

Mission Statement

"To protect the Scotchman Peaks for future generations through Wilderness designation, ongoing stewardship and education."

The Scotchmans are one of the last and largest wild areas in our region. The Friends 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 receive this newsletter by mail and have an email address, you can help us save postage by sending us your email address.

Editing, layout and design: Sandy Compton



VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE FUTURE ON MAY 15!

The campaign for designating the Scotchman Peaks as Wilderness is at a critical juncture. The Bonner County Commissioners are asking voters to weigh in on Senator Risch's Scotchman Peaks wilderness proposal in the May 15 primary election. Everyone has a chance to let their voice be heard. This vote will be open to all registered voters in Bonner County. The following will appear on all ballots, Republican, Democrat, unaffiliated or other:

"Do you favor Senator Jim Risch's proposal for congressional designation of a 13,960 acre Scotchman Peaks Wilderness area in Bonner County?"

It is imperative for the future of the Scotchman Peaks Wilderness that the results reflect widespread support from Bonner County residents. Wilderness designation for the Scotchman Peaks will ensure that this special area is permanently protected as it is today. We need to preserve places like the Scotchman Peaks to make sure that our children's children have the same chance to find themselves surrounded by solitude. We need to make sure we have places to go where we can leave the noise and fast pace of our regular lives behind.

If designated, our future generations will have the same opportunity to go hiking, hunting, fishing, horseback riding, camping, and berry picking that we do. The Forest Service

Continued, page 5



Senator Risch's Idaho proposal is shown in green on this map.

INSIDE:

PAGE 3: MONTANA MATTERS - "POZ" IN LIBBY

PAGE 6: 2018 FSPW TRAIL WORK SCHEDULE

PAGE 9: HIKE SCHEDULE

WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER AND YOUR VOTE COUNTS!

A non-binding advisory vote on the Scotchman Peaks will appear on the May 15 primary ballot. Our County Commissioners and Senator Jim Risch have said they will honor the outcome. Your vote matters!

The Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness believe that our public lands can be managed for all multiple uses. This includes Wilderness as well as timber, mining, grazing, wildlife habitat, motorized and quiet recreation. In the 2.5 million acres of the Idaho Panhandle National Forests, there is room to accommodate all these uses. There are also places that are most appropriate for each use. For the Scotchman Peaks proposed wilderness area, which makes up .5% of the Idaho

Panhandle National Forest, the rugged, wild landscape isn't well suited for many of these uses. When looking at which part of Bonner County is best suited for Wilderness, the Scotchman Peaks area is the clear candidate.

For the last ten years, Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness have been an active part of the Panhandle Forest Collaborative.

Members of the collaborative have moved past old conflicts and we have found that we can do more good for Idaho's public lands, wildlife, and rural economies when we put aside our differences and work together. In the panhandle, diverse stakeholders have come together to take a big picture look at how we can manage our forests responsibly,

Continued, page 8

**Vote on
May 15!**



EXTREME PLEINAIR ART RECEPTION AT EVANS BROS.

Evans Brothers' Coffee Roasters in Sandpoint is the April 20 venue for an artist's reception for some of the FSPW "Extreme Pleinair" artists, painters Ed Robinson and Aaron Johnson and photographers Joe Foster and Marjolein Groot Nibbelink. Their work is hanging in the gallery at Evans Brothers until May 10. The images on display of the Scotchman Peaks interior were gathered on one of the extended back-packing trips FSPW invites artists to participate in each summer.

STATE OF THE SCOTCHMANS FEATURES GOAT GURU JOSLIN

Gayle Joslin worked for Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks as a mountain goat specialist for several decades, becoming one of the leading authorities on the subject in the process. Join Friends of Scotchman Peaks for their annual meeting and a presentation from Gayle on May 31 at the Oden Hall on Sunnyside Road near Sandpoint. We will also be giving out our annual Old Goat award and honoring other volunteers.

No host beer and wine will be available as well as complimentary light appetizers. Social hour begins at 6 pm, Gayle's presentation begins at 7.

Appropriately, Goat Ambassador Mary Franzel will be conducting Goat Ambassador training that day as well, in the same location, beginning at 5 pm.

CALENDAR — THE FUTURE LOOKS BRIGHT

April 20: Artists' reception for Extreme Art at Evans Brothers Coffee in Sandpoint, featuring Extreme Plein Air artists Ed Robinson and Aaron Johnson, as well as photographers Marjolein Groot Nibbelink and Joe Foster.

April 20: Presentation to the Coeur d'Alene Rotary Club

April 21: Annie Gassman and volunteers will have a table at the Cabinet Peaks Health Fair in Libby.

April 21 & 22: FSPW volunteer Carol Jenkins teaches Wilderness & Remote First Aid to volunteers.

