



# PEAK EXPERIENCE

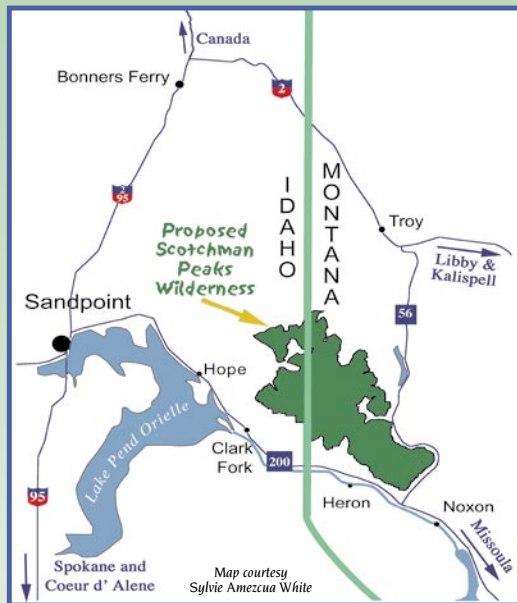
The Newsletter for Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness, Inc.

Volume 5, Number 3 • May / June, 2009



## Mission Statement

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



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

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

Editor: Ann Wimberley  
Designer: Pama Bangeman

## 2008 Scotchman Photo Contest Winners!

The 1st Annual FSPW Photo Contest was a great success! We had upwards of a hundred photos entered and narrowing it down to just three finalists in each category was difficult, and almost impossible to come up with 1st, 2nd and 3rd places. Congratulations to our winners: Sandii Mellen, Scotchmans Scenery; Conor Branski, Scotchmans Spirit; Ben Steele, Wild Scotchmans; and Marcia Jimenez, Wilderness Water. There were many other fantastic photos taken and we thank everyone who entered!

**"Scotchman Basin"**  
Winner of 2008  
Photo Contest for  
Scotchmans Scenery  
Photo by Sandii Mellen



## Scotchman Natives

### Honeysuckle (*Lonicera ciliosa*)

By Valle Novak

The climbing or trumpet honeysuckle, *Lonicera ciliosa*, is found in the Scotchman Peaks Wilderness – at high and low altitudes, and in forests throughout north Idaho, Eastern Washington and western Montana.

It was actually in the Scotchman area mountains, many years ago, that I found an unusual effect of the climbing honeysuckle while on a hike with a Forest Service Ranger, a longtime friend from college days. We came upon a small dead fir tree, still upright and about seven feet tall. It was completely wrapped in a long dead spiral of honeysuckle, which had grown up and around the tree so tightly that it strangled it. We pulled away the dead vine with some effort and were astounded to see how deeply it had cut into the tree, leaving an almost carved effect. In fact, my companion used a small folding saw to cut the tree down and into a staff of sorts to display at the Montana Ranger Station near Hamilton, where he lived.

One does not often think of the damage a beautiful and generally beloved wild plant can do, and actually, it should not deter us from growing this valuable ornamental vine on a



### Honeysuckle

Photo courtesy Marlyn George

fence or garden trellis. Arthur Kruckeberg, in his excellent book "Gardening with Native Plants of the Pacific Northwest" recommends it as a "fine species which should be more widely cultivated." It can run free on the ground, growing to 20 feet, with large opposite leaves; orange-to-yellow and sometimes nearly red trumpet flowers nestled in "cups" of two large leaves, turning in fall to red berries.

It is mentioned in the Lewis and Clark Journals as "vining" honeysuckle. As a Native, and obviously hardy plant, it is worth having in the landscape,

