



# PEAK EXPERIENCE

The Newsletter for Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness, Inc.

Volume 8, Number 4 • July / August 2012



## Mission Statement

"Spanning the Idaho/Montana border, the Scotchmans are one of the last, and largest, wild areas in our region. We conduct education, outreach and stewardship activities to preserve the rugged, scenic and biologically diverse 88,000 acre Scotchman Peaks Roadless Area. We believe the Scotchman Peaks deserve congressional designation as Wilderness for the benefit and enjoyment of current and future generations."



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

*If you 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

Layout and design: Sandy Compton

Photo by courtesy NFF

## Lightning Creek Achieves Treasured Landscape Status

By Hannah Ettema, National Forest Foundation

Phenomenal fishing, unscathed wilderness and pristine water make Lightning Creek on the Idaho Panhandle National Forest more than a place worth exploring. It's a place worth protecting. Tucked into the Cabinet Mountains of the Northern Rockies, Idaho's Lightning Creek easily lives up to its namesake. Wild flooding and dramatic summer thunderstorms wreak havoc on the Lightning Creek watershed and the surrounding area.

The creek collects water from the sharp peaks of the glacially sculpted Cabinet Mountains, said to be one of the wildest mountain ranges left in the lower 48. Receiving an average of 90 inches of precipitation a year, Lightning Creek is the wettest area in Idaho. Due to the steep slope and amount of snow and rain, legendary floods have plagued the watershed and National Forest, not to mention the small town of Clark Fork.

In 2006, devastating flooding severely damaged access and use of popular trails as well as wildlife habitat and the overall health of the watershed. Seeing the need for a restoration effort, the National Forest Foundation (NFF) has designated the Lightning Creek watershed a restoration site in their national *Treasured Landscapes, Unforgettable Experiences* conservation campaign. In partnership the Idaho Panhandle National Forest and local groups, the NFF will highlight the special aspects of Lightning Creek and invest in integrated habitat and watershed restoration while also improving recreational access and reducing user-created trails in this popular area. The NFF will be working with area communities and organizations to nurture a truly collaborative approach to this work.

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## Fun in fundraising: Two ongoing projects and a matching grant

You've probably noticed that we are having an exciting and busy year. We want to continue to do FUN things with our volunteers and supporters, like wander around in winter looking for wolverines and produce quality films about the Scotchmans.

### Help Us Make a movie

Three young film students from Muhlenburg College in Pennsylvania spent two weeks in July 2010 filming scenes and on-screen interviews in and around the Scotchmans for a student project. After their self-described "incredible" experience in the Scotchmans, they produced *En Plein Air*, a documentary film focused on the Extreme Plein Air, our annual backcountry art project. They also gathered a lot of footage and did a trailer for *Grass Routes*, a film showcasing the efforts of FSPW to protect the Scotchman Peaks as Wilderness.

To complete *Grass Routes*, the filmmakers are coming again in July to shoot additional footage. If you've seen and enjoyed *En Plein Air*, you know the high caliber of filmmaking that Wildman Pictures is capable of and you will be as excited as we are about the prospects for *Grass Routes*.

**You can help us make a movie!** FSPW and Wildman are sharing costs associated with travel, equipment, technical services, music licensing and the labor involved in finishing the movie. We are raising funds for the completion of this project. Contributions of any size are gratefully accepted, and there are benefits that come with certain levels of giving, including seeing your name in the credits!

### Return of the Rare Forest Carnivore Study

Last winter 147 of our supporters volunteered to be part of the Wolverine/Rare Forest Carnivore Study. Almost all of them are anxious to do it again, and now that their friends have found out about all the fun they missed out on, we know we'll have another great experience in store. You can help make this project happen, by donating to our "Wolverine" Fund. Making a donation that is dedicated to this specific project will allow us to continue to devote the time and resources needed to manage the project, hire a coordinator and continue on into the future.

### Cinnabar Challenge Grant

But wait, there's more!! Once again, the Cinnabar Foundation has awarded a challenge grant to the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness. If you are considering a contribution to assist us in our efforts to protect the Scotchman Peaks as Wilderness, this is the perfect time to send in that contribution - Cinnabar will provide matching funds for up to \$3,000 in donations. Your donations to either our Film Project or our Wolverine fund will qualify for matching funds from Cinnabar, up to their limit. This is a great opportunity for you to double the value of your money



**Double your money! The Cinnabar Foundation has again given us a \$3,000 Challenge Grant.**

### Here's HOW to have FUN

Building a sustainable source of funding for these projects will help us make sure that we can continue to bring these exciting and FUN projects to our supporters. We are launching two specific fundraising drives, so that you can use the power of your pocketbook to support these projects. Go to our website at: [www.scotchmanpeaks.org/donate](http://www.scotchmanpeaks.org/donate) for complete details about both of these opportunities.

## STOKR Fast Food

**By Molly Kieran**

Scenic Tour Of Kootenai River (STOKR) took place on May 12 with FSPW volunteers Don & Monni Clark, Charlie Clough, Cathy Kammeyer, and Molly Kieran and our friend Matt Bowser of the Yaak Valley Forest Council serving up food and drinks to 285 bicycle riders. The ride is just about 100 miles making a circle from Libby along the Kootenai River through Troy then up the Yaak River Road which runs along the Yaak River. It's along this portion of the ride that the cyclists stop to visit us for a food and beverage break.



**FSPW volunteers Cathy Kammeyer and Charlie Clough and FSPW treasurer (and STOKR rider) Jacob Styer at the FSPW food booth.**

Our own FSPW Treasurer, Jacob Styer, made the stop early on for a quick hello and was off again heading up to the town of Yaak where the riders make a right turn and head up Pipe Creek where they eventually come out on Highway 37 in Libby. A right turn takes them over the Kootenai River Bridge back to the beginning spot. It is a pleasure to participate in such a well-organized event. The event raises funds on behalf of Habitat for Humanity and always has great attendance. If you are

a bicycle rider you may want to join the ride next year. Call Molly if you have questions - 406-293-2934.





