



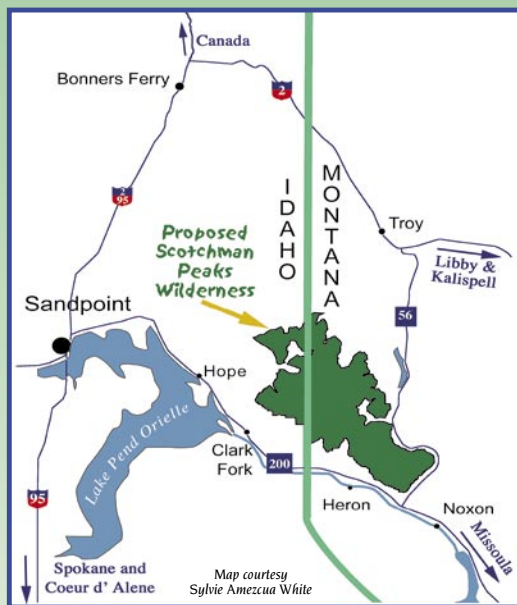
PEAK EXPERIENCE

The Newsletter for Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness, Inc.

Volume 6, Number 4 • July / August, 2010

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

FSPW and Forest Service Personnel Add Up to a Job Well Done.

A total of seventeen Friends from Sandpoint, Spokane, Hayden, Noxon and even Utah showed up recently to help put Scotchman Peak Trail #65 “back in order” for the hiking season. Last fall, a microburst storm uprooted dozens of trees along the trail, crisscrossing the tread with many blowdowns. FSPW volunteers Jim and Sandii Mellen cleared much of the trail just after the storm. On Saturday, June 19, with a Forest Service trail crew leading the way, a work crew from Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness cleared the rest of the blowdowns, as well as maintaining waterbars along the lower trail and rebuilding tread, particularly in the lower half of the trail.



Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness and Forest Service trail crew ready to go to work on Trail #65. Photo by Sandy Compton

Panhandle Forest Trails and Recreation Manager Mary Ann Hamilton brought a trail crew of six to help out on Saturday, including sawyers Eric Morgan, Lance Gidley, Brian Pratt and Eric Demers and trail workers Anthony Copeland and Matt Ruskey. The Friends crew followed the trail crew up the mountain with pulaskis, loppers, shovels and just plain old people power, rolling the sawn sections of blowdowns off the trail, as well as tossing rocks, refreshing worn tread, removing

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From the Top

It is amazing how the newsletter articles multiply! As I began putting this issue together, I was not sure we had enough copy for 8 pages. Now I’m hoping it will all fit in twelve. I can only hope my garden will grow as well.

The scholarship contest gives voice to the next generation as they speak up for the wilderness they love. Our photo contest and the Plein Air event will be bringing in more unique perspectives. The Walk in the Woods through the Ross Creek Cedars was a local demonstration of the Wallace Stegner quote (paraphrased) of people needing to be able to go to the edge of the wilderness and look into the geography of hope. In this newsletter you’ll find lots of opportunities to get out and enjoy the wilderness for yourself or to work with us to keep it as it is. Please join us.

Ann Wimberley



FSPW 2010 Volunteer Recognition

At our May "State of the Scotchmans" meeting, the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness recognized seven volunteers for their outstanding contributions, including board members Doug Ferrell, Carol Jenkins and Will Valentine.

Doug is our Montana vice-chair and point man in Sanders County, where he recently won the endorsement of the Wildhorse Plains Backcountry Horsemen after his second presentation to the group. Carol has had great success as the FSPW grant writer for the past five years and Will very ably manages our database.

We also recognized Trisha Miller, Brad Smith and Holly Clements. Trisha is our volunteer website administrator. Brad, who works for the Idaho Conservation League, is also our mapmaker, producing the topographical maps for our Scotchman Peaks map brochures. Holly has been a perennial hike leader and volunteer at events for the entire life of the organization.

Each year we choose one person to be honored as our "volunteer of the year". We affectionately call this award our "Old Goat of the Year" recognizing that the perseverance it takes to be a mountain goat in winter is the same perseverance it takes to be a top volunteer. This year's old goat award goes to Ann Wimberley, the editor of Peak Experience, our bi-monthly newsletter!



Ann Wimberley and Phil Hough
Photo by Deb Hunsicker

Cinnabar Foundation Challenge Grant Doubles Your Donation Dollars

For the fifth consecutive year the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness has received a challenge grant from the Cinnabar Foundation. This is an opportunity to double your donation to Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness effortlessly by earmarking your gift as part of the match for the challenge grant, which FSPW received in mid-June. The challenge from Cinnabar is in the amount of \$4,000.

If you are considering a contribution to the Friends of Scotchman Peaks to assist us in our efforts to protect the Scotchman Peaks as Wilderness, this is the perfect time to send in that contribution. If we are able to raise \$4,000 from our supporters, we will receive that amount from Cinnabar, resulting in \$8,000 to support our outreach efforts.

Through your individual contributions, we have met this challenge in each of the last four years. No matter how large or small, each makes a big difference; any amount helps. In fact, small contributions from a large number of people not spreads the support around, it helps to show that a large community is actively

involved and supports the designation of the Scotchman Peaks as Wilderness.

We would like to raise this money by October 1st, but the sooner we reach our goal of \$4,000 in individual contributions, the sooner we will benefit from Cinnabar's match – so, don't delay! Your contribution will help us protect the Scotchman Peaks for our families, for tomorrow.

Visit www.ScotchmanPeaks.org to monitor our progress in achieving this matching grant, and watch our goat climb that mountain!

The Cinnabar Foundation, Montana's own home-grown conservation fund, was created over 25 years ago by Len and Sandy Sargent, both of whom passed away in 1997. In their memory and at their wishes, the Foundation awards 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 efforts to protect the Scotchmans.

The Future Looks Bright:

July 3 and 4: Friends in Bonner, Lincoln and Sanders Counties will march in local parades at Clark Fork, Sandpoint, Heron and Noxon and table at the Fourth of July Celebration in Troy.

July 7 through 24: Film students Jake Glass, Matt Stauble and Joe Foster from Muhlenberg College in Allentown, Pennsylvania, will be visiting to make a film about Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness and the wild area. They will accompany the artists on the Extreme Pleinair Hike into upper Ross Creek July 9 through 13. Glass, Stauble and Foster will be interviewing Friends and neighbors throughout their stay. They will be hosted by Sandy Compton.

