



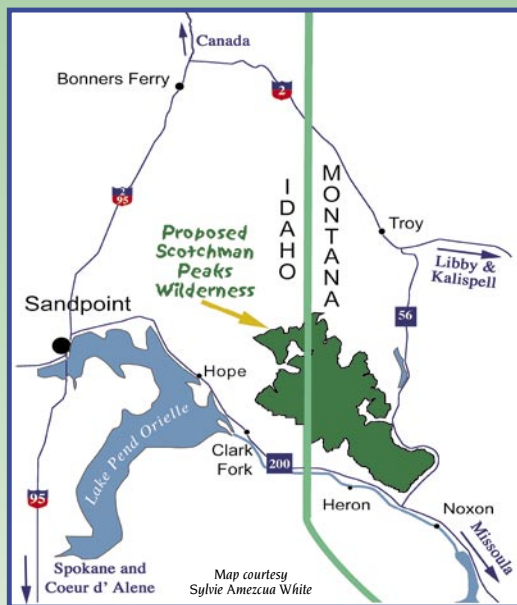
PEAK EXPERIENCE

The Newsletter for Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness, Inc.

Volume 5, Number 4 • July / August, 2009

Mission Statement

“We believe that the 88,000 acre Scotchman Peaks roadless area, spanning the Idaho/Montana border, deserves **permanent protection** as wilderness. Faced with growth and change, we want to make sure this special place stays the same.”



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

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

Editor: Ann Wimberley
Designer: Pama Bangeman

Scotchman Past

David Thompson, Canadian Fur Agent

By Ann Wimberley

Although David Thompson probably never climbed Scotchman's Peak, in 1809 he and his party of 16 men joined a late summer Native American encampment of several hundred men, women and children from several tribes in Indian Meadows near the Clark Fork Delta at the foot of the Scotchmans. He then constructed his Kullyspell (Kalispel) House trading post on the Hope Peninsula. FSPW was proud to be a sponsor of the June 24-27 David Thompson Bicentennial Conference and Encampment planned by the Kalispel Tribe and the U.S. David Thompson Bicentennial Committee. Events included an all-day teacher's workshop, a symposium entitled "Tribes and Traders", an encampment hosted by the Kalispel tribe with a tepee raising, campfire talks and traditional skills classes, and a fur trade encampment teaching the skills of the North West Company voyageurs.

Area residents and visitors can also visit the David Thompson Bicentennial Exhibit which will open mid-summer at the Bonner County Historical Museum. It will include the traveling exhibit, "The Mapmaker's Eye", put

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Model of David Thompson's Cedar Plank Canoe

Photo courtesy Ann Ferguson

Birds of the Scotchmans: An Overview

By Jon Isacoff, PhD

(Editor's note: Earl Chapin, a well known Sandpoint birder and the author of our column on birds since the first issue of the newsletter, has retired from this position. This month we introduce our new Birds' columnist, Associate Professor of Political Science and Director of the Environmental Studies Program at Gonzaga University, Dr Jon Isacoff)



Varied Thrush

Photo courtesy Don Jones,
www.donaldjones.com

Ruddy Duck. You will also find Great Blue Heron, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, and Wilson's Snipe. In the riparian bushes and trees along the water, look for the ubiquitous Yellow Warbler and other water-loving songbirds.

As you travel the roads between Hope and Clark Fork, check the fields for Kestrel, Northern Harrier, Eastern and Western Kingbird, and the various Swallow species that love to snag bugs at high speed around farms throughout the West. Take a drive up Lightning Creek Road. Here you will find classic riparian breeders such as Cordilleran Flycatcher, Willow Flycatcher, Warbling and Red-Eyed Vireo, Yellow Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, and with luck, perhaps a Northern Waterthrush or American Redstart.

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Along the Trail

Scotchman is HOT this summer

May: Winners of the Sanders County "Why Wilderness" contest for first through 12th graders are: Grand prize (\$100 savings bond): Nicole Ribeiro, Thompson Falls 8th grader; Second prize (Scotchman hoodie): Austin Tucker, Thompson Falls 8th grader; and Third place tie (FSPW tee): Plains 5th grader Danika Rose Whitcomb and Thompson Falls 8th grader Breana Jones. Thanks to Ernie Scherzer for his work on this contest.

May: First Scotchman Scholarships were awarded to seniors at local high schools (See article this issue).

May 2-3: Montana Wilderness Association: The Scotchman Peaks Board and newsletter editor Ann Wimberley attended the meeting, where Board Chair Phil Hough was given a Brass Lantern Award (see article this issue). FSPW Board Member Doug Ferrell will assume the presidency of MWA in December 2010.

May 4: Charlie Clough was taped for an interview played on Libby FM station, KJRZ.

May 5: The Scotchmans wilderness campaign was endorsed by the Backcountry Horsemen of Montana at their annual convention in Helena recently. 16 chapters from around the state voted to support a number of wilderness proposals around the state, including the Scotchmans. State Chairman Charlie O'Leary noted that we call ourselves the 'Last Best Place', but that we are in last place when it comes to protecting our natural heritage for all those who will follow us. All other western states have received congressional approval for hundreds of new wilderness areas in the last 26 years. Montana has gone without. He offered the following excerpt from a 1916 quote by Theodore Roosevelt as the guiding wisdom for action now by the Montana Delegation: "The 'greatest good for the greatest number' applies to the number within the womb of time, compared to which those now alive form but an insignificant fraction. Our duty to the whole, including the unborn generations, bids us restrain an unprincipled present-day minority from wasting the heritage of these unborn generations. The movement for the conservation of all our natural resources is essentially democratic in spirit, purpose and method."

