportunities to find individual salvation of our own spirits in the nearby Scotchman Peaks.

When we experience Wilderness outwardly, on its own raw terms, we directly face the full force and flavor of nature. In facing both the difficulty and joy of nature, our soul expands and soars to new heights. Clear of the distractions of everyday life we can focus on finding out more about ourselves.

Growing up, I remember exploring the Maine woods, much as Thoreau did. When I was in my teens, climbing to the top of Mt Katahdin, past the springs which bears Thoreau's name, I recall looking over the vast north woods. They seemed as if they could have been the same north woods Thoreau had

gazed upon over 100 years earlier. Thanks to a former Governor of Maine, Percival Baxter who donated over 200,000 acres to create a wilderness park in his own "backyard" these woods had been preserved for us all. His work helped to preserve a part of the Maine Wilderness, and to create a lasting childhood memory for many people. His dreams and deeds continue to inspire others, myself included, to seek ways to preserve what remains of the wilderness in our own backyard. In the Scotchmans we may very well find our own salvation, and we may find a way to allow future generations the same opportunity.

We hope you will join us this summer for an opportunity to explore the soul of the Scotchmans and ourselves!

*Phil Hough*

## Trail of the Month

### Star Peak – via the Big Eddy Trail

Star Peak can be climbed from several trails – the most popular trail, and the easiest access is the Big Eddy Trail which starts near the Clark Fork River and climbs into the heavens. Although Star Peak acquired its current name several years ago, long time residents, and some old maps, will know this as "Squaw Peak". Climbing a little over 4,000 feet, the elevation gain is greater than on Scotchman Peak, but doing it over 5 miles (one way) the grade is more forgiving, slightly. An old mining road switchbacks through the heavily forested lower slopes (at the most western switchback, watch closely for a short side trail to a rock outcrop with commanding views of the Clark Fork Valley.)

After about 2.5 miles a fading forest service sign with the former name (Squaw Peak) marks the footpath to the top. The trail climbs through old fire scars, and sparse forests with even sparser views. Then, magically, you will crest a saddle just below the summit and the sight of Billiard Table Mountain will take your breath away. During the final climb, the views continue to expand into an absolutely stunning panorama. By the time you are at the old fire lookout, you will know - this is the top of the world!

Highway 200 provides year round access to the trailhead, but beware – snow lingers well into summer on the highest slopes. In the winter this is a difficult but extremely rewarding snowshoe trip – if your thighs are up to the task. (Only those individuals well experienced in backcountry winter travel should undertake a winter trip on Star Peak.)

If you go: Bring good boots or trail shoes and plenty of water, as the route is "dry" with no on trail water source. (A small stream runs nearby the lowest parts of the trail). Snacks or lunch, layers of extra clothing and rain gear are always advisable in the mountains. You will appreciate good binoculars and a camera.



*Deb Hunsicker enjoys the view of Billiard Top from Star Peak*

*Photo courtesy of Phil Hough*

Driving Directions to the Trailhead: Take Highway 200 (east from Sandpoint). Watch for the Idaho/Montana state line. After you cross into Montana, watch for the highway mile markers. At MT mile marker 6, there is a wide turnout on the south side of highway 200. Park there. Carefully cross highway 200 and find the old mining road a few yards east of where you cross.

For maps and details on other self guided hikes in the Scotchmans please visit our website at: [http://scotchmanpeaks.org/self\\_guided\\_hikes.html](http://scotchmanpeaks.org/self_guided_hikes.html).

## Please Invite Us to Speak to Your Group

We are available to do a 10 minute or longer Power Point Presentation and discussion for businesses, service organizations, clubs, and groups of friends and neighbors.

Please contact us if you are interested.

In Idaho or Washington, contact Phil Hough at 255-2780 or [nowhere\\_man97@hotmail.com](mailto:nowhere_man97@hotmail.com)

In Hope/East Hope/ Clark Fork, contact Neil or Ann Wimberley at [neilwim@yahoo.com](mailto:neilwim@yahoo.com) or [afwim@yahoo.com](mailto:afwim@yahoo.com)

In Montana, contact Doug Ferrell at [ferrelldoug@gmail.com](mailto:ferrelldoug@gmail.com)



# The Future Looks Bright

## MONTANA

July 4th: Join FSPW as we march in three parades: Troy Fourth of July Festival: Booth Coordinator Ella Ackley 295-9849 or [etantlinger@hotmail.com](mailto:etantlinger@hotmail.com). Parade Coordinator Bill Martin 295-5258.

Noxon and Heron Fourth of July Parades: Coordinator Rusty Liestadt 827-3981 or [funnyfarm@blackfoot.net](mailto:funnyfarm@blackfoot.net).

