

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 receive this newsletter by mail and have an email address you can help us save postage by sending us your email address.

Acquisitions Editor: Ann Wimberley
Layout and design: Celeste Boatwright Grace



FIRST SANDERS COUNTY WINTER TRACKS CLASS

By Jen Kreiner,
Sanders County
Outreach Coordinator

Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness brought the outdoor education event Winter Tracks to Sanders County. The program is designed as an outdoor winter field trip for schools to help introduce the students to aspects of the great outdoors during the winter. This is the third year FSPW has offered Winter Tracks to schools that call the Scotchmans their backyard. This year's schedule kicked off hosting Thompson Falls junior high students on Thursday, December 22nd at the Naegli Ranch. Located just a few miles west of Thompson Falls on Little Beaver Creek, the ranch was an ideal location to host Thompson Falls. This was the first Winter Tracks event held in Sanders County, Montana!

For Winter Tracks, FSPW works with our existing pool of knowledgeable volunteers to set up four stations



Thompson Falls students learn about tracks and tracking on the Naegli Ranch from FSPW volunteer Ray Vinke. **Jen Kreiner Photo**

that the students rotated through: Wildlife Tracking, facilitated by Ray Vinkey, USFS Wildlife Biologist Cabinet Ranger District taught the students how to identify different wildlife tracks by looking at plaster casts of tracks and identifying unique characteristics. Groups were then led by Sandy Compton, FSPW

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READ SENATOR RISCH'S SCOTCHMAN PEAKS WILDERNESS ACT ON THE FSPW WEBSITE

Visit www.scotchmanpeaks.org/about-the-friends/idahobill/

ALONG THE TRAIL

October 15: Sandy Compton hosted the FSPW Annual Volunteer Appreciation Picnic at the Compton Pavilion in Montana.

October 27: MickDuff's Brewing company tapped a keg of Blacktop Brown to benefit the Friends of Scotchman Peaks.

October 20: Assistant Program Coordinator Britta Mireley attended Inland Northwest Conference for the Greater Good in Spokane.

October 29: FSPW was a sponsor of and had an outreach booth at the Thompson Falls Harvest Festival.

October 29: Brad Smith led a crosscut crew up Goat Mountain Trail to remove blowdowns, clearing the trail to Anticipation Point.

October 31: The 2016 Annual FSPW Photo Contest closed.

November 1: The 2017 Annual FSPW Photo opened. Enter your pics at www.scotchmanpeaks.org/hiking/annual-photo-contest/

November 7 – 10: Phil Hough and Sandy Compton attended the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance conference at the University of Montana.

December 5: Tyler Chisholm began work as the Winter Program Coordinator.

December 8: Senator Jim Risch introduced The Scotchman Peaks Wilderness Act.

December 14: Sixth annual USFS/FSPW planning meeting was held at Heron with 12 USFS and 4 FSPW staff in attendance; Assistant Program Coordinator Britta Mireley began her maternity leave.

December 22: Our first Sanders County Winter Tracks kicked off the 2016-17 season. 70-plus Thompson Falls Junior High students, four FSPW staff and 8 volunteers met at the Naegli Ranch between Trout Creek and Thompson Falls (See story on page 1).

January 3: FSPW staffers Phil Hough and Tyler Chisholm gave a presentation to the Panhandle Nordic Club in Hayden Idaho.

January 4: 60-plus Friends attended the FSPW fundraiser and Winter Tracks kickoff at the Idaho Pour Authority.

January 7: Phil Hough led the first winter hike of the 2017 season up Lightning Creek to Morris Creek.

January 11: 160 people attended an informational meeting at Clark Fork High School led by Risch aid Sid Smith and FSPW executive director Phil Hough.

January 12: Winter Project Coordinator Tyler Chisholm met with USFS personnel and weed expert Ken Thacker regarding a biocontrol for St. John's Wort.

January 12 & 15: FSPW volunteers set wolverine stations near Lunch Peak and East Fork Creek in the West Cabinets.

January 14: FSPW Staff had a night out in support of KRFY and Team Autism 24/7 by attending the Vigo Mortensen film Captain Fantastic at the Panida Theater.

January 19 & 20: 90 Libby fifth graders (45 each day), FSPW

staff and numerous volunteers met at Timberlane Campground north of Libby for a Winter Tracks session.

