



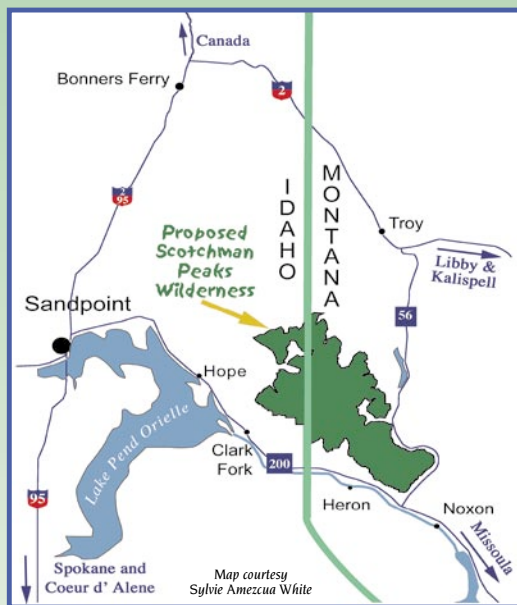
# PEAK EXPERIENCE

The Newsletter for Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness, Inc.

Volume 6, Number 3 • May / June, 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.

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Editor: Ann Wimberley  
Designer: Pama Bangeman

## Scotchman Natives

### Rocky Mountain Maple

By Valle Novak

One of the most attractive native shrub/trees in the low- to mid-elevations in the Scotchman area – and indeed throughout north Idaho – is the Rocky Mountain Maple (*Acer glabrum*). Often mistakenly called vine maple, the larger, more tree-like Rocky Mountain Maple is the only maple native to North Idaho.

It generally begins life as a small tree, but winter damage or voracious deer can break down the main stem, which leads to a multi-trunk shrub that can grow into a huge grove. In nature, these shrubs can grow as tall as surrounding



**Rocky Mountain Maple**

Photo by Marilyn George

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## The Double-Season of Birding

By Jon Isacoff, PhD



**Yellow Warbler**

Photo by Randy Beachum  
[www.agpix.com/beachum](http://www.agpix.com/beachum)

April and May are a peculiar time in the Inland Northwest Mountains, including of course, the Scotchmans. Down in the valleys and in the towns, spring is in full swing: Buttercups, Dandelions, and Lilacs are in bloom and Forsythia is already changing from yellow to green. But somewhere between 3,000 and 4,000 feet – winter is still clearly in evidence. One can walk up a favorite birding trail and hear joyous singing at the bottom and as the ascent continues, the first snow patches appear. Within an hour or two, it's either trudge knee-deep in “bad snow,” or go home.

Around Lake Pend Oreille, this is

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## Message from the Chair

### ***Yeah, We've Got a Page for That!***

Education and Outreach are central to our mission. Dispelling myths and clearing up uncertainty, or even misinformation, about what Wilderness does and does not mean is a large part of what we do. We know that not everyone has the same level of knowledge about the details of Wilderness Act, or of Wilderness management, much less the social, cultural, environmental and economic impacts of Wilderness legislation. One of our primary goals is to provide accurate information, for both our supporters as well as those people who are interested in learning more about Wilderness and about the Scotchmans. Constructive dialogue begins with good information.

If you are reading this chances are very good that you are already a supporter of the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness. And you already know what a great resource our newsletters are for information about the Scotchmans. But, perhaps, you will find yourself in a conversation with someone who is unsure about what Wilderness Designation would mean for the Scotchmans. You might even find yourself being asked questions that you are not sure how to answer. Or you might just be curious to learn more yourself. We can help!

The avid reader of our newsletter will have learned many things about Wilderness in general and about the Scotchman Peaks in particular. Often though, what we recall are the concepts, not the details. Our newsletter, public presentations and informative booklets and maps are good starting points to find out more, but

our website provides timely updates, detailed information and easy-to-find facts, figures, references and resources. Our website is the best place to go for answers to questions about Wilderness and the Scotchmans. We invite you to take a look, and here are some of the gems that you will find:

- Sometimes a good basic Fact Sheet comes in handy – we've got a page for that!
- Sometime a more detailed response to a Frequently Asked Questions would be nice to have – we've got a page for that!
- Sometimes you might want to have more background information about the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness ...you get the idea, we've got a page for that too!