## Message from Chair – One Step Closer

Since our beginning the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness have worked to develop a community consensus where wilderness protection for the Scotchmans is valued highly and sought after by a broad spectrum of the public.

We are not against active management for timber, nor are we against grazing, mining, managed OHV recreation or other uses of the national forest. We have always believed that on the 2 million acres of the Idaho Panhandle National forest and on the 2 million acres of the Kootenai national forest we can find lands suitable for sustainable timber production, forest product jobs and other natural resources industries such as mining and grazing as well as managed recreation (both motorized as well as primitive).

We also believe that wilderness is an important component of this balanced use of the land and that the Scotchman Peaks represents one of the areas where clearly the greatest benefit is to be found in Wilderness designation. We believe there are environmental as well as economic benefits from natural resource conservation.

We are glad that there are others who agree with us and who are willing to work towards these common goals. Recently the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness were one of eight parties that joined together to submit a letter with agreed upon recommendations for the draft forest plan.

Eight individuals, representing 4 conservationists and 4 folks from the Timber Industry met regularly for several months to look at common areas of interest in the forest plan. We did not try to settle every issue facing the national forest, but what we found was that there was a lot we could agree upon.

Most of our areas of common agreement were general vision statements or broadly outlined suggestions. Much work

remains to figure out how the details will work. But every worthwhile venture begins with a vision, and this one brings us one step closer to Wilderness for the Panhandle and for the Scotchmans.

Call it collaboration, but let's be clear, this is about more than compromise (yes there is some of that). This collaboration is about how to work towards improvements in managing our natural resources in ways that we all find mutually agreeable.

In this working group there is agreement that there is a desire and need to have a healthy, vibrant, sustainable timber industry. It's our heritage, it's an important sector of a diverse local economy and it's a means by which the forest service can conduct restoration, reduce the threat of wildfire and achieve other ecosystem goals found in the forest land management plan.

There is also agreement that wilderness is important for many reasons and a valuable component of forest management. It would preserve our heritage as well as our future, conserve species and habitat and provide opportunities for hunting, fishing, primitive recreation and solitude.

The two goals are NOT mutually exclusive. Our National Forest has the need, and the room, to achieve many objectives. There are wilderness quality landscapes which the timber industry agrees are not ecologically desirable or economically feasible to log – their best use is as wilderness. The conservationists agreed there are landscapes where logging can be done sustainably with economic and ecological benefit.

We all agree that our communities benefit by getting the best of both.

**Phil Hough**

## Scotchman Creatures: Alligators of the Scotchmans

**Michael Lucid, IDFG**

We do things different in North Idaho; we even have our own kind of alligator: northern alligator lizards.

Okay, alligator lizards are not *really* a kind of alligator like their cousins basking in Florida swamps. But they do get their name from their sleek alligator-like appearance.

With their pointy head, bluish white underside, and tiny limbs alligator lizards are easy to identify. Alligator lizards are known to feed on insects, ticks, millipedes, centipedes, snails, slugs, spiders, and worms. The old saying 'what goes around comes around' holds true in nature as much as the human world and alligator lizards also serve as a food source for hawks, snakes, and closer to town - domestic cats. Alligator lizards will drop their tail if a predator grabs it, allowing the lizard to escape. If you pick up an alligator lizard, use caution not to grab the tail. While the tail will usually grow back, it takes a lot of energy

to grow a tail and it will be smaller than before. Also, the lizard will be without this important defense mechanism while waiting for it to grow back.

Alligator lizards wait the winter out deep beneath the snow and rocks and emerge in the spring feeling frisky.

Courtship begins in April and May with lizards of both sexes bobbing their heads and extending their tongues at one another. When the male just can't take it any more he grasps the female by the back of her neck and brings their cloacas in contact by positioning his



Photo courtesy IDFG

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## Along the Trail

**May 1:** A forest plan informational gathering at the Hereford Restaurant garnered comments from two dozen people.

**May 12:** FSPW volunteers worked at the first stop along Yaak River Road for STOKR, a 99 mile benefit bike ride for Habitat for Humanity; **Lichenologist Toby Spribille** led a hike at Ross Creek Cedars, first **Scotchman Peaks Education Series (SPES)** hike of the 2012 Summer season. Several rare lichens were identified.

**May 16:** FSPW Executive Director Phil Hough and Deb Hunsicker gave a presentation on their Triple Crown accomplishments at the Community Hall in Sandpoint.

**May 17:** FSPW Exec Phil Hough and Program Coordinator Sandy Compton made a presentation on the wolverine project to 25 staff and volunteers of our major funder for the project, Zoo Boise in Boise.

**May 18-20:** FSPW staff and board members attended Wild Idaho, the Idaho Conservation League annual meeting at Redfish Lake in the Stanley Basin. Phil Hough and Sandy Compton made a presentation on the wolverine project.

**May 26:** The Annual State of the Scotchmans was held at Oden Hall on Sunnyside Road, with volunteer awards, the Old Goat award and a progress report on both our advocacy and stewardship programs.

**June 2:** National Trails Day, and first hike of our 2012 Hike Series: Phil Hough and Deb Hunsicker led a dog-friendly hike along the newly reclaimed Regal Creek trail.

**June 9:** Old Growth Ecology Class with FSPW volunteer Brian Baxter had 13 participants. **This was a National Trails Day event and a SPES hike**

**June 10:** The Annual Sanders County picnic gathered 50 Friends at Bull River Campground.

**June 18:** FSPW staff Phil Hough and Sandy Compton and volunteers Jim Mellen and Brad Smith of the ICL undertook cross-cut saw training at the Cabinet Ranger District office.

**June 21 – 24:** Lincoln County Coordinator Molly Kieran and volunteers had a display at Libby Logger Days

**June 21:** FSPW and Idaho Conservation League hosted "Bearly Summer," a hike season kickoff party at Evans Brothers Coffee.

