



PEAK EXPERIENCE

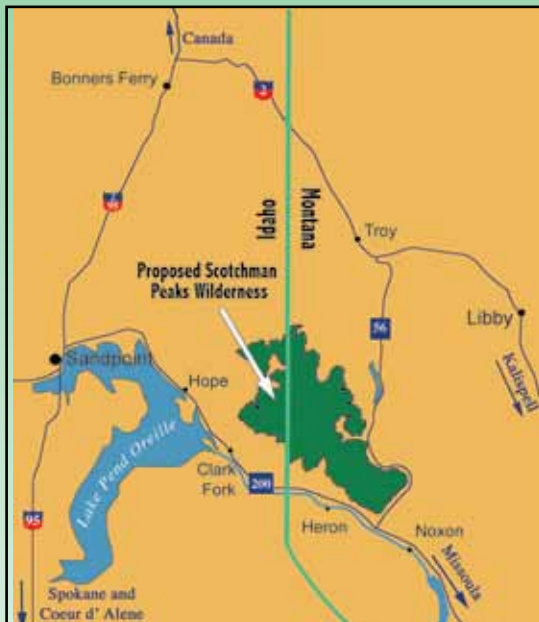
The Newsletter for Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness, Inc.

Volume 11, Number 2 • March/April 2015

Celebrating 10 Years of Working for Wilderness!

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.

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Editor: Ann Wimberley

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Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness Reaches 5,000!

Sandpoint watercolorist Karen Robinson is landmark supporter

Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness were pleased to introduce their 5,000th Friend at the 10th Anniversary Celebration in Sandpoint, Idaho, on January 9. Sandpoint artist Karen Robinson was recognized as the 5,000th person to sign up as a Friend of Scotchman Peaks.

Karen and her husband Ed both work for Idaho Department of Lands. Karen works part time as coordinator of the Idaho State Forestry Contest, an annual competition that includes segments on forestry skills, soils, weeds, compass and pacing, plant identification and forest health for high school kids in North Idaho.

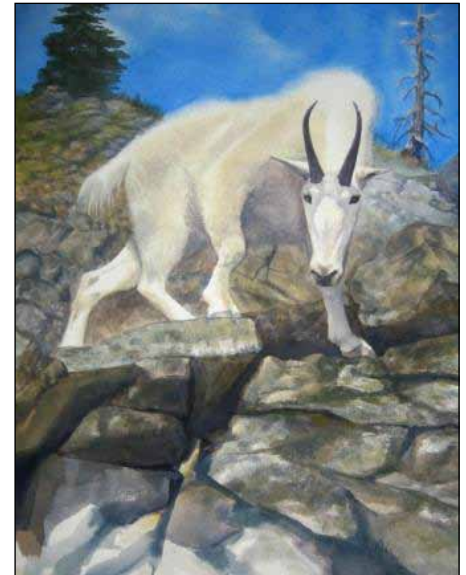
She has also done stewardship and forestland management plans for Mike Wolcott and Idaho Forest Management. But, her first love is art, which is also now her major source of income.

Her art actually led her to sign up to be a Friend. She’s been making watercolors of the surrounding area for many years, and she signed on as a Friend during the 2014 Scotchman Peaks Plein Air Paintout at the Outskirts Gallery in Hope. “I’ve been thinking about this for a couple of years,” she said. “I wanted to get involved in this good cause.”

“My first watercolor class was in high school,” she says, “but I started drawing and painting about the time I could hold a crayon.

Robinson’s distinctive watercolors are seen in many places in Sandpoint, including DiLuna s Café on Cedar Street and ArtWorks on First Avenue. She recently had a show in the Pend Oreille Arts Council offices next to the Panida Theater. One of the paintings from that show is of a mountain goat, a long-time symbol of FSPW. She calls the painting *Unexpected Encounter*, a reference to the posture of the goat, which is clearly surprised and looks as if it is deciding to advance or retreat.

Referring to FSPW education efforts concerning mountain goat encounters, she says, “Maybe it’s a decision time for the person standing looking



Unexpected Encounter
Watercolor by Karen Robinson

Continued page 6



Message from the Executive Director: Now is the time!

The Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness have been climbing the pathway towards Wilderness designation for just over ten years. Now, finally, we believe we have the summit in sight!

From out-of-town visitors walking along the Ponderay Bay

Trail to long-time residents looking up from Lake Pend d'Oreille, Scotchman Peak serves as a beacon to both welcome and to "ground" us here. Star Peak guides folks as they travel up and down the Clark Fork Valley. The ancient Cedar trees along Ross Creek Cedar are a solemn place drawing people from miles around to renew their spirit. We are fortunate to call this landscape our home.

In reaching out to groups and individuals in our communities and advocating for the preservation of the Scotchman Peaks, I've come to realize that most people who live in our area share a common set of values that includes a connection to the natural landscape. We may express it in different ways, but we all enjoy living close to nature. The exact language and nuances reflect our diverse backgrounds and overlapping interests. We cherish solitude, clean air and clean water and marvel at the critters that also share this landscape. Preserving the Scotchman Peaks as they are right now — for ourselves, for our families and for our future — is highly valued by many in our community.