April 22: FSPW will participate at Earth Day events in Coeur d'Alene and Sandpoint.

April 24: Presentation to the Sunrise Rotary Club in Coeur d'Alene

April 28: Spring Birding with Brian Baxter, beginning at the Venture Inn in Libby

May 1: Mary Franzel begins her third season as Mountain Goat Ambassador coordinator

May 2: Idaho Gives at Evans Brothers' Coffee, Idaho Pour Authority and online.

May 8: Sandpoint Candidate Forum Includes Scotchman Ballot Question — Phil Hough representing the In Favor position

May 12: Lincoln County Outreach Coordinator Annie Gassmann and FSPW volunteers will help out at a rest station at Yaak Falls during the Annual STOKR bike race to benefit Habitat Humanity.

May 15: Idaho Primary includes the Scotchman Peaks advisory vote on Bonner County ballots. (see related stories on pages 1 & 2).

May 16: Sandy Compton will give a presentation to Leadership Sandpoint class of 2018 aboard the Shawnodese.

May 17-19: Phil Hough and Sandy Compton will travel to Wild Idaho in Redfish Lake, Idaho.

May 21: FSPW 2018 Summer Intern Jacob Arrington begins work.

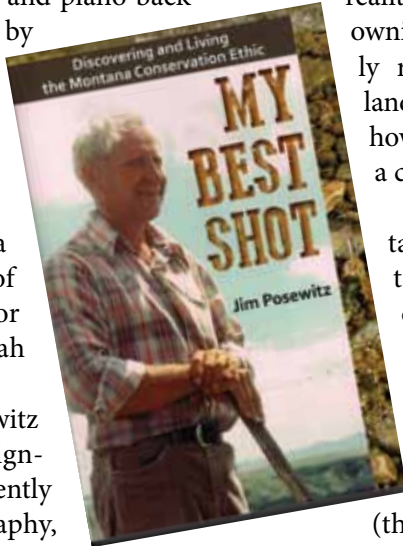
May 21-25: Sandy Compton and FSPW Intern Jacob Arrington will attend a Wilderness Skills Institute at Powell Ranger Station on the Lochsa River.

Continued, page 7

LIBBY CELEBRATIONS WELCOME "POZ"

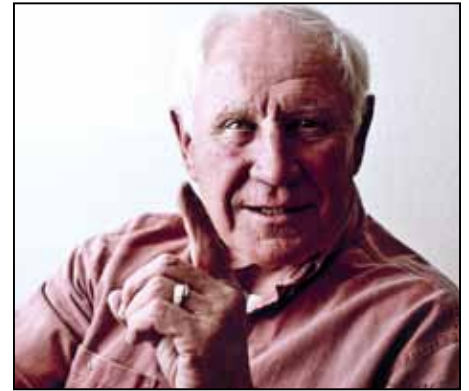
Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness volunteers and all manner of revelers converged on the Cabinet Mountain Brewery April 5th to celebrate spring, tasty brews, great music, and wild country. FSPW's Spring Brews for Benefits was a huge success with a packed house and piano background music played by Clayton DeSimone of Bozeman, who volunteered his time and talent, and even accompanied the crowd in a rousing rendition of Happy Birthday for Brewery owner, Sarah Sorensen.

Author Jim Posewitz was present and signing copies of his recently released autobiography, *My Best Shot – Discovering and Living the Montana Conservation Ethic*.



Libby's Maki Theater was the venue for the next evening's exploration of how and why Americans are unique in the world in having developed what Jim Posewitz has coined "America's conservation ethic." He explained how our nation pioneered the democratic reality of people collectively owning, preserving, and legally recognizing public wild lands. And, within America, how Montana stands out as a conservation leader.

Linking implementation of the conservation ethic to an 1842 court decision, Jim described that by virtue of the Declaration of Independence, the people of America became the sovereign (the people, not the king, would rule), and in that capacity, the rights and privileges of royalty passed to the people.



Jim Posewitz has been a force in Montana conservation for over four decades. His new book *My Best Shot*, is an autobiography. **Courtesy photo**

In time, that collective authority would come to include fish, wildlife, water, and air, to be governed as a public trust for the benefit of all the people.

To emphasize the point, Jim read a passage from *My Best Shot* associated with our multi-generational protection of the Rocky Mountain Front. He described the event where hundreds of people assembled in the historic Montana Club in Helena, at a

Continued, page 6

TRAILS REPORT: NATIONAL TRAIL SYSTEM TURNS FIFTY

By Sandy Compton

FSPW All Stars cranking up for another trail season

The National Trail System is 50 years old this year, though many of the trails in the Scotchmans are much older. The National Trail System Act (NTSA) was signed into law in October of 1968 by the same president who signed the Wilderness Act four years earlier, Lyndon B. Johnson. The NTSA was actually inspired by Johnson himself in a 1965 State of the Union address, in which he said, "The beauty of our land is a natural resource. Its preservation is linked to the inner prosperity of the human spirit. The tradition of our past is equal to today's threat to that beauty. Our land will be attractive tomorrow



only if we organize for action and rebuild and reclaim the beauty we inherited. Our stewardship will be judged by the foresight with which we carry out these programs."

Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness volunteers and staff,

including our backcountry ranger intern, have been working to keep the trails in the Scotchmans open and in good shape since our first trail project in 2010 with the Sandpoint District on Scotchman Peak Trail #65. Since then, FSPW has provided thousands of hours of human power repairing tread, building waterbars, cutting brush, clearing blowdowns, and even building entirely new sections of trail to replace old alignments that were unsustainable or horrific to hike because they were not designed correctly in the first place.

In the early 20th century, trails were often built in a hurry to accommodate the desire to fight all fires and fight them quickly. But many were

Continued, page 6



WINTER TRACKS: A FINE USE OF FSPW FUNDS.

The 2017-2018 season of the Winter Tracks program was highly successful. Over twelve program days, FSPW served 356 students from twelve schools in three states and four counties! This, of course, could not have been possible without the help of 40 unique volunteers who contributed 818 volunteer hours teaching, cooking hot dogs, directing small groups, and keeping everyone warm and safe. The Forest Service, City of Troy and State of Idaho were also very helpful.

All Bonner County classes were held at Round Lake State Park. Sanders County used Northshore USFS Campground on the Clark Fork River, and the Libby and Troy classes were held at Roosevelt Park in Troy and Timberlane USFS Campground northwest of Libby.

The FSPW volunteer instructors truly make this program special. These folks are experts in their field and create a excellent learning environment for all age groups.

One of the teachers who attended with their class said, "I think the majority of our students came away with a better understanding of how to observe nature with a closer eye on details and how to ask questions about what they think they are seeing."

That and getting kids outside is the full intent of Winter Tracks, which will continue next year. Special thanks to Nancy Schmidt for being our coordinator for the 2018 season for a job well done..

THANKS TO ALL OUR DONORS, LARGE AND SMALL

By Britta Mireley

FSPW is grateful for every financial contribution we receive whether it's from an individual giving an annual donation or a foundation awarding us a grant. We continue to get closer to Wilderness designation for the Scotchman Peaks because of you.

With the critical juncture in the campaign, FSPW's donors have really committed to the Scotchman Peaks. The number of individual donations nearly doubled from this quarter last year with the average donation increasing as well. Thank you to all of you!

Grants to FSPW come in all shapes and sizes. We are lucky to have consistent grant support from multiple foundations as well as support for special programs like Winter Tracks. FSPW has received grant awards from the following foundations recently: Brainerd, Conservation Alliance, Inland Northwest Community Foundation, Kendeda, Patagonia, Wilburforce and Yellowstone to Yukon Initiative.

If you want to join in and help keep the Scotchmans as they are today, visit www.ScotchmanPeaks.org/donate

THANKS TO THESE GENEROUS FOLKS FOR RECENT INDIVIDUAL GIFTS

Susan Black, Sagle, ID
 Bob Boeh, Sandpoint, ID
 Bev Brumbaugh, Trout Creek, MT
 Don Childress, Sagle, ID
 Dr. Mark Cochran, Sandpoint, ID
 Gary & Carol Deaner, Sandpoint, ID
 Susan Drumheller, Sagle, ID
 Doug Ferrell, Trout Creek, MT
 Tom Fuller, Cheyenne, WY
 Craig Gehrke, Boise, ID
 Lori Getts & Clem Yonkers, Sandpoint, ID
 Celeste & Eric Grace, Sandpoint, ID
 Jim Green, Sagle, ID
 Alan Harper, Rathdrum, ID
 Dave Heep, Ponderay, ID

Judy Hutchins, Heron, MT
 Liz Johnson-Gebhardt, Priest River, ID
 Gayle Joslin, Helena, MT
 Cary Kelly, Sandpoint, ID
 Jodi & Dick Kramer, Sandpoint, ID
 Susie & Mark Kubiak, Dover, ID
 Peter Lupsha & Ursula Hill, Tomé, NM
 Irv McGeachy, Hope, ID
 Cheryl & Kirby McKee, Sagle, ID
 Kelly & Connie Mickelson, Spokane, WA
 Janis & Mike Morgenstern, Sandpoint ID
 Kevin Murray, Sandpoint ID
 Steve Navarre, Sandpoint, ID
 John O'Connor, Bonners Ferry, ID
 Molly O'Reilly & Steve Lockwood, Sandpoint, ID
 Buddy Paul, Hayden, ID
 Gene Reckin, Libby, MT

