



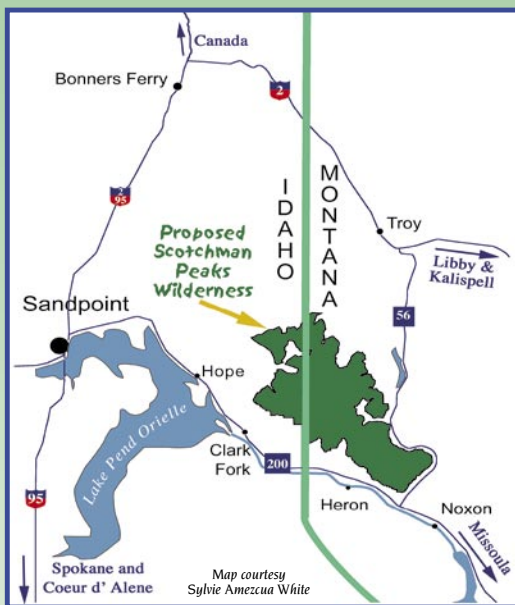
PEAK EXPERIENCE

The Newsletter for Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness, Inc.

Volume 6, Number 2 • March / April, 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

Late Winter Blues

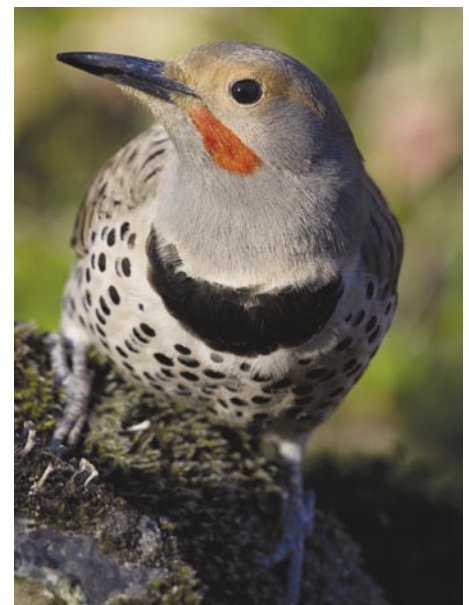
By Jon Isacoff

Late winter is often the worst time of year for birding in the Inland Northwest. Some of our winter visitors are beginning to take off back North and virtually none of our cheerfully singing summer migrant breeders are back yet. It's a tough time to write about birds. On a good year, Winter Finches and Bohemian Waxwings, discussed in the last column, may stick around through the early spring if the Mountain Ash berry and tree cone crops are abundant. Unfortunately, the winter of 2009-2010 has been one of the worst for these birds in recent memory.

Some rare winter visitors, such as Merlins, Gyrfalcons, and Snowy Owls that were hanging around the prairies of Southern Idaho and Eastern Oregon may slip through the Scotchmans region at this time on their way back North. It's very hit or miss, but you never know, you may get lucky! Of course, even during this down time, the year-round residents are still around, notably Raptors and Woodpeckers.

The most common year-round resident Raptors in the Scotchmans are the ubiquitous Red-tailed Hawk, followed by the American Kestrel. Many Bald Eagles are breeding residents in the region and the substantially larger number of visiting winter Eagles can be easily viewed near Lake Pend Oreille and some of the larger open streams and rivers though late winter and well into Spring, often as late as mid-May. All three members of the Accipiter family – Sharp-shinned, Coopers, and Goshawk – thrive in the heavily forested terrain of the Scotchmans. Coopers is the most common, Goshawk the rarest, but all are present year-round. All are primarily bird-eaters so check your feeders for a jet fighter-style attack and you'll know it's an Accipiter of some sort.

In the Woodpecker family, the Northern Flicker, Downy, and Hairy Woodpeckers are common yard visitors and will gladly feed at Suet and even regular seed feeders. People who live closer to the woods will often hear and see the largest North American Woodpecker, the Pileated, with its spectacular trademark red crest. Those who venture further into the woods and have a careful eye may catch a glimpse of the rare and



Flicker

Photo by Donald M. Jones
www.donaldmjones.com

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Scotchman Past

Nan Clayton Compton: First Time up the Creek

Nan Compton was born in 1927, the youngest of 6 children born to Earl and Mariam Clayton. In 1917, her father brought his family from Kansas on the immigrant train to a pioneer homestead. Nan was raised at the mouth of Blue Creek just east of the Montana-Idaho border and south of what is now the proposed Scotchman Peaks Wilderness. She, in turn, raised her own 4 children on the same property with her husband, Mickie. She and her family ardently desire Wilderness designation for the Scotchmans. Here is just one of her many stories as told to Mindy Ferrell:

I grew up on our ranch on the east side of Blue Creek Canyon. The two forks, east and west, joined at the north corner of our place. Our property was on the edge of what was settled land, and our backyard merged easily into wilderness. Living together in our tiny log cabin, we expanded our lives into the out-of-doors as much as possible. We were raised in intimate contact with wild places and wild creatures. Winters were often long, and we eagerly anticipated the coming spring.