Support for this idea comes from diverse groups; including sportsmen, environmentalists, business and civic organizations, and many

individuals who call our area home. We have also been working with less traditional wilderness allies and gaining their support too, including representatives from the timber and mining industries.

We believe there is a need to de-polarize land management issues – our communities benefit when we can come together with common sense proposals for preservation as well as common sense proposal for natural resource management. There's room for all sorts of multiple use on the 4 million-plus acres of Idaho Panhandle and Kootenai National Forests. We can have habitat protection as well as timber production, grazing, mining, responsible off-highway vehicle and snowmobile use, mountain biking and quiet recreation; and we can have Wilderness.

In January, the Kootenai and Idaho Panhandle National Forests put into place final plans for a balanced approach to manage our public lands. After ten years of public input, over a hundred public meetings and many comments periods, these plans include the compromise that comes with public consensus. They provide for active management of the forest for timber production as well as habitat preservation and restoration. They provide a broad context for recreation. And they contain good, solid recommendations for wilderness protection for the Scotchmans, supported by many in our communities.

There is a growing consensus, reflected in the forest plans, that the Scotchman Peaks are ready for, and deserve, congressional action. We believe that *the time is now* for the congressional delegation to fulfill the wilderness vision of the forest plans by moving forward with legislation to designate the Scotchman Peaks as Wilderness.

If you agree, then get involved and lend your voice to the rising chorus of community who support Wilderness designation for the Scotchman Peaks!

–Phil Hough

Sandpoint Chamber: "Designation, please."



FSPW Executive Director Phil Hough recieved a letter of support from Sandpoint Chamber of Commerce in early February (the first page of which is displayed here), indicating that they, too, think the time is now. The letter, copied to Idaho's congressional delegation and Governor Otter, reads in part:

"By copy of this letter, we are asking our congressional delegation to act upon the vision of the recently released forest plan and introduce legislation to designate the Scotchman Peaks as Wilderness.

"The Greater Sandpoint Chamber of Commerce supports the Scotchman Peaks as a wilderness area to ensure our public lands continue to offer the quality of life our community desires while protecting its unique qualities for future generations."

Visit www.scotchmanpeaks.org/you-can-help/contactelecteds/ and make your voice heard.



Wild Creatures of the Scotchmans

Shiras Moose *Alces alces shirasi*

By Mindy Ferrell

Whoa! A moose on the loose! What's with this comical creature? Its body seems way too big for those 4 skinny legs. And is it simply trying too hard with that 6' wide headset bulls flaunt? And what's with that dangling flap of skin from the throat of this creature's horsey face? Those nostrils are pretty large, don't you think?

This mish-mash of unlikely parts actually work quite well for the largest member of the deer family *Cervidae*. There are 4 clear distinctions within the moose family which inhabit most northern ranges circling the world. In the Scotchmans and throughout the Northwest region, we have the Shiras moose (named after a late naturalist and trustee of the National Geographic Society). Wyoming is its southern border, and home of the record Shiras bull, towering 7 feet at the shoulder and 10 feet in length. Moose of the Scotchmans are considerably smaller, with bulls weighing in at about 700 pounds, not the 1300 pounds of that Wyoming record holder. Female moose are about three-quarters the size of bulls.

About those legs. They are well-adapted for wading in aquatic areas or deep snow. Their split hoofs have especially large dewclaws which spread out like snowshoes enabling those legs to support its massive body. And, those skinny legs can be pulled up much more easily from deep muck. In addition, those nimble legs can run up to 35 mph, and trot steadily at 20 mph.

If needed, moose can turn and use their legs to deliver some nasty defensive slaps and kicks against predators such as wolves, lions, or bears. A kick is capable of killing a wolf. Predation generally removes the infirm but may also deplete healthy calves, despite the spirited defense of their mothers. In winter, moose generally choose hard, level ground with little



Hagerty Ryan, USFWS via Wikipedia Commons.

snow for maneuverability, such as ridges blown free of snow or frozen lakes with a thin cover of snow. When hindered by deep snow, they back into dense conifers to protect their vulnerable abdominal region and lower haunches from attacks. Moose can also be boldly aggressive against perceived human threats, especially if you have come too close to their calves.

Bulls have antlers that can be 60 inches wide or larger and weigh up to 50 pounds. The size of those antlers attract cows, are used in fighting other bulls to defend the breeding rights of his selected mate, and are also used like massive satellite dishes to funnel sound down into his ears. This is especially critical during the rut when moose, which are solitary most of the year, call out for mates. Cows make deep moans. Bulls grunt back. It's moose-ic to their ears.

That hairy flap of skin under their chin is called a bell. It is found on both bulls and cows, larger on males. Scientists think it has something to do with sexual attraction by the bulls, splashing their urine-soaked-muck onto this dewflap, but why do cows have one? You could say that that currently remains a moose-tery.

