

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



Chris Bessler of Sandpoint Magazine got a chance to ask Rich Landers "the hard questions" at the Panida on January 13. Marjolein Groot Nibbelink Photo

Forty "Rich" Years in the Great Outdoors with Rich Landers was illuminating and fun.

An enthusiastic crowd of more than 250 showed up at the Panida Theater on Saturday, January 13th, for the 13th Anniversary of Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness. The celebration of thirteen years of "working for Wilderness" was headlined by Rich Landers, who gave a humorous and often poignant recounting of his 40 years with The Spokesman-Review as outdoor reporter and editor.

Landers, who retired on December 1, gave a presentation entitled "40

'Rich' Years in the Great Outdoors" for the first half of the evening, and then came back after intermission for an interview with Sandpoint Magazine publisher Chris Bessler that included many questions from the audience. Landers' passion for the out-of-doors and all of the many things one can do made for a very interesting evening.

"Rich has some great stories," FSPW program coordinator Sandy Compton said, "and lots of them. I think we only scratched the surface. I hope he'll put together a book."

Among Landers' subjects were bear encounters of the close kind, ***Continued, page 10 Anniversary,***

INSIDE:
PAGE 4: THE 2017 PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS
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PAGE 11: WINTER HIKE SCHEDULE

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

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

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

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

February 17: Brian Baxter will lead a winter ecology class in Libby area. Meeting

time is 9 am at the Venture Inn. Sign up online at scotchmanpeaks.org/events

February 22: 6 pm. Meet up at Mick-Duff's for beer and trivia. Drinking beer for a good cause.

March 16: Clark Fork High School students will participate in a Winter Tracks class at "Judy's Place" on the Montana/Idaho border.

March 13: Pend d'Oreille Winery in Sandpoint will host a "Sip and Shop" event to benefit FSPW.

March 23: Clark Fork Junior High School students will participate in a Winter Tracks class at "Judy's Place."

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

March 26: Presentation to classes at Gonzaga

April 4: FSPW will "take over the taps" at the Idaho Pour Authority, 5 to 8 pm.

April 5: Brews for Benefits at the Cabinet Mountains Brewery in Libby with Jim Posewitz will benefit the Friends.

April 6: Jim Posewitz will present his new book and give a talk on wild subjects at the Maki Theater in Libby;

ON THE HORIZON

April 20: Opening 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 Nibelink and Joe Foster.

April 28: Spring Birding with Brian Baxter, beginning at Heron Community Center

May 2: Idaho Gives

May 31: State of the Scotchmans, featuring mountain goat expert Gayle Joslyn, at the Oden Grange Hall.

June 2: National Trails Day.

KAREN ROBINSON, 2017 FSPW ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

By Britta Mireley

When Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness decided to start an Artist-in-Residence program, we weren't exactly sure what it would, or should, look like. But we knew who we wanted to help us along that journey.

Enter Karen Robinson. Karen has been passionate about art and nature as long as she can remember. She's also good at going with the flow. And did we mention she's an amazing artist? Perfect fit.

Karen has been creating art since she could hold a crayon. She took all the art classes she could growing up and even planned on going into art when she went to college, but the love of nature drew her to a degree in wildlife biology instead. She never stopped creating art though.

"Getting to be the artist-in-residence puts it all together," Karen remarked about her love for art and nature. Another way Karen likes to combine art and nature is through *plein air* painting (or painting outdoors). One of her favorites spots has a great view of Scotchman Peak and some nice cushy moss to hang out on.

FSPW and Karen found a rhythm this fall offering Saturday morning



Karen Robinson seems to hold Scotchman in the crook of her arm in this phot taken at the top of the Mickinnick Trail

KREINER AND WILLIAMS JOIN THE FSPW BOARD

The FSPW board of directors underwent some changes during their meeting on January 18th. The board reluctantly accepted the resignation of Jacob Styer, who has been the FSPW treasurer since 2006, but expressed deep gratitude



Brad Williams

for the job he has so faithfully done over the years. Brad Williams, partner in Sandpoint accounting firm Williams and Parsons, joined the board and assumed the duties of treasurer.

Jen Stone-Kreiner, who was Sanders County Outreach Coordinator until last fall, also joined the board at the January meeting.



Jen Stone-Kreiner

"We are sad to see Jacob leave the board," said FSPW exec Phil Hough, "but it's also very nice to have some new folks join us. Fresh blood always provides new perspective."