**August 10-12:** Huckleberry Festival, Trout Creek. FSPW will have a booth and march in the parade. Coordinator: Ernie Scherzer 827-0305 or [xbera@blackfoot.net](mailto:xbera@blackfoot.net)

**August 28:** Next meeting of the Lincoln County FSPW supporters will be at the Heritage Bank at 7pm.

**September 18:** Don Clark will make an FSPW presentation to the Rod and Gun Club.

## IDAHO

**July 4th:** Join FSPW as we march in two parades: Sandpoint: Meet at 9:30 at the corner of 5th and Church. Wear your Scotchman Blue shirt and look for our Banner. For more info call Phil Hough 255-2780.

**Clark Fork:** Meet in front of the Scotchman Coffee House at 9:00. Wear your Scotchman Blue shirt and look for our banner. For more Information, call Joyce Pence 266-1107.

**July 26-30:** Great Old Broads Broadwalk; see article on page 3.

**August 22-25:** Come out and see our booth at the Bonner County Fair or better yet, sign up to share some of the Scotchman's fun helping other supporters staff the booth. For more information, call Debbie Crossett 265-7812

**November 24:** Walkin Jim Stoltz Concert at the Panida with additional concerts at several area schools.

## From the Top

The main topic this issue seems to be summer celebrations, with parades, county fairs, festivals, the Bull River Picnic and the State of the Scotchmans. We're expecting visitors from all over the nation for the intriguing sounding Broadwalk. Guest columnists continue to help us celebrate the uniqueness of this beautiful area. Our trail of the month and hiking schedule give those of you lucky enough to live or visit here a chance to celebrate the Scotchmans in the best way of all, on foot. Hope to see you there.

*Ann Wimberley*

## New Montana FSPW Shirt Outlet

**Mountain Meadows in Libby is now carrying our shirts. They are also available at REI in Spokane, Outdoor Experience, Café Bodega, and Eichardt's in Sandpoint, The Hope Market Café in Hope, Scotchman Coffee House in Clark Fork, and Huckleberry Thicket in Trout Creek, MT. Out of the area, contact [jmellen@imbris.net](mailto:jmellen@imbris.net).**

**Other Scotchman Peaks merchandise is available in our online store run by Café Press at [www.scotchmanpeaks.org/store.html](http://www.scotchmanpeaks.org/store.html).**

## State of the Scotchmans

On June 19th, old and new Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness gathered at the Pend d'Oreille Winery in Sandpoint for our annual "State of the Scotchmans". During this open house style event we shared stories, celebrated success and "toasted" a vision of wilderness for our region. The State of the Scotchman event provides an opportunity for everyone to learn more about our efforts to protect this area and how to become a part of that effort.

During this event the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness honored some of our outstanding volunteers by announcing this year's recipients of Certificates of Appreciation:

**Jim Mellen** - For maintaining our merchandise awareness program

**Ann Wimberley** - for excellence in editing our newsletter

**Don Clark** - For lifting Lincoln County to a higher awareness of wilderness potential

**Ernie Scherzer** - For constant outreach with Sanders County

**Jared Johnston** - For creating a lasting logo

**Pama Bangeman** - For creative and high quality newsletter design and layout

**Trisha Miller** - For creating and maintaining a wilderness worthy website

*Jim Mellen with his Certificate of Appreciation*

*Photo courtesy of Phil Hough*



**Carol Jenkins has received the announcement of a \$3,000 matching grant from The Cinnabar Foundation. This is the second year Cinnabar has provided a grant to FSPW, and we appreciate this ongoing support of our work. The monies will only be available when we have raised an equal amount through our own efforts. This is an opportune time to make a donation to FSPW so that we can obtain this grant as soon as possible. Please consider sending your tax-deductible donation today to: FSPW 2061, Sandpoint, ID 83864.**



## Scotchman Peak has found a friend in Phil Hough

By **Haley Butler**

*Idaho Conservation League Intern*

Phil Hough's efforts to create the Scotchman Peaks Wilderness were rewarded May 19 at the Idaho Conservation League's Wild Idaho Conference in Stanley, Idaho. Hough, who lives in Sagle, Idaho, received the League's most eminent honor, the Keith and Pat Axline Award for Environmental Activism.

"I feel very honored, especially given the past history of some of the other recipients and the work they have done. It's certainly a stellar crowd to be held in comparison with," Hough said. A few members of that "stellar crowd" include former state Sen. Mary Lou Reed, University of Idaho Professor Fred Rabe, retired Fish and Game employee Wayne Melquist and Spokane physician John Osborn.

As chairman of the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness, Hough and the group are working to bring to life the idea of a congressionally-designated 88,000-acre wilderness in the Cabinet Mountains, bordering Idaho and Montana.

Also president of the Kinnickinnick Chapter of the Idaho Native Plant Society, Hough co-founded Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness in January 2005 along with other wilderness supporters, enticed by the National Forest Plan process.