*Continues on page 7*



## Peak Views

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

E=Easy, M=Moderate, S=Strenuous				
Hike Date	Hike Rating	Hike Destination	Hike Leader	Description/Contact Info
Saturday June 6th	M	Delyle Ridge sunset/moonrise	Jacob Styer	From the lookout tower on Delyle ridge watch the sun set over the Clark Fork Delta and the moon rise over the Scotchmans; 4 miles roundtrip, bring flashlights and snacks. Contact trip leader for details. <a href="mailto:Jacob@scotchmanpeaks.org">Jacob@scotchmanpeaks.org</a> or 208-265-3408
Sunday June 7th	S	Scotchman Peak	Jim Mellen	This hike to Scotchman's Peak will be like hiking on chocolate cake with icing on top. Bring snow shoes and be ready for anything! Contact Jim Mellen for more details. <a href="mailto:jmellen@imbris.com">jmellen@imbris.com</a>
Saturday July 11th	S	Star Peak	Jacob Styer	This is a tough hike with over 4,000 feet of elevation gain in 5 miles but worth every bit of it when you get to the old fire lookout on top. Please read more information at <a href="http://www.scotchmanpeaks.org/Hikes/StarPeak_viaBigEddy.html">http://www.scotchmanpeaks.org/Hikes/StarPeak_viaBigEddy.html</a> . <a href="mailto:Jacob@scotchmanpeaks.org">Jacob@scotchmanpeaks.org</a> or 208-265-3408
Saturday July 18th	M/S	Spar Peak	Bill Martin	This hike travels through old growth and lush forest on your way up to a 360 degree view on top of Spar Peak! You can look into the heart of the Scotchmans and across the Bull River Valley into the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness. Contact Bill Martin for more details 406-295-5258
Friday July 24th	S	Spar Peak	John Harbuck	A strenuous hike with over 3000' of climb, but beautiful beargrass meadows and fine views from the summit. Contact John Harbuck for more details <a href="mailto:harbuck@norlight.org">harbuck@norlight.org</a> or 208-263-9894
Saturday July 25th	S	Goat Peak	Jacob Styer	Join us for this strenuous hike up one of Idaho's steepest trails (gaining 4,000 in less than 3 miles). Get treated with wonderful views of Lake Pend Oreille and Scotchman Peak from the top. Please read more information at <a href="http://www.scotchmanpeaks.org/Hikes/GoatMountain_135.html">http://www.scotchmanpeaks.org/Hikes/GoatMountain_135.html</a> . <a href="mailto:Jacob@scotchmanpeaks.org">Jacob@scotchmanpeaks.org</a> or 208-265-3408
Sunday August 2nd	E	Adopt-a-Highway	Jacob Styer	Join in with other "Friends" of Scotchman Peaks to help beautify our section of State Highway 200. There is potential for a post-cleanup hike in the area. Contact Jacob for more details <a href="mailto:jacob@scotchmanpeaks.org">jacob@scotchmanpeaks.org</a> or 208-265-3408
Sunday August 16th	S	Goat Peak	Jon Isacoff	This event is co-sponsored by the Spokane Mountaineers and Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness. Goat Mountain is the mountain you "look down on" from the summit of Scotchman Peak. It's only 6,380 feet. But don't let numbers fool you: the trail climbs almost exactly 4,000 feet in 3 miles. This trail is significantly steeper and rougher than the Scotchman Peak Trail. All levels of experience are welcome and no technical skills are necessary, but if you have bad knees, take a pass on this event. You MUST be in good shape and have strong knees. Bring at least 2-3 liters of water, there is none on the trail. <a href="mailto:isacoff@gonzaga.edu">isacoff@gonzaga.edu</a> or 509-448-2629
Monday August 20th - Thursday August 23rd	S	Heart of the Scotchmans	Jim Mellen	This 4-day trip, August 20-23 will take experienced backpackers into the most pristine part of the Scotchmans. The group size will be limited to 6 with much of the travel "off trail". Contact Jim Mellen for more details <a href="mailto:jmellen@imbris.net">jmellen@imbris.net</a>
Saturday August 29th	S	Scotchman Peak	Sarah Lundstrum	Climb the highest point in Bonner County - Scotchman Peak. Enjoy fall colors, stunning panoramas of Lake Pend O'Reille and the rugged countryside of the Proposed Scotchman Peaks Wilderness area. Mountain goats frequent these peaks. The trail is a steep and steady climb with no on-trail water. Bring good shoes or boots, as well as your binoculars and cameras Contact Sarah Lundstrum for more details <a href="mailto:slundstrum@wildmontana.org">slundstrum@wildmontana.org</a> or 406-755-6304
Sunday August 30th	E/M	Ross Creek Falls	Neil & Ann Wimberly	Hike through the Ross Creek Cedar grove and past to the Ross Creek Falls. A lovely hike through old growth and a cool way to spend a summer day. Contact Ann or Neil for more details 208-264-5379 <a href="mailto:afwim@yahoo.com">afwim@yahoo.com</a> or <a href="mailto:neilwim@yahoo.com">neilwim@yahoo.com</a>
Sunday October 11th	S	Scotchman Peak	Phil Hough & Deb Hunsicker	Climb the highest point in Bonner County - Scotchman Peak. Enjoy fall colors, stunning panoramas of Lake Pend O'Reille and the rugged countryside of the Proposed Scotchman Peaks Wilderness area. Mountain goats frequent these peaks. The trail is a steep and steady climb with no on-trail water. Bring good shoes or boots, as well as your binoculars and cameras. Volunteers from the "Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness" will talk about our efforts to protect this special place. <a href="mailto:nowhereman_97@hotmail.com">nowhereman_97@hotmail.com</a> or 208-255-2780

## From the Top

Spring is finally here and wildflowers and summer birds are returning to the wilderness. As mud season ends, the still cool weather makes this a great time for hikes, causing many of us to leave the weeds appearing in our gardens. The number of FSPW scheduled events has also grown with the promise of warmer weather. The desire for Congressional Wilderness Designation for the Scotchmans continues to grow. Join us at one of our events or on the trail and work with us to make it a reality.