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MINDY FERRELL AWARDED BRASS LANTERN

By Sandy Compton

Mindy Ferrell has been dragging kids into the outdoors for their own good for decades. In recognition of that and many of the other things she has done for the natural world, the Montana Wilderness Association recently gave her a Brass Lantern Award for “continued service promoting public lands, wild spaces and outdoor education.”

Mindy lives in Trout Creek with her husband Doug (incidentally chairman of the FSPW Board), and has been passionately involved in outdoor education since before she graduated from college. She has a bachelor’s from William and Mary and a Masters in Outdoor Education from Northern Illinois University.

“I’ve always loved teaching,” she said, “and the out-of-doors, and I had the great opportunity to combine both.”

Mindy taught at Noxon School for 23 years, in diverse classrooms from kindergarten up, retiring in 2012, and then returning as a volunteer. She also taught adult education for eight years and ran summer programs in the Bull River valley at the East Fork Historic Ranger Station.

“The Bull River Nature Center Day Camp was sponsored by Cabinet Resource Group and funded by the Liz Claiborne and Art Ortenburg Foundation,” she said. “We organized week-long outdoor programs for students for four years, which culminated in five-day, four-night Wilderness experiences for the kids. We also had three-day programs for 6th and 8th graders from Noxon.”

Mindy grew up Illinois and Wisconsin. She and Doug married in 1980 and she moved to Montana “full time” in 1982. They spent a decade



Mindy shows off her Montana Wilderness Association Brass Lantern Award in the yard of Noxon School, where she taught for 23 years. **Sandy Compton photo**

living “off the grid” with their sons Jack and Peter, snowshoeing in and out of their place on Swamp Creek in the winter.

She is an avid hunter who put in 15 days in the field this year, as well as

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PARTNER PROFILE: JOEL SATHER, USFS, CABINET RANGER DISTRICT

By Sandy Compton

To call Joel Sather a trail geek is an understatement. To see him clear trail with a silky — or a chainsaw — is to know that he’s more than a geek.. He is really, and by his own admission, a trail freak. Joel loves trails — planning, building, maintaining, repairing and clearing. And training other trail — umm — freaks. Now, he has the rare opportunity to participate in a study of our national trails system with an eye to the future.

Locally, a number of trails Joel stewards are in the proposed Scotchman Peaks Wilderness. He and the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness trail crew are great partners.

Joel suggested in 2010 that FSPW staff and trail “bosses” from Sandpoint, Cabinet and Three Rivers ranger districts get together to plan for the coming summer season.



“If you do this, the tree will do that.” Joel Sather demonstrates felling to a group of FSPW volunteers and USFS staff at a saw training day.

Sandy Compton photo

At that December meeting, everyone was surprised — and pleased — when all the district rangers attended as well.

The rangers’ presence was very significant, for the partnership formed extended beyond that between FSPW and the Forest Service to a partnership between the three districts as well in stewarding trails and other resources. Since then FSPW has worked with each district on weeds, outdoor education and fire recovery monitoring, as well as trail maintenance and construction. In 2017, FSPW and the Forest Service held their eighth such meeting.

Joel has embraced volunteer partnerships as a way to future stewardship of Forest Service resources. He works with motorized recreation clubs to keep their trails open, administers outfitter permit on the Cabinet District, and is constantly working with schools and volunteer

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2017 PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS (AND A FEW SELECTED ENTRIES)



Bryn Ballanger

The winner! Bryn Ballanger's photo was taken on Scotchman Peak — from an appropriate distance! A good title might be "A goat's view of Goat."



Shayna Johnson

If it were a Chinese photo contest, 2017 might be confused with 2015, which was the most recent "Year of the Goat." Of the 52 pictures submitted in the latest iteration of the FSPW Annual Photo Contest, 13 — 25 percent — featured goats. Including the winner. And second place. And third

There were also a few dogs,



Hadley Goodvin

Shayna Johnson's image is first runner-up. Hadley Goovin was second runner-up. Grant Golden's image was fifth place overall; Robert Henrich's was tenth.