"This area had been proposed as wilderness since 1987 and so few people in our community had heard of that," Hough said. During the forest planning process, he added, "the discussion of wilderness values was getting lost in the broader conversation of forest planning."

In the last two years, the Friends have gained more than 1,000 supporters and endorsements from the Bonner County Commissioners, cities of Sandpoint, Ponderay and Thompson Falls, Mont., area newspapers, Montana's governor, and numerous other business and community leaders.

While Hough said he would feel a lot better about receiving the award after the Scotchman Peaks Wilderness Area is formally established, he is pleased with the work that has been done and the efforts by members of the group and other supporters.

"I feel this award is reflective of the work from a lot of people."

## Scotchman Rocks

### Glacial Lightning Lake

By **Jon Burkhart**

*President of the local chapter of the Ice Age Flood Institute*

Most people are aware of the existence of Glacial Lake Missoula that covered a huge area of North Idaho and Western Montana some 12,000 to 15,000 years ago. This ancient lake was created when the Purcell Trench Lobe of the Cordilleran Ice Sheet blocked the Clark Fork River valley near the Idaho-Montana border. This glacier backed up water over the area's valleys and at times contained nearly 500 cubic miles of water. Occasionally this ice dam would fail and a massive outburst of water would rush across the Inland Northwest to the ocean. Then the glacier would gradually rebuild and again block the river valley. This may have occurred as many as 100 times. When the ice dam was at its highest point it blocked water up to about 4,200 feet above sea level.

As the ice moved back up the river valley it also blocked the mouth of Lightning Creek, the long drainage on the west side of the proposed Scotchman Peaks Wilderness Area. This created a glacial lake which at times could have filled the whole valley at the same 4,200 foot elevation as the ice dam. The lake has been identified by geologists who are studying the sediments which were deposited at the various times this lake existed.

I know of two locations where the sediments of Glacial Lightning Lake can be seen. One is where the Lightning Creek road crosses the East Fork of Lightning Creek. If you look high up on the south bank of the East Fork you will see many thin layers of sediments that have been exposed by erosion. The other place you can see the sediments is in the massive slide that is on the west side of the valley a mile or two above the Wellington Creek Road. (In the Bear Creek area.) If you wade across the creek and climb up into the deep gullies eroding out of the hillside you can see and sample the sediments. They vary in thickness and in the size of the sand and silt deposited. For those familiar with Lake Missoula sediments these will be a little coarser and darker colored.

Unfortunately it looks like it will be a while before we will be able to get back into that area as the Forest Service has a temporary closure on most of the Lightning Creek roads due the recent flood damage. But it's possible that Mother Nature has exposed even more Glacial Lightning Lake sites for us to visit.

## What Grows There

### Mariposa Lily

#### *Calochortus apiculatus*

This beautiful wildflower can be found growing in dry, rocky areas, grassy slopes and open woodlands in June and July in the proposed Scotchman Peaks Wilderness and surrounding areas. Three approximately one inch petals are lined with soft white and yellowish hair. At the base of the flower is a purplish nectar gland. A single grass-like basal leaf is shorter than the stem. The fruits are hanging oval capsules. They do not transplant well.



**Mariposa Lily**

*Photo courtesy of Neil Wimberley*

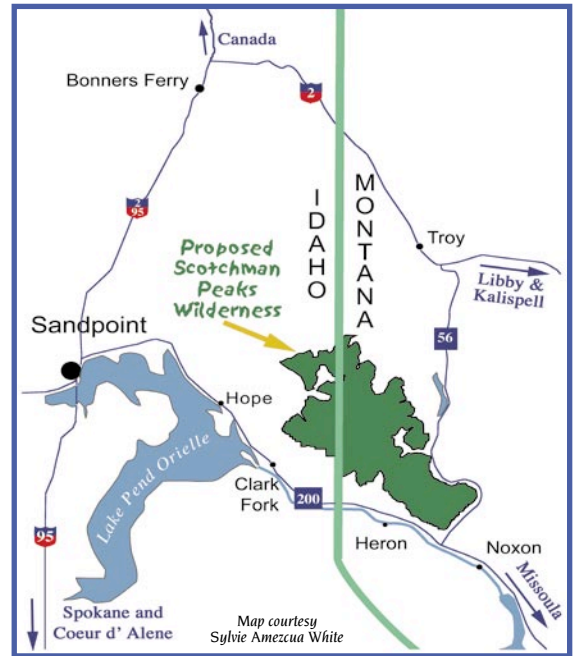
Calochorus, of Greek derivation, means "beautiful grass". Mariposa is Spanish for butterfly. Native Americans, who ate the bulbs, showed the starving Mormons how to dig them. The state flower of Utah and called the "sego lily", it is considered by Mormons a symbol of life and hope.



## 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation enclosed (optional). Donations are tax deductible.

Please make checks payable to the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness, Inc. Detach & Mail to the address below.