May: FSPW were among the sponsors of the STOKR (Scenic Tour of the Kootenai River) bicycle tour. Don Clark, his wife Monni, and Charlie Clough helped to man a STOKR food booth in the Yaak, where they greeted FSPW treasurer, Jacob Styer, as he paused briefly for refreshment before continuing on the 100-mile ride over the mountains. This charity raises money for the Kootenai Valley Partners Habitat for Humanity in the Libby area.

May: Doug Ferrell, Don Clark, and Charlie Clough presented the FSPW proposal to the Libby Area Chamber of Commerce. Later, that evening, Doug and Charlie drove down to Troy to present to the Troy Chamber. Our vital Friend, Molly Kieran joined us there. Charlie finished off the week on Saturday, representing FSPW at the Northwest Montana Wilderness Initiative Conference in Kalispell.

May 15-17: In Stanley at Wild Idaho, ICL's Annual Convention, Phil Hough made a presentation on the Scotchmans during the opening review on Friday night of what is happening in Idaho. As ICL members celebrated the designation of the Owyhee Canyonlands as wilderness, the Scotchmans is among a short list of other places which are being speculated about as potential candidates for further wilderness designation in Idaho.

May: ICL featured the proposed Scotchman Peaks Wilderness as one of "Five Great Places to Visit in Idaho".

May 22: The Libby-Troy Dinner Meeting was attended by 53 people with many



FSPW Chair Phil Hough talks with Idaho's US Congressman Walt Minnick and Doug Scott of Campaign for America's Wilderness at the Annual State of the Scotchmans celebration.
Photo courtesy Alan Lemire

signing various lists to join our ranks, volunteer help at events and contact county commissioners and congressmen.

May 26: Annual State of the Scotchmans was held at the Ponderay Events Center, with opening remarks by Congressman Walt Minnick, a Scotchman Peaks Progress Report and a special presentation by Doug Scott, author of "The Enduring Wilderness" and his new book "Wilderness, Our Common Ground". Don Clark was the recipient of the Old Goat of the Scotchmans Award for his strong volunteer support of FSPW.

June: Scotchman Peaks proposed Wilderness Area was featured in June issue of "Backpacker" Magazine.

June 3: Charlie Clough's opinion/essay on wilderness appeared in the local Kootenai Valley Record. It is also slated to appear on the opinion page of the Missoulian.

June 6: National Trails Day: Blended aromas of chocolate chip cookies, freshly popped popcorn, and Jim's Southern barbeque swirled on the gusts of wind though the crowd of hikers, bikers, and hoofers milling through the ten tables of participants, including FSPW, set up on the lawn of the Pend Oreille Winery in Sandpoint. Two FSPW hats were donated as door prizes and given to lucky ticket holders. Many old friends drifted through, but also, 24 new people learned a bit about the Scotchmans, and signed on as new "Friends". Interested hikers were routed to Jacob and Jim for their hikes to Delye Ridge and Scotchman Peaks.

June 10: Charlie had a 45-minute evening conversation with new "friends" Phillip Erquiaga and Anna Petrash on local FM station, KVRZ.

June 12: FSPW table was manned by Jacob Styer at the CHaFE 150 (Cycle Hard For Education) Registration in the Panhandle Bank Community Room. This ride supports the Ready! For Kindergarten program in the Lake Pend Oreille School District of northern Idaho. The Friends of Scotchman Peaks were thus proud to sponsor two of the region's longest charity bike rides this year.

Sunday June 14: marked the annual Bull River picnic, a beautiful spring day with "unsettled" weather. We were glad to have the pavilion roof overhead, but the rain



Don Clark accepts the annual "Old Goat Award" for his contributions to FSPW from Vice Chair Carol Jenkins and Phil Hough.
Photo courtesy Alan Lemire

did not roll in until a few hours after everyone left. Sixty people attended with great food and friendship. Members of the Board updated supporters on progress in Montana and Idaho. Don Clark was recognized for his leadership and contributions to the campaign with our highest honor, The Old Goat of the Scotchmans award. Mindy Ferrell received a certificate of recognition for her constant and unsung contributions. Not only does Mindy organize and pull off this successful picnic every summer, she started our first scholarship program this spring

for graduating seniors in the six high schools in Bonner County, ID, and Sanders and Lincoln Counties, MT. The Noxon scholarship winner was present to express his gratitude.

June 17: FSPW were happy to be part of Coldwater Creek's Get Outside and Play event held with the Fitness Center June 17th. The group was able to spread the word about local organized hiking events and hand out plenty of maps to those willing to explore on their own.

June 24-27: FSPW helped sponsor the David Thompson Conference (see Scotchman Past, this issue)



Message from the Chair

As June and July brings long summer days, Deb and I are out on the trail again. This year we are hiking north from the Mexican border across New Mexico on the Continental Divide Trail, perhaps we'll even get into southern Colorado. Our long hikes connect us with the natural world, with wild and sacred places. Contemplating a wilderness walk in the summer my thoughts readily turn to Henry David Thoreau, born on July 12, 1817. When I was growing up, not far from Walden Pond, his cabin site was a source of early inspiration and the eloquence of his essay "Walking" still never fails to stir my soles as well as my soul.