Grant Golden



Robert Henrich

EDITOR'S CHOICE

Some of our photographers worked extraordinarily hard to get their images. Jim Mellen hiked all day and traversed 9,000 vertical feet to get his picture. Marjolein Groot Nibbelink and Shuwen Wang faced nasty conditions to get theirs. Sandii Mellen's patience and observational skills paid off nicely. — *Sandy Compton*



Marjolein Groot Nibbelink



Sandii Mellen



Jim Mellen



Shuwen Wang



The 2018 Photo Contest is now open!
scotchmanpeaks.org/hiking/annual-photo-contest

Celeste Grace

Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness 2017 Annual Report

Joe Foster photo

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

PHIL HOUGH

One year ago, Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness campaign entered a new phase. In the final weeks of 2016, Idaho Senator James Risch introduced the Scotchman Peaks Wilderness Act (S.3531), which would designate 13,960 acres of Wilderness in Idaho. Our focus evolved from trying to get a wilderness bill introduced, to working towards its passage.

During the summer of 2017, the Senator's staff hosted two local "Open House" public meetings. Approximately 300 people attended each session, a very large majority leaving comments. The

Senator's staff said that the vast majority of those comments were favorable, as are the many letters, emails, and phone calls that his offices receive. The diversity of voices supporting the bill are as important as the volume. We are grateful for the 13 years of conversation and community building which made possible this outpouring of public support!

Support from diverse stakeholders brings about community consensus, laying the foundation for good public lands policy. Wilderness designation for the Scotchman Peaks is endorsed by many businesses, civic groups, con-

A NEW MISSION STATEMENT

In 2017, we streamlined our mission statement to read **"To protect the Scotchman Peaks for future generations through Wilderness designation, ongoing stewardship and education."**

The simplified statement does not change who we are, but more succinctly says what we are about.

servation and wildlife groups, as well as community organizations, recreational groups and other stakeholders in public lands management. New support came from many corners including the Pend Oreille Pedalers and the Panhandle Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

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STAFF UPDATE: MOVING RIGHT ALONG

Annie Gassmann became Lincoln County Outreach Coordinator in March and has become a force for FSPW in northwestern Montana and the larger world. In addition to excelling at her outreach duties in Libby, Troy and the surrounding area, she has taken on the *FSPW Insider*.



Annie works cooperatively with Montana Wilderness Association, the Libby Chamber of Commerce and local schools to further FSPW's community involvement.

Our 2017 backcountry ranger/outreach intern was Sam Olson, a student at the University of Montana. Sam was with us from late May until August 22. His good humor and independent nature, as well as his ability and willingness, made him a big asset on trail work and outreach tables alike.



Nancy Schmidt is 2017-18 Winter Programs Coordinator. Nancy came on board in November, and will work until Spring, keeping track of and facilitating the FSPW Winter Tracks Program.



Assistant Program Coordinator Britta Mireley is balancing being a new mom with increased responsibilities in the grant-writing arena and overall programs. She spearheaded recent successful fundraising efforts and has become a bit indispensable, bringing order where chaos once existed.



Mary Franzel, Mountain Goat Ed Coordinator, very successfully led the program through its second year in 2017. Mary has possibly hiked Scotchman Peak more than any other person.



BY THE NUMBERS: THE 2016-17 STEWARDSHIP SEASON

2016-17 VOLUNTEER TOTALS

144 Unique Volunteers,
2,602 Volunteer Hours

Value of volunteer time - \$62,818.64

OUTREACH & FUNDRAISERS

IPA Tap Takeover (1/4), 12th Anniversary (1/27), Sip & Shop at Pend d'Oreille Winery (2/23), MickDuff's fundraiser (4/2), Thompson Falls Beautification Days (4/6-8), Cabinet Health Fair (4/8), Libby Pint Night (4/20), Idaho Gives (5/4), STOKR (5/13), State of the Scotchmans (6/1), Pend Oreille Bay Trail Fun Run (6/11), CHaFE 150 (6/17), Libby Logger Days (6/22-24), Road to the Buffalo (6/24), 7B Sunday (6/25), Troy Farmers Market (July-August), Independence Day events (Sandpoint, Clark Fork, Noxon, Troy), Kootenai River Stampede rodeo (8/4-5), Bonner County Fair (8/7-12), Trout Creek Huckleberry Festival (8/11-13), Kootenai Harvest Festival (9/16), Winter Ridge Customer Appreciation Day (9/17), Troy Apple Festival (9/22), ALDHA West Fall Hiker Fest (10/14), Fall for Sandpoint with Larson's (10/14), MickDuff's Goat Hop Ale (10/26), George Wuerthner presentation (11/15)

30 Events (counting Troy Farmers Market as one event) 80 Unique Volunteers, 450 Volunteer Hours, Countless maps distributed and questions answered