In fact, all of these communication devices can be found on the "About" Tab of our website. They can be viewed on line, or downloaded and used as handouts. So if you want check on the answer to a question, or brush up on your Scotchman's knowledge to impress family and friends, visit our website: [www.ScotchmanPeaks.org](http://www.ScotchmanPeaks.org)

And while you are there, check out our hikes schedule, look at news and announcements, read our blog postings, connect to our facebook fan page or just enjoy some inspiring quotes and photos – after all, we've got a page for all that, too!

***Phil Hough***

## From the Top

Spring is bursting out all over and so are Scotchman Peaks activities and hikes. This issue has been especially fun to put together as I learned of a friend's Scotchman's adventure which occurred many years before we met. Once again Bill Martin draws our attention to the rocks we'd miss without him and we can even look forward to Part II. The history article reminds us of how the Scotchman Peaks Wilderness would not have survived had there been valuable ore beneath the surface of the mountains we love. The two nonprofits I volunteer for are joining forces to celebrate Mental Health Month in the Ross Creek Cedars. This very center of calm and beauty is living proof of the wisdom of Henry David Thoreau, "*We need the tonic of wilderness*".

***Ann Wimberley***



***Old Growth Cedars at Ross Creek or Where's Ann?***  
*Photo by Neil Wimberley*



## Peak Views

The Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness are proud to announce our 2010 Summer Hike Schedule. We may add hikes as the summer progresses so check our website occasionally for updates. We have something for every skill level and interest. See firsthand why the Scotchmans are so special. Group sizes are limited and reservations are required. To sign up, contact the hike leader listed. For more details go to [www.scotchmanpeaks.org](http://www.scotchmanpeaks.org).