January 25: Troy Jr. High students, FSPW staff and volunteers met at Alvord Lake Campground near Troy for a Winter Tracks session.

THE FUTURE LOOKS BRIGHT

January 27: The FSPW 12th Anniversary celebration will be held at the Little Panida. Doors open at 6 pm. Appetizers. No host bar. Silent auctions with some fantastic items. Movies. Music. Dancing.

February 3: Winter Tracks at Round Lake with Forrest M. Bird Charter School; Winter Tracks with Noxon and Trout Creek Schools at Eddy Creek Campground.

February 10: Films at Thompson Falls Elementary.

February 4: Tracking and Animal Signs with Brian Baxter, beginning at Heron Community Center.

February 13 – 17: FSPW Exec will attend TREC Senior Leadership Training in Montana.

February 17: Winter Tracks with Sagle Elementary School at Round Lake State Park.

February TBA: Films at Libby Middle School.

February 23: A sip-and-shop fundraising event at Pend Oreille Winery.

March 3: Winter Tracks with Clark Fork Junior / Senior High School at Trout Creek Wildlife Management Area.

March 10: Winter Tracks at Round Lake State Park with East Valley 6th graders led by Chris Bachman.

March 15: FSPW Strategic Planning Meeting.

ON THE HORIZON

April 1: Winter Birding with Brian Baxter beginning at Heron Community Center.

May TBA: FSPW first aid training will be held for volunteers.

June 1: State of the Scotchmans at Forrest Bird Charter School.

June 2 – 4: Trail crew leader training college with Idaho Trails Associate and US Forest Service. Eddy Creek Campground, Trail #999 and locations to be announced.



WANT TO BE AN FSPW INSIDER?

GET THE WEEKLY INSIDER NEWSLETTER VIA E-MAIL BY
WRITING TO INSIDER@SCOTCHMANPEAKS.ORG



MEASURING RETURN ON INVESTMENT (ROI) IN THE SCOTCHMAN PEAKS

ROI is a term associated with for-profit business, an indicator of the health of a company or profitability of an investment. It might be expressed as a ratio or a dollar amount — an exact number.

In the non-profit world, measuring ROI is harder. If there is no measureable profit, there can be no precise accounting to demonstrated the efficiency of an organization. It's necessary to look a little deeper to determine what donors and grantors get for their underwriting.

With Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness, ROI is measured by parameters reflecting three “products” of our “business model:” advocacy, stewardship and education. As a flourishing “company,” FSPW continues to grow in each of these areas, with success measured by legislative progress, expanding commitment to boots-on-the-ground work with our agency partners and continued growth of our outdoor education programs for kids and adults alike.

Legislative progress is obvious. When Senator Risch introduced the Scotchman Peaks Wilderness Bill in December, it was result of years of outreach and advocacy work by staff, board and hundreds of volunteers traveling thousands of miles to speak to our Congressional delegations, distributing thousands of newsletters, maps and brochures and answering myriad questions at hundreds of events from Libby to Thompson Falls to Clark Fork to Sandpoint to Spokane.

The stewardship “factory” produces new miles of forest trails, and more miles made new again each year.

FSPW leads noxious weed surveys and actions against those weeds, silviculture efforts on behalf of the ecologically critical whitebark pine, and a continuing effort to learn about rare forest carnivores in the Cabinet Mountains. FSPW volunteer do much of the heavy lifting on these projects, but they are planned, coordinated and led by staff.

Our education “outlet” continues to grow. The FSPW Winter Tracks program has matured into a program that teachers at all levels of education find valuable. School kids in all three counties the Scotchman Peaks proposal lies in are benefitting by this outdoor education project. In 2015-2016, seven schools were engaged. In 2016-17, nine schools are taking part. Outdoor expert Brian Baxter continues to help with the Winter Tracks program and leads adult classes for FSPW as well.

The ROI doesn't stop at the edges of our proposal, but continues on into the larger world as well. Someone who learns the value of wild country from FSPW will take that knowledge with them wherever they go. A hiker on the Spar Lake trail will take the experience home to “infect” others with a love for the wilderness. The kids we take into the snowy reaches of Winter Tracks will become the next generation of advocates, stewards and educators.

ROI at FSPW may not be measurable. It might be said instead that it is immeasurable.

For a look at what FSPW did with your investment in FY 2016, see page 6.