Continued page 6

FSPW Annual Scholarship Competition accepting entries

Montana and Idaho Seniors eligible

Each year, The Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness offers graduating seniors a chance to tell their own story about a memorable moment in wilderness. Any senior from Thompson Falls, Noxon, Plains, Libby and Troy, Montana; and Clark Fork and Sandpoint, Idaho, is eligible to apply for the scholarship. Applicant are asked to write a 500- to 750-word essay with the theme "A Most Memorable Wilderness Experience" and submit it by the April 13, 2015 deadline to sandy@scotchmanpeaks.org along with the application form and a picture of themselves, preferably one taken in a wild place.

The essay can be about a personal experience or the experience of a friend or family member. Essays are judged on quality of writing, storytelling, and "heart." "Heart" has to do with the passion for wilderness and outdoor experiences that the writer

exhibits," says Sandy Compton, who judges the competition. "This theme has garnered some great stories about some terrific adventures young people and their families have experienced in wilderness settings."

The competition has no minimum GPA level, nor is there any requirement for continuing education. Students from each high school are judged against each other to determine the best from each school, and then the winners are compared to find the best overall for the year. The best from each school is awarded \$300 to be spent as the winner wishes, and an additional \$300 is awarded to the best overall essay.

To acquire an application, check with the counselors in you local high school, or download the application (which contains rules and requirements, as well) at www.scotchmanpeaks.org/pdfs/FSPW2015ScholarshipAppForm.pdf



Sater's Seasons: A year long look at the Scotchmans

Editor's note: FSPW Volunteer Shane Sater has put together an extraordinary "moment-by-moment" naturalist's view of a year in the Scotchmans. We invite you to begin this year-long walk through the seasons in the Cabinets in this issue of Peak Experience and follow Shane's lead through Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter over the next year. This content will also be posted on our website as each installment appears in the newsletter, ultimately providing a year-long overview of the Scotchman Seasons.

By Shane Sater

As we move towards early spring, daytime temperatures rise into the 40s, increasingly melting what snow there is at lower elevations. A late-season storm may come through, temporarily reminding us of winter, but the snow will not last long in the valleys. The mountain slopes and peaks may sparkle with a fresh white blanket, but the lowlands are a patchwork of brown, gray, and dark conifer-green. Following the moderating weather and increasing day length north, early migrant birds begin to appear. Some of these species, particularly the American Robin, are actually seen here irregularly through the winter, in small or large flocks. When the flood of migrants begins to appear, though, it's a sign that spring is on its way.



Pacific Treefrog

Carol Wilburn

By late February in most years, American Robins are here in large numbers, calling noisily from the treetops. Black-capped Chickadees and some Dark-eyed Juncos have been here all winter, but now male birds are singing frequently to stake out territory and to advertise to mates. Listen, especially at dawn, for the song of the male Black-capped Chickadees, a sweet whistled "fee-bee."

The days continue to get longer as we pass the vernal equinox, March 20, that time when the day lasts as long as the night. By now, more migrant birds have shown up or will soon — including Western Bluebirds, Mountain Bluebirds, and Western Meadowlarks — announcing spring to the

human residents. As ice melts from low elevation ponds, Columbia Spotted Frogs and Pacific Treefrogs concentrate at wetlands to breed. The males use advertisement calls to attract other frogs of both sexes, and to communicate with rival males. The Pacific Treefrog's loud "ribbet" is heard primarily at night, while the Columbia Spotted Frog makes a quiet, low-pitched,



Mountain Bluebird

USFWS, Dave Menke

rapid clucking sound during the day. After breeding, the Pacific Treefrogs often range up to a quarter mile from their breeding ponds, feeding on small invertebrates; Columbia Spotted Frogs tend to stay close to wetlands.

In the surrounding forest, Varied Thrushes are making their presence known, the males singing a haunting, one-note song which sounds to some like a coach's whistle. Their songs are conspicuous in the lowlands in early spring. At these lower elevations, the warming weather has probably brought the Striped Skunks out of their winter dens, and you may see one, or the tracks it leaves, as it searches for insects, frogs, and carrion.

As we climb into the mountains, south and west slopes, oriented to catch the heat of the sun, are losing their snow quickly. More shaded north and east slopes will hold onto it longer - well into the summer in high altitude glacial cirque basins. Melting snow makes the forest floor visible, and the sun warms it. Plants begin to swell their buds or send up new growth from underground root systems. The earth is becoming bare at higher elevations, particularly on sunny slopes with southerly and

Continued page 7

Trail Talk: Projects lined up on all FS Districts for this summer

In a continuing stewardship tradition, FSPW volunteers will work on trails in the Cabinet, Three Rivers and Sandpoint Ranger Districts this summer. We will join the Three Rivers trail crew on Spar Peak Trail #324. On the Cabinet District, volunteers will work on clarifying the Dry Creek / Star Gulch intersection as well as tread work in the upper portion of Star Gulch. Our multi-day project this year is on the Sandpoint District. Volunteer trail crews will begin work on a reroute of the lower mile of Scotchman Peak Trail #65.

FSPW program coordinator Sandy Compton is excited about that. "The new trail portion will make Trail #65 much more sustainable and usable," he says. "It begins at the current parking lot and takes a near-completely different route to the second switchback of the current trail. Better views, more

user-friendly grades, less erosion, and more easily maintained. It's going to be a great new section."