**June 22 – 24:** Idaho Native Plant Society gathered at Sam Owen Campground. June 21, FSPW executive director Phil Hough made a presentation on the wilderness to the Society. June 22, Society members took field trips to Scotchman Peak and Morris Creek.

**June 24:** Phil Hough and Deb Hunsicker led a dog-friendly hike along the East Fork Creek trail.

**June 30:** FSPW volunteer Brian Baxter led a Riparian Ecology Class beginning at Heron Community Center and transitioning to Ross Creek Cedars. **USFS Archeologist Rachel Reckin** led an archeological history hike into Little Spar Lake. **Jim Mellen, Dave Pietz** and other FSPW volunteers cleared Goat Mountain Trail.

## Over the top volunteers



*Mary Franzel shows off her Scotchman Peaks Old Goat award flanked by FSPW program coordinator Sandy Compton (left) and exec Phil Hough at the annual State of the Scotchmans*

### Scotchman Peaks volunteers and staff get their just desserts.

Once a year, Friends of Scotchman Peaks has a couple of "general meetings" at which we review the past year and preview the next. There is the State of the Scotchmans, held near Sandpoint, and the Sanders County Picnic, traditionally held at the Bull River Campground in Montana. In Lincoln County, it's the Friends' Dinner, held in the fall.

The spring events are also an opportunity to recognize the people who make the Friends tick: our volunteers. This year, FSPW awarded six certificates of appreciation as well as the



**FSPW Lincoln County Coordinator and MWA President (and FSPW board member) Doug Ferrell with Molly's Brass Lantern Award from MWA.**

annual Old Goat of the Scotchmans award to a group of folks who represent what good volunteers do for an organization. These are men and women who give time and effort to support something they believe in. For year 2012, FSPW recognized five people from Idaho and two from Montana for their work during the previous year.

Charlie Clough of Troy was awarded

a certificate for his active support in Lincoln County. Jean Polequaptewa of Thompson Falls was recognized for her outreach efforts in Sanders County. Phil Degens and Cate Huisman, both of Sandpoint, received certificates

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## From the Top

Returning from a trip to confront a looming newsletter deadline is getting to be a bad habit. This time I was shocked to see how many events and hikes had been added to the FSPW schedule while we were gone. I wish my calendar was totally open for the next few months so I could participate in all of them. It is interesting in putting the newsletter together to see how these diverse events really are tied together with a common theme as Friends work with professionals from many different organizations to help care for the land we love.

*Ann Wimberley*

## Friends 3,999; 4,000; and 4,001

Cheyenne McKinney, a 14-year-old freshman at Kamiak High School in Mukilteo, Washington, signed up to be a Friend of Scotchman Peaks the old-fashioned way. She cut the form off the back of one of our newsletters, filled it out and stuck it in an envelope. Then, she signed up her sister, Sierra, 12. The same way. And then, for good measure, she filled out a form for her dad, Nathan. But, she wasn't done yet. Before she mailed them in, she then tucked two one-dollar bills in with the forms. That's how she became our 4,000<sup>th</sup> Friend. We count her sister as number 3,999 and her dad as 4,001.

Greeting the 4,000<sup>th</sup> Friend of Scotchman Peaks was a great way to start our summer season. The McKinneys visited Sandpoint and stopped by the State of the Scotchmans meeting on Memorial Day Weekend. They have recently purchased property in the Wrencoe Loop area and will be moving here "soon," they all agree.

"I like being around the trees and being in the mountains," says Cheyenne. "I was raised out in the country and my dad always takes us hiking. I really like being outside and in the wild place."

Sister Sierra is right there with her, and revealed that the family has already been in the backcountry a lot. "My favorite hike was to a place called Surprise Lake near Stevens Pass in Washington. There's a big rock that you can lay, on which is really cool. We

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*Sierra, Nathan and Cheyenne McKinney were all signed up by Cheyenne (left), who threw in a donation for good measure.*

## The Future Looks Bright

**July 4:** FSPW volunteers will march in 4<sup>th</sup> of July parades in Sandpoint, Clark Fork, Heron and Noxon. Contact [info@scotchmanpeaks.org](mailto:info@scotchmanpeaks.org) if you want to walk;

**Molly Kieran and Bonnie Jakubos** will have a booth at the Troy Fourth Celebration

**July 7 – 15:** Joe Foster and Jake Glass of Wildman Pictures will be filming footage and doing interviews for *Grass Routes*, a movie about FSPW and the place we advocate for.

**July 8:** FSPW volunteers and the US Forest Service Cabinet District will begin work on the Star Peak Trail reconstruction and reroute. Contact [trails@scotchmanpeaks.org](mailto:trails@scotchmanpeaks.org) to help.

**July 20:** Star Peak Trail reconstruction and reroute workday. Contact [trails@scotchmanpeaks.org](mailto:trails@scotchmanpeaks.org) for more information.

**July 23 – 27:** Montana Conservation Corps youth crew and FSPW volunteers will be working on the Little Spar Lake trail. Contact [trails@scotchmanpeaks.org](mailto:trails@scotchmanpeaks.org) to help.

**July 28:** A three prong work day on the Cabinet: Weeds, Signs and Blacktail Creek Trail maintenance.

**July 31 – August 1:** Mule team days on Star Peak trail. The Nine Mile Pack String and FSPW volunteers will haul supplies for the reconstruction of Star Peak Lookout to the peak. Contact [trails@scotchmanpeaks.org](mailto:trails@scotchmanpeaks.org) for more information.

**August 1 – 5:** Extreme Plein Air.

**August 3:** Star Peak Trail reconstruction and reroute work day. Contact [trails@scotchmanpeaks.org](mailto:trails@scotchmanpeaks.org) for more information.

**August 6 – 10:** Montana Conservation Corps youth crew and FSPW volunteers will be working on the Little Spar Lake trail. Contact [trails@scotchmanpeaks.org](mailto:trails@scotchmanpeaks.org) to help.