Thoreau begins his essay Walking with these lines: "I wish to speak a word for nature, for absolute freedom and wildness. . . to regard man as an inhabitant, or part and parcel of Nature, rather than a member of Society."

To Thoreau nature was a cathedral and wilderness a holy place. Walking was his act of worship where the physical and spiritual journeys were one and the same. In much the same way, Deb and I are drawn to hike the long trails. The wild lands which these trails traverse are more than beautiful places with stunning scenery; they are places where the natural world unfolds according to its own rhythm. By walking through them at a natural pace, we become part of the place, and the

rhythm, of nature. We find our place within the natural world.

When we can't go out for month long hikes we need to find wild places closer to home where we can reconnect to the natural world and its natural rhythms. This is why the Wilderness Preservation System needs to include wilderness opportunities that are located close to communities. Just as we look to which ecosystems have only limited wilderness we should also look at which regions have only limited wilderness. On both scores, northern Idaho and western Montana are found lacking sufficient Wilderness areas. Designating the Scotchman Peaks as Wilderness would be one step towards fulfilling our need to preserve ecosystems. Designating the Scotchman Peaks as wilderness would also be one step towards preserving opportunities where we can experience the rhythm of nature and find our place within it.

We'll be back in August and hope to see you at one of our many later summer events or better yet maybe we'll see you in the Scotchmans moving to your own natural rhythm!

Phil Hough

Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness 2009 Summer Photo Contest!

Photo Categories:

- Scotchman's Scenery
- Scotchman's Spirit (people in wilderness)
- Wilderness Water (falling, flowing, or still)
- Wild Scotchman's (plants & animals)

A committee of Friends will choose the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners in each category.

Prizes:

- 1st Place: Friends of Scotchman Peaks Sweatshirt (hooded or crew)
- 2nd Place: Friends Long-sleeve t-shirt
- 3rd Place: Friends t-shirt (blue, black or white)

How to enter:

Send your photo(s) of the Scotchman Peaks area by e-mail or on CD (e-mail preferred, CD's will not be returned) to slundstrum@wildmontana.org by September 30th include where you took it, when you took it, and if you were on an FSPW hike include the hike leaders name and what hike it was.

You will be notified by October 15th if your photo was chosen as a winner. Winning photos may be printed in the various issues of the Friends Newsletter or used in our printed or online materials.

Rules:

Only photos of the Scotchman Peaks proposed wilderness will be considered.

Submission deadline is September 30th, 2009.

E-mail entries are preferred, CD's will not be returned.

FSPW reserves the right to re-print photos while giving proper credit.

Photos can be color or black & white.

Scotchman Rocks

False Fossils

By Bill Martin

If you want to find a lot of them, northwest Montana is a fossil hunter's paradise. There are mountainsides of stromatolite, the fossilized algae that filled the ancient shallow seas that were once here (see previous newsletters for details). If you want variety, however, you're pretty much out of luck. Other than a few small lenses of younger rock containing low quality trilobites that were not sloughed away during mountain building, the pre-cambrian rock of this region is devoid of anything else (as far as we now know).

Yet the absence of other types of fossils does not keep people from finding them.

The most frequently found fossils that really aren't are called dendrites. They appear to be exquisitely detailed impressions of small fern or moss-like plants, with delicate branching (dendritic means tree-like). They are black and stand out boldly from the rocks they are in, or rather on.

They are actually film deposits of manganese oxides (pyrolusite), tiny mineral grains precipitated out of water seeping over or through the rock in which they're found, fine grained sedimentary or metamorphized sedimentary stone. In agates and some cherts, dendrites were later covered with deposits of silica, and if these were clear, they produced what are called moss agates (not known to occur around here).



Photo courtesy Mindy Ferrell

FSPW 2009 Scholarships

Seniors at area high schools in Clark Fork, Libby, Noxon, and Sandpoint competed for \$300 scholarships awarded by FSPW. The scholarships were awarded based on essays to "Describe how wild country, which still exists near our community today, influences your life". Winners are Stetson Mc Elhaney, Clark Fork, Ashley Barnett, Libby, Caleb Matthew, Noxon, and Victoria Vardell, Sandpoint. Stetson described the joys of photographing wildlife, back country skiing and snowshoeing, and backpacking. Ashley Barnett said "wilderness provides us an escape, a place to bond with family and friends, and a place to reflect on the true meaning and purpose of life". For Bethany Brown, "Wild country influences my life by its peace and beauty and the memories that I have made while embarking on my adventures in the wilderness." Victoria Vardell, who plans to attend the University of Wyoming, wrote "With a degree in Energy Resources, I hope to find energy solutions that will keep our wildernesses wild and clean, so that generations beyond me will be able to grow up and be influenced by the wonders of the wild country.



Future Looks Bright

July 4th:

Clark Fork: A newly refitted American pirate ship will make waves down the main streets of Clark Fork to the sound of live music courtesy of the Cougar Creek Band, with many unique throws. Find our float and march with us in your Scotchmans shirt to show your support.

Noxon: Scotchmans supporters plan to march in the annual Noxon parade and perhaps also in Heron. The event is coordinated by Howard Bakke who has created the famous float - a large fluffy toy goat that rides in a special wagon and attracts many children and adults. Marchers are welcome. Contact Howard at howlb@blackfoot.net or 847-9390.

Sandpoint: Wear your Scotchmans shirt and join FSPW at 5th and Church to march with us in this classic small town parade.

Troy: Ella is setting up an FSPW booth.