The season begins with our annual FSPW trail skills and hike leader training day is scheduled for National Trails Day on June 6. Our traditional ending day is on Morris Creek Trail #132 on National Public Lands Day, September 26.

"A new development for this season is regularly scheduled work days," said Compton. "We are working on a predictable work-day schedule, and leaning toward either Thursday or every other Thursday, June through September. That way our volunteers know well in advance what days we are working on, and can check on where we will be on any given work day."

Watch the FSPW website and Facebook page for more information to come.



On the Right Track

By **Kristen Nowicki**

The Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness have been on track this winter with our youth-orientated Winter Tracks Program!

In January, FSPW escorted students from Sandpoint High School's Forestry and Ecology classes for a day in the woods at the Gold Creek WMA. The large class divided into two groups and took turns engaging in two fun activities: 1) tracking with Dave and Suzie Kretzschmar, and 2) establishing a camera study site with Brian Baxter. The astute students made great observations throughout the day, and got hands-on setting up the research site, not to mention other fun games like "Track the Dave" and "Move Like a Mammal" to reinforce concepts relating to wildlife tracking. The students were guided back later in February to collect the camera and observe the images, which included mule deer and elk. Thanks so much to volunteers Dave and Suzie Kretzschmar, Brian Baxter, Mary Franzel and Shane Sater, along with Mr. John Hastings and all the awesome students at Sandpoint High for a really great experience in Outdoor Education.

Later on in January, FSPW Volunteers were back on the tracking trail, this time with the savvy group of 4th and 5th Graders from Pioneer School at Round Lake State Park. The students arrived early in the morning and gathered around a warming fire in the large stone chimney near the docks by the lake, where the kids learned about all the senses they could utilize when making observations in nature. After a visit to the Interpretive Room at Round Lake's Visitor Center and grilling

our lunches at the fireplace, the group headed down the Swamp Tromp Trail observing and interpreting animal signs we noticed through the wetland there. They got hands-on setting up a

wildlife camera study site there and are excited to come back early in March to see what images their camera detects. Thanks so much to Round Lake State Park and Park Ranger Chuck Gross, FSPW Volunteers Becky Reynolds, Shane Sater, and Brian Baxter, and Pioneer School's Mr. Chris Bachmann and the 4th and 5th Grade Students for a fantastic day in Outdoor Education!

Currently FSPW Volunteers are abuzz about our next big Winter Tracks Event coming in early March, where we are creating a multi-tiered Outdoor Education Field Day for the 8th grade class at Forrest M. Bird Middle School. 60 Students will head out to the 'outdoor classrooms' we are setting up at Round Lake State Park to learn about several natural resource topics, including North Idaho Mammals, Wildlife Tracking, Winter Conifers & Adaptations, and Habitat and Niche Relationships. Thanks so much to all of our volunteers and partners who have stepped up to assist this event, including the folks at Round Lake State Park,

Idaho Master Naturalists, the Kinniknick Native Plant Society, and Inland Forest Management, and of course the Forrest M. Bird Middle School!

For more information about these events, please contact Kristen at trails@scotchmanpeaks.org



A letter of gratitude from Chris Bachman's students to instructor Brian Baxter

Tenth Anniversary celebrations continue in Montana

Historian Jack Nisbet helps FSPW celebrate

After a very successful tenth anniversary party on January 9th in Sandpoint, FSPW continues celebrating a decade of working for Wilderness in Idaho and Montana with celebrations in Lincoln and Sanders County. On the last weekend of March, we sponsor presentations in Thompson Falls and Libby featuring historian and writer Jack Nisbet speaking on David Thompson.

Nisbet has written stellar biographies of two Northwest explorers, surveyor and mapmaker Thompson (*Sources of the River*) and botanist David Douglas (*The Collector*). He will do his first presentation on Friday, March 27, at the Venure Inn in Libby beginning at 7:00 pm. Admission is by a voluntary contribution to the Libby food bank. The next evening, March 28th, Nisbet

will be at the Rex Theater in Thompson Falls. Doors open at 7, and Nisbet's presentation begins at 7:15. Admission is by a voluntary donation to benefit the Rex.

Friends are invited to meet Nisbet at receptions before both presentations. Watch for an invitation in your e-mail inbox and/or RSVP sandy@scotchmanpeaks.org

The celebration continues on May 28 with our annual State of the Scotchmans meeting in Sandpoint. The State of the Scotchmans will feature nationally known wilderness historian and advocate Doug Scott.

On June 14, the Sanders County Picnic will be held at Bull River Campground.

Join us for one of these great events and help us celebrate 10 years of working for wilderness.



The Future Looks Bright

March 5: Eighth graders from Forrest M. Bird Charter School in Sandpoint travel to Round Lake State Park for a day of tracking fun as part of the FSPW Winter Tracks program.

March 11: Lincoln County Prosperity Forum on Tourism Marketing will be held in Libby. 6 pm. This meeting will be held at the Ponderosa Room in Libby City Hall.