Hike date	Exertion Rating	Destination/ Hike Name	Leader(s)	Description and Contact info
5/29/10	S	Blue Creek	Sandy Compton	<b>Contact info: 208-290-1281 or <a href="mailto:sandy@scotchmanpeak.org">sandy@scotchmanpeak.org</a></b> We will walk into the East Fork of Blue Creek and climb to 24-hour pass, a notch between Sawtooth and Mike's Peak. Depending on snowpack and creek levels, we will either continue into Ross Creek and hike out to the Ross Creek Cedars or summit Sawtooth and return into the Blue Creek drainage.
6/5/10	M	Thunder Creek	Phil Hough and Deb Hunsicker	<b>Contact info: 208-946-9127 or <a href="mailto:phil@scotchmanpeaks.org">phil@scotchmanpeaks.org</a></b> As we follow East Fork Creek we will walk along the northern boundary of the proposed Scotchman Peaks Wilderness and then enter it. Starting in Idaho we will explore a very active stream bed and unique vegetation in the wettest valley in all of Idaho. The we'll enter Montana and Bushwhack up Thunder Creek Valley to the falls which give the valley its name. A real treat during spring run off!
6/26/10	E/M	"Practice Mountain"	Holly Clements	<b>Contact info: 208-208-290-3420, <a href="mailto:hclements26@yahoo.com">hclements26@yahoo.com</a></b> This hike begins along closed forest roads up Fatman Mountain and transitions to off-trail near the top for an easy scramble to the peak and views of the Clark Fork river valley as well as the Star Peak/Billiard Table ridge. A gentle descent brings hikers to an incredible view of Clayton Peak, Sawtooth Mountain and the east fork of Blue Creek. Distance, 4 miles round trip. Elevation gain 800 feet.
7/8-12/10	S+	Extreme Pleinair	Sandy Compton	<b>Contact info: 208-290-1281 or <a href="mailto:sandy@scotchmanpeak.org">sandy@scotchmanpeak.org</a></b> This hike is nearly full, but we will accept two more pleinair artists for a 4-night, 5-day paintout in the Scotchmans. The plan is to spend two days in "stationary" camps along the base of the Craggs. We will walk in through the east fork of Blue Creek and out via Ross Creek. Day hikers are welcome to accompany the campers into Blue Creek.
7/8/10	M/S	Little Spar Lake	Sara Lundstrum	<b>Contact info: 406-755-6304 or <a href="mailto:slundstrum@wildmontana.org">slundstrum@wildmontana.org</a></b> A moderate hike though the lush Spar Creek canyon, a fine example of interior rain forest, brings us to sparkling, green Little Spar Lake, one of the best overnight options in the Scotchmans. Distance: 8 miles round trip. Elevation gain, 2200 feet
7/10/10	S	Star Peak	Jacob Styler	<b>Contact info: <a href="mailto:jacob@scotchmanpeaks.org">jacob@scotchmanpeaks.org</a></b> This is a tough hike with over 4,000 feet of elevation gain in 5 miles but worth every bit of it when you get to the old fire lookout on top. More information at <a href="http://www.scotchmanpeaks.org/hiking/self-guided-hikes/star-peak-via-big-eddy-trail/">www.scotchmanpeaks.org/hiking/self-guided-hikes/star-peak-via-big-eddy-trail/</a> . Round trip, 10 miles ±. Elevation gain 4140 feet. Note: This hike will be in conjunction with a FSPW/Forest Service cooperative trail work day. FSPW Volunteers will be helping a FS sawyer clean up Eddy Creek/Star Peak # 998.
7/24-25/10	S	Star Peak/Pillick Ridge Full Moon Overnighter	Sandy Compton	<b>Contact info: 208-290-1281 or <a href="mailto:sandy@scotchmanpeaks.org">sandy@scotchmanpeaks.org</a></b> We will hike to Star Peak lookout and then east along Pillick Ridge to camp under the full moon. Magnificent views of the Cabinets, both East and West and the Clark Fork River Valley. We will exit to the Bull River valley via Pillick Ridge Trail. Water is a challenge on this route. One spring is available near Star Peak, involving some serious vertical. Be prepared to carry lots of H2O. Distance overall, 16 miles. Elevation gain 5500 feet. Note: This hike will be in conjunction with a FSPW/Forest Service cooperative trail work day. FSPW volunteers will pick up hand tools at Star Peak Lookout and work on the Pillick Ridge trail.
8/15/10	M	Ross Creek Falls	Neil and Ann Wimberley	<b>Contact info 208-264-5379 or <a href="mailto:afwim@yahoo.com">afwim@yahoo.com</a> or <a href="mailto:neilwim@yahoo.com">neilwim@yahoo.com</a></b> Hike through the Ross Creek Cedar grove and past to the Ross Creek Falls in the upper reaches of the South Fork of Ross Creek. A lovely hike through old growth and a cool way to spend a summer day. Round trip: 6 + miles. Elevation gain, 1500 feet.
8/20/10	M	Bear Peak Beginning Map & Compass Hike	John Harbuck	<b>Contact info: 263-9894 or <a href="mailto:harbucks@norlight.org">harbucks@norlight.org</a></b> This walk at the very north end of the Wilderness is a pretty mild hike for the Scotchmans, but there can be some bushwhacking (no trail on this one). For those not conversant with topo maps and compasses, we'll do a bit of a workshop on map reading from the top. Round trip, 2 miles: Elevation gain: 400 ft
8/20-22/10	S	"Secret Scotchmans" Photo Workshop Hike	Jim Mellen	<b>Contact info: 208-265-5261 or <a href="mailto:jimnsandii@gmail.com">jimnsandii@gmail.com</a></b> Picture yourself through the Scotchmans. This three-day backpacking trip includes a photography workshop with a pro shooter. Experienced hikers and photographers only on this difficult/extreme hike. The resultant photos will be displayed in an exhibition later in the season.
8/27/10	S	Spar Peak	John Harbuck	<b>Contact info: 263-9894 or <a href="mailto:harbucks@norlight.org">harbucks@norlight.org</a></b> A good trail, but steep and quite strenuous, beginning in the lush Spar Creek canyon and leading to great views of the Scotchmans and Cabinets. Good possibilities of spotting elk and mountain goats on this hike. Round trip 6 miles. Elevation gain 3200 feet.
8/28/10	S	Sawtooth Mountain	Holly Clements	<b>Contact info: 208-208-290-3420, <a href="mailto:hclements26@yahoo.com">hclements26@yahoo.com</a></b> Depending on the condition of Blue Creek Road, we will begin in the East Fork of Blue Creek and climb to the summit of 6500 foot Sawtooth Mountain and exit through the South Fork of Ross Creek. If the Blue Creek Road is closed, we will begin and end at the Ross Creek Cedars. This is arguably the hardest day hike in the Scotchman Peaks, but well worth the effort. Walk across a pristine, primitive landscape and gain rare views of the internal Scotchmans and the Craggs. Round trip: 12 + miles. Elevation gain, 3500 + feet.
9/18-20/10	S	Blue Creek Respite	Sandy Compton	<b>Contact info: 208-290-1281 or <a href="mailto:sandy@scotchmanpeaks.org">sandy@scotchmanpeaks.org</a></b> Pack into and camp in the fabled East Fork Meadow for two nights. Spend the central day climbing Clayton Peak, reading under a tree or napping in your tent. Your choice. A chance for a down day in an up and down kind of place. Round trip: 8 + miles. Elevation gain, 2000 – 4000 feet.
10/02/10	S	Scotchman Peak	Phil Hough and	<b>Contact info: 208-946-9127 or <a href="mailto:phil@scotchmanpeaks.org">phil@scotchmanpeaks.org</a></b> This is the classic hike up the namesake peak for our proposed wilderness. It's short but steep. We will go at a slow pace so that steady effort is all that is needed to summit. Wide panoramas and stunning views of lake Pend Oreille, along with fall colors and possibly late season huckleberries will be highlights. Wear hunter orange. 4 miles one way, 8 round trip with an elevation gain of 3,800 feet.