August 1: Scotchman Peaks Boogie at Roosevelt Park in Troy, MT...begins at 6pm...FREEEEEEEE!!!

Friday August 7th: Last year after the successful 1st Annual Plein Air event, several of the artists asked about a more intimate wilderness encounter. Sandy Compton immediately agreed to lead them into the heart of the Scotchmans for several days to explore and paint. The unique visions captured during this wilderness odyssey extreme plein air paintout will be framed and ready for viewing and purchase at Jim Quinn's Timber Stand Gallery at 3rd & Cedar in Sandpoint from 5-8m.

Sunday, August 9: Lincoln County Picnic at Fireman's Park in Libby, MT.

August 14-16: Scotchmans supporters will staff our customary booth at

Scotchman SHIZZLES for Summer

the Huckleberry Festival and will also march in the parade Saturday morning. The event is coordinated by Ernie Scherzer and provides a great opportunity for us to connect with the community. Scheduling will be a challenge this year because the event shares the weekend with Shakespeare in the Parks in Heron. Contact Ernie at xberea@blackfoot.net or 827-0305.

Saturday, August 29: Phil Hough will speak at the Western Outdoor Club Conference in Spokane.

Saturday & Sunday, Sept 19th & 20th: The main Fall Scotchmans Wilderness Plein Air Event is centered in Hope, ID, at Kally Thurman's Outskirts Gallery (Hope Market Café). This weekend the artists will fan out to capture their visions of the wilderness with special views from the Clark Fork Valley and Bull River in Montana. Come join the fun from 2-7 PM on Saturday and Sunday afternoons when the artists return to the Gallery at Hope. Their work will be completed, framed, and available for viewing and sale.

August 23: Sandy Compton's Special Summer Storytelling Fundraiser.

Wednesday, September 9: Jon Isacoff and Phil Hough will present "Birds of the Scotchmans" to the Spokane Audubon Society.

Monday, October 26: Phil Hough will present to Gonzaga's Class on Ecology and Environmentalism

August 26-29: FSPW will again have a booth at the Bonner County Fair. Drop by to say hello to your fellow Friends and pick up copies of our brochures, maps and bumper stickers.

Exciting Cinnabar Challenge Grant

For the fourth consecutive year FSPW has gratefully received a challenge grant from the Cinnabar Foundation. This year the amount is for \$4,000. If we are able to raise \$4,000 from our supporters, we receive that amount from Cinnabar, resulting in \$8,000 to support our outreach efforts. We met the challenge these last three years. So if you have passion for protecting the proposed wilderness, this is the perfect time to send in a contribution!

The Cinnabar Foundation was created over 25 years ago by Montanan's Len and Sandy Sargent. The Foundation grants to groups like ours, crusading to protect Montana and the Greater Yellowstone ecosystem. The Sargent legacy lives through the work that we are doing, and we believe they would be proud of our progress. Check our website to monitor our progress in achieving this matching grant, and help our goat climb that mountain! Thank you!

Idahoan Phil Hough wins a Montana Wilderness Association Brass Lantern Award

"Really good leadership is a quality that is rare and valuable. Exceptional leadership is even more rare and even more valuable...." For those people in the audience that want to know what it takes to run an extremely effective wilderness campaign - and I know there are some of you out there - I would suggest that you follow Phil Hough around for a couple of weeks - that is, if you can keep up!

Phil is a founder of the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness and has been the group's leader since its founding some four years ago. He is a gifted writer, speaker, organizer and general visionary. He is a gadfly who networks with enthusiasm and signs people up as a Friend of Scotchmans as he moves through a crowd - any crowd. He networks with important decision makers like they are old friends, and many of them have in fact become friends. Phil also makes fundraising look easy, and that is a feat in itself.

He believes that it is our job to build such strong support for wilderness in our communities that a campaign becomes, in his words, "politically inevitable". The

Friends of Scotchman Peaks have been doing just that, and I predict that before long we will all be celebrating the wilderness designation of this wonderful piece of wild country. For those of you who may have been sheltering under a rock for the past few years, the Scotchman Peaks roadless area straddles the Idaho divide, just as far west as you can go in Montana. Check out the group's information table here or visit their great website.

Phil actually lives a little over the state line in Idaho, but his positive energy and influence have reached deep into Montana. Phil is also a long distance hiker. He and his very tolerant companion Deb Hunsicker have hiked the Appalachian Trail (twice), the Pacific Crest Trail and are in the process of working their way down the Continental Divide, planning another thousand miles or so this summer. I am told it is hard to keep up with Phil on the trail as well.

Doug Ferrell



Over the Top Volunteer

Sandy Compton – Growing up Wild

By Phil Hough

Sandy Compton's grandfather, Earl, settled on the bench lands above the confluence of Blue Creek and the Clark Fork River in the early years of the last century. The homestead was on the remote border of northern Idaho and northwestern Montana. The family settled in a land full of promise and potential and in close proximity to the vast wilderness along the West Cabinet Mountains stretching north all the way to Canada. Three generations of Comptons have lived in the shadows of the Scotchmans "Growing up Wild somewhere between Hope and Paradise" as Sandy calls it. Wilderness was always there; in fact wilderness was, and is, the part of the neighborhood just beyond Sandy Compton's backyard. It was a place to explore, to connect with the natural world, to connect with ancestors; a place to become a Cowboy, a poet, a philosopher, a prodigal son. It was a place to grow in then leave and later return to for rediscovering the energy and enthusiasm of a youth. Wilderness has a way of doing that – of being a place where we can find ourselves, lose ourselves and then eventually re-discover ourselves. Wilderness is about renewal.