But with the approaching spring, our mother had some specific requirements. No going barefoot. We always had to wear our dreadful long cotton stockings until the cherry trees bloomed or until the snow was off the hills on the south side of the Clark Fork River. No going fishing or hiking up into the wilderness of the East Fork of Blue Creek until we were 11 years old. Her theory was that if we could hike that far, we had to be able to hike back without whining. Her age requirement was strictly enforced. When I was 8



Elinor "Nan" Compton (nee Clayton) is surrounded here by sister Grace (front), Velma Harris (left) and Ruth Knisely, packing up from a camping trip into the East Fork of Blue Creek, ca 1938. The square bucket Velma is holding is probably a cleaned out kerosene bucket converted for huckleberry gathering. Photo from Compton family files.

or 9, I particularly remember being envious of my older sisters who got to go "up the creek" and come home with fish and berries.

But, then came the summer I turned 11 in August. I was thrilled! We started out before sunup with our buckets and lunch provisions. Mom brought sandwiches made of her homemade bread and butter. She brought lettuce from the garden to wash in the creek before putting those delicious leaves between our slices of bread ~ they were so crisp and good. We didn't worry about giardia in those days. Dad had a backpack made from a tomato crate with leather straps over his shoulder, using old rubber innertubes for hinges on the top. Held within the crate were 2 buckets made from square kerosene cans with wire hangers. Each of us kids carried lard buckets to fill. We walked the 4 miles up to the end of the road at the old Stackhouse mine, then we followed a trail going west along the creek up to the berry patches. I remember hillsides covered with berry bushes as we sat down to pick. Dad said we had to pick a full gallon before we could go fishing. Even after we felt we had filled our buckets, he would have us shake them down and keep picking until the berries were level with the top.

When finally we were allowed to fish, we simply used a willow wand and line from home that we had tucked into our pockets. We had hooks, but no flies. We caught grasshoppers and tried our luck. We caught enough cutthroat to fill a lard bucket, layering the fish with thimble berry leaves. Any fish under 6" had to go back in the creek. We were always careful to wet our hands before taking the fish off the hooks to protect their delicate skin.

When we started home we were really tired and plodded along. Our faces, hands, and clothes were covered with purple. Our own buckets were full, as well as those in Dad's pack. It was a loooong way home and we would be so silly and tired, yet we would drag ourselves along. After all, I was 11, and I had been to the wilderness and back. Like our buckets, we were filled to the top with contentment.

From the Top

Green is peeking out of the brown left by melting snow. FSPW also must be in a growth spurt. When we increased the newsletter to 12 pages instead of 8, I thought we would have room for larger pictures and font. Instead, the past two issues are packed and I'm still holding things to print when "there is extra space". What a fun spring beckons us out of the mud season doldrums!

Ann Wimberley



Peak Views

Scotchman Peaks winter hike schedule has something for all levels of winter hikers.

Winter in the wilderness and around its edges is a time like no other, extraordinarily quiet and transformed by cold and snow into another sort of place full of white magic. It is also a good time to get a new perspective of the wild and learn winter hiking skills from experienced winter travelers; perhaps even to stretch physical and mental limits into new places. The opportunity for this is right here. If you have snowshoes, cross-country skis, or even a full-on alpine touring set up or a split board, the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness has a hike tailored to your abilities and appetites on the schedule for 2010. The Friends even have a number of pairs of snowshoes to lend out if you don't have your own set. Details and contact information are available in the accompanying table.

Our season might seem set, but we are always looking for experienced hikers to lead walks into "our" wilderness. If you would like to add a hike to our schedule, you can fill out our on-line hike form at <http://www.scotchmanpeaks.org/hiking/leading-hikes/> or send an e-mail to sandy@scotchmanpeaks.org. Summer's coming: It's never too early to sign up to lead a summer hike. The schedule for 2010 is wide open.