OUTDOOR EDUCATION

Winter Tracks

Thompson Falls Junior High, Libby Elementary, Troy Junior High, Kootenai Valley Christian School, Noxon School, Forrest M. Bird Charter School, Sagle Elementary, Clark Fork Junior/Senior High, East Farms STEAM School (Spokane)

9 Schools, 353 Students, 49 Unique Volunteers, 438 Volunteer Hours

Outdoor Ed classes with Brian Baxter

Winter Birding (4/1), Tracking (4/8),

Spring Birding (5/20), Wetland Wanderings (8/14)

Other Outdoor Ed

Libby Alternative HS films (3/14), Outdoor Education Day at Noxon (5/25-26), Thompson Falls 1st graders Ross Creek Cedars field trip (5/25), Project ASCENT at Bull River Campground (7/10-14), Trail Work presentation at Clark Fork HS (9/8), Leave No Trace at Green Mountain Conservation District Water Festival in Thompson Falls (10/3)

CITIZEN SCIENCE

Wolverine stations put up near Lunch Peak and East Fork Creek (1/12 & 1/15) (taken down spring/early summer), St. John's Wort biological control training day (6/29), White Bark Pine seed sowing (7/10-12, 9/27-28)

15 Unique Volunteers, 489 Volunteer Hours

ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE

Plein air painting class (7/7), Watercolor classes (11/11 and 12/9)

Students taught - 14

WILDERNESS FIRST AID

Three sessions (5/6-7, 6/3-4, 10/21-22), 7 renewed, 16 new certificates.

GOAT AMBASSADORS

29 Unique Volunteers, 37 Days with Ambassadors Present on Trail #65, 388 Volunteer hours

TRAIL WORK

Trail Leader College (6/2-4), 7 Trail Projects, 10 Trail Work Days,

42 Unique Volunteers, 588 Volunteer Hours, 8-plus Miles Constructed or Maintained

HIKES PROGRAM

Regal Creek (1/7), Ross Creek (1/21), East to West to East Fork Blue Creek (1/28), Ross Creek Cedars (2/6), Goat Mountain Hop (4/1), Scotchman Peak (4/15), 70+ Star Peak Assault (6/27), Sawtooth Mountain (7/17), Moms and Kids at Ross Creek (7/18), Community Kids Hike at Ross Creek (7/19), Regal Creek Family Hike with ICL (8/19), Extreme Plein Air v 9.0 (8/20-25), East Fork Peak (8/26)

FINANCIALS: These financial statements are based on our most recently completed fiscal year, FY2017, which began Oct. 1, 2016 and ended Sept. 30, 2017. Our accounting is managed on a cash basis. We report expenditures and receipts as they are transacted.

In FY2017, FSPW received \$244,724 in support from individual donors, merchandise sales, fundraisers and foundation grants. The following foundations provided support: Brainerd Foundation, Cadeau Foundation, Champion Foundation, Cinnabar Foundation, Confidence Foundation, High Stakes Foundation, Inland Northwest Community Foundation/Equinox, Kendeda, Maki Foundation, New-Land Foundation, Patagonia Foundation, PEW Charitable Trusts, Star Peak Foundation, Wilburforce Foundation, Yellowstone to Yukon Initiative (Y2Y)

Our expenses totaled \$248,620. We started the year with a cash balance of \$140,057 and ended the fiscal year with \$135,865.

FY2017 Revenue	\$244,724	FY2017 Expenses	\$248,620
Grants	\$220,763 90%	Programs	\$198,875 80%
Donors	\$20,522 8%	Admin	\$26,455 10%
Events/Other	\$1,724 <1%	Marketing	\$10,467 4%
Merchandise	\$1,281 <1%	Newsletter	\$8,102 3%
Interest	\$433 <1%	Merchandise	\$4,720 2%



A Winter Tracks Winter: FSPW hosted 350-plus students from 9 different schools

in Idaho, Montana and Washington between December and March in the FSPW outdoor education program.

January 11: 160 people attended an informational meeting at Clark Fork High School led by Senator Risch's aid Sid Smith



and FSPW executive director Phil Hough.

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

January 27: 80-plus Friends attended the FSPW 12th Anniversary celebration at the Little Panida in Sandpoint.

March 2: FSPW received a special recognition award from Idaho Chapter of the Wildlife Society for FSPW's role in the Multi-Species Baseline Initiative.