**Ann Wimberley**

## Scotchman Peaks Reaches 2,000 Friends

Brent Otter, of Sandpoint, became our two thousandth "Friend" pledging his support for the Friends of Scotchman Peaks efforts to protect the Scotchmans. Otter signed on as a friend of the group on March 3rd at the Sandpoint showing of "Radical Reels," a collection of high adrenaline films from the Banff Mountain Film Festival. We welcome Brent to the growing circle of friends dedicated to permanently protecting the best of these beloved wildlands. As Otter said, "I love spending time in the Scotchmans, it's our own slice of Idaho heaven."



## Birds Found on the Scotchman Peaks

### Bird Nests Continued By Earl Chapin

Killdeer do not build a nest, but lay four eggs in an area of small stones or gravel. They use no grass or vegetation, not even a little bit.

Nearly all birds build a nest in a tree, bush or old building. You have all seen a Robins nest which is a cup nest. All Sparrows, Warblers and Finch nest in cup nests. Eagles, Osprey, Hawks and most other large birds also use cup nests.

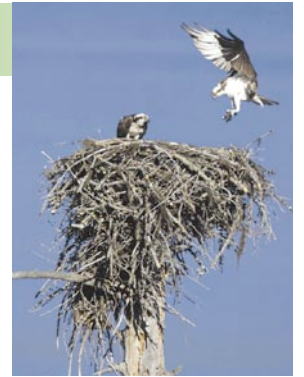
Three birds in our area build a hanging nest, Orioles, Ruby Crowned Kinglet and Golden Crowned Kinglet. A hanging nest looks just like a small bag made of grass, smaller at the top where it is attached to a branch and just hangs in the breeze.

Bluebirds build in the cavity of a tree or fence post and have at least 2 broods a year. Putting up nest boxes has brought back some of the Bluebirds. Maybe we should each put up a box or two each year.

Cowbirds, the small blackbirds you see feeding around cattle or horses and sometimes see on the animals' backs are called parasites. They do not build

a nest but lay a single egg in the nest of a warbler or songbird. They will lay an egg in as many as forty nests a year. The adults don't recognize the Cowbird chick as not being their own even though it may be three or four times larger than the Warbler chick. The larger Cowbird gets every insect the adults bring and soon pushes the Warblers out of the nest. The Warblers continue to feed the Cowbird until it fledges.

Cowbirds have nearly wiped out some of the songbirds in the Midwest and Eastern U.S. where warblers are common. The Kirkland Warbler was down to 600 birds until the Cowbirds were controlled. Last I knew the Kirkland Warbler had recovered to about eight thousand birds.



**Osprey Nest**  
Photo courtesy  
Don Jones,  
[www.donaldjones.com](http://www.donaldjones.com)

## Tales of Scotchman Peaks

### Scotchman Peaks Rhapsody

By Charlie Clough

The year was 1975, and we had just driven to the ridge-top at the head of Dry Creek in the Bull River country. Dad and I stepped out of the truck's warm cab into a crisp September morning, as the rising sun blushed upon the tops of Sawtooth and Middle Mountains. A new day had arrived in the Scotchman Peaks. As Dad swung his daypack onto his shoulders, I remember thinking that he still got around pretty well for an "older guy", but that was back in an earlier life, when he was 55 and I was 32.

A good friend had let us know that a sizeable herd of elk was roaming around the head end of the South Fork of Ross Creek. The rut was on, and we had come up to hear elk music... perhaps to join the bulls in a song or two. I carried a 12-gauge pump gun, and Dad cradled his 12-gauge double automatic, as we headed south along the ridge-top, looking for an open view into the South Fork drainage. We had agreed to spend the first hour or so of this golden morning glassing for elk and possibly bears. The scatter guns were along to assist with any blue grouse encounters, later in the day.

We found a small, open, rocky bluff, cushioned with bear grass and splashed with crimson huckleberry brush. From that vantage point, we had a great view of the South Fork, still cloaked in shadow, below. The first rays of sun hit us as we settled down on our perch, and I pulled out my reed and grunt tube. I almost choked on the reed when a particularly brassy Steller's jay landed right behind us and erupted with its cacophony, "Kwesh-kwesh-kwesh!" Regaining my composure, I stood up, filled my lungs with delicious mountain air and turned loose my best herd bull call... the baritone bellow that quickly rises to a testosterone-induced scream, broken off at the end by a series of squealing grunts. The cold, dense air carried the challenge across the basin, where it reverberated off the far side and echoed throughout the canyon.

About thirty seconds went by... Then, my solo became a duet. Up, out of the bottom, a mighty answer boiled... heat and passion, unfettered and unvarnished. I looked at Dad; his grin said it all. Then, halfway up Sawtooth, on the opposite side of the basin, a second bull joined the concert, braying like a jackass. His offering was countered immediately by a full-throated roar from the lord of the darkness, below us. I put the grunt tube down and set my reed aside. Dad had his 10X binoculars out and took about a minute to find the bull on the side of Sawtooth. I dug out my spotting scope, and we quickly determined the raghorn status of that noisy youngster. We watched as he raked a young subalpine fir with his antlers, then, threw his head back to squeal again.