Most everyone reading this newsletter already knows Sandy, whether they know it or not. Sandy's fingerprints, or more appropriately his imprint is seen on much of the information we, the Friends of Scotchman Peaks, produce. A master story teller,

author, novelist, autobiographer, producer of plays, radio shows, stage productions, Sandy contributes his many talents to telling the story of the Scotchmans. Through words, photographs, design and arrangement of graphics, Sandy tells the tale of his wild home lands, of the Scotchmans. Just unfold the back side of our hiking map and through Sandy's design work, the story of the Scotchmans unfolds before you.

There are few companions who I would wish as much to spend time with in the Scotchmans as Sandy. Anyone who has had the pleasure of accompanying Sandy on a hike into the Scotchmans has also heard first hand his recounting of the personal connection he has to these lands that he loves so much. To share the Scotchmans with Sandy is to become passionate about their preservation. Sandy knows how to read the land well and navigates as much by memory as by feel, or more accurately, by "thinking like an Elk", as he would say. To fully enjoy the Scotchmans, it certainly helps to leave human constraints behind and to grow maybe just a little bit wild, like Sandy, our over the top volunteer!



Sandy Compton
Photo courtesy Phil Hough

Scotchman Natives

Alumroot {*Heuchera cylindrica Douglasii*}

By Valle Novak

Alumroot – the native ancestor of Coral bells – is a common but lovely perennial herb found most generally in sunny, rocky habitats. The slopes of our area Rockies northward into British Columbia and Alberta and south through Montana and northern Nevada provide the cliffs, rocky sites, talus slopes and gravelly soils preferred by *Heuchera*, a member of the Saxifrage family.

A pretty sight along mountain trails, Alumroot's long stems, topped with tiny, cream-colored flowers, grow upward from a clustered evergreen rosette base of toothed, rounded heart-shaped leaves. The flowers dry to fruits of many-seeded capsules to ensure strong colonies of many years' standing.

It is the root, however, that gives it its name and long reputation as a favored remedy used by Native Americans for stomach ache, diarrhea and "aching bones."

This lore was passed on to American settlers and pioneers, who found that the root, chewed or made into tea, was also good for healing wounds, sores, ulcers and was even touted as a cure for cancer.

While no official claims are made here, in research for this article, I found Alumroot mentioned in many highly regarded books on native plants, including Tilford's "Edible and Medicinal Plants of the West", Schofield's "Discovering Wild Plants" and Krukeberg's "Gardening with Native Plants of the Pacific Northwest", and in all cases reported the leaves as being an edible and delicious soup or salad green or stir fry and the roots as the aforementioned medicinal, dried and powdered as a general digestive tonic or to stop bleeding and reduce inflammation.

Other Saxifrage members, including a variety of Mitrewort, bear a close resemblance to Alumroot, and all add to the beauty of



Alumroot

Photo courtesy Marilyn George

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Creatures of the Scotchmans

The Striped Skunk {*mephitis mephitis*}

By Doug Ferrell

There is no skunk picture to accompany this article, partly because this newsletter is very full. But of course everyone knows what a skunk looks like, with fluffy black fur and a prominent white double stripe down the back. We are on the edge of the range of a much less common subspecies, the spotted skunk, whose appearance is described by its name. Skunks are about the size of a house cat, with small ears, short legs and a long bushy tail. Claws are longer on the front feet to aid in digging.

The powerful scent of the skunk is certainly its most memorable characteristic, and it is a defense that has proven to be very effective. Skunks are seldom bothered by obvious predators like coyotes, and most people have learned to give skunks a wide berth. Sometimes domestic dogs are not so careful. My cousin Janey had a loveable mutt named Fleagle the Beagle that had numerous encounters with skunks, several of them under their old lake cottage. These scrapes caused rapid abandonment of the cottage, often lasting for days. Fleagle was not a fast learner, and most of the family was somewhat relieved when he finally passed away after an encounter with a porcupine.

When skunks feel threatened, they may respond by growling, fluffing up their fur and raising their tail. They normally will not spray their scent unless they are in mortal danger. Then they curve their body into a U shape, with both head and hind end facing the target, and spray a stream of fine liquid from glands near the anus. The spray travels up to ten feet and can cause nausea and extreme eye irritation along with the overwhelming odor. Eagles and hawks can successfully prey on skunks, striking and disabling the prey before they can get off their famous defense.

Skunks are normally nocturnal. They inhabit woody and brushy areas, usually within a mile of a water source. They sleep during the day in a burrow, or under a rock or tree stump, and sometimes under buildings, piles of lumber, etc. Females make a nest lined with dried grasses and raise one litter a year of 5 – 8 blind and hairless babies. The young nurse in the den for about a month and a half and then follow their mothers single file on foraging expeditions.

Skunks are opportunistic omnivores and eat a huge variety of foods. Insects, including caterpillars, make up a large portion of their diet in many areas. They also eat mice and other small mammals, birds and eggs, frogs and toads, crustaceans, fruit, honey, grains, nuts and carrion. They may prey on colonial insects like bees and ants, and have been observed to stir up a bee hive, swat angry insects out of the air and gobble them up. Skunks are not true hibernators, and may be active in winter during mild weather. 5 to 8 females may den together, but the males remain solitary except for mating season. Skunks can carry rabies and be dangerous to pets and humans.