March 8: FSPW hosted two showings of wildlife films at the Maki Theater in Libby.

March 15: Partners, volunteers, board members and staff attended the FSPW Strategic Planning Meeting.

April 1: Nine people attended birding class with Brian Baxter

April 2: Winter Tracks volunteer appreciation day celebrated at MickDuff's Beer Hall with release of the Red Cedar Red Ale.

April 5: Phil Hough gave a presentation to the Four Counties Natural Resource Group.

April 6 – 8: Jen Kreiner and FSPW volunteers helped during Thompson Falls Cleanup Days.

May 11: Phil Hough gave a presentation to the Sandpoint Chamber of Commerce.

May 13: FSPW volunteers, led by Annie Gassmann, operated a refreshment booth at Yaak Falls for the annual STOKR bike ride.



May 21: Phil Hough shared the podium with Risch staffer Darren Parker about Scotchman prospects at Wild Idaho.

May 26: Jen Kreiner and Intern Sam Olson were at Outdoor Ed Day at Noxon School.

June 1: State of the Scotchmans featured Rick Johnson from ICL

June 2-4: Trail crew leader training college with Idaho Trails Association was attended by FSPW staff and volunteers.

June 3-4: Carol Jenkins taught Wilderness and Remote First Aid

June 6: An open house in Hope hosted by Senator Risch's staff drew over 300 people.

June 10: First day of Goat Education Ambassador program.

June 14: Jen Kreiner and Doug Ferrell participated in a Kootenai Forest Stakeholders presentation at Thompson Falls Chamber.

June 17: FSPW volunteers fed hungry bicyclists at Clark Fork during the CHaFE 150 (FSPW was voted favorite rest stop!).

June 24: Jen Kreiner had an information table in Noxon in conjunction with a Road To The Buffalo event.

June 25: The Sanders County Picnic at Bull River Campground; was attended by Scotchmans "old timers," including CRG cofounders Mike Comola and Bill Martin.

June 29: Field training for St. John's wort biocontrol with USFS.



July 10-13: Whitebark pine direct sowing on Scotchman Peak with USFS. 2300 seeds were planted over 30 acres.

July - August: Annie Gassmann tabled at Troy Farmer's Market every other Friday.

July 18: About 300 people attended an open house hosted by Senator Risch's staff and USFS personnel in Clark Fork.

July 19: Annie Gassmann led a Moms and Kids Hike on Ross Creek Trail #142.

July 21-23: Volunteers and staff participated in a trail work weekend at Spar Lake on Three Rivers Ranger District.

August 7-12: FSPW had a booth at Bonner County Fair.

August 11-13: FSPW volunteers and staff signed up new Friends at the Trout Creek Huckleberry Festival.

August 25: Volunteers and staff worked on Hamilton Gulch Trail.

September 8: FSPW Program Coordinator Sandy Compton gave a presentation on trail-building at Clark Fork High School.

September 10: Thirty people attended the Thompson Falls Picnic.

September 16: Kootenai Harvest Festival was held at the Riverfront Park in Libby with 500-plus people in attendance.



September 17: FSPW had a table at Winter Ridge Customer Appreciation Day.

September 22: Annie Gassmann and volunteers had an outreach table at the Troy Apple Festival.

September 25: Twenty-two "Pirates" cruised Lake Pend Oreille with FSPW staff aboard the good ship Shawnodese.

September 30: National Public Lands Day. FSPW staff and volunteers worked on Morris and Regal Creek Trails.

October 1-6: Sandy Compton and Phil Hough traveled to the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance conference.

October 3: Annie Gassmann taught Leave No Trace at

Green Mountain Conservation District's Water Festival at Thompson Falls.

October 21: FSPW staff and volunteers led students from University of Montana's Wilderness and Civilization track on a trail maintenance trip on Pilik Ridge Trail #1036.

November 11: Artist in Residence Karen Robinson taught watercolor techniques to eight students.

November 15: FSPW and ICL hosted environmental writer George Wuertner at the Coeur d'Alene Eagles Club.

December: Phil Hough made presentations to Sandpoint High's History Class

December 9: FSPW donated a living Christmas Tree to the silent auction in the Cabinet Peaks Medical Center Festival of Trees.

FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMAN PEAKS: THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE IT WORK

The Board of Directors

CHAIRMAN & MONTANA DIRECTOR

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

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Mollie Kieran, Troy, MT
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Gene Reckin, Libby, MT

Jen Stone Kreiner, Thompson Falls, MT

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MOUNTAIN GOAT EDUCATION

PROGRAM COORDINATOR
Mary Franzel, Clark Fork, ID
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2017 SUMMER INTERN

Sam Olson, Missoula, MT



FSPW board chairman Doug Ferrell congratulates outgoing board member Bill Martin on his FSPW Lifetime Conservation Award. FSPW welcomed new board member Gene Reckin of Libby in January. **Marjolein Groot Nibbelink photo**

Some of Our Key Volunteers

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

2017 ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE

Karen Robinson, SANDPOINT, ID

Director's Message, from page 1

Broad community support does not mean there is unanimity. On important issues, there will always be diverse opinions. The bill introduction woke up some opponents who had previously been quiet. By listening and responding to diverse viewpoints, questions and concerns, misunderstandings can sometimes be cleared up. Different perspectives also improve Forest Service management, public policy and legislation.

We anticipate that the Senator will seek re-introduction in 2018, using public input he has gathered to improve the bill and its chance for passage. Congress seldom acts quickly. 2018 will be a year for patience and perseverance.

Not every Friend can swing a Pulaski to dig new tread, so we provide a variety of stewardship opportunities including trail maintenance, weed monitoring and eradication, white-bark pine habitat restoration, wildlife monitoring and outdoor education. Our Trail Ambassadors/Mountain Goat Education program enters its

third year and our Winter Tracks program is now in its fourth season and on pace to surpass 2017 in which we hosted over 350 students!

Volunteer stewards and educators become passionate advocates; they are crucial to helping us gain designation from Congress and maintaining wilderness characteristics both before and after designation. We engaged over 150 unique volunteers this past year.

In Montana, there is growing support from business and civic groups who see value in conserving public lands. The Kootenai Forest Stakeholders Coalition (KFSC) agreement includes support for Wilderness in the Scotchman Peaks and has recently garnered several important endorsements. As legislation for Idaho advances, Montana's congressional delegation is watching with interest; our continued outreach in Montana lays groundwork for them to act.

We will continue to foster public dialogue that increases community support for wilderness and continue to inspire and empower wilderness advocates and volunteer stewards.

October 21: FSPW staff and volunteers led students from University of Montana's Wilderness and Civilization track on a trail maintenance trip on Pilik Ridge Trail #1036.

October 21-22: Carol Jenkins taught Wilderness and Remote First Aid at the ICL offices in Sandpoint.

October 26: Goat Hop Ale returned to Mick Duff's Beer Hall.

November 8-10: FSPW program coordinator Sandy Compton attended TREC facilitation training in Seattle

November 9: Retired USFS avalanche forecaster Jon Jerešek gave a presentation on safe winter travel at Simple Simon Pizza in Libby; FSPW exec visited Boise for the Idaho Lands Summit.

November 11: Artist in Residence Karen Robinson taught watercolor techniques to eight students.

November 15: FSPW and the Idaho Conservation League hosted environmental writer George Wuerthner, Fund for Wild Nature's Grassroots Activist of the Year Award for 2017, at the Coeur d'Alene Eagles Club.

December 1 and Dec 6: Phil Hough made presentations to Sandpoint High School's History Class

December 4: Phil Hough made a presentation to the Monday Hikers.

December 6: Baxters on Cedar hosted a Dine, Drink & Sip for the Scotchmans fundraiser.

December 7: Phil made a presentation on the Scotchman Peaks to the Kootenai Environmental Association.

December 9: FSPW donated a living Christmas Tree to the silent auction in the Cabinet Peaks Medical Center Festival of Trees; Artist in Residence Karen Robinson taught watercolor techniques to five students.

January 5: Mindy Ferrell led FSPW staff and volunteers into the Winter Tracks season at North Shore Campground in Montana. Students from Noxon, Trout Creek and Thompson Falls attended the class.

January 12: Mead Alternative High School from Spokane attended an FSPW Winter Tracks session at Round Lake State Park.

January 13: FSPW celebrated the 13th anniversary with a gathering at the Panida Theater featuring eminent outdoor journalist Rich Landers and stories of 40 years of wild reporting for The Spokesman-Review.

January 14: Thirteenth Anniversary of the formative meeting of Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness in 2005.

January 19: Forty students from West Valley City School in Spokane participated in a Winter Tracks program at Round Lake State Park.