Dad reached into his daypack and pulled out a thermos of coffee and an extra cup. As he poured, sunlit tendrils of steam swirled around his head and rose, as if to join the resounding rhapsody. He extended a cup of hot java my way and poured another for himself. He raised his cup and exclaimed, "This is the life!" "That it is!" I responded, and clicked my cup to his. Oblivious to us, the two contenders continued their ancient song which rang back and forth through the wild Scotchman Peaks high country. We must have sat there for half an hour listening and looking... feeling the wildness of that wondrous land. Then, we picked up our gear and continued along the ridge, toward the divide between the South Fork and East Blue Creek. We had been treated to a magnificent beginning of an unforgettable day of in the wilderness.

## 2009 Summer Photo Contest!

### Photo Categories:

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

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

### Prizes:

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

### How to enter:

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

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

### Rules:

Only photos of the Scotchman Peaks proposed wilderness will be considered. Submission deadline is September 30th, 2009. E-mail entries are preferred, CD's will not be returned. FSPW reserves the right to re-print photos while giving proper credit. Photos can be color or black & white.



## The Future Looks Bright

**May 2 – 3:** Come and listen to updates on our campaign or stop by the FSPW display table at the MWA Convention in Missoula.

**May 15 – 17:** Come and listen to updates on wilderness in Idaho and on our campaign or stop by the FSPW display area at Wild Idaho.

**Thursday, May 21, 6:30pm:** The next Lincoln County Dinner Meeting has been scheduled will be downstairs in the Venture Inn. We are hoping for a grand turnout of our Libby-Troy contingent. This will be a great opportunity to mingle with kindred spirits and to get an update on the status of our efforts. Please bring your appetite and your ideas!

**Tuesday May 26th , 5-7:30pm:** Annual "State of the Scotchmans" event at the Ponderay Events Center. Join us for an exciting evening with opening remarks by Congressman Walt Mennick, a Scotchman Peaks progress report, our volunteer of the year awards and a special presentation by Doug Scott, author of "The Enduring Wilderness" and his new book, "Wilderness, our common Ground". Refreshments will be available.

**Saturday June 6th, 9am to 1pm:** Stop by our display table in Pend d'Oreille Winery's Courtyard at the community Celebration of National Trails Day.

**Friday June 12th:** Visit our display table at the CHAFE Ride Registration in the Panhandle Bank Community room and encourage the riders as they register.

**Sunday, June 14:** Annual Bull River Picnic. For all Friends of Scotchman Peaks, 4pm Sunday June 14th at the large shelter at the back of the Bull River Campground off Hwy. 200. Burgers and drinks will be provided. Please bring a dish or dessert to share. This is a fun chance to socialize, hear an update on our campaign, ask questions, look at maps, and enjoy the beautiful setting and fun people.

**Saturday, August 1st:** The Scotchman Peaks Boogie will be held at Roosevelt Park in Troy. We are planning for a repeat of last year's festivities... only bigger and better!

**Sunday, August 9th:** The Lincoln County Picnic is scheduled at the River Front Park in Libby.

**Scotchmans Plein Air Paint Out 2009:** Last year after the successful 1st annual Plein Air event, several of our talented artists requested a more intimate wilderness encounter. Sandy Compton immediately agreed to lead them this July into the heart of the Scotchmans Wilderness for several days to explore and paint. The bounty of this adventure will be available for viewing and sale at Jim Quinn's Timber Stand Gallery on Friday August 7th in Sandpoint. This unique event will lead into the main Fall Plein Air Paint Out in mid September centered around and about Kally Thurman's Outskirt Gallery in Hope, Idaho.

## Trail of the Month

**Some happy hikers climb the steep trail to Goat Mountain on march 28th. Trail 135 can be found near Clark Fork Idaho. Turn North at the Chevron station in Clark Fork and go .6 miles to Lightning Creek Road, then drive 3 miles to the trailhead. This trail offers fabulous views of Lake Pend Oreille almost immediately.**

*Photo courtesy Jim Mellen*

## Message from the Chair

Spring is coming slowly back to the landscape. Even as the ground emerges from its winter slumber and the first of the buttercups and glacier lilies are popping up, our higher elevations are continuing to accumulate snowpack. Such is springtime in the Scotchmans, waiting for mud to firm up and snow to melt. Nature knows its own schedule and we won't really know what our spring and early summer hikes are going to be like until they actually happen. Wilderness is about confronting the unknown and about meeting nature on its own terms, so here we are with a wild season ahead - let's rejoice!