Hike date	Exertion Rating	Destination/ Hike Name	Leader(s)	Description and Contact info
3/6/10	S+	Troy Mine Vent/ Mount Vernon	Sandii Mellen	Contact info: 208-265-5261 or jimmsandii@gmail.com Get a first hand look at how an underground mine "could" affect OUR Wilderness. Experienced cross-country skiers only! Steep in places, skins are sometimes needed for going up. Starting out on the Ross Cr. Rd, 398, then on an old mining rd. We will ski up several switchbacks to a huge mine vent, and if enough ambition / daylight permits, continue on towards Mt. Vernon. Offering great views of the Bull River Valley, Bull Lake, and some of the Cabinet Mountains. This will be an ALL DAY trip, starting early!!! Everyone should be prepared for any weather conditions, with adequate clothing, food, water, headlamps, skins for skis or snowshoes to change in to. Level of difficulty, "Very difficult." Round trip, 12 miles. Elevation gain 2,000 to 3,000 feet.
3/6/10	E/M	Ross Creek Cedars	Holly Clements	Contact info: 208-208-290-3420, hclements26@yahoo.com We will accompany the hikers headed for Troy Mine Vent and Mount Vernon to the "lookout" and then follow the access road, 2 more miles into the Ross Creek Cedars. An overlook on the way provides stunning views. We will wander along a one mile loop amongst the cedars before returning. Beginner level skill, but the overall length makes this suitable only for those with good conditioning. Round trip: 8 + miles. Elevation gain, 1200 feet.
3/13/10	S	Star Peak	Jacob Styer	Contact info: Jacob@scotchmanpeaks.org This snowshoe is quite strenuous and we will probably need every bit of winter sunlight to gain the summit and return to our cars before dark. We will be sticking to the main summer trail for the first 2/3 of the hike, but will probably need to use our off trail route finding skills to reach the summit of Star Peak. Round trip, 10 miles ±. Elevation gain 4140 feet.
3/20/10	S+	Goat Peak	Jim and Sandii Mellen	Contact info: 208-265-5261 or jimmsandii@gmail.com This trail has been called the steepest trail in Idaho. Although the hike leader has found a steeper one, it is still formidable. The views are fabulous almost the whole way and the sense of group exhilaration upon reaching the summit is a memorable experience. Be prepared for a full day and ready for any conditions. Snowshoes are recommended, but some crazies ski it every year. Round Trip, 7 miles. Elevation gain, 4,000 feet ±.
4/24/10	S	Scotchman Peak	Jim and Sandii Mellen	Contact info: 208-265-5261 or jimmsandii@gmail.com This trip is for adventurous people. Although the trail suffered numerous blow-downs in October, 2009, the trees have all been cut. There are a few places where the root masses made craters in the trails but it is passable. Since the road is usually snowed-in, the trip length will be extended by 2.5 miles each way. Equipment can include snowshoes, Telemark skis, snowboards, or AT gear. Be prepared for conditions ranging from hot and sunny to a full-on blizzard. But above all, be prepared to have a fabulous adventure! Round trip, 12 miles. Elevation gain, 3700 feet.

Wild Creatures of the Scotchmans

Black Bear *ursus americanus*

By Doug Ferrell

Black bears are familiar to all Americans and are easy to identify, though it is helpful to be able to distinguish a black bear from a grizzly. Color alone is not a good clue, because in our area either species can vary from light brown to almost black. Generally black bears do not have the pronounced shoulder hump of the grizzly, and the black bear's face is convex in profile, while the grizzly has a more dish shaped face.

Bears are normally solitary animals, except for sows with cubs, and during the

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ursus americanus

Photo by Donald M. Jones, www.donaldmjones.com



Congratulations Carol!

By **Sandy Compton**

On Tuesday, February 2, the *Idaho Business Review* announced their list of honorees for the 2010 Idaho Business Women of the Year. The Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness are proud to announce that Carol Jenkins, FSPW Vice-Chair/Idaho and grant writer for the FSPW is among the individuals selected for this honor.

Fifty Idaho women were selected as Business Women of the Year, and all will be honored in a special edition, glossy magazine published in the *Idaho Business Review* on March 22 and honored at an awards dinner in Boise on March 18th.

Carol's well-deserved nomination reflects her prominent role in not one, but two businesses, both non-profits, Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness and the Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society.

As the Idaho vice-chair of FSPW, Carol has been our guiding hand in writing grants and helping with a critical expansion in the organizational capacity of the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness.

"Carol's ability to adapt and serve in various roles within our organization has been a tremendous asset," FSPW chair Phil Hough says. "Her steady hand and can-do attitude have been critical to our efforts at developing public support in Sandpoint and the

surrounding communities in Bonner County.

Carol's leadership in the Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society was instrumental in setting up the group as an independent organization and establishing a local "Grow Native" campaign,

demonstrating the advantages of native plants in general as well as restoration landscape projects.

For Carol both of these volunteer positions are labors of love. "The folks I like best and admire most are those involved with their communities in varied and interesting ways, giving of themselves," Jenkins says. "They just seem more alive!"

"Sometimes I have chosen areas to pursue; sometimes I have stumbled into opportunities which have opened new and unexpected doors. FSPW is certainly one of those. It was a terrific opportunity to give back to the area my husband and I chose for our retirement: to obtain federal protection for the Scotchmans through wilderness designation, the first for the five northern counties of the 'wilderness state.' "

The Friends are grateful for Carol's commitment to the organization, and congratulate her on the honor bestowed her by the *Idaho Business Review*.



Carol Jenkins
Photo by Irv Jenkins

Along the Trail:

January 6: The first annual FSPW Winter Hike Leaders appreciation party was held at Ivano's in Sandpoint. Twenty hike leaders and potential hikers enjoyed pizza and beverages and shared tales from the trail.

January 7: Doug Ferrell, Montana vice-chair for FSPW, made a presentation to eight members of Thompson Falls Woman's Club, who showed unanimous support by show of hands.

January 9: Phil Hough and Deb Hunsicker led 9 hikers into East Fork Creek on the first hike of the 2010 winter hike series.

January 16: The Friends sponsored a Wilderness Workshop at Big Horn Lodge, facilitated by Carrie Sandstedt from Campaign for America's Wilderness and Phil Hough and Doug Ferrell of FSPW. The workshop was attended by 30-plus Friends from Lincoln and Sanders County, Montana and Bonner County, Idaho.