August 13 - 15: FSPW Volunteers led by Ernie Scherzer will be at a FSPW table for the Huckleberry Festival in Trout Creek. Contact Ernie at xberea@blackfoot.net or sandy@scotchmanpeaks.org for information and volunteer opportunities.

August 24 - 29: FSPW volunteers will manage a booth at Bonner County Fair. Adopt a day at the fair or volunteer for 2- or 4-hour shifts by contacting sandy@scotchmanpeaks.org

September 24 - 26: Friends of Scotchman Peaks Annual Paint the Scotchmans Pleinair event will be held in and around the Scotchman Peaks, with a show of the work produced to be held at the Outskirts Gallery in Hope, Idaho.



FSPW Awards Six Scholarships to Idaho & Montana High School Seniors

Olivia Guthrie of Sandpoint, Brittani Wilder of Hope, Amber Kardokus of Heron, Ryan Humphrey of Trout Creek, Thomas Roeder of Troy and Paige Ward of Libby were awarded scholarships by Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness for their winning essays in the annual FSPW essay competition.



FSPW Vice Chair, Carol Jenkins with Olivia Guthrie, Sandpoint High Scholarship winner
Photo courtesy Carol Jenkins

Each year, FSPW sponsors a writing competition with themes about wilderness for graduating high school seniors in Lincoln and Sanders Counties, Montana and Bonner County, Idaho. This year's theme was "Describe how wild country, which still exists near our communities today, influences your life." Seniors from Clark Fork, Sandpoint and Lake Pend Oreille Alternative High Schools in Idaho as well as Troy, Libby, Thompson Falls, Noxon and Plains, Montana, schools, were invited to submit essays, with \$250 going to the writer of the best essay from each school, and an additional \$250 awarded to the top essay overall.

"We received a couple of dozen essays this year, and, as always, it was hard to pick who we would give awards to," said FSPW program coordinator Sandy Compton. "But, it's satisfying to read wilderness-related essays by young people and know that they were written by the future of our country."

Wilder is a graduate of Clark Fork High School. She wrote, in part, "It is within nature that I feel connected to all living things. One can watch a bird fly above the entire forest, an ant carry a leaf back to its hill, or a deer grazing on an afternoon snack of grass, and it's evident, we are all connected. The wilderness shows us that. It is a living example of life at its finest."

Humphrey, from Thompson Falls High, writes "Out in nature, I have never felt so whole or calm. It is something that is truly a gift, and I do not know what I would do with out it. I hope that all can enjoy the beauties of the natural world and protect it for generations to come."

Kardokus, Noxon High School graduate, wrote, "There are many ways that wild country influences my life. I think the largest impact it has on me, though, is the quality of life it presents... Areas that remain untamed and undeveloped allow for peak health on both physical and spiritual levels..."

Ward, who graduated from Libby High, writes, "Some of my favorite days are spent in amidst the peaks and valleys surrounding our town. There are so many lakes, streams and rivers that are hidden from civilization. I love to sit silently on their shores, gazing into the sunlit sky, listening to the cool breeze flow through the trees as the waves

slap against my toes in the water."

Roeder took the honor for Troy High School. He wrote, in part, "Each time I enter the wilderness, I learn something new... My grandpa says the wilderness has healing powers that fix a man's soul even in the hardest times."

Guthrie's essay was deemed best from Sandpoint High, as well as best overall for 2010. Though she received numerous awards and scholarships, she told presenter and FSPW board member Carol Jenkins, "The Scotchman scholarship was the one I wanted to win the most. I love wilderness." Her entire essay is printed below:

"Wilderness: it's what makes Idaho unique, the vast expanse of open, unspoiled land. No roads, no civilization and no other humans for miles around. When you are in the wilderness, you feel so small compared to the miles and miles of forest, meadows, lakes and streams. This incredible feeling of the immensity of our world is something I have had the honor to enjoy throughout my entire life.

I have hiked, swam, paddled, floated and biked over hundreds of miles in the great wildernesses of the Northwest. I have slept under the stars hundreds of nights without seeing a single city glowing over the hills and mountains. Nature brings you back to the beginning of time; ancient rocks that shape the jagged mountains, crisp serene lakes, and streams that over time have wound their way from the mountain tops to their wide bases. It is here that we can find absolute peace and serenity. In the wilderness, you are connected to the Earth, not by your phone or internet, but by the simplicity of your bare feet on the cool ground and the aroma of the pine trees wafting around you.

I know this feeling, nothing can compare to it. It lures me outside every sunny or not so sunny day, and coaxed me to stay out later. I have been able to enjoy so much of this wilderness for one main reason: my doorstep is the great outdoors! With the mountains towering over pristine Lake Pend Oreille as my view, I know I always want to be near the wilderness.

I was fortunate enough to have been born into a family that valued the outdoor experience in its most pure form. My parents respected the wilderness and what it had to offer and tread softly, teaching me and my brother and sister to do the same. We backpacked into the Scotchman Wilderness and Cabinet range countless times (beginning at a very young age) to soak up its grandeur. I have been located so close to the outdoors my whole life that it is the main component of whom I am and will become. I cannot leave this part of me behind regardless of where I end up; I will forever be imprinted with the fragrant breeze, untracked ground and clean water. I will never forget my experience in the wild and always strive for more.

Singing and Sun

By Jon Isacoff, PhD

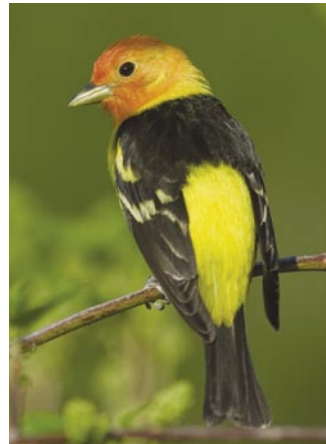
June to August ushers in the high time of all good things in the Scotchmans. There is sun and with that, there is swimming, hiking, backpacking, boating, and fishing. And birds sing, sing, and SING! This is the time for birders to get motivated and hike up into the high country, where snow will disappear for a few brief months and allow for a spectacular viewing of subalpine and alpine birds and wildflowers.

Like Lake Pend Oreille? Forget about it for a few months: go take one of the many trails in the Scotchmans area and find birds! All of the true Boreal and Arctic breeding migrants have moved on to the Great-not-White-at-the-moment-North and what are left are two sets of birds: (1) our permanent residents who never leave; (2) migrants, including the “neotropicals,” that spend their winters in Central and South America and come to the Scotchmans to breed.