Wilderness advocacy is also about the unknown and about adapting to schedules that others control. As we gain more supporters and endorsements, people are asking when we will see a bill from congress designating wilderness for the Scotchmans. The simple answer is that we don't know. We hope for soon and work towards that time, but only Congress, as a body, will determine when that happens. Even a congressman motivated enough to sponsor or support legislation cannot predict when the body politic will pass their legislation. Witness the 3 year odd odyssey of the recent Lands Omnibus Bill and the even longer and more circuitous journey many of its components travelled.

What we do know is this – we know that we are making progress in building support in our communities for wilderness designation for the Scotchman. We also know that we are not done, that there is, in fact, more work to do with education and outreach. We have a plan and are moving forward with it. We have many fun events coming up which help us to reach out to people and build support. Consider coming to one and bringing your neighbor, co-worker, friend or family member.

We are also taking some new initiatives. We are delighted to announce that we have hired Charlie Clough, part time, to increase our outreach efforts and effectiveness in Lincoln County MT. We hope that all of you will join us in congratulating and supporting Charlie as we bring neighbors together in Libby and Troy to lend their voice in support of wilderness! We hope, too, that should you have the occasion to see your elected congressional representatives while they visit their district this spring and summer you will share your passion and desire for the Scotchman Peaks to be designated Wilderness. Mention it to them in person or write them a note. They need to hear from you, from us, from all of us. Do the same with your local officials, state representatives and county commissioners. While we don't know how long this will take; we do know this is the surest pathway forward.

**Phil Hough**





## Scotchman Past

**These are experiences of a newcomer “out West,” after moving to Western Montana and the Cabinet Mountains from Kansas in March of 1917. From *A Pioneer Grandmother’s Story of Her Life*, by Mariam Lawton Clayton. Shared by Sandy Compton.**

We were told we had just time enough to get our luggage ready for the next station – “Cabinet, Idaho, next station.” Then we were helped off at a small settlement along a track through a narrow gorge with trails through snow banks to walk in. The railroad station, a general store with a post office in the back, a hotel – the Shamrock House – with a bar and a house for the maintainer of the railroad and his family, some tool sheds and shipping pens along a siding – that was Cabinet, Idaho on March 8, 1917. A number of men loafed about the place. They were lumberjacks dressed in woolen clothes. Plaid shirts and double-backed mackinaw jackets, heavy Malone pants staggged off at the bottoms held up by suspenders, round-crowned short-brimmed felt hats and logger shoes of well-oiled leather and thick soles studded with calks were all the standard dress of the lumberjack. Each one had a bedroll of heavy woolen blankets which he packed on his back when moving in or out of some camp job. As newcomers we were looked over by these men, who seemed friendly and interested in our children.

When we looked around the place, I asked where there could be any farm land. The railroad was built along the river. The steep banks were wooded. I was told that good farm land was “up on the flats,” which was their description of the bench land between the river gorge and the foothills of the mountain ranges on either side, the Cabinets on the north and the Coeur d’Alenes on the south.

We were taken in a horse-drawn sled called a stoneboat down to the river, which we crossed on a ferry powered by the river current, then up the other side on a switchback road plowed out of four-foot snow banks, which were much deeper than the four feet because of being piled higher on each side, so that we were in a trench of snow. It was not cold, perhaps 30 degrees. The little snow flies were in little clouds here and there. The chickadees were calling to their mates; the sky was very blue with white clouds building up against the horizons in the distance, we could see, as we climbed higher, with very tall evergreen trees all about us.

Our next stop was Paddy Hays’ cabin, about two miles out to the eastward from the ferry. It was a new cabin of hand-hewn logs. There was a sun deck along the south side where the children could go out to play and watch the trains go by on the track across the river. There was no danger of them falling off, because the snow walled it on the three sides of the deck or porch.

Our daddy, Melvin Reynolds and Claude White, who had come with the Dunns to Heron, Montana (next station east of Cabinet), shoveled out a trail through the snow to Hazel Brooks’ cabin, where we were to camp next until the time we could go on up to the next bench land where we planned on building our home. It was more than a mile, and when they got there, they shoveled the snow off the roof and away from the windows. They dug a pit down to the ground to put our hogs in, cut some poles to surround a lot for the larger livestock and made a brush shelter for the chickens. Then, with our team and the stoneboat, they brought the livestock over from Cabinet, leading the larger animals. When all was ready, they came for us where we had been comfortable in the Hays cabin for about ten days. We had added some of our farm foods to the apples, potatoes and huckleberries from Paddy’s stores, and all were thankful for the lumbermen neighbors. The trip to Hazel’s was our next adventure.