THANKS TO THESE GENEROUS FOLKS FOR INDIVIDUAL INVESTMENTS IN THE PAST FEW MONTHS.

Paul Leech, Shoal Lake,
Manitoba, Canada
Charles McCleod, Troy, MT
Sylvia Chatburn, Sagle, ID
Dennis and Diane Schwehr,
Thompson Falls, MT
Georgia York, Sandpoint, ID
Aimee Moran, Boise, ID
Women's Health Center,
Sandpoint, ID
Marie Walton, San Diego, CA
Julie McCallan, Sandpoint, ID
Phil Hough, Sagle, ID
Lexie de Fremery, Sagle, ID
Sandy Compton, Heron, MT
Ron and Laura Forsberg,
Cocolalla, ID
MickDuff's Brewing, Sandpoint, ID
Jonathan Isacof, Spokane, WA
Specialty Technical Consultants,
Oakland, CA
Gretchen Ward, Sandpoint, ID
Peter and Marlis Germann,
Katonah, NY
Kelly and Connie Mickelson,
Spokane, WA
Ron Mamajek and Denise
Zembryki, Sagle, ID,
James Green, Sagle, ID
Steve and Linda Slaughter,
Missoula, MT
Jennifer Passaro,
Coeur d' Alene, ID
John Moody, Sandpoint, ID
Sandra Wall, East Hope, ID
Eileen Atkisson, Sandpoint, ID
Kevin Murray, Sandpoint, ID
Mary Franzel, Clark Fork, ID
Crystal Zieske, Priest River, ID
Pat Manners, Spokane, WA
JoAnn Rohyans, Sandpoint, ID
Ken Bush, Sandpoint, ID

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

| Hike date | Exertion Rating | Destination/ Hike Name | Leader | Description and contact info |
|-----------|-----------------|--------------------------------|---------------|---|
| 1/28/17 | M | East to West to East Fork Blue | Sandy Compton | Contact: Sandy Compton sandy@scotchmanpeaks.org Take a wintry walk at the south edge of the Scotchman Peaks. Beautiful and quiet snowshoe "stroll" along un-plowed roads to the edge of the West Fork Canyon and back. The hike is about 6 miles, with about 300 feet gain and loss. |
| 2/4/17 | M | Winter Tracking | Brian Baxter | Contact: Brian Baxter b_baxter53@yahoo.com Start with a classroom session at Heron Community Center, then head to the field to look for tracks and other signs critters leave behind in the winter. Dress appropriately, bring lunch, snacks, water, and smiles and good attitude for fun day! Some off trail hiking. Meet at 9 am Pacific time; 10 am Mountain time at Heron Community Center in Heron, MT. |
| 2/6/16 | /M | Ross Creek Cedars | Chuck Gross | Contact: Chuck Gross ckgross44@gmail.com Snowshoe 3.5 miles up a closed service road to the beautiful ancient cedar forest. Pack a lunch for a picnic and wander amongst the cedars before heading back down the road to the vehicles. |
| 4/1/17 | E/M | Winter Birding | Brian Baxter | Contact: Brian Baxter b_baxter53@yahoo.com Start with a classroom session at Heron Community Center, then head to the field to look for raptors, owls and hawks. Dress appropriately, bring lunch, snacks, water, and smiles and good attitude for fun day! Some off trail hiking. Meet at 9 am Pacific time; 10 am Mountain time at Heron Community Center in Heron, MT. |

To learn more about or sign up for any of our hikes, summer or winter, visit www.scotchmanpeaks.org/hiking

SHARING THE LUCK: WORKING TOGETHER FOR WILDERNESS

By Tyler Chisholm, Winter Project Coordinator

I hereby declare myself FSPW's official good luck charm! In all actuality, I am FSPW's new Winter Program Coordinator, but within weeks of starting my new position the Scotchman Peaks Wilderness Act was introduced by Senator Risch. Therefore, I am either very lucky or have impeccable timing. I would have to say both because there couldn't be a more exciting time to work for this small, but far-reaching organization.

In my whirlwind of a first month I have had nothing but positive experiences—from teaching about skulls & pelts at the first Winter Tracks program of the season in frigid nine-degree weather to learning way more than



Tyler (in the pink hat) works the hot chocolate station at the Libby Winter Tracks event.

Brian Sherry photo

I ever thought possible about wilderness legislation, and everything in between. However, if I had to choose one thing that has impressed me the most about FSPW, I would have to say it's the people.