What about the locals? Well the Song Sparrows and most of the Hawks and Owls never left, but it's still always a joy to see a Goshawk swoop across a subalpine meadow or even watch a little Kestrel perch atop its favorite snag. For the intrepid that backpack into the uplands at 5,000 and higher, at night, listen for the haunting call of the Boreal Owl, one of the most sought after species to see (or more likely, hear) in the continental US. These little mini-might's don't migrate but their habitat is impossible to reach – save by snowshoe backpacking, something most birders are not into – for two-thirds of the year.

What really gets birders excited during the summer are the neotropical migrant breeders because they're only around for 3-5 months and because they've made a mighty journey

of 3,000-5,000 miles one-way to get to their little nests in the Scotchmans. Warblers are represented by Nashville and Yellow Warblers, American Redstart, and Northern Waterthrush. Listen for the peculiar chipping and warbling songs of the Willow, Hammond's, and Cordilleran Flycatchers, and the Cassin's, Warbling, and Red-eyed Vireos. The Olive-sided Flycatcher is famed for perching on the tallest, most exposed snags in high elevation areas and bellowing it's high-pitched call that has been alternatively named: “Look up here!” or “Drink a beer!” On the floors of the darkest forests, look for Swainson's Thrushes rustling in the soil for insects. In addition to these are four of the most beloved and colorful neotropicals: Gray Catbird, Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak, and Lazuli Bunting.



Western Tanager
Photo by Donald M. Jones
www.donaldmjones.com

It should be noted that not all the fun migrants are true neotropicals: some of them “cheat,” wintering in Southern Utah, Nevada, and California in the warmer low-elevation areas. Some of the “cheaters” that breed in the Scotchmans include Yellow-rumped, Townsend's, and Orange-crowned Warblers, and Varied and Hermit Thrushes, which have been known to winter as close by as Walla Walla or the Puget Sound region. And why not? Who would fly 5,000 miles for the winter if they could get by just as well only going 1,200!?

... A Job Well Done

Continues from page 1

brush and branches and dealing as best as they could with several huge “rootwads,” the base of uprooted trees that sometimes entirely blocked the trail.

In addition to supplying the trail crew, the Forest Service also brought tools, hard hats, gloves, water, bug spray, sun screen, cookies and t-shirts for the participating Friends. And, in recognition of the great work done last fall by Jim Mellen, Mary Ann Hamilton expressed the gratitude of the Forest Service by presenting Jim and his wife Sandii with pullover fleece jackets emblazoned with “Volunteer.” The recognition is well deserved. The Mellens are veteran FSPW hike leaders and volunteers.

This first cooperative work day between the Forest Service and FSPW was initiated by an e-mail from Hamilton last spring. The results were spectacular. In about five and a half hours, the lower half of the trail got a great facelift, as well as a couple of major surgeries to repair tread and remove obstacles. A string of “free hikers” throughout the day expressed their admiration and grati-



USFS Sawyer
Eric Morgan works his way down through a massive, multi-layered blowdown on Trail #65
Photo by Sandy Compton

tude for the work done by the Forest Service and the Friends.

“I hope we can do another day soon,” said Hamilton. “The saw crew was impressed with how much your group accomplished.”

A workday on Star Peak Trail #998 in cooperation with the Kootenai National Forest Cabinet District is planned for July 10. To volunteer or for more information, contact Jacob Styer at jacobstyer@yahoo.com.



Peak Views

Check out our 2010 Summer Hike 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. See firsthand 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 www.scotchmanpeaks.org.

Hike date	Exertion Rating	Destination/Hike Name	Leader(s)	Description and Contact info
7/8-12/10	S+	Extreme Pleinair	Sandy Compton	Contact info: 208-290-1281 or sandy@scotchmanpeak.org This hike is nearly full, but we will accept two more pleinair artists for a 4-night, 5-day paintout in the Scotchmans. The plan is to spend two days in "stationary" camps along the base of the Craggs. We will walk in through the east fork of Blue Creek and out via Ross Creek. Day hikers are welcome to accompany the campers into Blue Creek.
7/8/10	M/S	Little Spar Lake	Sara Lundstrum	Contact info: 406-755-6304 or slundstrum@wildmontana.org A moderate hike though the lush Spar Creek canyon, a fine example of interior rain forest, brings us to sparkling, green Little Spar Lake, one of the best overnight options in the Scotchmans. Distance: 8 miles round trip. Elevation gain. 2200 feet
7/10/10	S	Star Peak	Jacob Styer	Contact info: jacob@scotchmanpeaks.org 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. More information at www.scotchmanpeaks.org/hiking/self-guided-hikes/star-peak-ivy-big-eddy-trail/ . Round trip, 10 miles ±. Elevation gain 4140 feet. Note: This hike will be in conjunction with a FSPW/Forest Service cooperative trail work day. FSPW Volunteers will be helping a FS sawyer clean up Eddy Creek/Star Peak # 998.
7/24-25/10	S	Star Peak/Pillick Ridge Full Moon Overnighter	Sandy Compton	Contact info: 208-290-1281 or sandy@scotchmanpeaks.org We will hike to Star Peak lookout and then east along Pillick Ridge to camp under the full moon. Magnificent views of the Cabinets, both East and West and the Clark Fork River Valley. We will exit to the Bull River valley via Pillick Ridge Trail. Water is a challenge on this route. One spring is available near Star Peak, involving some serious vertical. Be prepared to carry lots of H2O. Distance overall, 16 miles. Elevation gain 5500 feet. Note: This hike will be in conjunction with a FSPW/Forest Service cooperative trail work day. FSPW volunteers will pick up hand tools at Star Peak Lookout and work on the Pillick Ridge trail.
8/15/10	M	Ross Creek Falls	Neil and Ann Wimberley	Contact info 208-264-5379 or afwim@yahoo.com or neilwim@yahoo.com Hike through the Ross Creek Cedar grove and past to the Ross Creek Falls in the upper reaches of the South Fork of Ross Creek. A lovely hike through old growth and a cool way to spend a summer day. Round trip: 6 + miles. Elevation gain, 1500 feet.
8/20/10	M	Bear Peak Beginning Map & Compass Hike	John Harbuck	Contact info: 263-9894 or harbucks@norlight.org This walk at the very north end of the Wilderness is a pretty mild hike for the Scotchmans, but there can be some bushwhacking (no trail on this one). For those not conversant with topo maps and compasses, we'll do a bit of a workshop on map reading from the top. Round trip, 2 miles: Elevation gain: 400 ft
8/20-22/10	S	"Secret Scotchmans" Photo Workshop Hike	Jim Mellen	Contact info: 208-265-5261 or jimnsandii@gmail.com Picture yourself through the Scotchmans. This three-day backpacking trip includes a photography workshop with a pro shooter. Experienced hikers and photographers only on this difficult/extreme hike. The resultant photos will be displayed in an exhibition later in the season.
8/27/10	S	Spar Peak	John Harbuck	Contact info: 263-9894 or harbucks@norlight.org A good trail, but steep and quite strenuous, beginning in the lush Spar Creek canyon and leading to great views of the Scotchmans and Cabinets. Good possibilities of spotting elk and mountain goats on this hike. Round trip 6 miles. Elevation gain 3200 feet.
8/28/10	S	Sawtooth Mountain	Holly Clements	Contact info: 208-208-290-3420, hclements26@yahoo.com Depending on the condition of Blue Creek Road, we will begin in the East Fork of Blue Creek and climb to the summit of 6500 foot Sawtooth Mountain and exit through the South Fork of Ross Creek. If the Blue Creek Road is closed, we will begin and end at the Ross Creek Cedars. This is arguably the hardest day hike in the Scotchman Peaks, but well worth the effort. Walk across a pristine, primitive landscape and gain rare views of the internal Scotchmans and the Craggs. Round trip: 12 + miles. Elevation gain, 3500 + feet.
9/18-20/10	S	Blue Creek Respite	Sandy Compton	Contact info: 208-290-1281 or sandy@scotchmanpeaks.org Pack into and camp in the fabled East Fork Meadow for two nights. Spend the central day climbing Clayton Peak, reading under a tree or napping in your tent. Your choice. A chance for a down day in an up and down kind of place. Round trip: 8 + miles. Elevation gain, 2000 – 4000 feet.
10/02/10	S	Scotchman Peak	Phil Hough and	Contact info: 208-946-9127 or phil@scotchmanpeaks.org This is the classic hike up the namesake peak for our proposed wilderness. It's short but steep. We will go at a slow pace so that steady effort is all that is needed to summit. Wide panoramas and stunning views of lake Pend Oreille, along with fall colors and possibly late season huckleberries will be highlights. Wear hunter orange. 4 miles one way, 8 round trip with an elevation gain of 3,800 feet.