## Tales of Scotchman Peaks

### On Top of the Mountain

by Kristine Rolofson

*Editor's note: Kristine Rolofson, author of 40 novels, now lives in Rhode Island. However, look for her playing the fiddle in the Cougar Creek Band on the FSPW float in the Clark Fork Fourth of July Parade.*

"We're going to ride up Scotchman. Do you want to come?"

"Sure." I passed Doug Hawkins a plate piled high with cookies.  
"What's Scotchman?"

And so it began. Doug and his brother Ed, both bachelors living above the Litehouse restaurant and working on developing a salad dressing business, had known my husband Glen since they were teenagers. They now owned trail horses and wanted to ride them up the highest peak on the north Idaho/Montana border.

Truthfully? I'd hiked up a couple of Idaho mountains in previous summers and didn't yearn to do it again, so the horseback riding part of this trip appealed to me. Letting the horse do the work while I enjoyed the view actually did sound like fun. Plus I'd read enough Zane Grey novels to picture myself as a cowgirl.

In August of 1975 I was 22 years old and not known for my sense of adventure, though I desperately wanted to do something incredibly western and brave. It had been a difficult summer, saying goodbye to our families and friends, packing up wedding gifts and a two-year old, hauling a trailer across thirty-three hundred miles of interstate. We were living our dream of moving to Idaho and, after spending a week sleeping in our car in Kermit Kiebert's yard, we'd found a house to rent in East Hope and a group of Glen's old friends welcoming us to a place so beautiful I couldn't believe it was my new home.

And soon I would ride a horse up a mountain. But first I would ask a friend to babysit, make peanut butter sandwiches and bake a fresh batch of chocolate chip cookies for the trail (I figured since we were going into the wilderness we would need plenty of snacks).