March 27: A Tenth Anniversary Celebration will be held at the Venture Inn in Libby, featuring Jack Nisbet speaking on David Thompson. Suggested donation is a food item for the food bank. Presentation begins at 7 pm.

March 28: A Tenth Anniversary Celebration will be held at the Rex Theater in Thompson Falls, featuring Jack Nisbet, speaking on David Thompson. Suggested donation is \$5 to benefit the Rex Theater. Presentation begins at 7:15 pm. Doors open at 7:00; Brian Baxter will teach Advanced Tracking for all ages, Heron Community Center, 10 am Mountain Time, 9 am Pacific. Contact b_baxter53@yahoo.com

April: The Community Prosperity Forums continue in Lincoln County, date and location to be announced.

April 1: Phil Hough will travel to Gonzaga University in Spokane and speak to Jon Isacoff's class on political process.

April 5: Birds of Prey with Brian Baxter. 10 am Mountain, 9 am Pacific, Heron Community Center with field trip destination to be announced.

April 9: Brew night at MickDuff's Brewery, 220 Cedar, in Sandpoint. Come have a beer created just for FSPW. \$12 at the door gets a unique FSPW mug, a raffle ticket AND a FSPW Goat Hop Ale!

April 11: FSPW and Montana Wilderness Association will have a table at the Cabinet Health Center Health Fair.

April 13: Deadline for Annual High School Scholarship Competition submissions.

April 15: Summer Hike proposals due to be included in May/June newsletter.

May 1: Idaho Gives Day.

On The Horizon

May 4, 6 and 8: Session One of FSPW Wilderness First Aid with Carol Jenkins instructing. Enquire at info@scotchmanpeaks.org

May 15,16 and 17: Session Two of FSPW Wilderness First Aid with Carol Jenkins

May 23: Phil Hough will make a presentation to Kinnickinnick Native Plant Society on the FSPW proposal and possible legislation.

May 28: State of the Scotchmans annual meeting will feature nationally known wilderness historian and advocate Doug Scott.

June 6: National Trails Day and FSPW Trails Skills and Hike Leader Training Day.

June 14: Tenth Anniversary Celebration continues at the Sanders County Picnic at Bull River Campground.

Creatures, from page 3

Most hikers think of the moose as an aquatic animal. Moose are at home in the water and good swimmers, despite their staggering bulk. They can paddle several miles at a time, and submerge completely, staying under for 90 seconds or more. Those large nostrils can be closed completely while underwater. Because they can't sweat, and they produce additional heat by fermentation in their gut, they can 'chill-out' in water. They also escape pesty, biting insects that may be about.

Because of their preferred diet of nutrient-rich vegetation, they can often be found in wet areas, especially in summer. But a good amount of their time is spent in the woods. Dietary minerals required are found in silt and loess soils found in mountainous, coniferous forests of northern temperate zones.

The name "moose" comes from Algonquin-based language *moo-swa* which means "he strips off". Moose lack upper front teeth but have eight sharp incisors on the lower jaw. They use a prehensile lip to grab woody material and pull, stripping the entire branch of leaves in a single mouthful, or for pulling forbs, liked dandelions or aquatic plants up by the base, roots and all.

Next time you observe this ungainly creature in the wild (and I hope you do so, but not too closely), enjoy its oddities as fitting adaptations of one of the wonderful creatures of the Scotchmans.

Friend, from page 1

at him, too." FSPW is teaching people to stay away from goats encountered in the Peaks for their own safety and the safety of the goats.

The FSPW list of Friends has grown steadily, averaging a bit over 40 new Friends a month since January of 2005. "I don't think we extrapolated that 5,000 people would sign up to support the Scotchman Peaks as a designated Wilderness when we began in 2005," said FSPW executive director Phil Hough, "but it's gratifying and encouraging to know there are that many people who agree that the Scotchmans deserve to be set aside."

Karen and Ed, who is also a painter, as well as an avid fly fisherman, are long-time Sandpoint residents. They have two grown sons, Ben and Connor. Ben and his wife Katie work for Random House in New York City and Connor attends Boston University in the astrophysics PhD program.



Karen and one of her best friends, Sam



Sater, from page 4

westerly aspects; streams are running high with frigid snow-melt. This is breeding season of the threatened Canada Lynx, a long-legged feline with long black ear tufts and a black-tipped tail. These seldom-seen carnivores require forest cover. They feed primarily on Snowshoe Hares, as well as Red Squirrels and other small mammals, birds such as Ruffed Grouse, and



Varied Thrush

Photo credit: USFWS, Dave Menke

The buds of the Western Larch are bright green and swelling at the feet of the mountains, and on dry slopes the Mallow Ninebark, a common shrub with shreddy bark, is starting to leaf out. Turkey Vultures, another migrant bird, have returned.

As the season progresses, the songs of Varied Thrushes become unusual in the lowlands; as they move up into dense mountain conifer forests to breed. Scouler's Willows are flowering, and you may hear a male Ruffed Grouse drumming, sounding like an old motor trying to start: "bup bup bup brrrrrr!" The relatively common Black Bear and the rarely seen, threatened Grizzly may be starting out of their winter dens. Although classified as carnivores, these two species eat mostly vegetable matter. At this time of year, the great majority of their diet is grasses and sedges.