Hot Summer Gear

Brighten up your summer hiking gear with our Scotchman merchandise. Hats are still only \$10 in light blue, red, black or beige. Bandanas are available in orange, hot pink, light blue, green and bright yellow at \$3 or two for \$5. Try our long sleeved T's for \$15, short sleeved T's for \$10 or our bargain shirts for \$5. Our sweats (\$30) and hoodies (\$35) are perfect second layers. Pick up your Scotchman gear at Buttercups Gift Shoppe in the Meriwether Inn in Clark Fork, Café Bodega, Eichardt's, Outdoor Experience, or Sandpoint Sports in Sandpoint, ID, Mountain Meadows in Libby, MT, or Huckleberry Thicket in Trout Creek, MT. Out of the area, contact jimnsandii@gmail.com. Other Scotchman merchandise is available in our online store run by Café Press at www.scotchmanpeaks.org/store/html.





Wild Creatures of the Scotchmans

Grizzly Bear II *ursus arctos horribilis*

By Doug Ferrell

Many of us who travel or live in areas where grizzlies still roam, consider that the presence of these great bears adds a special dimension to our lives. The presence of grizzlies also naturally raises concerns about the chance of a problem encounter. In fact, the chance of such an encounter is very low. Statistically, driving to a trailhead is more likely to result in injury or death than hiking in the backcountry.

It is still very helpful for us to learn and practice ways to minimize problem encounters with bears. This is partly to protect our own safety and property, and partly because bears who experience conflicts with humans are all too likely to end up dead.

The information that follows is quoted or adapted from an excellent booklet entitled "Bears: Pointers for Peaceful Coexistence". The booklet is available on the website of the National Wildlife Federation at www.nwf.org/Regional.../NRNRCGBBearBrochurePOINTERSpmd.aspx.

Encounters with Bears in Wild Places

HIKERS: In areas where you may encounter a grizzly, make lots of noise (talking, singing, etc.) Hike in groups if you can. Be especially cautious in grizzly bear feeding areas, like berry patches or where you see signs of bear activity, such as tracks, scat, or digging.

Be aware of the wind direction and background noise which can help or hinder a bear's ability to detect your presence. Hikers in grizzly country should consider carrying pepper spray. If you encounter a grizzly, clap your hands and shout to alert the bear and move off the trail and away from the bear. Never run away from any large predator as this may trigger a chase response. Most importantly, for both species of bear, don't try to sneak up to get a close-up photo—keep at least 100 yards from grizzly bears.

CAMPERS AND ANGLERS: Keep a clean camp. Hang all food, trash, and other smelly items 100 yards from camp and at least 10

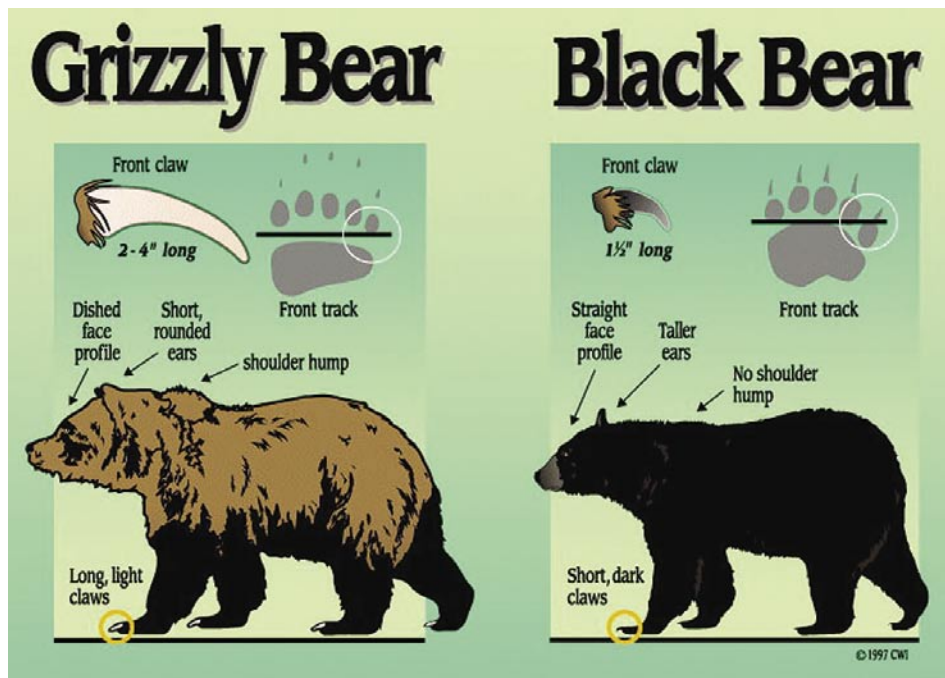
feet above the ground and 4 feet from any vertical support, or store them in a bear-resistant container (commercial coolers are not bear-resistant). Don't burn food scraps in your fire. Keep tents and sleeping bags free of odors. Don't leave fish entrails on shorelines of lakes or streams—sink them in deep water.