January 24: Susan Drumheller and Brad Smith led three other winter hikers on a climb up Star Peak

January 28-31: At this year's Banff Mountain Film Festival, volunteers Jacob Styer, Lindsey Larson, Jim and Sandii Mellen, Susan Compton, Todd Dunfield and David Lindsay signed up 44 new Friends in Sandpoint and Coeur d' Alene.

January 31: Volunteer hike leaders Neil and Ann Wimberley led three other hikers on a winter walk into the Ross Creek Cedars.

February 6: Volunteer hike leader Judy Hutchins led five others on a winter walk around Fatman Mountain.

February 8: Doug Ferrell, Montana vice-chair for FSPW, made a presentation to 22 members of the Plains Backcountry Horsemen, who voiced enthusiasm for our mission.

February 26: Friends of Scotchman Peaks hosted a festival of award winning films from the International Wildlife Film Festival at The Little Theatre in Libby. Several top award-winning films selected by Friends of Scotchman Peaks were shown to the local audience, including *Wolverine*, *Devil of the North?*, *A Mountain Goat's Story*, and *Christmas in Yellowstone*.



New Banners from Bonner Awards Help Us Tell Our Story

By **Sandy Compton**

Part of the job of advocating for Scotchman Peaks is getting folks' attention; a crucial part of the FSPW mission to preserve the 88,000 acres of roadless area as wilderness. With that in mind, three new banners have been designed and printed to be displayed in booths and tables at events FSPW attends as a group and also for the parades Friends march in. These replace a set of old banners which were simply white vinyl with black text.

"The old banners were pretty one-dimensional," executive director Phil Hough says, "so when we found out Bonner Awards & Engraving (in Ponderay) could print full-color photos and text on vinyl, we decided to add some color to our displays."

The three banners are a variety of sizes: one four-footer, a

six-footer and an eight-footer. Each depicts a scene from the Scotchman Peaks with hikers in it, a "call to action" message and the website URL. The four-foot banner depicts a hiker headed for Billiard Table from Star Peak; the six-footer shows three hikers on a ledge overlooking Horseshoe Lake in the Savage Creek drainage, and the eight-footer features a solitary hiker on Stonebridge Ridge, looking into Melissa Basin.

"The work Bonner Awards did for us was very good," Hough says. "The results speak for themselves."

Watch for the new banners at FSPW events, displays and at the Fourth of July parades from Sandpoint to Noxon.



Banner photo above by **Holly Clements.**



Banner photo at left by **Sandy Compton.**

Banner photo at left by **Jared Shear.**



Over the Top Volunteer

Holly Clements, Cadillac of Volunteers

By Sandy Compton

Holly Clements, a devoted hiker, skier and backpacker, has been a Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness volunteer since the beginning. "I wasn't at the first meeting," she says, "but I got involved during the first year. One of the very early meetings was held in the little (former Methodist) church in Hope. Dennis (Nicholls) was there. Phil (Hough) and Jan (Griffits) were the co-chairs. Jan got me to run the booth at the Bonner County Fair that year."

Holly, who has an infectious laugh and a self-effacing manner, confesses that being in charge of the fair booth wasn't her favorite FSPW duty. "I'd much rather lead a hike," she says. And so she does.

Holly was raised in Cadillac, Michigan, where she developed the love for the outdoors that has followed her all her life. "I grew up in the woods," she says, "because my dad, Fred, was a Christmas tree farmer. I also grew up on two lakes — Lake Cadillac and Lake Mitchell — and only 60 miles from Lake Michigan. So I grew up camping and fishing and boating and stuff like that."

After graduating from Cadillac High School, Holly studied elementary education at Ferris State College in Big Rapids, Michigan. A few years later, on a ski trip to Caberfae — a "really flat" ski hill near Cadillac — she met Jim Clements. They were married the day after Jim received his master's degree, after which they loaded Holly's car and moved west to Arizona, where Jim had played football for Arizona State University's legendary Frank Kush.

When Jim began coaching at Northern Arizona University, Holly returned to college and then "retired" for 12 years to raise their children. Later, Jim coached football at the University of Minnesota before moving into high school ball in the Inland Northwest. "Jim decided to return to coaching high school football because he didn't like being gone from home all the time," Holly says. "We moved to Spokane in 1981, and he coached in that area until he retired in 2002." In Spokane and Pullman, Holly worked for Washington Public Schools as a secretary/receptionist for 18 years.

In 2002, Jim and Holly retired to Sandpoint. Shortly after, Jim tragically suffered a heart attack and died. It was in the next year that Holly became a serious hiker, so when the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness formed in 2005, it was a natural

connection. And, it was there that found her calling as a hike leader.

"I didn't lead any hikes immediately," Holly says, "but about a year after I got involved, I was a co-leader for the Great Old Broads' hike to Star Peak. I also took them up Antelope near Clark Fork, but Star Peak has been my specialty. One year I led three hikes there."