I knew from the men’s conversation that crossing Blue Creek Canyon would be somewhat risky, but I had no idea that people traveled over such steep trails with farm horses hitched to such a rough sled. But we did just that. I sat tight on the floor, clutching our small daughter, Grace, in one hand and holding a gooseberry pie in the other, while the little boys, wrapped in blankets, were tucked in with us. The way down the west bank was frightening. The fording of a swift stream even at low water was to be expected, but the climb up and around the east bank was along such a narrow, rocky shelf of a place that there was scarcely room for two horse to gain footholds and pull, even without that much of a load. They were faithful and true as well as sharp-shod or we would never have made it. It takes a man who knows what he is doing to get that response even from a good team. We were glad to be on level ground.

After we had our livestock and boxes and trunks and such things safely transferred to Hazel’s place, we decided it was time to explore. I could get about on skis made from western red cedar split into long shakes. The forest trees all about seem to shut us in; still there were vistas we could see through to Government Peak, a 6,000-foot mountain to the east of us.

I found that we were located near a steep slope to the river bank. The sun shone in there, thawing the snow the first place near us. Early flowers were in bloom in open places. We found goldthread with its shining evergreen leaves and greenish round flowers no bigger than a dime, then dogtooth violets (“trout lilies”), shooting stars (“bird bills”), yellow bells, trilliums and a little later wood nymphs, lady slippers and yellow and blue violets. So we began the study of botany. As the season advanced there were Oregon grapes (*Mahonia aquifolia*), serviceberries, and soon a wonderful display of ferns, bluebeard tongue, wild roses and syringa. We could always find beautiful bouquets for the table and new varieties to study.

## Another Choice in Shirts

Be ready for any weather spring dishes out. Get your Scotchman hoodies for only \$35, crew sweat shirts for only \$30, and long sleeved tees for only \$15 at REI in Spokane, Huckleberry Thicket in Trout Creek, MT, Mountain Meadows in Libby, MT, the Hope Market Café in Hope, ID, and Eichart’s, Café Bodega, Outdoor Experience, or Sandpoint Sports in Sandpoint, ID. Our newest Scotchman tee is a bargain at \$10, as are Scotchman blue and white goat tees, all children’s shirts and our hats. Out of the area, contact

[jmellen@imbris.net](mailto:jmellen@imbris.net).

Other Scotchman merchandise is available in our online store run by Café Press at [www.scotchmanpeaks.org/store/html](http://www.scotchmanpeaks.org/store/html).





## Along the Trail

**March:** Don Clark and Charlie Clough presented the Scotchman’s case to the Cabinet Back Country Horsemen. That organization was informed of our desire for their endorsement, and they have taken the matter under advisement. Don and Charlie will follow-up in this effort. Also in March, Don and Charlie were interviewed on Libby radio station, KLCB.

**March 29-April 3:** Carol Jenkins was honored to attend the Wilderness Mentoring Conference sponsored by Campaign for America’s Wilderness and The Wilderness Support Center of the Wilderness Society. “It was wonderful to mix with leaders in the wilderness movement and to understand the challenges of other campaigns. Doug Scott and Bart Koehler have long histories with wilderness designation and share such optimism for the future. Rick Johnson, of Idaho Conservation League, came straight from Washington, DC and showed his photos of President Obama signing the Public Lands Omnibus Bill which created the first wilderness in Idaho in 29 years, the Owyhee Canyonlands. It’s also exciting to meet so many young folks who are dedicating their careers to protecting wild places for the future. I was also impressed by what a solid job FSPW did in its formative years to prevent some of the difficulties

experienced by other campaigns. I am quite proud to be a part of the campaign to protect the Scotchmans.”

**April 3rd:** Phil Hough gave an update on the Scotchmans campaign to the Sandpoint Kiwanis at their regular weekly meeting. The Kiwanis voted in favor of endorsing wilderness for the Scotchmans.

**April 7:** “Wildflowers and Wildfires of the Continental Divide Trail” Phil Hough and Deb Hunsicker presented a beautiful PowerPoint presentation highlighting their hike on the northern CDT last summer. Photos showed fire effects and differing rates of regeneration and gorgeous landscape, wildflower, and wildlife scenes. They answered many questions about gear and trail life, including how they came by their trail names. In the back of the hall they set up one of their 2-man tents and brought gear for folks to inspect. Phil and Deb truly enjoy sharing their love of wilderness areas and trail experiences. With nearly 70 people attending, this presentation was a joint fundraiser for FSPW and the Native Plant Society.

**April 26th – Sandpoint Earth Day Festival:** The Friends of Scotchman Peaks joined many other organizations at the Sandpoint Community hall for a day filled with activities and displays celebrating Earth Day.

## Wild Creatures of the Scotchmans

### Coyote *Canis Latrans*

By Doug Ferrell

The coyote is one of our most familiar and interesting species of native wildlife. As opposed to many of our larger native species, coyotes have flourished in the presence of man, and their habitat needs are not at all dependent on wild country. The map of coyote distribution in North America is remarkable in that it includes virtually the entire lower 48 states, and stretches all the way from Northern Alaska to Nicaragua. Coyotes have actually increased their range considerably since the arrival of Europeans.