Joyce Pence & Konrad Dahlstrom, Clark Fork, ID
 Bonnie Reishus, Noxon, MT
 Dennis Rieger, Sagle, ID
 Tom Riggs, Sandpoint, ID
 Amy Robinson, Whitefish, MT
 Ed Robinson, Sandpoint, ID
 Joann & John Rohyans, Sandpoint, ID
 Marni Salmon, Suffern, NY
 Mark Sheets, Thompson Falls, MT
 Bill and Gloria Stuble, Dover, ID
 Jacob Styer, Sandpoint, ID
 Maggie Suttmeier, Sandpoint, ID
 Ken Thacker, Sagle, ID
 Jill Trick & John Anderson, Sandpoint, ID
 Will Valentine, Sagle, ID
 Gretchen Ward, Sandpoint, ID
 Cheyenna Whittier, Sagle, I

Vote, from page 1

will continue to have motorized and helicopter access for fighting fire and for search and rescue. Wildlife management will remain in the hands of Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

We have a duty to pass on a piece of our outdoor heritage to the next generation, and wilderness designation ensures that these public lands will be enjoyed as they are today, in perpetuity.

To read the bill, see the map, or learn more about the proposed Wilderness, visit VoteForScotchmanPeaks.org.

How Do I VOTE?**Who can vote?**

This vote will be open to all registered voters in Bonner County, and the measure will appear on the Republican and Democratic primary ballots. Unaffiliated voters will also have access to a separate non-partisan ballot.

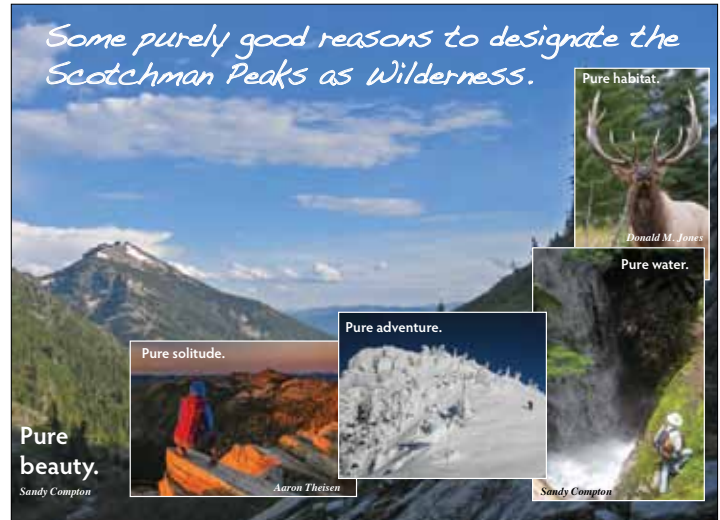
How do I vote absentee?

You can request an absentee ballot from the Bonner County Elections Office to vote on this important issue before Election Day. The Elections Office is located at 1500 Hwy 2, Ste 124, in

Sandpoint. The last day to request an absentee ballot is May 4. You can also find your polling place online to vote in person on May 15. Visit idahovotes.gov for more information.

Can I vote early?

In addition to mail-absentee ballots, voters can visit the Elections Office at 1500 Hwy 2, Ste 124, in Sandpoint to fill out an in-person absentee ballot. Voters can vote in-person between April 30 and May 11.

**STAFF NEWS****RAY BROWN JOINS STAFF IN SANDERS COUNTY**

Ray Brown joins FSPW as a part-time employee working about 10 hours per week as Sanders County outreach coordinator

Ray moved with his family to Thompson Falls in 1992. He spent his high school years living near the top of Eddy Peak, off the grid and close to nature.



Ray Brown

Ray has always admired the outdoors and recently began looking for an opportunity to become involved with an organization that is community and active in preserving the beauty surrounding us.

Ray is currently employed with Western Montana Mental Health Center as their Behavioral Intervention Special at Thompson Falls High School.

ANNIE GASSMANN AND BRITTA MIRELEY MARK WORK ANNIVERSARIES

Annie Gassmann, Lincoln County Outreach Coordinator, marked one year of employment with FSPW on February 22. Annie has been a force in Lincoln County since joining the staff, and time out of our Libby office.



Annie Gassmann

Assistant program coordinator Britta Mireley celebrated two years on April 13.

Britta and Annie both have brought some much-needed organization to the FSPW effort, as well as fresh ideas and a passion for the mission

We are grateful for both of them.