ATTACKS: Unless they've become accustomed to getting food or garbage from people, black bears and grizzly bears will usually avoid people. They attack people very rarely. When grizzly bears do attack, it is usually because they were surprised or felt threatened. If a grizzly attacks you, let it know you are no threat by playing dead and covering your head and neck with your arms and backpack. Grizzlies that feel threatened may make a bluff charge and then move away without attacking or injuring anyone.

Bear Encounters in Your Neighborhood

Given a choice, bears will eat the richest food available. Unfortunately, the richest food is often human garbage and pet or livestock feed. Most encounters with bears that cause problems result from bears being attracted to such non-natural foods. A bear's attraction to such foods can't be changed but the way you deal with it can be modified to save bears and avoid damage to your property.

- To reduce the risk of problems with bears in your neighborhood:
- Store garbage where bears can't smell or get into it.
- Feed birds only during winter, when bears are asleep.
- Don't leave uneaten pet food outside.
- Don't use guns in an effort to frighten bears.
- Electric fencing is the most effective way to keep bears out of orchards, gardens, beehives and other attractants.



Intentional feeding of bears is not only dangerous to yourself and the bear, it is illegal in most places. If your neighbors are feeding bears, they are causing problems for you as well as for themselves.



Along the Trail

April 30 - May 2: Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness board and staff attended the Montana Wilderness Association Convention in Whitefish, Montana. FSPW chair Phil Hough sat in on a panel discussion, Wilderness on the Horizon. Program coordinator Sandy Compton provided a storytelling program and acted as MC and moderator for the gathering. FSPW board member Bill Martin received one of MWA's Brass Lantern Awards.

May 12: The Annual State of the Scotchman meeting was held at the Panida Theatre in Sandpoint. "Forever Wild," an inspiring documentary film about grassroots wilderness success was shown. Dawnya Clarine entertained 120 Friends and the silent auction raised over \$700.

May 16: Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness and NAMI Far North (the Bonner and Boundary Counties affiliate of the National Alliance on Mental Illness) celebrated Mental Health Month with a "Walk in the Woods" at the Ross Creek Cedars.

May 19: Phil Hough and Jon Issacoff presented "the Birds of the Scotchmans" to an enthusiastic crowd from Palouse Audubon Society which stayed to hear stories and watch slides on a battery power laptop even after the power went out.

May 21: Jacob Styer and Jim Mellen volunteered at a table during the Sandpoint Bike Week celebration at the Sandpoint Events Center.

May 21-23: FSPW Exec Phil Hough and program coordinator Sandy Compton attended the Idaho Conservation League Annual Convention, Wild Idaho, at Redfish Lake Lodge in the Stanley Basin.

May 26: Two dozen hikers and hike leaders attended the FSPW Summer Hike Series kickoff party at Ivano's Wine Bar.

May 27: First day of the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness 2010 Summer Photo Contest.

May 29: Sandy Compton and three other hikers climbed to Star Peak.

June 5: National Trails Day. FSPW hike leaders Phil Hough and Deb Hunsicker led 10 others into Thunder Creek on a blue-sky hike which included moose sightings.

June 9: Phil Hough and Sandy Compton attended an all-day conference produced by the Idaho Nonprofit Center at the Coeur d'Alene Resort.

June 9: Sandy Compton attended an evening meeting of the Faith and Environment group in Spokane, which featured a presentation on the environmental consequences of coal-fired energy sources.

June 11: Native American recording artist Jack Gladstone entertained some 200 folks at Riverfront Park in Libby as well as putting on a mini-concert for the residents of a Libby extended care facility, courtesy FSPW.

June 12: FSPW board member and hike leader Carol Jenkins led an FSPW/MWA hike at the Ross Creek Cedars.

June 13: Forty-five Friends attended the Sanders County Friends Picnic at the Bull River Campground group area.

June 19: Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness and the US Forest Service held a cooperative trail cleanup day at Scotchman Peak Trail #65.

June 19: The FSPW Lincoln County Friends Picnic was held at Riverfront Park in Libby.

June 25: FSPW volunteers led by Jean Polequaptewa and Tobo Leivestad tabled at the Sanders County Yard Sale-ing event in Thompson Falls.

June 26: Hike leader Holly Clements led a group on the Practice Mountain Hike on Fatman Mountain.

Trail Talk:

Ross Creek Trail #142 and S. Fork Ross Creek Trail #321 Loop.

By *Sandy Compton*

Easy Stuff: Trails #142 and #321 are benign in nature, and hikers in moderately good shape can enjoy either. Ross Creek Trail #142 begins at the west end of the Ross Creek Cedar Scenic Area loop and continues up Ross Creek five miles to 48-Hour Creek before making a hard left up the steep western wall of the main stem of Ross Creek. A simple out-and-back through this verdant canyon with its huge cedars is well worth the walk. An elevation gain of just 600 feet and turnaround available at any point makes a good "starter" hike for kids.

Trail #142 crosses Ross Creek twice without bridges, so wading shoes are a good option. Smaller kids, particularly, should wait for low water in late summer to attempt a crossing.

At the first crossing, Trail #321 diverges to the south and leads up (rather quickly) the South Fork of Ross Creek. One and a half miles (and 1200 vertical feet) up this canyon, a series of falls over live rock enchants

many hikers into calling it a day. That, coupled with a tangle of uprooted hemlocks right at the falls, makes it seem a good place to turn back for the parking lot.

Connecting the Dots: For the adventurous, savvy and fit, there is another option — and that is to connect Trails #321 and #142. This (long) day hike or overnighter leads to not-often-visited places in upper Ross Creek and East Fork of Blue Creek.