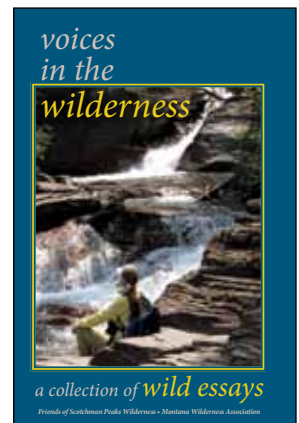
Although I have met way too many new faces in the past couple of weeks to ever recall everyone's name (I apologize in advance), I am amazed the amount of passion, unity, and support this special community has to offer.

In my interview for this position, I asked my all-time favorite interview question (that often stumps interviewers): What aspect of

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VOICES IN THE WILDERNESS RELEASED

Voices in the Wilderness: A Collection of Wild Essays was released in October. This collaboration of Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness and Montana Wilderness Association, is a collection of



essays written by everyday people from the communities of Libby, Troy, Heron, Noxon, Thompson Falls and the rural areas surrounding these towns in Lincoln and Sanders Counties, Montana. The commonality of these essays is that they are narratives of personal experiences in wild places, sometimes Wilderness with a capital W, sometimes other places both remote and not-so-remote.

The writers of *Voices in the Wilderness* range in age from 15 to 75, and subject matter rambles from hunting trips, solo hikes and family reunions at high mountain lakes to big elk, tiny fish and windblown terror. The stories are funny, touching, scary, inspiring and all rooted in a personal relationship with a place with no roads.

Most of the essays were published by arrangement with FSPW and MWA in *The Western News* of Libby or *The Sanders County Ledger* of Thompson Falls as part of an ongoing series of columns called *Voices in the Wilderness*. When it came time to publish the collection, Blue Creek Press undertook editing and design.

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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

RINGING IN THE NEW YEAR WITH A NEW WILDERNESS BILL!

In December, Senator Jim Risch introduced the Scotchman Peaks Wilderness Act (S.3531)! This legislation would designate the portion of the Scotchman Peaks in Bonner County, Idaho, as a Wilderness and would establish the first protected wilderness area within the Panhandle region of Idaho!

The bill introduction was built upon the years of work by many people to develop community consensus. Support for the proposed wilderness is almost as stunning as the area's beauty. The proposal enjoys the support of the Bonner County Board of Commissioners, Idaho Forest Group, and the Greater Sandpoint Chamber of Commerce. And most importantly, there are now more than 6,900 people from diverse backgrounds and interests who have become "Friends". Every one of our voices counts and we thank you all!

The strength of community support was demonstrated in June 2016, when Bonner County Commissioner Cary Kelly, Idaho Forest Group VP Bob Boeh and FSPW Executive Director Phil Hough travelled to Washington DC together to talk to the congressional delegation about wilderness legislation.

In September, Bruce Gordon of Ecoflight provided a bird's eye view of the Scotchman Peaks for local media and elected officials and in October we held our third annual Bonner County Wellness hike. Both events provided a

first-hand look at the area's wilderness character.

The introduction of a bill is a huge step forward, but much work remains to be done. Sen Risch stated in a media release that he intends to reintroduce the bill in 2017 to gather further input and hold public meetings. It is important that he hear from all of our many supporters.

We look forward to the coming year and continuing our work to permanently protect the Scotchman Peaks through wilderness legislation and good stewardship. We will continue on with our many outreach and stewardship programs. We'll be busy with winter ecology field days and summer hikes for youth, wolverine monitoring, weed mitigation, whitebark pine restoration, trail maintenance and education about mountain goats.

We will repeat our successful Trail Ambassador program and our Wilderness Ranger Intern program. This year we will be adding an Artist in Residence program too!

We'll also gather together people for some fun and educational events, provide opportunities for robust dialogue about wilderness and meet with community leaders and civic groups. We know you will be right there with us as we pass the 7,000 friend mark on our way to permanent preservation of the Scotchman Peaks!

— Phil Hough

2016 BROUGHT ORGANIZATIONAL AND STAFF CHANGES

By Phil Hough

As FSPW grows and evolves so do our programs and staffing needs. 2016 brought about some noteworthy staffing changes and additions.

In February we added a new outreach position in Thompson Falls and brought Jen Kreiner on board.