**August 10 – 12:** FSPW will have an outreach booth at the Huckleberry Festival in Trout Creek. Contact [xberia@blackfoot.net](mailto:xberia@blackfoot.net) to help.

**August 17:** Star Peak Trail reconstruction and reroute work day. Contact [trails@scotchmanpeaks.org](mailto:trails@scotchmanpeaks.org) to help

**August 20 – 25:** FSPW volunteers and staff will have a booth at Bonner County Fair. Contact [trails@scotchmanpeaks.org](mailto:trails@scotchmanpeaks.org) to help.

## On The Horizon

**September 15:** Annual Scotchman Peaks Highway 200 cleanup day. Contact [jacob@scotchmanpeaks.org](mailto:jacob@scotchmanpeaks.org) for more information.

**September 29 (National Public Lands Day):** FSPW and the US Forest Service Sandpoint District will work together on the Morris Creek trail. Contact [trails@scotchmanpeaks.org](mailto:trails@scotchmanpeaks.org) for more information.

**October 5 – 7:** Annual Scotchman Peaks Plein Air Paint Out will be held in and around the Scotchmans, with headquarters in Hope at the Outskirts Gallery

**October 1 - 31:** The Great Big Scotchman Peaks Photo Contest will be open. Details will be announced in the September / October Peak Experience.



## Peak Views

## The 2012 Summer Hike Series

Exertion Rating Key E: Easy, M: Moderate, S: Strenuous		All hikes are subject to group size limitations, as well as schedule and venue changes due to weather, illnesses or other unforeseen circumstances. For more details on our hikes and to check for new hikes that might be added to this schedule, visit <a href="http://www.scotchmanpeaks.org/hiking/current-hiking-schedule">www.scotchmanpeaks.org/hiking/current-hiking-schedule</a>		
Hike date	Exertion Rating	Destination/ Hike Name	Leader(s)	Description and contact info
7/7/12	E/M	Montana Native Plant Society Hike to Surprise Gulch and Grouse Lake	Judy Hutchins and Peter Lesica from MNPS	<b>Contact info: jhutch7494@aol.com</b> Meet at the Rest Area at US Highway 2 and Mt Hwy 56 (Bull River/ Lake highway) at 9:00am. Then, carpool to Keeler Creek to check out Surprise Draw and bushwhack up to Grouse Lake in the Kootenai National Forest. Be prepared to get your feet wet and tramp through forested understorey. Bring food, water, bug dope, etc, for several hours in the woods.
7/14-15/12	S++	Scotchman Triple Header	Jim Mellen	<b>Contact info: jimnsandii@gmail.com</b> Three peaks, triple black diamond rated. Begin at the Little Spar trailhead, continue to Little Spar Lake, Scotchman 2, Scotchman, Goat Mountain and exit at the Goat Mt. trailhead. Since this is several notches beyond difficult, the participants need to be prepared to spend a night if necessary. Total mileage 12 +. Elevation gain and loss and gain. 8,000 + Limited to 8 hikers.
7/21/12	M/S	Little Spar Lake	Sarah Lundstrum	<b>Contact info: 406-755-6304 or slundstrum@wildmontana.org</b> 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. Group size limit 8. Distance: 8 miles round trip. Elevation gain. 2200 feet
8/1-8/5/12	S+	Extreme Pleinair	Sandy Compton	<b>Contact info: 208-290-1281 or sandy@scotchmanpeak.org</b> This annual hike to explore and paint the interior of the Scotchmans is full.
8/4/12	S+	Scotchman Peak South-east Approach	John Harbuck	<b>Contact info: harbuck@norlight.org</b> Tired of the same ol' trail up Scotchman? This route offers much of the Scotchman Peaks experience in one day; a half mile of bushwhack to the ridge, then a series of game trails to the peak. Outstanding views of the Compton Crags, the West Fork of Blue Creek, and the south face of Scotchman. Truly magnificent! Round trip: 10 miles. Elevation Gain: 4200 feet ±
8/11-12/12	S	Star Peak Overnight	Talasi Brooks	<b>Contact info: 860 712 5901 or talasi.brooks@gmail.com</b> Follow one of Granville Gordon's finest trails up Star Gulch to the spring below Star Peak for a night in the nearby meadow, then top out on Star Peak for breakfast and huge views of the Clark Fork river valley. Return to the lower elevations by the Big Eddy trail. Group size: 8. Elevation gain: 4,000 ±. Distance on the trail: 10 miles ±
8/13/12	E	Little Waders	Mindy Ferrel	<b>Contact Info: mferrell_9874@yahoo.com or 406-827-4341.</b> 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. For kids 5 – 8. Kids will explore the shoreline along the Clark Fork River for bugs and other critters. Each participant will need to bring a day pack, water bottle, and extra shoes or sandals that can get wet. Parents are asked to join in the fun and help supervise their little ones.
8/13/12	E	Streamside Detectives	Mindy Ferrel	<b>Contact Info: mferrell_9874@yahoo.com or 406-827-4341.</b> 1:00 – 4:30 p.m. For kids 9 – 11. Explore still and moving water and search out what makes each environment special. Detectives will take samples and explore the water's edge in a slough alongside the Clark Fork River, and the more speedy waters of Pilgrim Creek. Bring a day pack, a water bottle, notebook and pencil, and shoes that can get wet.
8/25/12	M	Ross Creek Falls	Neil and Ann Wimberley	<b>Contact info 208-264-5379 or afwim@yahoo.com or neilwim@yahoo.com</b> 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.
8/31/12	S+	Sawtooth Mountain	Sandy Compton	<b>Contact info: 208-290-1281 or sandy@scotchmanpeaks.org</b> 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. 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 Crags. Bring your headlamp and sense of adventure. Round trip: 12 + miles. Elevation gain, 3500 + feet.
9/15/12	E/M	Highway 200 Cleanup	Jacob Styer	Help with our annual Highway 200 Cleanup (FSPW has a two-mile stretch just west of Clark Fork). Generally a half day of ditch walking paid off by lunch near the drift yard.
9/23/12	S	Scotchman Peak	Phil Hough and Deb Hunsicker	<b>Contact info: 208-946-9127 or phil@scotchmanpeaks.org</b> This is the classic hike up the namesake peak of our proposed wilderness. It's short but steep. We go at a slow pace, so steady effort is all that is needed to summit. Wide panoramas, stunning views of Lake Pend Oreille, fall colors and possible late season huckleberries will be highlights. Round trip: 8 miles Elevation gain: 3800 feet.