It is an interesting question why coyotes have been so successful at adapting to the presence of man, even in suburbs and highly developed areas. As with so many questions about wildlife and their needs, it is fair to say that even experts understand only some pieces of the story. We do know that coyotes are opportunistic hunters and scavengers who thrive on a tremendous variety of diets, including plants as well as animals. They are adept at hunting most all small mammals, including even house cats and small dogs, as well as rats, mice, squirrels and other small animals that are also closely associated with humans.

Coyotes also have some impressive physical abilities. They can run over 40 miles per hour, jump and climb fences over 8’ tall, and change direction and dart sharply left and right from a dead run, whether they are chasing or being chased. Coyotes have an excellent sense of smell, vision and hearing. They are particularly adept at hunting in tall grass, by listening and pouncing on top of prey that are hidden from view.

The presence of coyotes in a given area is no mystery, as they are famous for their thrilling nighttime chorus of howls and yips. Their appearance is familiar to us all, though many people are surprised at how small coyotes actually are. A full grown coyote looks very slight without its skin, and in our area will normally weigh well under 50 pounds. When you see a coyote in the wild, a lot of what you are looking at is fur, and a big bushy tail. Females are normally significantly smaller than males.

Coyotes produce just one litter per year, of 2 to 10 pups. The pups are born blind, with short fur and limp ears. Most coyote mothers use a den of some kind, though they are not very adept at digging and may often

use an old badger den or other found shelter. After ten days the pups’ eyes are open and their ears are fully erect. They are weaned at about 35 days, and then fed regurgitated food by both mother and father. Pups may or may not hang around with their parents for a year or longer. Most coyote packs are not very large, and some animals are mostly solitary or consort with only one or two other coyotes.



**Coyote**  
Photo courtesy Don Jones,  
[www.donaldjones.com](http://www.donaldjones.com)

Coyotes do not thrive as well in areas with significant wolf populations. Coyote numbers have decreased in Yellowstone and elsewhere as wolves are successfully expanding their ranges. The two species are competitors for some of the same food sources, and wolves may kill coyotes if they can catch them, especially coyotes hanging around a wolf kill or other carrion. In spite of this, coyotes have been known to mate with wolves, creating a medium sized hybrid that is normally still fertile and able to conceive young. Similarly, coyotes have been known to mate with domestic dogs, further displaying their great ability to take advantage of whatever opportunity may come along.

Sometimes a glimpse of a dog-like creature will cause us to wonder if we have seen wolf, coyote or domestic dog, and the distinction is sometimes not obvious. Domestic dogs can sometimes resemble both wild species, though they are usually not as thin and rangy looking, and dog tails are usually smaller relative to body size. When running, a coyote holds its bushy black tipped tail below the level of its back, while a wolf tail is usually level or a little higher.



## Over the Top Volunteer

### Todd Dunfield – A Tradition of Service to Others By Phil Hough

People volunteer for many reasons; some do it because they are taught or brought up to help others, some do it to feel good about themselves, some do it out of a sense of obligation or to “give back.” Some people volunteer because that’s simply who they are, it’s the way they live their life and define themselves – it’s in their blood.

From his early days in the Boy Scouts to his current occupation as the Assistant Director of the Center for Community Action and Service-Learning at Gonzaga, Todd Dunfield’s life has been about service to others. Todd knows no other way. We are thankful that Todd knows, loves, and is of service to the Scotchmans.

Todd has been of great service to the effort to preserve the Scotchmans as wilderness. Has led hikes, brought student groups up for trail maintenance projects, and assisted with numerous public outreach opportunities in Spokane and Coeur d’Alene. Todd has helped to link the Spokane Mountaineers and Gonzaga University communities to our common cause of preserving what he calls “one of the gems of the inland northwest” - the Scotchmans.

As a boy scout growing up in Texas, Todd would visit the Philmont Scouting Ranch in the neighboring state of New Mexico and wander into the wilderness areas nearby. Penetrating ever deeper into the wide open western landscape felt to Todd like going into the deep unknown. These early wilderness excursions gave Todd a sense of physical room, and mental room, to think, to feel. These wilderness hikes brought Todd to a deeper understanding and connection to self, to nature and to others. On these trips he would experience spiritual renewal as well as the renewal of friendships.

After attending Gonzaga University as an undergraduate and in those four years never putting a “boot to trail” Todd made up for lost time. He remained in the region as an AmeriCorps Volunteer (of course) and discovered the wild rugged Scotchmans. Moving to Seattle for graduate studies, Todd missed his beloved Scotchmans so much that he began a tradition of returning the first weekend in May for a Friday evening hike up the namesake peak to camp out on the snow near the summit, make his way through snow to the summit the next morning and return to Spokane in the afternoon to rest up and run in Bloomsday on Sunday. Todd always brought along some fellow students to introduce them to his special peak. Now Todd continues this tradition, bringing along the next generation of students from Gonzaga.