Jen Kreiner

In March we hired an intern in Lincoln County. Kara Adams dived

head first into outreach and stewardship doing everything from setting



Kara Adam

up survey tables in front of Rossauers to running a combi-tool on Spar Peak. Kara left us with plans to return and work for the Three Rivers District next summer.

We unfortunately lost Ashley South's services in Lincoln County last fall, but we are just beginning to look at applications for a part-time outreach coordinator in Lincoln County.

Nathan Mynatt left to go explore the South America. As his replacement, we hired Britta Mireley in April. She stepped right into our projects and programs working on everything from advocacy to weeds and wolverines.



Britta Mireley

During the fifth year of our highly successful partnership with the Forest

Continued on page 8

BY THE NUMBERS: THE 2015-16 STEWARDSHIP SEASON

Outreach and fundraisers

Total outreach events – 17
 (7B Sunday, Huckleberry Festival, Bonner County Fair, 4 Independence Day Parades, Jack Nisbet presentation, IPA Fundraiser, MickDuff’s Fundraiser, State of The Scotchmans, 11th Anniversary, StoryTelling events in Libby and Thompson Falls, Harevest Festivals in Libby and Thompson Falls, Sip and Shop at Pend Oreille Winery)
 Unique volunteers – 50
 Volunteer hours – 129
Maps distributed and questions answered– countless

Outdoor Education

Number of events – 9 (7 Winter Tracks, 2 Brian Baxter classes)
 Number of unique volunteers – 25
 Number of volunteers days total – 39
 Number of volunteer hours – 221
Seven schools and 250 students

Mountain Goat Education Program Trail # 65 Ambassadors

Unique volunteers – 21
 Dasy with ambassadors present – 33
 Volunteer hours – 274

Trail Work & Related Work Days

Trails Training Days – 3, including crosscut class
 Saw certification class – 1, certifying 6 FSPW staff and volunteers
 Unique Trail Projects – 5
 Trail work days (non-training) – 15
 Unique volunteers – 128
 Volunteer hours – 952
 Volunteer miles 3,367
 Volunteer vehicles — 53
Miles constructed or maintained – 4.3

Weed Assessment and Mitigation

Unique volunteers – 16
 Volunteer hours – 240

Volunteer miles – 1,792
 Volunteer vehicles – 19
 Trails surveyed for weeds - 9
Miles of trail surveyed – 47.7

Whitebark Pine Verbenone Treatment

Unique volunteers trained – 8
 Volunteers deployed – 4
 Volunteer hours 69
Trees treated – 18

Hikes Program

27 volunteer hike and event leaders
 179 participants
 330 volunteer hours

Miscellaneous Stewardship Events

Wilderness & Remote First Aid sessions – 3, training 16 volunteers
 Highway clean-up – 1, cleaning 2 miles of Highway 200



Just a few of our many volunteers with their Wildwood Grilling planks, a small thank you for all they do for the Scotchman Peaks

Overall numbers 2015-16

Unique volunteers – 151
 Volunteer days total – 367
 Number of volunteer hours – 2,596
 Volunteer miles driven – 10,057
 Volunteer vehicle days – 114
Value of volunteer hours - \$61,167.65

FINANCIALS

These financial statements are based on our most recently completed fiscal year, Fiscal 2016 which began Oct 1, 2015 and ended Sept 30th, 2016. Because our accounting is handled on a cash basis, we report expenditures and receipts as they are actually transacted.

In Fiscal 2016 we received \$234,788 in support from individual donors, merchandise sales, fundraisers, and foundation grants. The following foundations provided support: Brainard Foundation, Cadeau Foundation, Champion Foundation, Cinnabar Foundation, Confidence Foundation, Inland Northwest Community Foundation / Equinox, Forest Service, High Stakes Foundation, PEW Charitable Trusts, Kendeda, Maki Foundation, National Forest Foundation, The New-Land Foundation, Inc., Norcross Wildlife Foundation, Patagonia, Wilburforce Foundation, and the Yellowstone to Yukon Initiative

Our expenses totaled \$216,209. We started the year with a cash balance of \$121,153. We ended the fiscal year on Sept 30 with \$142,732.

| | | | | |
|---------------------|------------------|--------|----------------------|------------------|
| 2016 Revenue | \$234,788 | | 2016 Expenses | \$216,209 |
| Grants | 211,600 | 90.1% | Programs | 183,004 84.6% |
| Donors | 21,675 | 9.2% | Admin | 22,759 10.5% |
| Events/Other | 1,044 | 0.4% | Fundraising | 10,466 4.9% |
| Interest | 469 | < 0.1% | | |

January 14 and 15, 2016: Nathan Mynatt led two 2016 Winter Tracks programs at Round Lake State Park.