## 4,000, from page 4

hike overnight a lot. We've been to Lake Valhalla on the Pacific Crest Trail. My longest hike ever was 24 miles round trip from Stevens Pass to Lake Janice.

The family has ambitious wilderness plans, too. "We're planning to hike the big three," says Sierra. "Pacific Crest Trail first."

Nathan, a programmer and machinist, says, "We love wilderness," he says, "and we look forward to our first hike over here. We'll do anything we can to help keep it wild."

Four thousands Friends is a landmark in the Friends' continued efforts to gain support for the wilderness proposal. Renee Rose of Libby, of Lincoln County, Montana, signed up as our 1,000<sup>th</sup> Friend in January of 2007. Brent Otter of Sandpoint, and Idaho Governor Butch Otter's nephew, was our 2,000<sup>th</sup>. Rick Dieterich of Thompson Falls signed up as Number 3,000 in August, 2010. In February of 2012, the McKinneys came on board as a family.

FSPW hasn't stopped there: 4,150 Friends and growing strong.





## Summer Project Coordinator: Bonnie Jakubos brings great skills to the job

After a small glitch in our summer project coordinator search — John Bauer broke his leg a couple of days after we hired him to start May 24 — we found in our own midst a great candidate for the job. Lucky for us, Bonnie Jakubos assumed her duties just a few days after John was scheduled to start and is working her way into summer with the rest of us.

Bonnie and her husband moved to Sagle from Salmon last winter, after visiting Sandpoint on a “town shopping” trip that convinced them this was the place for them. Their clarion moment came while attending a gathering organized by FSPW, Idaho Conservation League and Selkirk Outdoor Leadership. Bonnie tells the story: “Last fall my husband and I were visiting Sandpoint and went to the ‘Wild Night For Wilderness’ party and decided right then and there to move to the Sandpoint area from Salmon, Idaho. These were our people!”

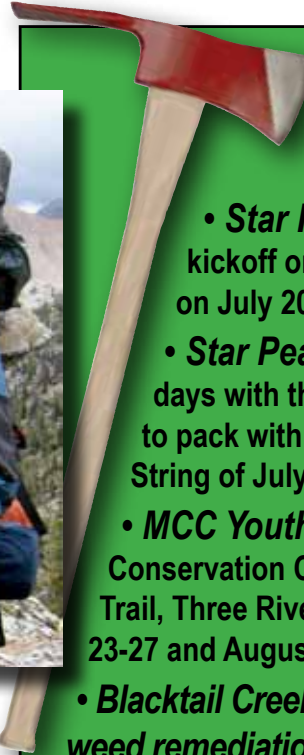
Bonnie brings a long list of qualifications to the job including a degree in wildlife biology, and a career in environmental education. She was most recently employed at the Sacajawea Interpretive Center in Salmon, and once was the Curator of Education at the Pocatello Zoo.

Bonnie’s job as project coordinator puts her in charge of our stewardship and hike programs for the summer, as well as helping find volunteers for some of our largest outreach events, including the Bonner County Fair and the Trout Creek Huckleberry Festival. She is also teaching an art class for the Arts Alliance through mid-July.

You can meet Bonnie in person at our office at 323 N. First (upstairs in the back) We are will be maintaining semi-regular office hours of Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons, but it’s always best to check to make sure she’s not out in the field (where she would much rather be). Write to [bonnie@scotchmanpeaks.org](mailto:bonnie@scotchmanpeaks.org) or to her alter ego, [trails@scotchmanpeaks.org](mailto:trails@scotchmanpeaks.org) to check her schedule or volunteer your services on one of her projects.



**Bonnie in her natural habitat.**



### FSPW and the US Forest Service team up for a Summer of Stewardship!

- **Star Peak historic tread rebuild** — kickoff on July 8, with additional workdays on July 20, August 3 and August 17.
  - **Star Peak lookout restoration** — two days with the Nine-Mile Mule Team. A chance to pack with an authentic Forest Service Pack String of July 31 and August 1.
  - **MCC Youth Crews** — Work with Montana Conservation Corps youth on the Little Spar Lake Trail, Three Rivers District of the Kootenai NF, July 23-27 and August 6-10
  - **Blacktail Creek Trail rebuild, Pillick Ridge weed remediation, and Kootenai NF Trailhead Signboards** — a three-prong workday on July 28th.
  - **Morris Creek Trail restoration** — National Public Lands day project with Sandpoint District of the Idaho Panhandle NF, September 29
- go to [www.scotchmanpeaks.org/hiking/current-hiking-schedule](http://www.scotchmanpeaks.org/hiking/current-hiking-schedule) to learn more.

**Bonnie Jakubos' bailiwick includes the FSPW summer stewardship program, enumerated above. Swinging a pulaski is good for you, body and soul. Contact [bonnie@scotchmanpeaks.org](mailto:bonnie@scotchmanpeaks.org) to sign up to learn more.**

### Be stylin' and ready!

Our bandanas can save your bacon, with the printed-on Scotchman Peaks map. They and our other swag are available at Mountain Meadows in Libby, MT, Huckleberry Thicket in Trout Creek, MT, The Hope Market Place in Hope, ID and Foster's Crossing, Eichardt's, and Outdoor Experience in Sandpoint, ID. Out of the area, contact [jimnsandii@gmail.com](mailto:jimnsandii@gmail.com).