Britta Mireley and daughter Thea

MARY FRANZEL BEGINS 3RD SEASON AS GOAT COORDINATOR

Mary Franzel rejoins the FSPW staff on May 1 to begin ramping up for the 2018 Goat Education Ambassador season, which begins with training on May 31 prior to the State of the Scotchmans.

Mary has done a yeoman's job of keeping the goat education program running smoothly for the past two seasons, and we are pleased to have her returning.

2018 BACK COUNTRY RANGER INTERN JACOB ARRINGTON BEGINS WORK MAY 21

University of Montana Wildlife Biology major Jacob Arrington begins work with FSPW on May 21 by attending the Region One

Continued, page 7

Posewitz, from page 3

celebration of the Heritage Act Senator Jon Tester had shepherded through Congress. The Act added thousands of acres of wild land protection to the Rocky Mountain Front.

At the same time, a teenage Clayton DeSimone, had been composing a dramatic piano piece that within his family came to be known as, "Ode to the Rocky Mountain Front."

At the Heritage Act celebration, Jim asked the Senator if he might take a

moment to listen, in private, to young Clayton's composition, not knowing at the time that Senator Tester had been a high school music teacher. After listening to the young man's music, the Senator took the floor, thanked the crowd for their unending fight to preserve the Front, then he quieted the assembled and asked them to listen to "Ode to the Rocky Mountain Front." The room fell silent. The music began quietly then built to a thrilling crescendo. Everyone could see and feel the power of that stunning landscape. As the

last trill ended on a high note, the crowd burst into applause, cheers, and tears.

By virtue of the reaction of the audience at the Maki Theater in Libby on April 6th, it was apparent that this music equally applies to the Scotchman Peaks and other wild places that the people of this state are committed to protecting. Perhaps those of us in northwest Montana and northern Idaho can implore Mr. DeSimone to compose a special concerto for the Scotchman Peaks.

Trails, from page 3

also built that have stood the test of time. The trails that Granville Gordon, first ranger on the Cabinet National Forest, built to what we now call Star Peak, on Pilik Ridge and in Star Gulch, are fine examples of the craft of trail building.

In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the NTSA, FSPW continues their trail work this summer with 11 days in the proposed Wilderness, including work on each of the three districts. The schedule begins with a cross-cut saw training day on Historic Star Peak Trail #999 on June 2 (National Trails Day) and ends with a workday on National Public Lands Day, September 29, on Morris Creek Trail #134 and Regal Creek Trail #556

in the Lightning Creek National Forest Foundation Treasured Landscape.

The trails FSPW and other groups work on benefit hikers, hunters, berry pickers, fishers, backpackers and stock users. As partners, the FSPW crew works alongside youth crews from the Montana Conservation Corps and regular USFS trail crews. The help FSPW gives the Forest Service in maintaining these trails has resulted in strong partnerships marked by mutual respect and cooperative effort on not only trails, but weed mitigation, white bark pine restoration, stream bank restoration and outdoor education. In the next 50 years of the National Trail System, trail work done by partner groups like FSPW, Backcountry Horsemen,

Cabinet Resource Group and motorized recreation groups to keep trails open and sustainable will remain an important part of Forest Service plans for the National Trail System.

To learn more about trail work in the Scotchmans, write to trails@scotchmanpeaks.org or visit scotchmanpeaks.org/events

To find out about other USFS volunteer opportunities, visit www.fs.fed.us/working-with-us/volunteers

FSPW 2018 TRAIL SCHEDULE

- June 2:** Trail #999 — Cross Cut Training, Clearing and tread work — Cabinet
- June 23:** Scotchman Peak Trail #65 — Clearing and tread work — Sandpoint
- July 7:** Trails #999 and #998 — Clearing and tread work — Cabinet
- July 21:** Goat Mountain Trail #135 — Realignment (tentative) — Sandpoint
- July 28:** Little Spar Lake Trail #142 — Clearing and tread work — Three Rivers.
- August 11:** Big Spar Lake #142A — Clearing & tread work — Three Rivers
- August 25:** East Fork Peak Trail #563 — Clearing & trailhead rebuild — Sandpoint
- September 7,8,9:** Napoleon Gulch Trail # 1035 — Clearing and tread work — Cabinet
- September 29:** National Public Lands Day — Trails #132 & #556 — Clearing and tread work — Sandpoint

Note — Projects dates and locations are subject to change due to weather



FSPW All Star trail crew headed for a day of work on Scotchman Peak Trail #65

February 1: Kootenai Valley Christian School and Libby Alternative High students attended a Winter Tracks program at Timberlane Campground near Libby; Sandpoint High students attended Winter Tracks at Round Lake State Park.

February 2: Libby 5th Grade students attended a Winter Tracks program at Timberlane Campground; Sandpoint High students attended a Winter Tracks program at Round Lake State Park.