We met Doug and Ed in Sunnyside, helped load the horses into the trailer and drove to a grassy pasture at the base of the mountain. The men pointed out the peak we'd be conquering in a few hours. I was impressed (and once again relieved I wasn't doing this on foot). Ed introduced me to my horse, a calm palomino that seemed to enjoy the climb. I couldn't say the same for my husband, who didn't appear to like heights or horses very much. The trail was rocky and steep, and the horses' hooves sent stones rolling down the side of the mountain. I wore someone's red hat, swatted a few flies and ignored Glen's detailed instructions on how to fall off a cliff and live to tell about it. We stopped to take pictures at various scenic views, but our mission was to reach the peak. We would write our names in the notebook kept in the coffee can inside the old lookout tower. We would eat our lunches and take photographs. We would gaze upon miles upon miles of wilderness.

We left the horses at the bottom of the final rocky peak and climbed the rest of the way on foot. The tower was barely standing, but the coffee can and notebook remained. Glen took a picture he

would later label as, "The prettiest place I ever threw up".

He really was afraid of heights, but he was even more reluctant to get back in the saddle for the trip back. Now that I had decided I was a western woman, able to climb mountains and master trail-riding, I had little sympathy for him. I was fearless, as was my wonderful horse. As were Doug and Ed, as nonchalant about the narrow trails as the horses were. I may have even have broken out in song, that's how happy I was. Yes, I'd turned into "Adventure Woman in Idaho", joyfully doing something dangerous and exciting, something that might only happen once in my life.

And thirty-five years later I realize how true that was. Oh, there have been plenty of milder adventures along the way (raising six children, another traumatic cross-country move, pursuing a writing career were some of them), but I've never climbed another ridge, with or without a horse. I've never really wanted to, having learned that I'd rather stay home and bake while the rest of you are hiking and climbing and skiing. But I look back at the photographs and realize I am very grateful for that summer day on Scotchman when, for one beautiful, perfect day, I was brave. And stood on top of a mountain.



**The old lookout. Doug Hawkins (sitting), Ed Hawkins (standing) and Kristine Rolofson.**

**Photo credit: Glen Rolofson**



## The Future Looks Bright

**April 30 - May 2:** Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness board and staff attend the Montana Wilderness Association Convention in Whitefish, Montana. FSPW chair Phil Hough sits in on a panel discussion, Wilderness on the Horizon. Program coordinator Sandy Compton provides a storytelling program and acts as MC and moderator for the gathering.

**May 12:** The Annual State of the Scotchman meeting will be held at the Panida Theatre in Sandpoint beginning at 6 p.m. "Forever Wild," an inspiring documentary film about grassroots wilderness success, will be shown. The meeting will feature other entertainment as well, along with snacks and no-host bar, a raffle and a silent auction.

**May 16:** A Walk in the Woods to celebrate Mental Health Month, co-sponsored by FSPW and NAMI Far North. Meet at the Ross Creek Cedars at noon; bring a brown bag lunch if you wish.

**May 19:** Phil Hough and Jon Isacoff will present "Birds of the Scotchmans" to the Moscow, Idaho, Audubon Society.

**May 20:** Come visit our table at the Commerce and Community Festival sponsored by the Greater Sandpoint Chamber of Commerce at the Bonner County Fairgrounds from 5-7p.m.

**May 21:** FSPW will have a table at the Sandpoint Bike Week Film Festival, to begin at 7 p.m. the Sandpoint Events Center Auditorium.

**May 21-23:** FSPW Exec Phil Hough will attend the Idaho Conservation League Annual Convention, Wild Idaho, at Redfish Lake Lodge in the Stanley Basin.

**May 26:** FSPW Summer Hike Series kickoff party at Ivano's Wine Bar, First and Pine in Sandpoint. 5 to 7 pm. \$5 pizzas, wine, beer and cocktails available. Hike leaders get their first pizza and beverage free. Hikers and potential hikers and hike leaders are welcome!