Limited edition sweatshirts saluting Team Laughing Dog in the Race Across America are available at Greasy Fingers Bike Shop in Sandpoint. Other Scotchman merchandise is available in our online store run by Café Press at [www.scotchmanpeaks.org/store](http://www.scotchmanpeaks.org/store)



## Scotchman Birds: Feeders

By Jon Isacoff, PhD

The Scotchman Peaks region is a place people look for wild things. But what about people who enjoy seeing birds from the window? Is it even good to feed birds and if so, what might one expect to see at their feeders in or near the Scotchman's?

There are two schools of thought about the ethics of birdfeeders. One says they're good, especially in the winter, because some birds might otherwise freeze or starve. The other says feeding birds gives them an artificial reliance on humans and will lead to starvation if the feeders are taken away. Both have proved to be untrue based on scientific research. There are far too few feeders and far too many birds to have any measurable effect on long term survival of any populations. By the same token, there is no evidence that birdfeeders cause harm to birds' otherwise wild nature and instincts. One important caveat to the last point: dirty birdfeeders can spread harmful diseases, particularly avian conjunctivitis. It's important to clean birdfeeders every one to two weeks.

What might you expect to see at your Scotchman's area feeders? Note: even if you don't live in the Scotchman's or have a feeder, these are birds you can see hiking and visiting too. As far back as the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, finches have been a beloved staple of American birdfeeders and the Scotchman's is no exception. The two most common finches most people see are Goldfinches and House Finches. But the Scotchman's host a diversity of finches that are uncommon or rare elsewhere in the US. You may often get Pine Siskins, Cassin's Finches, and



Rufous hummingbird

Photo by Jon Isacoff

Evening Grosbeaks at your feeders. An interesting visitor is the Red Crossbill that has a crossed bill that overhangs at the end, designed for prying nuts out of cones. In the winter, if you're very lucky you might be visited by Common Redpolls, often feeding with their cousins the Goldfinch and the Pine Siskin. All finches love thistle and sunflower seeds. Thistle is quite

expensive but has one virtue: squirrels don't seem to like it.

The other family of beloved feeder birds includes the three breeding species of hummingbird in the region. The Scotchman's hosts the smallest species of hummer in North America, the diminutive Calliope, which is between 3 and 3.5 inches in length. If you get a long, lanky hummer that has somewhat of a "real" neck and tail, it's the Black-chinned. Intermediate in size between these two is the Rufous Hummingbird, the flame orange male of which cannot be confused with any other hummingbird in our region. Beware the females though, which all look somewhat similar but can be distinguished by size and shape. Female Rufous Hummingbirds also show orange in the tail feathers.

There are a number of other birds that will visit your feeders so keep your eyes out and field guide by the window. Part of the fun is never knowing who is going to show up.

## Scotchman Natives

### Wild Onions Are No-fail for Forage, Beauty

By Valle Novak

As a youngster, I recall times when daddy would come in from milking Buttercup, our black-and-white milk/butter provider as well as pampered pet, grumping that she'd been in the wild onions again and the milk was ruined for butter-making. Mom would fuss a bit, but Grandma would go to work preparing the makings for a creamy onion/venison stew that accepted the flavored milk just fine.

Grandma wasn't the only one who appreciated the wild onions (*Allium*) – even second-hand. For centuries here and abroad, cultures have used them and their relatives – garlic, leeks, chives and shallots, as food and medicine. All are members of the Lily family (*Liliaceae*).

Most common in our area is the Nodding wild onion (*A. cernuum*), found year-round with its drooping head of pretty



Nodding onion (*Allium cernuum*)

Photo by Marilyn George

pink and/or white flower clusters and its chive-like hollow stems. Its small bulbs are crunchy and good, and add spark to any outdoor meal. The standard Wild Onion, (*A. stellatum*) holds its pink-flowered head upright on a strong stem, but is rarely seen here, being generally native to the eastern states.

We are also host to Wild garlic (*A. canadense*) which holds up a head of bulblets instead of florets, and these can be gathered at maturity and planted successfully. Both our natives, Nodding onion and Wild garlic are found in meadows, clearings and often clustered in rocky sites near

water. I have found both in a variety of places, most reliably at Kootenai Falls, Spar and Bull Lake/River areas.

Warnings are often included in various books not to confuse them with Death Camus, since they both have bulbs, but the flower-heads are so different that I can't believe anyone could mistake them unless they were olfactorily (is that a word?) challenged. In other words, if it smells like an onion, it's an

*Continued on page 11*





## Scotchman Rocks: Loads of Geological Clues

By Mark McFadden, PhD

Layered rocks are a familiar sight to hikers in our area, both on the trail and in abundant roadside outcrops where they are particularly well-exposed. Most readers are well aware that the bulk of the Idaho Cabinet Range (including Scotchman Peak) is composed of metasedimentary rocks of the Belt-Purcell Supergroup of Precambrian age. The prominent layers are the result of deposition of sediment in fining-upward (graded) beds as moving water dropped out sand, silt and clay sized particles when currents gradually slowed. Tens of thousands of feet of sediment were deposited, buried deeply over geologic time, and slowly metamorphosed into the tougher metasedimentary rocks we study today.

Interpretation of the depositional environments of Precambrian time requires a great deal of comparison with modern environments in order to put the geologic history together in a coherent package. The tiniest details of ancient rocks are compared with characteristics of modern sediment from a host of different settings around the world, and thousands of features from modern sediment are searched for in ancient sedimentary rocks. This back-and-forth interplay has proven invaluable in testing ideas and interpretations in our ongoing efforts toward a more complete understanding of the rock pages of geologic history before us.

A lack of land plants in Precambrian time is reflected in flat, sheet-like layers unconfined by channels so common in our world today. The stack of layers of Belt sediment are uninterrupted by any tracks, trails, or burrows of complex organisms that commonly obscure or destroy modern sedimentary features. Mudcracks and chips tell of a nearly flat landscape over much of Belt time where thin layers of sediment dried in the Precambrian sun before the next storm event buried them.