February 3: Karen Robinson taught painting at her studio in Sandpoint; FSPW staff and volunteers hosted night skiing at Flower Creek Cross Country Ski Park near Libby.

February 6-8: Sandy Compton attended the Wilderness and Trails meeting at Powell Ranger Station.

February 9: Sagle Elementary students participated in a Winter Tracks event at Round Lake State Park.

February 22: MickDuff's Beer Hall hosted a wilderness trivia night for FSPW.

March 3: FSPW had an information table at ALDHA-West's North Idaho Ruck in Hayden.

March 4-6: FSPW hosted Liz "Snorkel" Thomas, author of *Long Trails: Mastering the Art of the Thru Hike*.

March 13: Pend d'Oreille Winery in

Sandpoint hosted a "Sip and Shop" event to benefit FSPW.

March 13-14: Phil Hough and Britta Mireley attended Y2Y meetings in Sandpoint.

March 16: Clark Fork High School students participated in a Winter Tracks class at Round Lake State Park.

March 16-18: Phil Hough attended the Idaho Trails Association board retreat.

March 19-21: Phil Hough and Doug Ferrell attended joint Idaho and Montana Forest Collaboration Workshop in Coeur d'Alene.

March 23: Clark Fork Junior High School students participated in a Winter Tracks class at Round Lake State Park.

March 24: Winter Birding with Brian Baxter at the Heron Community Center.

March 26: Phil Hough gave a presentation to classes at Gonzaga University

March 26: Phil Hough gave a presentation to the "Great Old Broads for Wilderness" in Moscow, ID.

March 26-27: Phil made a presentation to the Idaho Forest Group Contractors meeting conference in Moscow, ID.

March 31: FSPW hosted Jack Nesbit and 95 guests for a talk on explorer David Thompson at the Beardmore Bistro in Priest River.

April: Evans Brothers Coffee Roasters named Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness as their featured non-profit for April.

April 3: The Extreme Pleinair art and photo show was hung at Evans Brothers Coffee. The art will remain up through May 10.

April 4: KRFY interview on the Scotchman Peaks ballot question.

April 4: Georgetown Brewing took over the taps at the Idaho Pour Authority to benefit FSPW.

April 5: Brews for Benefits for FSPW at the Cabinet Mountains Brewery in Libby featured Jim Posewitz.

April 6: Jim Posewitz presented his new book and gave a talk on wild subjects to 35 guests at the Maki Theater in Libby.

April 8: Phil Hough made a presentation to the North Idaho Primitive Skills Group.

April 9: FSPW Chair Doug Ferrell and MWA staff made a presentation to the Thompson Falls City Council, winning their endorsement for Kootenai Forest Stakeholders Coalition; Ray Brown started work as Sanders County Outreach Coordinator (see story page 5)

April 14: FSPW co-sponsored Project ASCENT's fundraiser, "Camping is in Tents," at the Thompson Falls Elks Club.

Future, from page 2

May 31: State of the Scotchmans, featuring mountain goat expert Gayle Joslyn, at the Oden Grange Hall; Mountain Goat Ambassador Training

June 2: Crosscut training day on Trail #999

June 9: Goat Education Ambassador season begins on Scotchman Peak Trail #65

June 10: FSPW will have an outreach table at the Pend d'Oreille Bay Trail Fun Run.

June 11-15: Assistant Program Coordinator Britta Mireley will attend STEP training.

June 16: FSPW will maintain a rest and food booth in Clark Fork for the ChaFE; 150 Bike Ride fundraiser; Old Growth Ecology Hike with Brian Baxter at Ross Creek Cedars;

June 17: FSPW will host Cinnabar Foundation staff and board for a picnic at the Compton Pavillion

June 23: Trail work day on Scotchman Peaks Trail #65

July 1: Annual Sanders County Picnic at Bull River Campground at 3 pm Mountain Time.

July 4: FSPW staff and volunteers will attend events and parades in Troy, Heron and Noxon, Montana as well as Sandpoint and Clark Fork Idaho.

ON THE HORIZON

August 8-11: FSPW will have an outreach booth at Bonner County Fair

August 10-12: FSPW will have an outreach booth at Trout Creek Huckleberry Festival;

Staff, from page 5

Wilderness Skill Institute. Jacob will be stationed at the Cabinet District bunkhouse for the summer, and work with the Cabinet and Three Rivers trail crews, as well as the FSPW volunteers. He will also help with outreach events such as the Bonner County Fair and Trout Creek Huckleberry Festival

THANKS TO 2018 WINTER TRACKS COORDINATOR NANCY SCHMIDT

Nancy Schmidt did a great job of running our 2018 Winter Tracks program, which reached more kids and more schools than ever this year. (See story on page 4.)