January 16: Brian Baxter led eight students on a tracking class.

February 26: Idaho Conservation League and FSPW hosted films at the Eagles Club in Coeur d' Alene. Clark Fork High School participated in Winter Tracks at Trout Creek WMA.

March 18 & 19 : FSPW presented The StoryTelling Company at Maki Theater in Libby and Rex Theater in Thompson Falls.

March 23: Phil Hough presented to the Environmental Policy Class at Gonzaga.

April 5: FSPW staff and volunteers put on a Winter Tracks Program for the 11th grade at Troy High School.

April 7: Board Chair Doug Ferrell and Jen Kreiner met with the Sanders County Commissioners.

April 13: Assistant Program Coordinator Britta Mireley's first day.

April 22: Earth Day trail cleanup on Regal Creek Trail in the Lightning Creek Treasured Landscape.

May 14-15 and May 21-22: Wilderness First Aid Classes were taught by FSPW Secretary Carol Jenkins.

May 14: FSPW and MWA staff and volunteers had a refreshment station during the STOKR bike race in Lincoln County

May 23: Backcountry ranger/outreach intern Lindsay Ashton began work.

May 25: FSPW participated in an outdoor education day at Trout Creek Elementary School.

June 2: 75 people attended the State of the Scotchmans at Forrest Bird Charter School.

June 4, National Trails Day: Twelve volunteers attended the Annual FSPW Trails

and Hike Leader Training Day at Eddy Creek Campground and Trail #999.

June 14-17: FSPW exec Phil Hough, Idaho Forest Group VP Bob Boeh and Bonner County Commissioner Cary Kelly visited Idaho Congressional delegation in Washington, D.C.

June 18: First day of the Goat Ambassador Program on Trail #65.

June 20: Eleven volunteers and staff worked on realignment of Scotchman Peak Trail #65. A National Trails Day event.

June 23 - 25: FSPW had a booth at Libby Logger Days.

July 9: Fire ecology expert Art Zack led an outdoor education hike along Dry Creek Trail #1020.

July 15, August 5, and August 26: FSPW volunteers led hikes for kids to Ross Creek Cedars, the East Fork of Blue creek and Trail #999.

July 16: James Flocchini led twelve folks on a Morris Creek Medicinal Plant ID Walk.

July 29 – 31: FSPW volunteers and Sandy Compton worked on Spar Peak Trail. They improved several thousand feet of trail

over the three days and picked a bunch of hucks.

August 8-13: FSPW volunteers and staff worked at the FSPW Booth at Bonner County Fair. The Mountain Goat Education Program earned FSPW a special award.

August 12-14: FSPW volunteers and staff worked at the FSPW booth at the Trout Creek Huckleberry Festival.

August 19: National Forest Foundation sponsored a Morris Creek



Trail #132 workday, led by Phil Hough and Sandy Compton, with 7 volunteer trail crew members.

August 27: A Goat Mountain trail clearing workday was led by FSPW volunteer Brad Smith.

September 11: 45-plus folks attended the Inaugural Thompson

Falls Picnic held at Power Park. FSPW program coordinator Sandy Compton was presented with a Montana Wilderness Association Brass Lantern Award at the picnic by FSPW board chair Doug Ferrell.

September 21: EcoFlight took three flights over the Scotchmans with press members, political leaders and FSPW staff and volunteers.

September 23 and 24: Twenty-nine FSPW volunteers celebrated National Public Lands Day by completing the re-route of the lower three-quarters of a mile of Scotchman Peak Trail #65. The new section of trail was dedicated on Sept. 24.

October 1: FSPW cosponsored with Bonner County Historical Society a presentation by Jack Nisbet. 100-plus folks came to Oden Hall to listen.

October 8: The annual Scotchman Peaks Plein Air Paintout was held.

October 9: The 2016 Scotchman Peaks Goat Ambassador program ended for the season.

October 29: FSPW was a sponsor of and had an outreach booth at the Thompson Falls Harvest Festival.