Holly is an avid skier who has spent several winters working at Schweitzer as a mountain host and a village ambassador. "When the kids were little," she says, "we skied lot, but I spent a lot of time on the bunny slope." She is now a black-diamond skier who spends several days a week on the slopes.

Her hiking has moved into the big time, too. Besides climbing Clayton, Star, Billiard Table, Sawtooth and Scotchman itself in the Scotchmans, she hiked the Grand Canyon in 2008, rim to rim. And she wants to climb Pikes Peak in Colorado. She says with a laugh, "I've gotta do that before I get too old and die."

Her favorite hike? "It's has to be Sawtooth. It's the ultimate. I do like Scotchman, but Sawtooth is just more..." "More" is an understatement. With no designated trail to the top, Sawtooth is arguably the hardest day hike in the Scotchmans.

Holly says, "I'm involved in the Friends because I have a passion for Wilderness. I want to see it preserved for the grandkids and the future generations. I just believe in having as much wilderness as we can save."

Holly's three children live in various places around the West. She has a daughter and granddaughter in Spokane, a son in Seattle, and a daughter and grandson in Colorado Springs — from where she can see Pikes Peak.



**Holly Clements on top of her favorite Scotchman Peaks mountain, Sawtooth, with Scotchman and The Crags in the background.
Photo by Sandy Compton**

A Little Help from Our Friends

Thanks to Kent Anderson and St Croix Printing (<http://www.stcroixprint.com>) for being an innovative and reliable supplier of high quality shirts, hats and bandannas.



The Future Looks Bright:

March 5: Walkin' Jim Stoltz will appear in concert at the Thompson Falls Elementary School, Columbia and Haley, at 7:00 p.m. He will be working with the kids in the school during the afternoon of the 5th, as well as visiting Trout Creek School on the 4th. The concert is sponsored by FSPW and free to the public. Stoltz also appears in the schools courtesy FSPW.

March 6: Visit our table at the Winter Wildlands Backcountry Film Festival, sponsored by the Idaho Conservation League, www.idahoconservation.org. These films, celebrating the diversity, beauty and fun of the human experience in the winter outdoors, will be shown in the auditorium of the Sandpoint Business and Events Center, Pine and Euclid. Tickets are \$5. The evening includes door prizes and a no-host bar.

March 9: Phil Hough and Sandy Compton will present "A Proposed Scotchman Peaks Wilderness" at the invitation of Spokane Downtown Kiwanis Club at their noon meeting in the Spokane Club.

March 16: FSPW volunteers will man a table at Radical Reels in Sandpoint's Panida Theater. Radical Reels is an evening of "dynamic, high-adrenalin films featuring sports such as skiing, climbing, kayaking, BASE jumping, snowboarding and mountain biking" from the Banff Centre, in Banff, Alberta, Canada. They are brought to Sandpoint by Mountain Fever.

March 18: Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness Idaho vice-chair and grant writer Carol Jenkins will be honored in Boise as one of the *Idaho Business Review's* 50 2010 Idaho Business Women of the Year.

March 25: Phil Hough and Sandy Compton will present "A Proposed Scotchman Peaks Wilderness" at a meeting of the

Friends of the Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge at the Refuge shelter. Open to the public. 6 p.m.

March 27: The Cabinet Resource Group will hold their annual meeting at the Big Horn Lodge beginning at 4 PM with a BYOB social hour and potluck dinner, followed by a short meeting. At 7 p.m., there will be a presentation from special guest speaker, Erich Peitzsch, a climate researcher and avalanche specialist who works for Northern Rocky Mountain Science Center (USGS).

March 28: The StoryTelling Company at Di Luna's Café in Sandpoint. 6:00 dinner, 7:00 show. Call 208-263-0846 or write to storytellingcompany@gmail.com

April 5: Phil Hough and Deb Hunsicker will present slides and stories from their hike on the Continental Divide Trail through various wilderness areas in New Mexico and Colorado to benefit the FSPW and Native Plant Society. Part of the "Friends of Scotchmans Peaks Wilderness Presents Adventure Series" 6 p.m. -7:30 p.m.

April 7: Wife and husband Erin McKittrick and Bretwood "Hig" Higman will read from their new book "A Long Trek Home: 4,000 Miles by Boot, Raft, and Ski" and talk about their wilderness adventure from Seattle to the Alaska Peninsula. Part of the "Friends of Scotchmans Peaks Wilderness Presents Adventure Series," 6 p.m. at Sandpoint Community Hall. Open to the public and free of charge.

April 12: The deadline for FSPW summer hikes to be listed in May/June Peak Experience. Summer hike leaders can fill out the form online or download proposal forms at <http://www.scotchmanpeaks.org/hiking/leading-hikes/>

April 21: Phil Hough and Sandy Compton will present "A Proposed Scotchman Peaks Wilderness" at the monthly meeting of NAMI Far North at 6 p.m. in the classroom at Bonner General Hospital.

April 22: Earthday. Stop by and visit the FSPW display table at Sandpoint's Earth Day Celebration, Sandpoint Event Center 4-7pm

April 25: The StoryTelling Company at Ivano's Ristorante Italiano in Sandpoint. 6:00 dinner, 7:00 show. Call 208-263-0211 or write to storytellingcompany@gmail.com

April 30 - May 2: Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness board and staff will attend the Montana Wilderness Association Convention in Whitefish. FSPW program coordinator Sandy Compton will provide a storytelling program and act as MC/moderator for the gathering.