By the middle of April, as Yellow-rumped Warblers begin to return, you may notice other heralds of spring, such as mosquitoes. Different types of mosquitoes overwinter in various ways: some species survive the cold as eggs, some as adult females in sheltered places, and a few species as larvae.

carrion. Nine weeks from now, the breeding females will be ready to give birth. They prefer areas of old forest with lots of downed wood for den sites.

By early April, if not before, Tree and Violet-green Swallows have begun to return to the valleys, and you may see a Spotted Towhee, with its striking bold black head and back and reddish flanks, scratching for seeds or insects under dense bushes.

Ticks are out, as well, "questing" for a blood meal, clinging to vegetation and waiting patiently for an animal to brush past. Canada Buffaloberry is showing small, inconspicuous yellow flowers, which come out before its leaves. Look for early-flowering forbs, plants which overwinter with their energy underground, starting to bloom.

On sites that will be quite dry in a few months, you may be surprised by the strikingly beautiful, sky-blue flowers of Long-flowered Bluebells. In many spots, the earth is still moist from the melting snow, and in such places you might find the brilliant blooms of Shooting Star, with their distinctively bent-back pink-purple corollas. Damp woods may show flashes of bright yellow from the low-growing Round-leaved Violet, whose thin leaves may stay green under the snow all winter long. Look for the pale, bell-shaped flowers of Utah Honeysuckle, a shrub, hiding under its opposite leaves. In wet, shaded sites, Trillium has poked up from its hidden rhizomes, and now shows a large, 3-petaled, white flower above a whorl of three green blades.

If you hear a bird song that sounds like a high-pitched cascade of liquid notes, it's probably a male Pacific Wren proclaiming his territory. Heart-leaved Arnica has emerged from its underground rhizomes, and Lupine leaves have come up from woody root crowns. Fairybells, leafy plants in the Lily family, are showing nodding, whitish bell-shaped flowers at the tips of their stems. Native Westslope Cutthroat Trout may be spawning, laying eggs in gravel areas of cold streams. They spawn when water temperatures warm to around 50°F. Some travel from lakes and large rivers to reproduce, while others live year-round in smaller streams.

Admittedly, this winter has not been typical, and many things are "ahead" of themselves, but Shane's narrative is an accurate account of a historically typical year. We will continue Sater's Seasons in the next issue of Peak Experience, due out May 1.



Westslope Cutthroat Trout
Photo courtesy USGS: J.Armstrong

Scientific names and references for Sater's Seasons

Scientific Names

American Robin - *Turdus migratorius*
Black-capped Chickadee - *Parus atricapillus*
Dark-eyed Junco - *Junco hyemalis*
Western Bluebird - *Sialia mexicana*
Mountain Bluebird - *Sialia currucoides*
Western Meadowlark - *Sturnella neglecta*
Columbia Spotted Frog - *Rana luteiventris*
Pacific Treefrog - *Pseudacris regilla*
Varied Thrush - *Ixoreus naevius*
Striped Skunk - *Mephitis mephitis*
Canada Lynx - *Lynx canadensis*
Snowshoe Hare - *Lepus americanus*
Red Squirrel - *Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*
Ruffed Grouse - *Bonasa umbellus*
Tree Swallow - *Tachycineta bicolor*

Violet-green Swallow - *Tachycineta thalassina*
Spotted Towhee - *Pipilo maculatus*
Western Larch - *Larix occidentalis*
Mallow Ninebark - *Physocarpus malvaceus*
Turkey Vulture - *Cathartes aura*
Scouler's Willow - *Salix scouleriana*
Black Bear - *Ursus americanus*
Grizzly Bear - *Ursus arctos horribilis*
Yellow-rumped Warbler - *Setophaga coronata*
Mosquitoes - Family *Culicidae*
Ticks - Family *Ixodidae*
Canada Buffaloberry - *Shepherdia canadensis*
Long-flowered Bluebell - *Mertensia longiflora*
Shooting Star - *Primula* spp.
Round-leaved Violet - *Viola orbiculata*
Utah Honeysuckle - *Lonicera utahensis*

Trillium - *Trillium ovatum*
Pacific Wren - *Troglodytes pacificus*
Heart-leaved Arnica - *Arnica cordifolia*
Lupine - *Lupinus* spp.
Fairybells - *Prosartes hookeri*, *Prosartes trachycarpa*
Westslope Cutthroat Trout -
Oncorhynchus clarkii lewisi

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Continued Page 9



Tenth Anniversary: Sandpoint Gala a great success!

Thank you very much to our many fabulous donors for the 10th Anniversary Gala. Without your help, the Gala wouldn't have been the huge success it was! Here's a list of all donors and what they gave to help us raise over \$7,000!