So, crawl through those hemlocks and make your way along a fairly apparent trail through a patch of devil's club into a subalpine basin. Cross the creek after entering the basin and follow a web of elk trails upstream through meadows and tag-alder jungles. Have faith in the elk and be patient as you work your way, crossing the creek several times, to a series of open meadows and timber stands at the head of the valley. Follow the lay of the land and elk trails will funnel you into a steep

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Scotchman Past

The 1910 Fire

By Sandy Compton

This letter about the 1910 Fire from Ruth Dettwiler McQuaide was written to Elinor Compton in 1984, describing the day in August of 1910 when the fire blew across the Clark Fork River into what is now the proposed Scotchman Peaks Wilderness Area.

At the time of the 1910 fire, my brother Roy was almost five, sister Georgia, about six months. I was three

For days, we had not seen the sun. It was just a red ball in the sky. The air was thick with smoke. There was an eerie feeling of oppression and imminent (sic) danger. Roy and I did not want to play. The animals were confused. We knew our parents were very worried.

One day, small fires began to appear on Squaw Peak (now Star Peak), and on the heavily timbered flat towards the (Clark Fork) river. One could see burning pieces of branches flying through the air. My father decided to go towards the river to check the movement of the fire. In a very short time, he came back running and said we had to leave.

Our cleared land at the time was small. My mother's brother, Amos Riley's place had a larger clearing, and also a road to his place. It also seemed safer, since the timber wasn't so heavy. Our parents loaded mattresses, blankets, clothes, etc., into the wagon. My father turned the few animals we had free, hoping they could survive. None of them left, as they too were frightened and felt safer in familiar surroundings.

It was maybe two miles or less to the Riley home. The road was primitive. In two places, there were steep grades, both going downhill. The first was called "The Creek Hill," the second, "Rocky Point." My father was making the team of horses gallop and that was scary.

When we got to the Riley's, my mother, Uncle Amos and Aunt Barbara took care of the team, unloaded the supplies from the wagon, etc. Everyone was frightened and depressed. My father started out walking back to our home place. He followed the base of the low foothills, as there were springs of water all along. By the time he got back to our home, the wind had changed and the fires along what is now a highway were dying out. There were burned snags in that area for years — in fact, until Ralph and Arthur cleared the land.

There were still fires on Squaw Peak, but they too were dying out and did go out completely when they reached the top. None of our buildings burned. The animals had all stayed close.

I think we went home the next day, certainly by the second day.

Since there were no phones, TVs, not even a radio, it was some time before we knew the extent of that awful fire. I don't believe any homes burned in our area. My grandparents lived across the river from what used to be the Duffy place, close to where the bridge is now. Their home did not burn.

As we children grew up, we were taught to go out in the field with buckets of water and towels to wet and put over our heads. We did that once when Heron burned about ten years later.

The Dettwiler family and many others near Heron were extraordinarily lucky. Just to the west, on the south side of the river on the Idaho/Montana border, much of "Little Finland" in the Cabinet Flats burned up, sending folks to the sandbar in the river just below the Cabinet Gorge for refuge. Two men died in the Dry Creek drainage when a fire-fighting crew under the leadership of William Brashear was caught between an independent fire they had been fighting in Defoe Gulch and the larger fire that crested the Bitterroot divide on August 20.

Brashear was never given the kind of recognition that the iconic Ed Pulaski received for saving his men, although he was no less a hero; and Pulaski was indeed a hero. If the two fire victims under Brashear's command had obeyed him when he led them and the rest of his 32 men to a meadow with a spring, they, too, would have lived to tell the story.

Two young men also died at Swamp Creek, near the southern end of what has become the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness, and another man died in the Copper Creek drainage on the east side of Bull River.

Earlier in the year, a fire burning northeast of Clark Fork crossed the state line and then Blue Creek and ran up the southwest side of Clayton Peak before dying out. For the most part, though, the area known as the Scotchman Peaks was spared burning in 1910, as the weather changed to cool and damp two days after Wallace burned.

By the end of that week, the fires were dead or dying, and it began to snow in the high country around the beginning of September. But, the fire and its aftermath would shape the future of the Cabinets. Lookouts were built in the next decades on Star Peak, Fatman Mountain, Berray Mountain in Bull River, at Delyle Ridge just south of the Clark Fork and, of course, on Scotchman Peak itself; all with views into the Scotchman Peaks to watch for tell-tale threads of smoke and communicate their presence to fire crews standing by below.

Trail Talk

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scramble to the top of Rollover Ridge, the divide between Ross Creek and Blue Creek just under Sawtooth Mountain. A good water source and tent spots at the north end of the ridge make a great spot for a camp if you are overnighing.

Pause and eat something, but if you're day hiking, don't pause long. From the north end of the ridge, work your way north along the bottom of a steep face on your left, watching for an elk scramble up through the brush. Take this route to the top of a ridge where a distinct elk trail leads across a hillside meadow with views of the Clark Fork valley and Heron to the south. Follow the trail west to 24-Hour Pass, which will direct you back to the north and into the main fork of Ross Creek. Have another rest, eat something and enjoy views of the Compton Craggs on the left, Spar Peak straight ahead and the hulking presence of Sawtooth Mountain on the right. Also, scope out the upper basin on the west side of the creek below, as you will be traveling through it on your way out.

Over the Top: The north side of 24-Hour Pass often has a snowfield in it until mid-August, laid over a talus slope. Stay to the left side and watch for a big elk trail that will take you down into the upper basin at the base of the Craggs.

DO NOT GO RIGHT or you will end up in vegetative hell in the canyon of upper Ross Creek. You will not enjoy this.

Watch for and stay in the elk web, trending in an arc paralleling the base of the Craggs. Visibility will become quite good when you walk into an area that burned a few years ago. If you have time, stick your nose up into the cirques formed during the last Ice Age along the west side of the basin, and especially look for the big spring tucked up into Emily Basin. Enjoy

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Over the Top Volunteer

Brad Smith, Mapmaker

By Sandy Compton

It's not often that an artist's first "complete" work finds publication, but Brad Smith's first map of the Scotchman Peaks was an exception. When FSPW put out their first hiking map brochure a few years ago, it was Brad's map that was the centerpiece.

"That was my first map of any real quality," he confesses. "I got interested in maps in high school when I first started hiking in the Selkirk Mountains. They were the guides to where I wanted to be.