January 19 – 20: Brian Baxter presented a Friday evening slideshow on tracking in the Fireside Room at the Venture Inn in Libby, then led an outdoor tracking class in the Libby vicinity on Saturday.

January 25: Troy High students attended a Winter Tracks program at Alvord Lake.

January 26: Libby 5th Grade students attended a Winter Tracks program at Timberlane Campground.

January 27: FSPW sponsored a presentation by Jack Nesbit at the monthly Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society meeting.

Sather, from page 3

groups to provide outdoor education opportunities for kids of all ages.

Joel's love for the great outdoors is homegrown. He grew up in Libby, graduated in 1990, and got his bachelor's in Recreation Resource Management from University of Montana. His wife, Carmin, is from Troy, and they are raising their boys, Gavin and Riley, in Noxon. His first season with the Forest service started "the day after I graduated from high school" at Libby Ranger District.

Since then, he has been on trail, timber and fire crews (fire 2002 to 2009). He was Wilderness ranger in the south half of Cabinet Mountains Wilderness from 1996 to 2001. Since 2010, he's been Forestry Technician on the Cabinet, and also Wilderness and trails coordinator, outdoor education coordinator and volunteer partner coordinator.



Joel Sather received a USFS Chief's Award in December of 2014

Joel's level of "freakness" has not gone unnoticed. In 2014 he was honored with a Chief's Award from USFS Chief Tom Tidwell for his work on motorized recreation trails, getting kids involved in stewardship and wilderness investigation, his work on Star Peak Historic Trail #999, and coordinating volunteer efforts from diverse groups.

Back to the future. Late last year, Joel was appointed to the new Trails

Advisory Group (TAG), a committee of nine (one person from each Forest Service Region) to work out a Ten-Year Trails Challenge for the Forest Service nationwide. Over the next ten months, the TAG will form a charter and vision statement to be revealed at the 50th anniversary celebration of the National Trails Act on October 2.

Of his appointment to the TAG, Joel notes, "It's pretty cool, because you get to be a voice to the upper levels of the agency. One of the biggest things I can do is canvas Region One from GS-9 down to GS-4, figuring out where it all fits and what works and doesn't."

"It's exciting," he says, "to be a voice for putting trails on the map."

Maybe even more exciting than planning, building, maintaining, repairing, and clearing trails — but it will not diminish his standing as trail freak.

Mindy, from page 3

co-captain of the sailboat Doug built a few years ago. In 2016, she organized a trip to Helena for Sanders County citizens to take part in the Public Lands Rally at the Capitol Rotunda, and put a Public Lands float in every parade in Sanders County last 4th of July. She has been a passionate supporter of the mission of Cabinet Resource Group and Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness since their conceptions, and continues to be.

But her driving passion is still this mantra: “Kids need to be outdoors.” She has been both a Cub Scout and Boy Scout leader. This year, as a board member, she helped organize the Green Mountain Conservation District Watershed Festival, which brings every Sanders County 5th Grader to Thompson Falls State Park for a day of water-based learning.

Mindy is not slowing down. She coordinated the Sanders County Winter Tracks program at North Shore Campground in early January and is currently working on establishing a Western Montana outdoor education program in conjunction with local schools, FSPW, Kaniksu Land Trust, Avista Corporation and the Forest Service.

If you would like to help Mindy’s mission of dragging children outdoors where they belong, write to info@scotchmanpeaks.org and we will pass the message along.

from page 1

kayaking the Methow River in the winter, phone messages expressing praise and scorn, letters to the editor calling him a genius, letters to the editor calling for his head, and a video of a memorable wolf encounter he had recently.

“We had a great level of sponsorship for this event,” said Compton (See the sponsor list on next page). It’s great to see the broad support we have here, from all sorts of people and busi-

Robinson, from page 2

nesses. It was also wonderful to have Rich give his first post-retirement presentation for our benefit.”

watercolor classes that we are looking forward to continuing. This symbiotic relationship between FSPW and Karen has been a fun learning experience. Having our first artist in the program work with staff to figure out what the program should look like going forward has been tremendously helpful and we hope Karen has enjoyed it as well!

If you’d like to see more of Karen’s art, follow her on Facebook (www.facebook.com/karenrobinsonart/), visit her website (<http://www.karenrobinsonart.com/>), or stop by Banner Bank in Sandpoint to see a *plein air* painting of Scotchman Peak she did last summer.



One of Karen’s watercolor classes was in the colorful Clark Fork delta.