**May 27:** First day of the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness 2010 Summer Photo Contest. (See page 9)

**May 29:** First hike of the summer series, the Blue Creek Snowpack Check. See the full hike schedule on page 3.

**June 5:** National Trails Day. FSPW hike leaders Phil Hough and Deb Hunsicker are headed for Thunder Creek to "find their happy place." (See page 7)

**June 11:** FSPW brings Native American recording artist Jack Gladstone to Riverfront Park in Libby at 6:00 p.m. Gladstone has performed thousands of concerts in Europe, Canada, Japan and 47 of the 50 States, urging his audiences to "recognize the unity within creation and then realization that unity towards the protection and recovery of our shared homeland." This will be a great evening celebrating wilderness and the natural world, and it is free and open to the public.

**June 13:** Sanders County Friends Picnic will be held at 3:00 at the Bull River Campground group area. It will be a potluck.

**June 19:** Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness and the US Forest Service will cooperate on a trail cleanup day at Scotchman Peak Trail #65. All you need to bring is lunch and a sense of humor. Tools, gloves, water, bug spray and sunscreen provided by the FS. Safety meeting begins at the trailhead at 9 a.m. Come for the day or just for a few hours. We need 15 to 20 volunteers. Call Sandy at 208.290.1281 or write to [sandy@scotchmanpeaks.org](mailto:sandy@scotchmanpeaks.org) for more information.

**June 19:** The FSPW Lincoln County Friends Picnic will be held at 1:00 pm at Riverfront Park in Libby.

**July 4:** Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness will march in parades from Sandpoint to Trout Creek. Get your FSPW swag out and make ready to walk for the cause.

## The Double-Season of Birding Continues from Page 1

an exciting time as hundreds of thousands of Ducks, Geese, and other Waterfowl will pass through on their way to their Boreal breeding grounds. Common Loons, one of the most majestic of the deep swimmers, will often linger from April into June. Some younger males who are still "single" may even spend the summer without moving on. Western and Red-necked Grebes return to their critical breeding habitat in the bays and sloughs along the lake. In the towns and farm fields, Savannah Sparrows, Robins, and Red-winged and Brewer's Blackbirds return in large numbers for their boisterous morning songs. Song Sparrows, which actually never left, suddenly are everywhere bellowing their trademark tune (how can a Song Sparrow not have a good song)?!

In between bouts of runoff flooding (let's hope no roads get carried away this year!), life bursts forth in the Lightning Creek and Bull River Valleys. Kingfishers and Dippers return to nest in the riparian corridors. Hooded Mergansers and Wood Ducks begin to build their nest sites in the thick cover along the lower portions of the streams and rivers. Some of the hardier

songbirds, such as Winter Wrens and Varied Thrushes may be heard singing on the snow-free lower portions of trails leading out of the valleys in mid-April.

As mid- flows into late-May, the Neotropical migrant passerines return. Technically all songbirds are passerines. Even Corvids fit into this grouping and the Common Raven is actually the largest passerine in North America. But in common parlance, "passerine" is a code-word for the three favorites: Warblers, Flycatchers, and Vireos. By the end of May, the Riparian areas and lower elevations of the Scotchmans will be awash in the songs of the Yellow, Orange-crowned, Nashville, MacGillvray's, and Wilson's Warblers. With these will be tiny flashes of yellow flitting about the brush along streams and trails. These will be joined by Willow, Cordilleran, and Hammond's Flycatchers, and Warbling, Cassin's, and the mesmerizing Red-eyed Vireo, with its hypnotic song.

But in the uplands of the Scotchman Peaks, winter still has its hold as deep snow remains into June and July. Only then can the intrepid birder venture up to the highest peaks and find the alpine bird specialties that have a just a few weeks to nest and breed before winter returns.