**Winner of 2009 Scotchman's Photo Contest,
Spirit Category: Colleen Reynolds**





Trail(s) of the Month

Labor Day Triple Challenge

By **Todd Dunfield**

Assistant Director of the Center for Community Action and Service Learning, Gonzaga University and Spokane Mountaineer

Saturday September 5th GOAT MOUNTAIN

We began a little later than we had hoped. The five in our group put boot to trail about 8:20 am on our ascent of Goat Mountain.

Two friends from Bellingham drove over Friday afternoon, Daisy and Greg. We were also joined by two Spokane Mountaineers, Deborah Steele and Amy Leibensberger.

The hike was a lot hotter and longer than we first thought it would be. We only ran into one other hiker along the trail, John, who explained he was the CFO (chief financial officer) of the INHS, which most of us know as the organization behind those shiny yellow and blue helicopters that rescue injured people in remote areas and whisk them to the hospital. From the summit of Goat Mountain we could see a

few hikers going up and down the ridge of Scotchman Peak. The trip down was pretty uneventful, although we were all less exited to go through the middle brushy section of the trail that involves a lot of downed logs. The very sunny day caused us all to drain our hydration bladders and water bottles and everyone returned to the car 8 hours after leaving them with no water in our packs. We celebrated our return to civilization by visiting the Ice House Pizzeria for some amazing food.



Zags on top
Photo by **Todd Dunfield**

Sunday September 6th SCOTCHMAN PEAK

The weather began changing on us ten minutes before we set to hiking up trail #65. Of the 23 people beginning the hike, 21 of us made it to the summit. Two of our group were feeling unwell and turned around within the first thirty minutes of hiking. There was one group ahead of us on the trail, a family of three with two dogs in tow. We passed them on their way down in the meadows at around 5200' feet and they remarked about how cold it was on the summit. This didn't startle me, but the large number of Gonzaga Students hiking the trail for the first time took note and began to wonder if they had prepared their packs well enough with warm clothes. The weather remained overcast all day but the precipitation never really soaked us enough to make it miserable. This was the second summit of two for Greg, Daisy, Deborah and

I. Only two of us would begin and end this adventure together. Greg and Daisy decided to hitchhike with the GU students back to Spokane and rest their knees in Bellingham.

Monday September 7th STAR PEAK

Star peak garnered the smallest group of hikers out of this bundle.

There were four of us, Deborah Steele, Todd Dunfield, Matt Smith, and John Shea SJ. Yes this was the first hike I have ever lead with a Jesuit along. John Shea teaches biology at Gonzaga, but he is from the east coast and was looking for a reason to explore the flora and fauna of the northwest. By hiking in Montana he was able to cross another state off his list of states visited in his lifetime. The weather was grey and overcast again but our party of four set off just a little behind schedule. At this point the wet was beginning to affect my feet with a small bit of immersion foot, but I never suffered too

greatly and healed quickly once I could stop wearing my wet boots. The summit conditions were "Scotchman Fantastic" as usual. I took some pretty unoriginal pictures of the much photographed out house. We stayed on the summit about forty minutes, exploring all it has to offer. Our hike out consisted of a lot of conversation about scat we found along the way, reminding John Shea that he had left his favorite field guide, *Who Shat That?*, at home.

Late Winter Blues

Continues from Page 1

elusive American Three-toed Woodpecker, the male of which has a yellow rather than a red patch on the head (and yes, they have only three toes instead of four). If you live near or come across a recently burned area, look for the Three-toed's cousin, the Black-backed Woodpecker, which also has only three toes and, surprise, a black back.

Late winter is a time when reflection and future planning are often more productive than actual birding. Sometimes it's rewarding to take a walk in the late winter snow and close one's eyes and imagine the green plants and singing birds that will be in the same spot just a few months later.



Message from the Chair

Transitions – by Phil Hough

“In like a Lion, out like a lamb”, that’s how March was described when I was young and learning about the months of the year. It’s no surprise that March is a time of change, or transition. Daylight is lengthening, leaving winter behind and racing towards spring, until by the end of the month the hours of daylight are actually longer than darkness. It’s the hope and possibility that change brings which makes transition so interesting. It’s the uncertainty which makes transition downright exciting.

Take March, again, for example. Because of deadlines, I don’t really know what early March, when you are likely to read this, is going to be like. (February hasn’t finished its own transition, yet). Will it be a lion like the last couple years with a full winter coat, or will it be a kinder, gentler lion already shedding a layer or two as spring arrives earlier. We don’t know. But, we do know that by then end of the month the Lion will have become a Lamb. Spring will have sprung, so to speak....or, will it?

You see, the Scotchmans have their own built in, year round transition, one of space, not time: elevation transition. Whenever the Buttercups, Skunk Cabbage and Spring Beauties actually emerge along the banks of Morris Creek, the top of nearby Goat Mountain will surely still be covered in deep snow. Mr. Scotchman will still be in his winter range. Oh the difference a few thousand vertical feet make!