December 5: Tyler Chisholm began work as the Winter Program Coordinator.

December 8: Senator Jim Risch introduced The Scotchman Peaks Wilderness Act.

December 22: Winter Tracks 2016-17 kicked off when Thompson Falls Junior High students, four FSPW staff and 8 volunteers met at the Naegli Ranch West of Thompson Falls near Beaver Creek. This was our first Sanders County Winter Tracks.



FREINDS OF SCOTCHMAN PEAKS: THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE IT WORK

The Board of Directors

CHAIRMAN & MONTANA DIRECTOR

Doug Ferrell, Trout Creek, MT
doug@scotchmanpeaks.org

SECRETARY

Carol Jenkins, Sagle, ID
carol@scotchmanpeaks.org

TREASURER

Jacob Styer, Sandpoint, ID
jacob@scotchmanpeaks.org

EAST BONNER COUNTY DIRECTOR:

Neil Wimberley, Hope, ID
neil@scotchmanpeaks.org

Bill Martin, Troy, MT
(406) 295-5258

Will Valentine, Sagle, ID
will@scotchmanpeaks.org

Mollie Kieran, Troy, MT
molly@mollymontana.com

The Staff

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Phil Hough, Sagle, ID
phil@scotchmanpeaks.org

PROGRAM COORDINATOR:

Sandy Compton, Heron, MT
(sandy@scotchmanpeaks.org)

ASSISTANT PROGRAM COORDINATOR:

Britta Mireley, Sagle, ID
britta@scotchmanpeaks.org

WINTER PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Tyler Chisholm, Bayview, ID
tyler@scotchmanpeaks.org

2016 LINCOLN COUNTY INTERN

Kara Adam, World Traveler

2016 SUMMER INTERN/RANGER

Lindsay Ashton, Missoula, MT

MOUNTAIN GOAT EDUCATION PROGRAM COORDINATOR,

Mary Franzel, Clark Fork, ID
mary@scotchmanpeaks.org



Some jobs are less glamorous than others. These U of Montana students pulled 70 pounds of junk out of the East Fork of Blue Creek



Staff and volunteers alike love trail work days

Changes , from page5

Service, Lindsay Ashton came on as our Backcountry Ranger intern. We are accepting applications now for this unique position.

We began our Trail Ambassador Program in June 2016, with Jay Sicilia as the coordinator and finished the summer with Mary Franzel as our Mountain Goat Education Coordinator. We look forward to Mary's return next summer.

In September, Program Coordinator Sandy Compton was feted by the Montana Wilderness Association with one of the 2016 Brass Lantern Awards. FSPW Chair Doug Ferrell gave Sandy his award at the September Sanders County Picnic.

As we turn the year into a new one, Britta is on maternity leave, bringing



The Brass Lantern

Some of Our Key Volunteers

ACQUISITIONS EDITOR

Ann Wimberley, Hope, ID

NEWSLETTER PRODUCTION

Celeste Grace, Sandpoint, ID

MERCHANDISE MANAGER

Jim Mellen, Sandpoint, ID

WEBMISTRESS

Trisha Miller, Sandpoint, ID

INVASIVE WEED SPECIALIST

Ken Thacker, Sagle, Idaho

CAMPAIGN INFORMATION SPECIALIST:

Brad Smith, Sandpoint, Idaho

US FOREST SERVICE LIASON:

Joel Sather, Cabinet RD

OUTDOOR EDUCATION SPECIALIST:

Brian Baxter, Libby, Mt

VIDEOGRAPHER

Joe Foster, Jackson Hole, WY

2017 ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE

Karen Robinson, SANDPOINT, ID

a new "friend" into the world, Thea Caroline Mireley. Join us in congratulating her family! Britta will be back in the spring.

This winter, Tyler Chisholm steps in for 4 months as our Winter Projects Coordinator, working with our Winter Tracks program, Wolverine Monitoring, writing the Insider and helping our with many administrative tasks.

In addition, Brian Baxter continues as our very part-time outdoor education expert, assisting us with Winter Tracks as well as teaching several other environmental classes.

Sandy and I continue to plug along, thankful for all the help from our dedicated and talented board, staff and many volunteers!

Tracks, from page 1

program coordinator to explore in the snow to see what tracks were in the area. They spotted squirrel, turkey, coyote and elk!