Then, I took some GIS (geographic information systems) classes in college. I made my first map in fall of 2005 while looking at sage grouse habitat in grad school.

That he has become more accomplished at mapmaking is apparent in two recent publications; Brad's map of the southern Selkirk Mountains graces the new Idaho Conservation League American Selkirk map brochure, and he has produced a new map of the Scotchman Peaks for the latest FSPW map brochure.

The hours he's spent making the maps for FSPW are all volunteered, demonstrating his love for wilderness.

Brad attended his first public meeting on wilderness while he was still in high school at Lake City High in Coeur d' Alene, Idaho. The subject was roadless rules on National Forest land. He has been to a lot of similar meetings since. After graduating from Lake City in 1999, he went on to the University of Idaho and graduated in 2003 with a bachelor's degree in Environmental Science. He then left his beloved North Idaho and moved to Boise, where he received his Master's degree in Public Administration from Boise State.

He's still in Boise. In 2005, Brad accepted an internship with the Idaho Conservation League and subsequently was hired by ICL in January 2007 as a conservation associate.

In addition to being passionate about wilderness and the issues surrounding wild country, Brad is a fly fisherman, hiker, snowshoer, landscape photographer, downhill and backcountry skier, and amateur geologist.

"I like studying geology," he says, "even though I don't know a whole lot about it yet. I do know that the Selkirks are granite and the Scotchmans are part of the Belt supergroup (of sedimentary rock).

He's a better dendrologist.

"That's d-e-n-d-r-o-l-o-g-y," he explains, "the study of trees, including identification and genetic studies. One question dendrology addresses is what constitutes a new species, as opposed to what is a variation of a species.

"North Idaho and Western Montana are very interesting places to



Photo courtesy Brad Smith

study trees," Brad notes. "The forests of the Selkirks and Scotchman Peaks harbor many coastal disjuncts; trees like Western red cedar, alpine larch and Pacific yew that are otherwise found only on the coast or in the Cascades. Both the Selkirks and Scotchmans contain areas of temperate inland rainforest."

Brad and his wife Sara are, at newsletter deadline, expecting their first child. Sara works for Idaho Department of Health and Welfare in the infant-toddler program. When questioned about the gender of the child, Brad laughed. "We decided to be surprised," he says. "It's a more traditional path. That's how things have happened for thousands of years. It makes life more exciting."

As far as his long-term dreams go, Brad says, "I kind of think I'm already there. I enjoy working on conservations issues; protecting the last best places. It's a very good time to be doing this, because there's so much at stake."

One of the unique things about Brad's maps is that they are more tied to the idea of geological and ecological geography than political geography, which is a direct outgrowth of his view of wilderness.

"Some of our wild areas in Idaho are shared with other states, Washington for the Selkirks and Montana for the Scotchman Peaks. I want to help make sure that wilderness protection transcends state lines.

Watch for brochures containing Brad's maps at FSPW and ICL events, booths and tables. If you should meet him on the trail, say "Thanks for the great guides!"

Trail Talk

Continues from page 8

some truly spectacular scenery surrounded by layers of sea-beds a couple of billions years old cut open by the ice as recently as 12,000 years ago.

Exit Strategy: The upper basin terminates at a distinct ridge on the north that will force you east to the edge of the canyon. South of that ridge a few hundred yard, maybe a little more, a stream bed breaches the wall (it may be dry in late summer) Scout just north of the stream along a wide trail at the top of the canyon (it was cut by firefighters), and you may or may not find a trail leading down the canyon wall.

Look hard, for find it or not, it is time to bail off the edge and begin quartering to the northeast. This descent into Ross Creek may be the most unpleasant part of the trip Steep and ugly it might be, but below you is the creek, which will lead you to Trail #142, where you are only five relatively flat miles from that cold beer you stashed in Ross Creek this morning and have been thinking about since 24-Hour Pass.

Have fun. Be careful. Watch for elk, bears and huckleberries. Take our hiking map with you, as well as a compass and the Sawtooth Mountain and Scotchman Peak quad maps. You can also run the loop in the other direction. Either way, it makes a great hike.

Bill Martin Receives Brass Lantern Award at May MWA Conference

One of the highlights of the Montana Wilderness Association convention (April 30 through May 2 in Whitefish) was the honoring of FSPW board member Bill Martin with an MWA Brass Lantern Award. Each year, the Montana Wilderness Association presents Brass Lantern awards to honor members, friends and supporters who have given exceptional service to wilderness. The recipients are people who have taken action that promotes Wilderness, quiet trails, and responsible management of our public lands. The award was presented by FSPW board member and MWA president-elect Doug Ferrell, who writes:

"Bill Martin has been one of the most persistent, thoughtful, original and creative voices for conservation in northwestern Montana, for nearly 40 years. His friends refer to him simply as "The one and only". This is partly because his way of considering problems and opportunities is often brilliantly unique, and leaves listeners scratching their heads, and all the while the gears are running inside their heads, trying to connect the dots that were so obvious to Bill. The "Eureka!" moments that follow can be very illuminating.

"Bill is an original founder and still a mainstay of the Cabinet Resource Group, a classic grassroots fixture on the Kootenai National Forest for over 30 years. CRG has published a newsletter and promoted a thoughtful approach to resource



FSPW Board members Bill Martin and Doug Ferrell
Photo by Phil Hough

including the opponents of conservation, and the workers and rural residents around his community near Troy, Montana.

"And Bill is a wonderful friend to his many, many friends scattered all over the state. Thank you Bill, for applying your wonderful character to the values we all hold dear – friendship, community, respect and appreciation for the beautiful natural world we all live in."

Congratulation, Bill.

management, more or less steadily, all this time.

"Bill is a forester, hunter, woodsman, tree planter, stonemason, collector of vinyl records, student of philosophy, and with many more talents too numerous or too obscure to mention here. One of his greatest talents is his ability to relate to and form friendships with all kinds of people, especially

Message from Chair

Think Globally Act Locally

These days many people feel overwhelmed by the magnitude of problems we face. The Oil Spill in the Gulf of Mexico has become both an environmental and economic disaster of almost unimaginable proportions, with damages that are hard to fathom and a future that is even more difficult to contemplate. Congress continues to debate an energy and climate bill while local and state government, businesses large and small as well as social and cultural institutions grapple with both public policy and personal action to reverse, mitigate and/or adapt to climate change.