But it’s a difference which is there year round. In hiking from valley bottom to mountain top in the Scotchmans, we experience an incredible transition any time of year. The elevation change alters the temperature, rain profile, wind, sunlight and other patterns so that we travel from low/mid level mixed stands of old growth Cedar and Hemlock to rocky Alpine mountain tops. But we are also witness to large scale transitions which come from the “edge effect.”

The Scotchman Peaks/West Cabinets lie in an area of transition, this one being an “edge effect” created when zones converge. The Pacific Maritime influence extends far enough to just touch the Scotchmans with their added warmth and rain. In fact the most southern and eastern examples of the Inland Temperate Rainforest are found in the valleys on the Scotchmans’ east side. The Scotchmans are also part of the Northern Rockies Ecosystem, and we are at the edge of the northern Boreal Forest.

Interesting things happen at transition edges, where one ecotype meets another. Species come together that are not often in contact, we see disjunct populations and find optimal conditions for endemic species. In simple terms this brings: we see a variety and abundance of habitats, plants and animals seen in very few other places. Let’s celebrate March in the Scotchmans – a time and place of glorious transition!

Wild Creatures of the Scotchmans

Continues from Page 3

brief mating season in June or July. Adult black bears typically weigh from 200 – 500 pounds, with the males considerably larger than females. Body weight varies seasonally and bears normally lose some 30% of their body weight during hibernation.

Bears in our area may hibernate for five months or more, during which time they do not eat, drink, urinate or defecate. Their bodies recycle nitrogen waste to reduce muscle loss during this long period of inactivity. Unlike smaller mammals, bears’ body temperature does not drop much during hibernation, though black bear heartbeats can slow to under 10 beats per minute. Periodically during hibernation they may be somewhat alert and occasionally venture from their dens in mid winter.

The bears den in a cave, hollow log, or under the roots of a fallen tree. They may also excavate or enlarge a den in a hillside. The young are born in the den in January or February, weighing under a pound, blind, and covered with soft downy hair. They nurse and snuggle with their mother for months until they emerge, weighing 5 to 10 pounds and soon able to climb trees. The young stay with their mothers about a year and a half.

The number of black bears has declined with the European settlement of America, but they are still numerous in forested areas throughout North America. They are good tree climbers and strong swimmers.

Black bears eat a wide variety of foods, including much vegetation, bees, ants, grubs, squirrel nut caches, honey, carrion, fish, small mammals and deer fawns. In our area, huckleberries are a very important food source, and bears are also fond of apples, during the fall when they are working to pack on the pounds. Bears can be attracted to a variety of human foods. They have a keen sense of smell and are dexterous enough to open screw top lids, door latches, and most all kinds of garbage cans. Humans who are not careful to avoid attracting bears tend to create a very dangerous situation, especially for the bears, for as the saying goes, a fed bear often becomes a dead bear.

Goats on the Web

By **Sandy Compton**

Our mountain goat mascot, Monty – also known as Mr. Scotchman – has joined in the social media revolution. At least his image has. Mr. Scotchman is our “spokesgoat” on Facebook (www.facebook.com/ScotchmanPeaks) and Twitter (<http://twitter.com/MrScotchman>)

Real mountains goats can't talk or express their opinions on Wilderness, so, as we put words in Monty's mouth, we try to do a little goat-like thinking. What are a mountain goat's priorities? Appropriate food and clean water, certainly – things that Monty's craggy home in the Scotchman Peaks supply to him and his extended family. There are also more subtle things, like plenty of room and privacy, meadows of grasses and shrubs that are their summer diet and rocks and trees upon which to grow lichens and mosses for winter sustenance. They also need safety from disturbances when they are raising young ones and in the midst of stressful winter.

Part of our reason in seeking protection for the Scotchman Peaks is to ensure that creatures like mountain goats have a place to live. The reason that Mr. Scotchman is our “spokesgoat” on Facebook and Twitter is to keep an appropriate image in front

of the public in representation of the mission of Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness.

If you're on Facebook or Twitter, become a Facebook fan and a follower and “retweeter” of Mr. Scotchman on Twitter. Mr. Scotchman can't talk, but we say “Thank you” for him and all other creatures who live in the Scotchman Peaks



Mountain Goats
Photo by Ben Steele

Scotchman Rocks

By **Bill Martin**

Sight is more complex than looking at something and registering the image in the brain. We tend to see (or think we see) what we expect to.

A friend and I were on a butte in eastern Montana, at a place we felt must have been a cultural site. After 15 minutes of slowly, intently scrutinizing the ground for flakes of knapped stone, stray beads or any sign of what we were looking for, we finally focused on the rocks we were walking over: a bed of ancient marine fossils. If you've ever hunted morels in May, you likely have experienced a similar sensation: realizing you were surrounded by what you were but a moment ago unaware of.