With two young children, Todd has not slowed down one bit. In his tradition of service, in hikes into the Scotchmans, in the wilderness, in following all his volunteer impulses Todd finds a sense of community, compassion, of connection to nature, to self and selflessness. In working to preserve the Scotchmans as wilderness, Todd is passing onto his own next generation far more than wild lands; he is passing on a heart as big as all the outdoors!



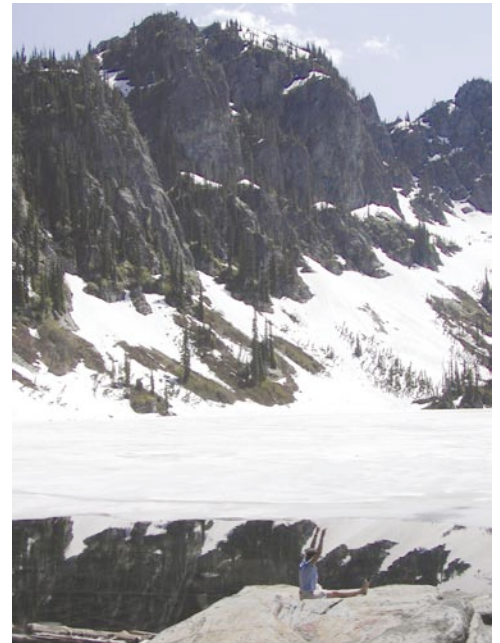
**Todd Dunfield**  
Photo courtesy Phil Hough

## Scotchman Rocks

### Little Spar Lake

By Jon Burkhart and Neil Wimberley

One of the jewels of this wilderness. While there are small mountain lakes scattered throughout the proposed wilderness area this is the largest and the only one that has a name at this point in time. Little Spar is a classic glacial cirque lake. Walk up and take a look, and it will give up clues of its geologic past. Typically, cirques surrounded by dramatic cliffs on three sides form on the northeast aspect of alpine peaks which are protected from sun and prevailing winds, allowing for huge and enduring accumulations of snow leading to glacier formation.



**Little Spar Lake**  
Photo courtesy Neil Wimberley

Nivation is the term used by geologists to describe the repetitive freeze and thaw cycles of snow leading to ice formation, and when the ice formation becomes massive enough to flow, it’s called a glacier. Nivation is also used more generally to include all the processes related to the snow such as erosion, weathering, and meltwater, which starts the hollowing out process before the glacier weighs in and takes over the cirque building job. The fourth side of the lake, or lip, is typically our entry point from below and is where the glacier flowed down the valley in colder times, before leaving behind a glacial till or bedrock collar to hold our pristine water in place.

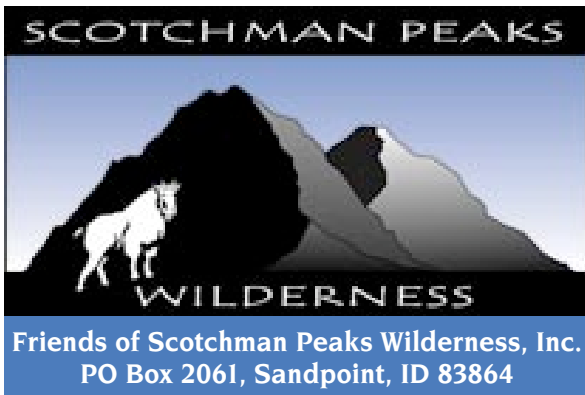
Nearly in the center of wilderness it is most easily accessed from the Montana side via a trail about four miles above Spar Lake. Dennis Nicholls in his excellent book: **Trails of the Wild Cabinets** describes this trail as one of the most scenic and dramatic stream valleys in the entire Cabinet Mountain range.

This somewhat challenging four mile trail offers old growth timber, cliffs with mountain goats, an exciting stream crossing and a beautiful lake at the end of your journey. Enjoy!

### Honeysuckle

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especially if you covet birds; it is a hummingbird magnet! Hardwood cuttings taken in the fall or young summer shoots – dipped in rooting solution and planted in shallow pots over bottom heat – will root for transplant where you want them. Seed germination is slow and needs stratification (freezing before planting to emulate winter conditions). It is recommended to grow honeysuckle in moist, open sites, but I have seen it thriving in nearly all conditions that North Idaho can throw at a plant. Once established, it will definitely fend for itself.



## How You Can Help

### Support Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

### Board Members:

#### CHAIRMAN:

Phil Hough, *Sagle, Idaho*  
(208) 255-2780 • [nowhere\\_man97@hotmail.com](mailto:nowhere_man97@hotmail.com)

#### VICE-CHAIRMAN & MONTANA DIRECTOR:

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

#### SECRETARY:

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

#### TREASURER:

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

#### EAST BONNER COUNTY DIRECTOR:

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

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

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

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

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