Coming closer to home, as Wilderness supporters we watch the great debates about landscape legislation for Montana or for the Boulder White Clouds as they move towards a potential Lands Omnibus bill not unlike the one a year ago which pulled together 154 different pieces of legislation into one package. And we wonder where our own small piece might someday fit in. It would be easy to throw up our hands and feel like nothing much on a smaller scale matters and that there's little we could do in the shadow of all these regional and global issues.

But, instead of giving into a feeling of helpless defeat, we would do well to remember The Starfish Story by Loren Eiseley. It's short enough, and important enough, that I'll repeat it here:

"One day a man was walking along the beach when he noticed a boy picking something up and gently throwing it into the ocean.

Approaching the boy, he asked, "What are you doing?"

The youth replied, "Throwing starfish back into the ocean. The surf is up and the tide is going out. If I don't throw them back, they'll die."

"Son," the man said, "don't you realize there are miles and miles of beach and hundreds of starfish? You can't make a difference!"

After listening politely, the boy bent down, picked up another starfish, and threw it back into the surf. Then, smiling at the man, he said..."I made a difference for that one."

We can all make a difference, by doing our own part in our own communities. In fact if enough of us do our part locally, then the efforts add up to a force that can move large issues. So it is with Wilderness designation for the Scotchmans. Come take a hike, write a letter, go to an August town hall meeting, a candidate's forum, have coffee and conversation within your circle in your community - these conversations all filter up to public officials and provide reason for their action. Each one of us can do our own small part, even if it doesn't seem like much, and then the community voice grows stronger, and the larger issues will work out.

Oh yeah, and if you happen to live along the gulf coast, volunteer for a local grassroots group and help clean up some pelicans and some starfish. The Alabama Coastal Foundation would be a good place to start.

Phil Hough



Scotchman Natives

Aquilegia - the Native Columbines

By Valle Novak

The beautiful native *Aquilegia* - or Columbine - outdoes even the most extravagant of today's garden cultivars. Graceful, airy, with delicate cornucopia-like, cupped petals ending in long nectar-filled spurs and intricate feathered leaves, this fragile-looking



Native Columbine Photo by Marilyn George

but extremely hardy member of the *Ranunculaceae* family comes in two* native species: *Aquilegia canadensis* (*formosa*) and *A. caerulea*.

The first is the red and yellow show-stopper most commonly seen in our area. I have often come across it throughout various Kootenai Falls-Spar Lake hikes, and never in large enough numbers to dig one (though I lusted to); the second is a "heavier" (not as delicate) blue and white variety, which I have never seen in the wild.

Both are described in several resource books as having evolved from the Rocky Mountains from Canada through our "North American woodlands" and down as far as Mexico — doubtless further evolving along the way for the warmer climates. Our two species love the poor, acidic soil and dappled shade of their forest and mountain homes, and so serve beautifully in shade gardens.

I have "*formosa*" in my own gardens, happily blooming among other shade lovers — hosta, foxglove, monkshood, ferns and such — but even in my non-fertilized landscape they have thrived to the point of becoming huge, hearty and unlike their original small, wild beginnings. Still, they are beautiful and no native garden should be without them.

Interestingly, one of my sources remarks that the red and yellow *A. formosa* is visited (and pollinated) by hummingbirds that don't visit *A. caerulea* and the latter is pollinated by moths and bumblebees that don't visit the somewhat shorter-spurred *formosa*. Too, we are warned of possible aphid problems in both

the natives, but I have never experienced that. However, the cultivated columbines planted to enhance the roses (which I tend) in the Hospice Healing Garden became horribly infested and I had to pull them out. In retrospect, I think they were serving as a very efficient "trap crop" to keep the aphids from the roses, which were not troubled at all until I removed the columbine!

Another small mystery is that in the book "Plants of the Lewis and Clark Expedition" *formosa* is listed as "Red Columbine" (albeit as *A. formosa*) with "habitat/range from mountain meadows from Alaska to California and east to western Montana and Utah." In the same book, a red and yellow columbine is listed as "Canada Columbine" and called *A. canadensis*. Then it states that no specimen of Canada columbine exists but botanists believe the sample collected by Lewis near Fort Mandan was lost ... yet on the following page is a photo of Canada Columbine obviously taken in the present. Curiouser and curiouser.

Let's not worry about all that. Just enjoy the beauty of whatever columbine you happen onto, and consider planting some in your own native landscape. High Country Gardens (800-925-9387) has *Aquilegia formosa* (listed as Red Spur Columbine), hardy from Zone 3 which is our "safe" zone, and enjoy its wild, historic beauty and mystery.

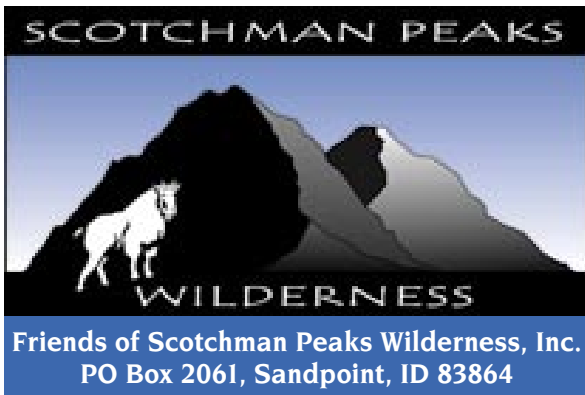
Yellow Columbine or *A. flavescens* is listed in the Bonner County Native Plant landscaping list, but Arthur Kruckeberg (see note) describes it as "a more alpine species with pale yellow flowers ... occurring in the northern Cascades to the Wenatchee Range of Washington, then reappearing in the Wallowa Mountains of Oregon ..." which to my mind makes it generally out of our range but some sightings have been reported in the Scotchmans! If you happen upon one, photograph it and get the word out!

Note: Arthur Kruckeberg, former professor and botanist at the University of Washington, specialized in the flora of the area for over 30 years. He is the author of "Gardening with Native Plants of the Pacific Northwest" (ISBN 0-295-96853-2) and my most respected source of all things botanical.

The 2010 Summer Scotchman Peaks Photo Contest is Underway

Get out your cameras! Better yet, just put them in your packs. You don't want to miss that great shot for the 2010 Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness annual summer photo contest. The competition started May 26 and runs through October 5 this year. We have a variety of prizes in several categories, including the new cell-phone picture category.

Top prize is a professionally framed copy of your winning photo. Learn more at <http://www.scotchmanpeaks.org/hiking/put-your-cameras-in-your-packs/>.



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.

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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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