As snow melts, as frost leaves the earth, we drive by dirt banks in road cuts, and we just see dirt. Take time to look at whatever you are looking at as if you've never seen it before. Take time to see the sinuous, sensuous, ephemeral forms that time, temperature, gravity and liquidity create on the surface out of dust.



In a flow of water, particles of a similar size and weight precipitate out at certain velocities. Thus a cobble bottom forms where a stream is swift; gravel where it is less so; and sand or silt where there is little current. There is a similarity in a slow flow of mud.

The right mix of minerals, under the right conditions, will consolidate and undergo compaction. This eliminates pore-space, expels trapped water, and, if the chemistry is right, creates forms called concretions such as pictured here.

They're commonly and easily found in the beigeish clay banks of streams and road cuts. The one pictured here is actually natural ceramic green ware, and could be fired in a kiln. Sometimes they form around things. Some contain fossils. There are large (over a foot in

diameter), smoothly rounded ones found along the Clark Fork that reportedly contain trilobites, but I can't bring myself to shatter one of these lovely spheroids to find out it's true. Some things are best left unseen.



Scotchman Natives: *Rubus*

By Valle Novak

Nothing's more delightful when on a late summer hike in the mountains than coming across a bounty of delectable **Rubus** — the wild raspberry and blackberry family members.

These are most often found in rocky or disturbed areas, many times adjoining old logging roads. Generally, they seem to grow in a single location of maybe a few yards in width - at least that has always been my experience.

But wherever found, they put an immediate stop to the hike while packs are dropped, and frantic picking (and eating) ensues. What a treat! The melting sweetness of the red raspberry is almost exotic, combining taste and fragrance in a delightful combination.

The blackcaps, actually a black raspberry, are smaller but just as sweet, and a welcome find on any jaunt through the woods. To me, however, the great arching branches of the large wild blackberry are priceless treasures wherever found, providing dramatic elegance, delectable fruit and coincidentally, priceless bird shelter.

Dewberry, the trailing blackberry, is often found draping itself over rocks in open areas with its rooted tendrils of many yards long hide in the grasses to trip you up and perhaps lacerate unprotected ankles with their numerous thorns (which is why I have never worn hiking sandals).

The leaves of all the preceding *Rubus* are fine for a healthful tea, said to strengthen the heart, and to diminish morning sickness during pregnancy.

Thimbleberry is also a member of the *Rubus* family, but offering much more fragile berries. In season, though, they are an on-site treat and if you're careful, perhaps some could be brought

home for thimbleberry jelly. Their bushy habit (2 to 5-feet tall depending on habitat) and maple-leaved appearance is easy to recognize, and their habitat is varied, though they prefer moist, shady surroundings. Their bark and roots, when dried, are used in a tea for dysentery and diarrhea. The leaves however, unlike their raspberry/blackberry cousins, are astringent and while not drinkable are excellent in baths and facial steams for oily skin.

All of the wild *Rubus* are fairly easy to transplant – either in early spring before bloom or late fall just before dormancy — and provide beauty, food and bird-cover to your landscape. Remember to dig a large clump encompassing all the

roots, cleanly severing the sister-plant root. At home, plant in like surroundings/habitat as much as possible, water well and let it grow. Never use fertilizer on any sort on wild transplants.

Don't discount the Dewberry, because although they do sport those nasty, foot-tangling, needled vines, they are ideal for slopes or open areas where you don't want anyone intruding. And you will certainly welcome the small but luscious black berries in the early autumn. Simply pull up (carefully) a strip of the vine that contains roots and tuck them in a row to get them started.

Note: I have not mentioned two excellent *Rubus*, the Salmonberry and Cloudberry, since they are not (generally) found here, but thrive on the West coast up and into Alaska.

Addendum: I read the last newsletter with interest, recounting Jack Nesbitt's finding of a rare *Lomatium*. Though not in the Scotchman area, I can provide a tip to hiker/plant enthusiasts as to the location of several *Lomatium* varieties: Gold Hill. A few years ago, Sylvia Chatburn (Native Plant Society Arboretum Chair) and I identified at least three varieties on an open meadow along the trail above Lake Pend Oreille.



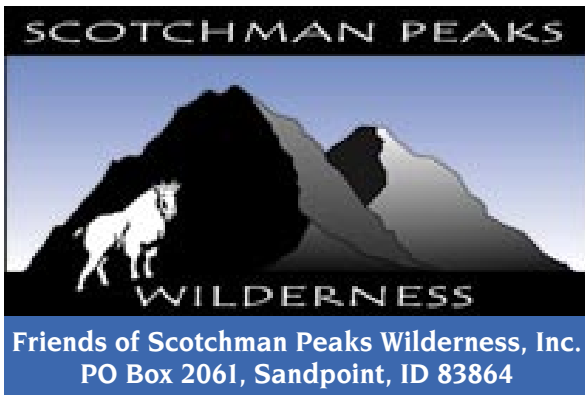
Dewberries

Brighten Your Spring Wardrobe with Scotchman Gear

Our 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. Short sleeved shirts remain a great deal at \$10 or our bargain \$5 shirts. Our long sleeved T's, (\$15) sweats (\$30) and hoodies (\$35) are perfect for cool days. 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.



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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