Peak Views

The Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness is proud to announce our Summer 2009 series schedule! We may add hikes as the summer progresses, so check our website occasionally for updates. We have something for every skill level and interest. You will see first hand why the Scotchmans are so special. Group size is limited and reservations are required. To sign up contact the hike leader listed. For more details go to our website at: www.scotchmanpeaks.org.

E=Easy, M=Moderate, S=Strenuous

Date	Rating	Destination	Leader	Description/Contact Info
Sun. July 5th	S	Scotchman Peak	Susan Drumheller	Climb the highest point in Bonner County - Scotchman Peak. Enjoy stunning panoramas of Lake Pend O'reille and the rugged countryside of the Proposed Scotchman Peaks Wilderness area. Mountain goats frequent these peaks. The trail is a steep and steady climb with no on-trail water. Bring good shoes or boots, as well as your binoculars and cameras. Contact Susan Drumheller for more information and a meeting location 208-263-4987 or sdrumheller@wildidaho.org
Sat. July 11th	S	Star Peak	Jacob Styer	This is a tough hike with over 4,000 feet of elevation gain in 5 miles but worth every bit of it when you get to the old fire lookout on top. Please read more information at http://www.scotchmanpeaks.org/Hikes/StarPeak_viaBigEddy.html . Jacob@scotchmanpeaks.org or 208-265-3408
Sat. July 18th	M/S	Spar Peak	Bill Martin	This hike travels through old growth and lush forest on your way up to a 360 degree view on top of Spar Peak! You can look into the heart of the Scotchmans and across the Bull River Valley into the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness. Contact Bill Martin for more details 406-295-5258
Fri. July 24th	S	Spar Peak	John Harbuck	A strenuous hike with over 3000' of climb, but beautiful beargrass meadows and fine views from the summit. Contact John Harbuck for more details harbuck@norlight.org or 208-263-9894
Sat. July 25th	S	Goat Peak	Jacob Styer	Join us for this strenuous hike up one of Idaho's steepest trails (gaining 4,000 in less than 3 miles). Get treated with wonderful views of Lake Pend Oreille and Scotchman Peak from the top. Please read more information at http://www.scotchmanpeaks.org/Hikes/GoatMountain_135.html . Jacob@scotchmanpeaks.org or 208-265-3408
Sun. Aug. 2nd	E	Adopt-a-Highway	Jacob Styer	Join in with other "Friends" of Scotchman Peaks to help beautify our section of State Highway 200. There is potential for a post-cleanup hike in the area. Contact Jacob for more details jacob@scotchmanpeaks.org or 208-265-3408
Sun. Aug. 16th	S	Goat Peak	Jon Isacoff	This event is co-sponsored by the Spokane Mountaineers and Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness. Goat Mountain is the mountain you "look down on" from the summit of Scotchman Peak. It's only 6,380 feet. But don't let numbers fool you: the trail climbs almost exactly 4,000 feet in 3 miles. This trail is significantly steeper and rougher than the Scotchman Peak Trail. All levels of experience are welcome and no technical skills are necessary, but if you have bad knees, take a pass on this event. You MUST be in good shape and have strong knees. Bring at least 2-3 liters of water, there is none on the trail. isacoff@gonzaga.edu or 509-448-2629
Thur. Aug. 20th	S	Annual Earl Clayton "Walk up the Blue Creek Canyon."	Sandy Compton	Mike's Peak in the Scotchmans Peaks. This is the Annual Earl Clayton Memorial "Walk up the Blue Creek Canyon." Strenuous (an understatement). Plan on 11 to 13 hours. Bring a headlamp just in case. Meet at my house (124 Highway 200 in Montana) at 7:00 Mountain Time (6:00 Pacific) for breakfast (provided). On the trail by 8:00 Mountain. Elevation gain, approximately 3500 feet. Round trip, approximately 8 miles. Bushwacking will be necessary. Huckleberries will be picked. No dogs, please. Maximum group size: 9. Call 208-290-1281. Bring two liters of water, minimum, a healthy, hearty lunch and snacks; and a note from your doctor! :-)
Thur. Aug. 20th - Sun. Aug. 23rd	S	Heart of the Scotchmans	Jim Mellen	This 4-day trip, August 20-24 will take experienced backpackers into the most pristine part of the Scotchmans. The group size will be limited to 6 with much of the travel "off trail". Contact Jim Mellen for more details. jmellen@imbris.net.
Sat. Aug. 29th	S	Scotchman Peak	Sarah Lundstrum	Climb the highest point in Bonner County - Scotchman Peak. Enjoy fall colors, stunning panoramas of Lake Pend O'Reille and the rugged countryside of the Proposed Scotchman Peaks Wilderness area. Mountain goats frequent these peaks. The trail is a steep and steady climb with no on-trail water. Bring good shoes or boots, as well as your binoculars and cameras Contact Sarah Lundstrum for more details slundstrum@wildmontana.org or 406-755-6304
Sun. Aug. 30th	E/M	Ross Creek Falls	Neil & Ann Wimberly	Hike through the Ross Creek Cedar grove and past to the Ross Creek Falls. A lovely hike through old growth and a cool way to spend a summer day. Contact Ann or Neil for more details 208-264-5379 afwim@yahoo.com or neilwim@yahoo.com.
Sun. Oct. 11th	S	Scotchman Peak	Phil Hough & Deb Hunsicker	Climb the highest point in Bonner County - Scotchman Peak. Enjoy fall colors, stunning panoramas of Lake Pend O'reille and the rugged countryside of the Proposed Scotchman Peaks Wilderness area. Mountain goats frequent these peaks. The trail is a steep and steady climb with no on-trail water. Bring good shoes or boots, as well as your binoculars and cameras. Volunteers from the "Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness" will talk about our efforts to protect this special place. Contact: nowhereman_97@hotmail.com or 208-255-2780.