The Silent Auction

Aaron Johnson - "The Rock," water color from Extreme Plein Air
 Anonymous - One-of-a-Kind Silver Medallion
 Anonymous - Hand Knitted Comforter and Scarf
 Anonymous - Eichardt's Mug # 999
 Blue Creek Press - The Compton Collection of Books
 Bob Boeh - Montana Logging and Ballet Company Poster
 Bonnie Jakubos - Lithograph Wildlife Prints
 Brian Baxter - Tracking Class for 4
 Carol Jenkins and Mickinnick Native Plant Society - Landscaping With Natural Plants and Plantable Live Trees
 Cenex Coop Gas and Supply - \$50 Gift Cart
 Deb Hunsicker - Handcrafted Antler Basket
 Doug Ferrell - Photos of Rock Lake and Six-point Bull Elk
 Evans Brothers' Coffee - Beans, Mug and T-Shirt
 Festival at Sandpoint - Certificate for a 2015 Season Pass
 John Harbuck - Wooden Wall Plates and Christmas Ornaments
 Ken Thacker - \$200 in Weed Treatment and Consultaion
 Lake Pend Oreille Cruises - Shawnodese Lake Cruise for 2
 Larson's Good Clothes - Pendleton Blanket
 Leslie Stoltz - "Spirit Eagle" Original Oil by Walkin' Jim Stoltz
 Longleaf Medical - \$150 Course Credit for First Aid Training
 Maggie Schenk - Backyard Bird Feeder, Hand Knitted Hat, Knitting Needles
 Mike Murray - Barrel Stave Candle Holder
 Mindy Ferrell - Handcrafted Mittens and Antler Candle Stand
 Pend Oreille Vision Care - Certificate for an Eye Exam
 Phil Hough - West Cabinets Huckleberries and a IPA Growler
 Sandii Mellen - "Star Peak Memories" a Lookout Fantasy Print
 Sandpoint West Athletic Club - One Month Membership with Hydromassage
 Selkirk Press - Chocolate, Champagne and Theater Tickets
 Sherry Robinson - Skeins of Yarn, Lapus Lazuli Earrings, Women's Tool Kit
 Steve Lockwood & Molly O'Reilly - A Sail On Lake Pend Oreille
 Susan Bates- Harbuck - Afternoon Tea in a Basket
 Susan Conway-Kean - "Aged To Perfection," an Oil Painting
 Tim and Darla Lindsey - Bull Lake Tour with Appetizers & Etc.
 Titina Van Hoorn - "A Little Magic" — Handcrafted Jewelry
 Ward Tolbom - Varied Thrush" a Limited Edition Tolbom Print
 Well Read Moose - Gift Certificate and Book

The Short and Lively Live Auction

John and Nancy Hastings - An Afternoon Sail on the Lake

Max and Jim Zuberbuhler - Dinner & Hike with our Youngest Volunteer

Sandy Compton - Dinner for Four at the Compton Pavilion
 Chris Compton and Blue Creek Air - A Flight over the Scotchman Peaks.

John Hastings and Maria Larson - A Scotchman Peaks/ Lake Pend Oreille Map

Sam Carston, Truck Mills & Drew Browne - A Dance Night with Sam and The Boys

We couldn't have done this without all the people who bought tickets, bid on our auction items, and the volunteers who gave generously of their time, including Maggie Schenk, Carol Jenkins, Deb Hunsicker, Holly Clements, Phil Degens, John Hastings Cate Huisman, Shane Sater, Alex Feyen, Jim Zuberbuhler, Kelsey Kittleson, Celeste Grace, Irv and Michelle McGeachy, Kristin Nowicki and Mindy Ferrel. Thanks to all of you!

Along the Trail

January 9, 2015: A gala celebration of the 10th anniversary of Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness was held at Tango Café in Sandpoint. A sell-out crowd enjoyed a wonderful evening of fun, food and fine entertainment.

January 14: Tenth Anniversary of Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness

January 15: Winter Tracks Class with Sandpoint High School at Gold Creek.

January 21: Winter Tracks Class with Pioneer and Spokane City Schools at Round Lake State Park

January 25 – 27: Volunteers worked at a table at Banff Film Fest in Coeur d' Alene, garnering 55 new Friends.

February 10: Forty-plus Friends attended the Pend Oreille Winery FSPW Sip and Shop Valentines Day Celebration.

February 11: Annual FSPW Scholarship Competition opened (see article page 3)

February 13: Backcountry Winter Film Festival with Idaho Conservation League, attracted 120 to the Coeur d' Alene Eagles Club.

February 18: Lincoln County Prosperity Forum on the recreation economy with feature speaker Lee Boman was held in Libby, with 72 in attendance. Ashley South started as a shared employee with Montana Wilderness Association in our Libby office.

February 28: Winter Tracks Class open to area youth and their parents was held at Sandpoint Community Hall and at Trout Creek in the Pack River Delta; Jack Nisbet gave a talk to Kinickinnick Native Plant Society and Idaho Master Naturalists, cosponsored by FSPW at the Community Hall in Sandpoint.