If you haven’t had a chance to take one of Karen’s workshops, there’s one coming up on Feb. 3, and it includes mimosas! To sign up for this workshop, and keep an eye on others coming up, visit www.scotchmanpeaks.org/events.



Karen’s Scotchman art includes the iconic image of a mountain goat in “Decision Point” and the proposed Wilderness’s namesake peak. The mountain profile at the right was donated and auctioned off during the 2017 State of the Scotchmans.

Landers has been a supporter of Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness in word and deed since the Friends first formed in January of 2005. In “retirement,” it appears he will continue experiencing the great outdoors and writing about it as well.

Laughter was on tap at MickDuff’s Brewery for the anniversary VIP event. **Annie Gassman photo**





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

Hike date	Exertion Rating	Destination/ Hike Name	Leader	Description and contact info
2/10/18	M	Blue Creek Winter Wanderings	Sandy Compton	Contact: Sandy Compton sandy@scotchmanpeaks.org Hike Leader Sandy Compton has lived in the Blue Creek drainage all his life, and he still manages to find new things every time he goes hiking there (Last year, we found some very interesting tracks!). Join him for a snowshoe hike in his "briar patch" and see what interesting sights, sounds and smells might show up. Bring a good lunch, plenty of fluids, snacks, rain gear (just in case) and other layers, your camera and binocs and senses of humor and adventure.
2/10/18	M	Ross Creek Snowshoe Hike v.2018	Randi Lui and Deb Hunsicker	Contact: Randi Lui — randi1982@msn.com Join us for a fun, casual snowshoe hike to the beautiful old growth forest Ross Creek Cedars. Plan for a full day so pack plenty of water, snacks and lunch, as well as something to put on the ground to sit on for our lunch break as we sit on the snow under the cedars and enjoy the ancient trees around us. Please be aware this is a full day adventure with variable weather conditions so please dress appropriately.
2/24/28	M-S	Fatman Walkabout	Erin Mader	Contact: Erin Mader — emader@idfg.com Take a snowshoe hike along the southern edge of the Scotchman Peaks proposed Wilderness via Fatman Road #2292. This 6-mile, one-way trek begins at the intersection of #2292 and Montana Highway 200, and follows the unplowed road to its intersection with Blue Creek Road #409. It's a hike with filtered views of the Scotchman Peaks and the Clark Fork River valley. Elevation gain (and loss) over the six miles is about 1100 feet, making for relatively gentle grades. Hike begin time is at 10 am, Mountain Time, 9 am Pacific. The hike is rated as moderately strenuous in consideration of its length.
3/4/18	M	Star Peak Partway	Liz Thomas	Contact: Phil Hough — phil@scotchmanpeaks.org Come join award winning author and accomplished long distance hiker Liz Thomas on a moderate length snowshoe hike on the slopes of Star Peak. We'll hike to some stellar views of the Clark Fork valley and be back in time for late afternoon socializing. Moderate snowshoe with moderate elevation gain..
3/10/18	M	Ross Creek Winter Hike	Annie Gassmann	Contact: Annie Gassmann — annie@scotchmanpeaks.org XThis is a relatively moderate travel up the occasionally groomed Ross Creek Cedars road for snowshoers. We will snowshoe up the road, stopping along the way to enjoy the beautiful views. Once we reach the ancient cedar forest, we'll trek in and find a spot to enjoy lunch (water for a full day excursion). All levels of snowshoe experience are welcome. The goal is to enjoy the views (prox. 4 miles round trip). Annie and Grete will give an update on the protection Status of the Scotchman Peaks proposed wilderness, our collaborative work in Montana with the Kootenai Forest Stakeholders Coalition, and let you know what you can do to help protect this special place.

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/

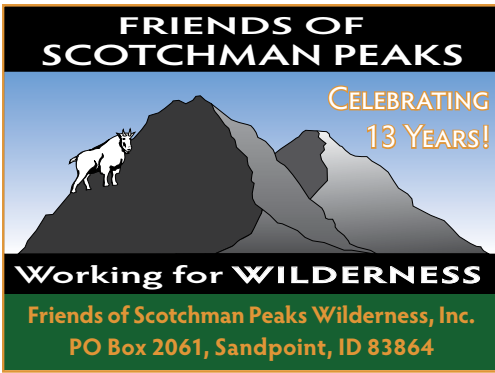
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Larson's Good Clothing
Artist Susan Conway-Kean
Well Read Moose



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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