Given the nearly 100 million years of geologic time represented by the deposition of all these layers, plenty of time is available for sediment to pile up. But where is it? Most of the events were fairly rapid, even by our human life-time standards. A storm occurred, sediment moved and dropped out, and a new page in the rock record was written. Watching modern sediment deposition makes us realize that most of the time in the stack of beds is *between* layers - did days, months, or years pass before another sheet of sediment came to rest?

Features such as mudcracks give us good clues to the frequency of small floods and the creation of new layers; some cracks barely had time to form before they were buried, while



***Lower beds beneath the rock hammer are relatively planar; above the hammer are bulbous load casts. Soft sediment deformation like this shows that the underlying layer the hammer rests upon were still water saturated when the upper layer of sediment pressed down into it.***

Photo by Mark McFadden

others penetrated deeply into underlying (and therefore older) layers. Studying drying mud puddles is a sure path to both greater understanding and a raised eyebrow or two from passers-by, but well worth it to the committed student of Earth history!

Another good clue to the timing of layer formation is found at the bases of the sedimentary beds. If sediment had time to compact, harden, and gradually lose its water content, the base of the next layer of sediment is most likely rather level or flat. It generally takes a lot of energy to erode channels into beds that have had time to age and toughen into a firm surface that we could walk upon in today's world.

On the flip side, if sediment is fresh and the spaces between sand grains are still full of water, a new layer piled on top will squish down into the recently deposited bed. Load casts, such as those illustrated in the photo, are the result: the weight of the new layer has formed pillow-like features as it pressed down into the still-soft, water-laden recent layer beneath. Commonly, some of the mud at the top of the newly buried layer will squirt upward into the overlying bed, forming distinct flame-like features. Soft-sediment deformation structures are great clues to the nature of ancient depositional environments in the Belt rocks. All you have to do is look under the bed!

**Alligators, from page 3**

body over her side. They remain in this position for 24 hours or more until the male finally transfers his sperm. The female doesn't bother to lay eggs like most reptiles, and about three months later she gives birth to 2-8 live young. Birth can occur between July and September, usually later at higher elevations.

Reptiles are 'cold blooded' which means unlike us warm blooded humans, they can't regulate their body temperature. They have to move to different parts of the environment, in and out of the shade for instance, to keep their temperature just right. While alligator lizards have been known to tolerate temperatures up to 100° F - their preferred range is a cool-for-a-reptile 68°-77° F. This cool temperature preference is why alligator lizards are one of just a very few reptile species that can be found in the Scotchmans. They can be found even into the higher elevations above 5,000 feet.

You can find alligator lizards under rocks and logs (remember to Leave No Trace and replace rocks, logs, and lizards as you found them) but I see them most often while walking up un-vegetated trails with a southern exposure on a sunny day. You can find them basking in the sun in areas with good hiding cover like rocks on the side of the trail.

Exposed roadsides and edges of clear-cuts are good places to look too.

Alligator lizards are a Species of Greatest Conservation Need in both Idaho and Montana. Whether this species is *truly* in need of conservation action is unclear because we honestly don't know how abundant it is. In fact, while we know alligator lizards occur in the West Cabinets from a handful of sightings on the Montana side of the line - our Idaho state wildlife database doesn't have a single sighting from the Idaho portion of the West Cabinets.

Here's an easy way to help out alligator lizards this summer. While you're out enjoying the Scotchman's keep your eye out on the edge of trails and clearings. If you see an alligator lizard, record the location, and tell us about it. It's easy to report sightings to: <https://fishandgame.idaho.gov/ifwis/observations/>

Reporting sightings of alligator lizards, and other species, to this website archives your observation permanently in the state wildlife database. Biologists use this important information to evaluate the status of species. The more data we have, the better our decisions will be on which species receive the use of scarce conservation dollars.

*Michael Lucid is Regional Wildlife Biologist, Wildlife Diversity Program, Idaho Department of Fish and Game*

## 2012 High School Essay Contest: The best ever!

The 2012 High School Essay Scholarship Competition brought out the best in young writers from Sandpoint to Plains. This year's essay had to be a first-hand account of an experience of the author or an account of a story related to the author by a friend or relative. The experience had to have happened in any Wilderness, designated or proposed, and had to portray traditional wilderness activities such as backpacking, camping, hunting, fishing, berry picking, or horseback riding.

"We got some doozies," said Sandy Compton, FSPW program coordinator, "really fine tales told with passion and vigor. It was hard to choose which were best."

The contest is open to graduating seniors from high schools in Sandpoint, Clark Fork, Troy, Libby, Noxon, Thompson Falls and Plains. For best essay from each high school, the winning student is awarded a \$250 scholarship. The overall winner is awarded another \$250, for a total of \$500.

The \$500 award this year went to Robert Earhart of Plains, whose essay about an adventure in the Bob Marshall Wilderness might have been titled "Bear Spray and Lightning Bolts." Cara Stettler won the Noxon scholarship for her essay about a close encounter of the cougar kind. Eric Milner of Thompson Falls told the story of his first buck and Skyanne Cosgriff of Libby relates a great tale about the bull that got away . . . from her dad.

Jess Teats, the winner of the Scholarship for Troy, expressed his love of places like the Ross Creek Cedars. Tyler Henderson, from Clark Fork, weathered a storm in the September Cabinets above Lake Darling, and Zack Moiles from Lake Pend Oreille

High School in Sandpoint worked as a volunteer at Haleakala National Park on Maui. "Not one's traditional school setting," he wrote, "but some of the best training and most memorable 'educational experiences' I have had."

The winner from Sandpoint High was written by Kevin Woodruff, and brings us back full circle to the Bob, where he overcame a rare medical condition to spend a week out and caught the most expensive and ignorant trout ever captured.

"The stories were more real than any we've ever had before, I think," said Compton, "because we moved out of abstract questions about wild places and into experience, and if there is anything that will convince a person of the value of wilderness, it is experiencing it."

The winning high school essays can be read online at [www.scotchmanpeaks.org/blog](http://www.scotchmanpeaks.org/blog), or search [www.scotchmanpeaks.org](http://www.scotchmanpeaks.org) by the writer's name.