Vote with us, from page 2

so that all of the multiple uses for the forest can be accommodated. Finding ways to improve and agree on timber projects that are good for our forests and our economy, and to support protecting special places like the Scotchman Peaks are part of responsible management.

This balanced and common sense approach is what our communities want and need. Many businesses, civic groups and community leaders agree. This is why the Sandpoint Area Chamber of Commerce, Idaho Forest Group and many current and former county commissioners support Wilderness for the Scotchman Peaks.

In the Scotchman Peaks, you can find quiet places beyond the fast-paced world we live in today. Lined with old growth cedar and hemlock trees, clear, clean water flows through

the Scotchmans' deep, steep canyons into Lake Pend d'Oreille. Forested slopes and ridges are home to abundant wildlife including grizzly bears, lynx, wolverine and mountain goats.

Groups like the Idaho Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, Idaho Wildlife Federation and Panhandle Chapter of Trout Unlimited support designation, because protecting fish and wildlife habitats as wilderness ensures that sportsmen will have access for high quality hunting and angling.

The bill introduced by Senator Jim Risch contains provisions allowing the Forest Service to continue fighting fire, and use helicopters and motorized equipment for human health and safety. It also states that Idaho Department of Fish and Game will continue to manage fish and wildlife populations within the area.

Don't take my word for it or listen to what anyone else tells you about the

Scotchman Peaks Wilderness Act. Read it for yourself. The 5-page bill is short, simple and direct, and available to read online at www.scotchmanpeaks.org/about-the-friends/idahobill/

The Scotchman Peaks are public lands managed by the Idaho Panhandle National Forests and will stay that way, with or without designation.

Bonner County continues to grow and change at a rapid pace and we don't know what the future will bring. We need to set aside certain places while they are still wild and undeveloped, so we can preserve what makes Bonner County so special. Wilderness designation will give Bonner County the certainty that the Scotchman Peak area will never change.

Please join us by voting "in favor" of Senator Risch's Scotchman Peaks Wilderness proposal this May.

— Phil Hough, Executive Director

SNOWSHOE MARCH INTO ROSS CREEK

By Annie Gassmann

Spring in Montana can be some of the fiercest, most persistent squirrely weather, but it can also be crystal blue skies with the sun blinding bright, reflecting off the snow covered forests



Hiking into the Scotchman Peaks with the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness in the background. **Donald Dodge Photo**

and mountains. For our March snowshoe into the Ross Creek Cedar Grove, we were lucky to experience the later. It was a joint endeavor between Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness and Montana Wilderness Association to share the beauty and quiet of the Scotchman Peaks while enjoying the spectacular views across the valley of the Cabinet Mountain Wilderness.

We had 11 hearty souls in our group and one very happy golden retriever. Everyone was prepared and eager for whatever the day may bring. But it was due to Deb Schatz's determination that we made it all the way into the majestic Ross Creek Cedar Grove. The route started four miles below the cedars with a gentle incline, winding around the mountain and quiet, wintery forest.

Our group made it to the cedar grove in time for lunch. The picnic tables were totally buried, the only evi-



A sunny winter day at the Ross Cedars is a great experience.

Donald Dodge Photo

dence of their existence were slightly larger snow mounds. We each claimed a patch of snow and quickly ate our lunches so we could explore the grove

Continued next page

Joe Foster Photo



UPCOMING HIKES — E = EASY • M = MODERATE • S = STRENOUS • S+ = S+UPID :-)