Alumroot

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their surroundings with the lavish leaf rosettes, long, delicate stems – sometimes "hairy" – and the fragile appearing flowers borne on each.

Today's Coral bells have been responsive to special breeding, to provide a plethora of gorgeous leaf colors of gold, lime, purple, orchid and variegated combinations, along with those same, delicate flowers in shades of red, pink, and white. Though found in the wild in sunny, rocky sites, Alumroot thrives in dappled shade, and that is where they grow to best advantage. Easily transplanted (never take more than 1 or 2 out of 20) the natives grow and prosper with their domesticated kin in shady or rock-garden settings. Hardy and prolific, they may be divided after two or three years, and even stem cuttings broken from close to the crown root very readily.



The summer's hottest fashion item – Scotchman Peaks Bandanas \$3 each or 2 for \$5 Photo courtesy Sandy Compton



Tales of Scotchman Peaks

Scotchman: the Winter Ascent

By **Tim Daugharty**

(Editor's note: Check out area native Tim Daugharty's two previous articles in the Jul/Aug 08 Peak Experience. Tim now lives in Alaska.)

Steve, just got off the tuna observation boat, needed an adventure. We exchanged calls and decided on a winter assault on Scotchman to prove our outdoor prowess. We had just enough experience to get into trouble. Steve showed up with "How-to" manuals detailing some harrowing personal accounts of other ill-prepared neophytes. Knowing what I know now, I suspect we should have died on this ascent.

Our gear, what we thought to be cutting-edge technology, included Alpha boots on Bonna 2400 skis with cable bindings, freshly pine-tarred, external aluminum frame packs, the newest REI winter-rated down bags with a space blankets as pads, and a Primus stove that rarely worked. Reading that cotton was a killer, we bought the thickest wool pants and shirts we could find at the local Army-Navy Store. The tent, a two-man pup, would really only fit one midget with gear. What we didn't have in equipment, we made up for with enthusiasm.

We piled into the Chevy Nova before daylight with enough food and gear for an army. Murphy, a shepherd-lab cross who accompanied us on all our adventures, jumped in last. Loyal to a flaw, in retrospect he was the life-saver on this endeavor. At the trail head, we loaded up, put the goopiest wax we could find on the skis, and tried to negotiate the plow berm. Steve did a face plant between his ski tips, the weight of the pack creating a sitz mark the size of a moon crater. I laughed and proceeded to do the same in my attempt.

Needless to say the ascent was a grind beyond description. After six hours of toil sweat-soaked wool, and a dog breaking trail, doubt filled our minds with every step.

It was scarier to turn back than to slog upward; the majesty of the view kept us pseudo-inspired.

At about the 6,000 foot mark, it was time to eat and discuss the options. We were about to break into the open and were unsure of the safest route. To cross the open slope appeared to be the easiest and the obvious choice. However, Steve had read about avalanche and thought staying in the scrub fir and pine would be a safer choice. I preferred to pitch the tent there and call it a day. With instructions on creating a home worthy of an Eskimo chief, Steve lobbied to go higher and build a snow cave. Murphy, watching every bite, would do anything for a peanut M & M, rolling over and barking for the covered nuts.

Then an idea: throw the candy onto the snowfield to test the avalanche danger.

The snow texture was such that a nut would roll perfectly on the snow slope. Each throw went further onto the open space, and we laughed as Murphy lunged through the fluff to return for the next challenge. The last throw was terrific and the dog aggressively plowed through to intercept the trundling confection. Suddenly, all hell broke loose, as slab avalanche swept Murphy downward, yelps and paws tumbling over an unforgiving precipice.

Steve and I stared at each other, dumb-founded by our loss. We cried as a snow mist settled over the deafening silence of the mountain. Murphy was gone. Exhausted from exertion and emotion, we were unsure what to do next.

We decided to abort our mission before the light began to fail. As we donned our packs for the descent, we saw some movement below. Steve cheered. Coming up the previously broken trail was Murphy, a big grin on his face. This was a sign; we knew we should continue our ascent, keeping to the shrubs and trees as long as possible.

(Part one of a story about two men and a dog in a place of unprecedented solitude.)

From the Top

The growing support for preservation of the Scotchman Peaks Wilderness has led to such an explosion of information for the newsletter that this issue is bursting at the seams. The past few months were full of FSPW activities and the next few will be even more action packed. The network of newsletter contributors also continues to flourish. A former newsletter contributor sent another tale of his youthful adventures in the Scotchmans. Gonzaga associate professor, Jon Isacoff, Director of the Environmental Studies Program and a longtime Friend, joins us now as the columnist for the column on birds. David Thompson is again featured in our history column. Last year's popular photo contest is being repeated which will result in even more pictures sharing the natural beauty of the Scotchmans. Local high school

seniors wrote essays on how the wilderness area enriches their lives for our first FSPW scholarship competition. Sanders County middle and elementary students also competed for prizes in an essay contest. Hopefully, there will be room to run at least the winning essay in a future issue as these young authors are very articulate in their support of wilderness. Check out this issue for upcoming fun events and remember to set aside time to get out and enjoy the wilderness first hand.