## Photo contest

### Where the heck are we?

Kerrie Morrow's winning, yet worrisome, picture from last summer. Next issue, watch for a flurry of summer and winter winners and the announcement of our Great Big Scotchman Peaks Annual Photo Contest. Dig out the pics and get ready.







### **Treasured Landscape, from page 1**

Based in Missoula, Mont., and founded by Congressional charter in 1991, the NFF engages America in community-based and national programs that promote the health and public enjoyment of our public lands, meeting conservation needs across our National Forests by uniting concerned communities, organizations and individuals. The result adds up to thousands of acres protected and revitalized, ensuring clean air and water, vital wildlife habitat, and quality recreation resources for all Americans.

Our nation's public lands face unprecedented challenges to their ecological health and productivity – from wildfire to invasive species. With millions of acres in need of restoration and millions of people unaware of how National Forests enrich their lives, the NFF set forth on a campaign of restoration. We are working to restore our damaged forests and restore Americans' connection to these public lands. Our goals in the *Treasured Landscapes* campaign include:

- Implement stewardship projects that nurture more resilient forest ecosystems.

- Restore landscapes damaged by wildfire, insects, disease and natural disasters to provide scenic, watershed, wildlife and carbon sequestration benefits.
- Invest in the strength of communities of interest and communities of place, helping people convert their passion for forests into meaningful conservation actions.
- Help the American public to fully understand, savor and appreciate all that our National Forests have to offer – building lasting connections with the lands that give us clean air and water, diversity of life, and fulfilling outdoor recreation opportunities.

On 14 iconic sites across the country, the NFF is working with local organizations and partners to restore ecosystems and get the public more involved with our National Forests. "The NFF looks forward to working with the Forest Service and community-based partners in Northern Idaho to ensure Lightning Creek continues to provide habitat for wildlife and unforgettable experiences for everyone," said Karen DiBari of the NFF.

For more information about the Lightning Creek Treasured Landscapes project, contact Karen DiBari at [kdibari@nationalforests.org](mailto:kdibari@nationalforests.org) or Erick Walker at [ewalker02@fs.fed.us](mailto:ewalker02@fs.fed.us).

### **Wild onions, from page 8**

onion (or garlic). By the way, leaves will range from classic hollow to grass-like according to type, so again, sniff them!

In "Plants of the Lewis and Clark Expedition" an onion resembling *A. stellatum*, but with a more low-growing and curved stem, is described as growing in Washington, Idaho and Oregon, and was named for its discoverer, Douglas's onion (*A. douglasii*). Another species, taller and topped with sparse white flower heads, was found growing from British Columbia downward to Arizona and thence eastward. It was dubbed Geyer's onion (*A. geyeri*).

With some 300 species of the genus *Allium*, one is likely to run across several varieties, always to be welcomed. Medicinally, they can lower cholesterol, serve as healing poultice for cuts and burns, and were recommended by Gerard and Culpeper as useful in drawing out "disease and vile humours". Onions were also said to be the bill of fare during the construction of Egypt's pyramids and China's Great wall.

Our climate isn't always favorable for growing the large bulbed onions, but a back lot or meadow of wild onions and/or garlic would be a no-fail possibility. I have turned my back quarter-acre into a native plant area, with camus, wild hyacinth and other beauties, hoping they'll eventually take over the snowberries. The few *Alliums* I've planted are doing well, and I'm hopeful of finding a good native plant source that carries Nodding onion. In years past, the neighboring Native American population (Kutenai, Flathead, and Kalispell) would go on forays for the bulbs for winter use. The leaves were used as seasoning and in soups, and the bulb stored nicely.

In Jeff Hart's *Native Plants and Early People* he recalls General George Crook's "1896 starvation march down the Yellowstone River" in which the men subsisted partially on wild onions. They

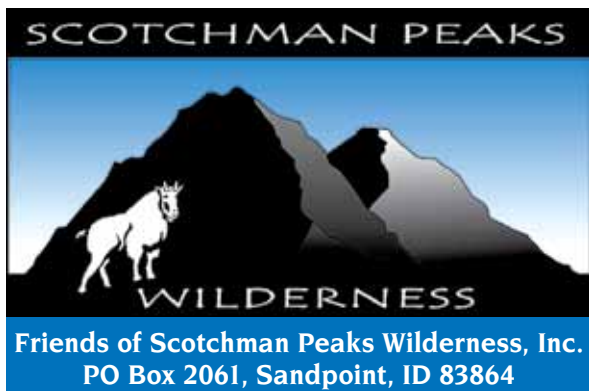
are, indeed, one of Nature's best gifts to our larders, and one of the easiest to cultivate. Transplant a few when you find them – don't give them rich soil and fertilizers – they're hardy natives! Another blessing, and one more reason to Grow Native!

### **Volunteers, from page 4**

for their help with the wolverine project, particularly in bait preparation. Dan Simmons was feted for his skill with a mattock (his own, by the way) in trail maintenance. Celeste Boatwright Grace won "Rookie of the Year" honors for her "unflagging enthusiasm for all things Scotchman."

The 2012 Old Goat is neither, really, but has been a stalwart volunteer for the Friends for many years. Mary Franzel of Clark Fork stood out this year for her unflagging enthusiasm as a "Wolverine Warrior," as well as for providing "pack" horses for the Pillick Ridge trail project last summer. Mary has also been at many Friends' tables and myriad events, a Fourth of July parade walker, newsletter helper and consistent comic relief in the Friends' universe.

Another very special award was handed out at the Sanders County Picnic this year. Montana Wilderness Association president and FSPW board member Doug Ferrell had the pleasure of giving a MWA Brass Lantern award to FSPW Lincoln County Coordinator Molly Kieran. The Brass Lantern is given by MWA annually to volunteers for displaying leadership, and for taking action that promotes Wilderness, quiet trails and responsible management of our public lands by managing agencies. Molly's award was announced at the MWA convention in Helena in April, which she could not attend.



## 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.

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