Hike date	Exertion Rating	Destination/Hike Name	Leader	Description and contact info
4/11/18 Libby 5/19 Sandpoint	E/M	Spring Birding	Brian Baxter	Contact: Brian Baxter b_baxter53@yahoo.com — 406-291-2154 Welcome the spring migration of bird life with fellow enthusiasts on a fun day! We'll visit different habitats as we scope for flying, hunting, roosting, and nest building birds of prey, woodpeckers, waterfowl and songbirds. Please come with binoculars, spotting scopes, field guide books, cameras, proper layers, lunch, water! Contact leader for details on meeting times and places.
6/16/18 8 am Pacific, 9 am Mountain	E/M	Old Growth Ecology Hike	Brian Baxter and Pat McCleod	Contact: Brian Baxter b_baxter53@yahoo.com — 406-291-2154 Meander along Ross Creek in the shade of 1,000 year old trees, studying diverse plant life influenced by the Modified Pacific Maritime Climate. Explore for sights, sounds, and signs of some of the unique wildlife of this drainage. The mature forest provides habitat for great horned, great gray, and barred owls, as well as goshawks. An abundance of dead and dying trees house a myriad of tree-clinging birds plus many types of fungus, mushrooms, and lichen. Pine marten, fisher, and black bear are found in this area. Meet at the entrance to the Ross Creek Cedars at 9:00 am MTN time, 8:00 am PAC time. Come prepared with proper clothing and footwear, water, lunch, cameras and smiles!
6/21/18 7 am Pacific	S	70+ hike to Scotchmans Peak	Ken Thacker & Preston Andrew	Contact: Ken Thacker — idahowedguy@yahoo.com or prestonandrews@gmail.com For those who are 70 years young or older. This iconic Bonner County hike gains and loses about 3650 feet in elevation over nearly 8 miles of trail. It is on well constructed tread most of the way, with about 1000 feet on talus rock at the top. It is strenuous and you will know you've been for a hike, but the view from the top is worth it. Hiking poles are recommended. Meet at the Bonner Mall at 7 AM or at the trailhead. Final details to be worked out closer to hike day.
7/8/18 8:30 am Pacific 9:30 am Mountain	M/S	South Fork Ross Creek	Mindy Ferrell	Contact: Mindy Ferrell — mferrell_9874@yahoo.com After admiring the stature and hush of mammoth trees at Ross Creek Cedars, we will head beyond to the South Fork of Ross Creek. Here you will make a primitive creek crossing, find unexpected behemoths, and experience the thresholds of Wilderness. Our ultimate goal will be the amazing waterfalls of the South Fork of Ross Creek. The hike begins at 8:30 Pacific, 9:30 Mountain Time. Follow scenic Bull River Hwy, Montana # 56, to the 16.7 mile marker. Turn west on FS #398 and follow signs to Ross Creek Cedars. Dress for the weather. Bring water, snacks and lunch.
To Be Announced 8 am Pacific	S	Whitebark Pine on Scotchman	Mike Geisey	Contact: Mike Geisey — mike.geisey@whitebarkfound.org Hike co-leader Mike Geisey is a recently retired Forest Silviculturist from the Kootenai NF and a member of the Whitebark Pine Ecosystem Foundation. We will hike to stands of mature whitebark pine and will be presented with ecological and morphological information about whitebark pine from habitat needs, current threats and recent restoration efforts in the area. Mike will also discuss restoration efforts the Whitebark Pine Ecosystem Foundation is engaged in. Hikers will return with a new appreciation for high elevation ecosystems and whitebark pine. Meet at the Scotchman Peak Trailhead at 8 am Pacific.
8/6/18 8 am Mountain, 7 am Pacific	S+	Sawtooth Mountain	Sandy Compton	Contact: Sandy Compton — sandy@scotchmanpeaks.org This bushwhack is complete with route-finding, thinking like an elk, tag alder, huckleberries, the occasional cliff, talus large and small, "where-the-heck-are-we" moments and a grand, all-day adventure worth every minute, ounce of sweat and drop of blood. Bring lots of water, lunch, layers, snacks galore, a sense of humor and a thirst for adventure. NO tennis shoes, please. Serious hiking shoes or boots are a requirement. Long pants are recommended. .

To learn more about or sign up for any of our hikes, summer or winter, visit www.scotchmanpeaks.org/hiking
Do you want to lead a hike? Suggest yours at www.scotchmanpeaks.org/hiking/leading-hikes/

March, from page 8

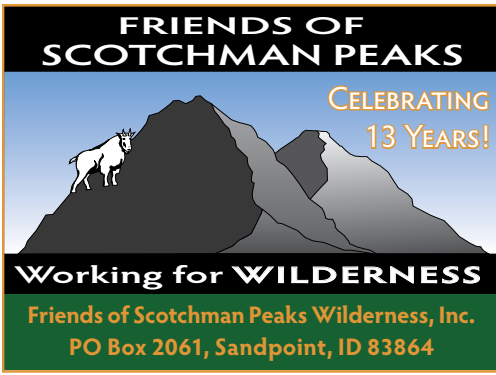
of ancient cedars. The depth of snow pack was impressive for mid-March. There was at least three feet of snow packed on the outhouse roofs and the snow reached the top of the railing on the bridge over Ross Creek.

We took a short jaunt into the grove after lunch, we'd worked hard

that morning to reach "the big trees." It was quiet among the giant cedars. Even the birds silently watched our progress. We made quick work of the four-mile snowshoe back to the parked cars.

Our group of snowshoers knew what they were doing and had great appreciation for the opportunity

to experience a day in the woods. I look forward to next year's snowshoe adventures. For now, I will settle on spring mud slogs while I eagerly await summer hikes and explorations in the Scotchman Peaks. I hope to find a group of hikers as thoughtful and gung-ho as the ones on the 2018 Ross Creek March Snowshoe.



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 Creek divide 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. You may mail them to:
FSPW • P.O. Box 2061 • Sandpoint, Idaho 83864

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