Ann Wimberley

David Thompson, Canadian Fur Agent

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together by Jack Nisbet and the Northwest Museum of Art and Culture which covers Thompson's travels in the Columbia River drainage between 1807 and 1812. Also included will be an exhibit about Kullyspel House. The centerpiece of the whole exhibit will be a 25-foot replica of the cedar plank canoe that Thompson built in the spring of 1811 to begin his trip to the Pacific Ocean. The Summer 2009 issue of Sandpoint Magazine includes an article on Sagle resident Bill Brusstar who built the canoe from the same materials, cedar and spruce roots, used by Thompson. He also used the same primitive tools, fire, water, an axe and a crooked knife, following direction from Thompson's journals. In addition, the magazine features articles on Kullyspell House.

The Bicentennial offers a great opportunity to learn more about a Canadian hero, David Thompson, fur trader, cartographer and explorer and surveyor of the 1,250 mile course of the Columbia River. The Sept/Oct Issue of Peak Experience, available on our website, includes an article by Spokane teacher, naturalist and writer Jack Nisbet on David Thompson. Summer is also a good time to check out two of Nisbet's books, "Sources of the River: North America" and The Mapmaker's Eye: David Thompson on the Columbia Plateau".

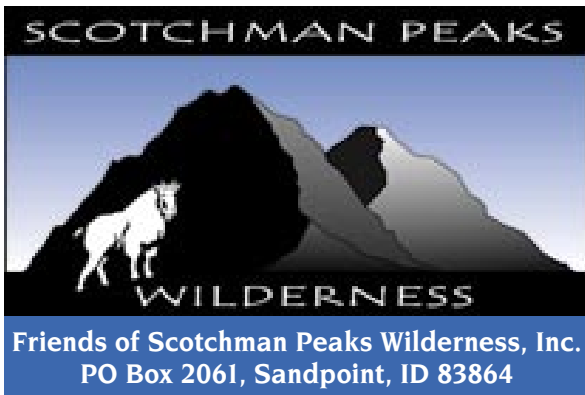
Birds of the Scotchmans

Continues from page 1

Drive the Forest Service roads up to the Scotchman Peak trailhead, elevation, about 3,300 feet. To the Southeast of the trailhead is a large open clear-cut, about 15 or 20 years old. Here you can begin to find the upland species that make mountain birding so much fun. Listen for Dusky and Ruffed Grouse drumming. Pileated and Hairy Woodpeckers are abundant here. You are now in Thrush Country, where you may see Swainson's, Hermit, and Varied Thrushes, as well as Townsend's Solitaires and of course, our friendly Robin – they like the woods as much as grassy lawns! Also look for Stellar's Jay and Chestnut-backed Chickadee, the smallest and most elusive of the Chickadee species (but arguably the most beautiful).

As you ascend into the upper elevations of the proposed Wilderness, deciduous mixed forest will gradually disappear and be replaced by Douglas Fir, Western Red Cedar, and Western Larch. Yet higher, between 5,000 and 7,000 feet, you will find Engelmann Spruce, Grand Fir, and Subalpine Fir. The latter provide the unique habitat for the "Boreal Specialties" of the Scotchmans. It is here that the intrepid hiking birder will search for the elusive Spruce Grouse and rarely-seen White-tailed Ptarmigan, Northern Goshawk, American Three-toed Woodpecker, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Boreal Chickadee, Pine Grosbeak, and White-winged Crossbill.

There are of course many more birds (and animals, trees, flowers, and mushrooms) to see in the Scotchmans. In future columns, we will continue to explore them!



How You Can Help

Support Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness

As concerned citizens, we support protecting and preserving the Scotchman Peaks area for ourselves and future generations. Highway 56, Highway 200, Lightning Creek Road, and Rattle Creek/Keeler Road surround this 88,000 acre scenic area which straddles the Idaho and Montana border. Wilderness Designation for the Scotchmans will protect plants and wildlife, including the endangered grizzly bears, mountain goat, and bull trout; it will protect water quality; and it will preserve a special place for future generations. In addition, local communities will benefit from the unparalleled recreational and economic opportunities such wilderness provides.

Name: _____

Address: _____

e-mail: _____

Phone: _____

- Donation enclosed (optional). Donations are tax deductible. Please make checks payable to the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness, Inc. Detach & Mail to the address above.

Board Members:

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Phil Hough, *Sagle, Idaho*
(208) 255-2780 • nowhere_man97@hotmail.com

VICE-CHAIRMAN & MONTANA DIRECTOR:

Doug Ferrell, *Trout Creek, Montana*
(406) 827-4341 • ferrelldoug@gmail.com

SECRETARY:

Sarah Lundstrum, *Whitefish, Montana*
(406) 755-6304 • slundstrum@wildmontana.org

TREASURER:

Jacob Styer, *Sandpoint, Idaho*
(208) 265-7206 • jacobstyer@yahoo.com

EAST BONNER COUNTY DIRECTOR:

Neil Wimberley, *Hope, Idaho*
(208) 264-5379 • neilwim@yahoo.com

Bill Martin, *Troy, Montana*
(406) 295-5258

Will Valentine, *Sagle, Idaho*
(208) 255-1114 • valentine66@intermaxnetworks.com

Charlie Clough, *Libby, Montana*
(406) 293-5210 • bear2th@montanasky.net

Carol Jenkins, *Sagle, Idaho*
(208) 265-9204 • irvorcarol@imbris.net