Tree Identification, facilitated by Jodi Turk, USFS Forestry Technician Cabinet Ranger District taught students how to identify native tree species during the winter months looking at their bark, needles, cones, etc. There were a number of species, both coniferous and deciduous on the ranch to apply identification knowledge learned from samples at the station. Students were blindfolded and guided to a tree where they had to feel the bark and needles and talk about the identifying characteristics.

Leave No Trace principles, facilitated by Mindy Ferrell, retired Noxon teacher and Brita Olson, Lower Clark Fork Watershed Coordinator taught students about minimizing their impact on nature during recreational activities and why that's important. They discussed the seven principles of leave no trace and the students were broken up in to groups of two where they applied what they learned in real life scenario skits. The students watching had to guess which principle was being demonstrated and if it was a good or bad practice of the principle. It was entertaining and there were lots of laughs!

The Common Mammals station, facilitated by Charlotte Milling, U of Idaho Wildlife PhD student, looked at a number of skulls and talked about common mammals of the area; their habitats, and behavior. The discussion outlined differentiating characteristics of carnivore, omnivore and herbivores from eye socket placement to teeth structure. Thanks to Haun Taxidermy, this station had complete pelts for students to look at and touch including, a mountain goat, two different colored black bears, fox and martens. Interim FSPW Program



FSPW Staff and volunteers enjoy a little peace, quiet and heat during debrief after a successful, but cold, Winter Tracks session in Sanders County **Photo by Jen Kreiner**

Assistant, Tyler Chisholm played some fun predator/prey games which kept the kids on the move and warm!

The morning temperatures were frosty and remained around 10 degrees. At every station change kids were

Luck, from page 4

your organization are you most proud of? Without missing a beat, Executive Director Phil Hough brought to light the essence of what really makes FSPW work. The people. Specifically, the unique mix of Friends that have come together to help keep the Scotchmans wild. And this is certainly something to be proud of!

In my experience, organizations similar to FSPW tend to have a typical, more homogeneous, type of supporter, but that could not be farther from the case with FSPW. I am impressed by the diversity of support from both sides of political lines, industry and advocacy, federal agencies and local businesses, and almost every type of outdoor enthusiast: not just the avid backpacker, but hunters, anglers, and backcountry horseman alike. This diverse backbone of a community that supports the common goal of wilderness is something that we all should be proud of!

And if I am on a roll with self-declaring official good luck charms, I might as well move to declare a

encouraged to warm up by the fire and grab some hot chocolate. After lunch the sun peeked through the trees and warmed temps and spirits for the second half of the day. The busses arrived at 9am at the ranch with 55 students from 7th and 8th grade, four teacher chaperones, and four high-school Envirothon/Science Olympiad volunteers to assist each station. It was a memorable field trip for all -- from the students to the facilitators! There are a few

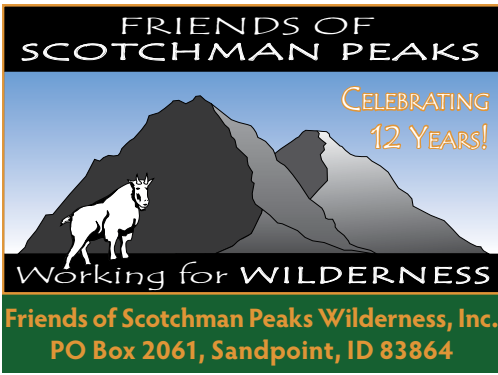
more Winter Tracks programs scheduled for Bonner, Lincoln and Sanders County students in 2017. If your school is interested in bringing this program to your school give the Friends a call to get on the 2017-18 calendar!

minor change in FSPW's motto from "working for wilderness" to "working together for wilderness." Because all that has been accomplished so far with the introduction of the wilderness bill, and all that has yet to be accomplished could not have been possible without the collaboration of this unique and special community surrounding the Scotchmans. I feel incredibly fortunate to have the privilege of being a part of this organization and this community, if only for a short time.

Voices, from page 4

High school students, teachers, professionals, politicians, scientists and working class contributors tell their personal backcountry stories in this book, emphasizing that wild places are instructive, inspiring and essential to all sorts of people.

The 160-page book's first edition came off the press in October. Profits from the sale of *Voices* will benefit FSPW and MWA. *Voices in the Wilderness* is available at bit.ly/WildKootenaiVoices.



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. Detach & Mail to the address above.

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