Peak Views: The Hike Schedule *Strenuosity rating: E = Easy; M = Moderate; S = Strenuous, S+ = S+upid :-)*

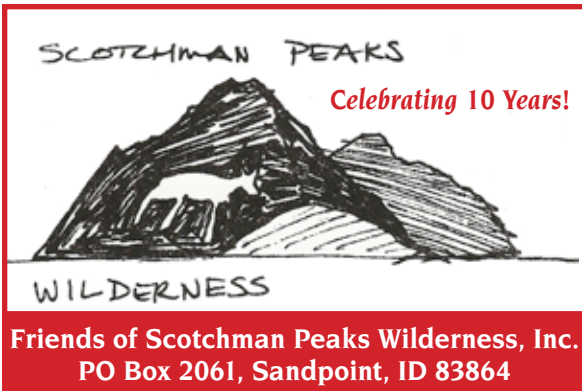
Hike date	Exertion Rating	Destination/ Hike Name	Leader	Description and contact info
3/7/15	M	Ross Creek Cedars	Randi Lui	Contact: Randi Lui randi1982@msn.com Walk or ski into the Ross Creek Cedars, home of the largest Western Redcedars in Montana. Travel up a closed road via boots, snow shoes or XC skis into a quiet wonderland and through a grove of trees more than 500 years old.
3/08/2015	M/S	Blacktail Creek Ascent	Chuck Gross	Contact: Chuck Gross ckgross44@gmail.com Join us for a snowshoe or bootpack up Blacktail Creek Trail #997 to discover wonders spring can bring in the Clark Fork River valley. Elevation gain/loss 1600' and 4 miles round-trip at a minimum. Depending on group desires, we may climb another mile off-trail to Pilik Ridge Trail #1036. Potential huge valley views on a clear day. Bring snacks, lunch, a warm drink, and/or plenty of water. Be prepared to carry snowshoes and poles as it's possible the trail will be clear high up on this south facing slope.***PLEASE NOTE: This is the first day of daylight savings time. Make sure to adjust your clocks forward the prior evening and plan accordingly.
3/21/15	S	Star Peak Equinox Hike	Sandy Compton	Contact: Sandy Compton sandy@scotchmanpeaks.org This hike/snowshoe to the oldest fire lookout in Montana offers great challenge and wonderful views. Expect almost 4,000 ft of elevation gain and bring your camera to capture one of the most picturesque privies in Western Montana.
3/28/15	M	Advanced Animal Tracking and Sign Interpretation	Brian Baxter	Contact: Brian Baxter b_baxter53@yahoo.com Start with a three-hour classroom session including a slideshow from Brian's wildlife research career and cover the ins and outs of tracking. Then head to the field to observe, measure and identify prints. Three mile trek, plus or minus; bring snowshoes if conditions warrant. Dress appropriately, bring lunch, snacks, water, and smiles and good attitude for fun day! Some off trail hiking. Meet at 9 am Pacific time; 10 am Mountain time at Heron Community Center in Heron, MT. Email Sandy at: sandy@scotchmanpeaks.org for directions. We'll carpool to a trailhead within 10 miles of Heron for the field portion of the day.
3/28/15	S+	Goat Mountain Hop	Jim Mellen	Contact: Jim Mellen jimmsandii@gmail.com Te 9th Annual Goat Mountain Hop. Gaining 4,000 feet vertical, this is one of the steepest trails in the region. Although you don't have to be crazy to sign up, it does help. Round trip: 7 miles, Elevation gain +/- 4000ft. To sign up for this hike, fill out the online Hike Signup Form. For further information about this hike, please contact the hike leader listed above.
4/4/15	M	Birds of Prey	Brian Baxter	Contact: Brian Baxter b_baxter53@yahoo.com Start with a classroom session at Heron Community Center, then head to the field to look for raptors, owls and hawks. Dress appropriately, bring lunch, snacks, water, and smiles and good attitude for fun day! Some off trail hiking. Meet at 9 am Pacific time; 10 am Mountain time at Heron Community Center in Heron, MT. Email Sandy at: sandy@scotchmanpeaks.org for directions. We'll carpool for the field portion of the day.
4/11/15	S+	Goat Mountain Hop Redux	Joa Harrison	Contact: Joa Harrison harrisonaero@gmail.com If you aren't able to make Jim Mellen's excellent Goat Mountain Hop in March, here's another chance. This area is so beautiful year that it's worth a repeat trip. We'll gain 4,000' vertical on a 7-mile roundtrip trail that is as steep as it is rewarding. Travel will be a combination of snowshoeing and hiking. We'll also do an optional short winter skills seminar in roped travel and self-arrest, so bring your ice axe if you would like to participate. To sign up for this hike, fill out the online Hike Signup Form.
4/18/15	S+	Scotchman Peak Snow Bound	Jim and Sandii Mellen	Contact: Jim and Sandii Mellen jimmsandii@gmail.com Snowshoe, ski, or snowboard the tallest peak in the Scotchman's. This is the 10th annual Scotchman Peaks winter hike. Generally, the trailhead is inaccessible this time of year, adding 2.5 miles each way and 500ft elevation gain for an incredible day. This is for the extremely fit adventurers only! Round trip: 12 miles, Elevation gain: 4200 ft. To sign up for this hike, please fill out our online Hike Signup Form. For further information about this hike, please contact the hike leader listed above.

To learn more about or sign up for any of our hikes, summer or winter, visit www.scotchmanpeaks.org/hiking

References, from page 7

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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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