## Trail Talk

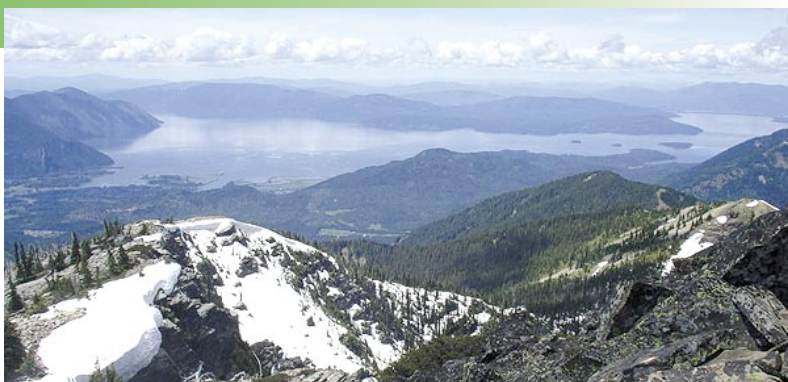
By Phil Hough

### Scotchman Peak Trail #65

This is the “grand-daddy” of hikes in the proposed wilderness, an annual pilgrimage for many local hikers. The trail is a little over 4 miles one-way, but the elevation gain is 3,700 feet. This is a short climb, but strenuous because it is steep. The well worn trail tread is usually in good shape, but severe winds last year left some blow downs across the trail and pulled up root wads creating large holes and navigational challenges. Many of the blow downs have been at least partially cleared. In partnership with the Idaho Panhandle National Forest, we are planning a June trail maintenance project to restore the trail to its former condition.

Although challenging, trail #65 is a rewarding hike which leads to the highest point in Bonner County, the top of Scotchman Peak. Stunning panoramas of Lake Pend Oreille begin at “the meadows”, about two thirds of the way up, and they continue to unfold as you reach the summit. The peak looks over, and deep into, the rugged valleys and ridges of the Scotchman Peaks area. Mountain goats are frequently encountered on the surrounding ridges and near the summit. The summer hiker will enjoy beargrass and alpine wildflowers; the fall hiker might take longer due to unscheduled huckleberry stops. The intrepid winter hiker will find the true meaning of the word “solitude”. All of them will find out why the Scotchmans are such a special place!

Snow lingers late into the summer of most years, but a light alpine snow pack or early spring melt could open the trail to day



**View from the top of Scotchman Peak**

Photo by Phil Hough

hikers early this year. The final 2+ miles of access road are usually closed during “mud season”, requiring a longer approach. Check with the Sandpoint Ranger district for current road status in spring and fall.

If you go: Bring good boots or trail shoes and plenty of water, as the route is “dry” with no definitive water source. Snacks or lunch, layers of extra clothing and rain gear are always advisable in the mountains. Your knees might appreciate trekking poles. You will enjoy binoculars and a camera. When you get back from your hike we encourage you to share your experience and post some photos on our Facebook Fan Page: <http://www.facebook.com/ScotchmanPeaks>

Directions to the trailhead can be found on our website as well as our Scotchman Peaks Hiking Map.

## Over the Top Reasons to be an FSPW Volunteer

By Sandy Compton

This started out as a top 10 reasons list ala David Letterman, but there are sooo many good reasons to be a FSPW volunteer, it was hard to stop. We managed to pare the list down to 15.

15. Volunteering for any cause is a great reason to turn off the television and get out of the house
14. It's a good opportunity to meet like-minded folks.
13. As an FSPW volunteer, you can hang out at the county fair, Earth Day events, picnics and Libby Nordicfest.
12. As an FSPW volunteer, you can choose from 3 or 4 different Fourth of July Parades to walk in.
11. As an FSPW volunteer, you can get fit by hiking and by helping with trail maintenance projects we are doing with the Forest Service.
10. You have first opportunity to buy and wear the cool Scotchman Peaks swag.
9. During film festivals at the Panida, our table (manned by volunteers) is always next to the bar.

8. For film festivals at the Panida and other film festivals at which we have tables, FSPW volunteers get first dibs on tickets.
7. As a FSPW hike leader, your view is not blocked by someone else's . . . umm, back.
6. Volunteers are the heroes of any cause.
5. It will make your Mom proud of you.
4. It gives you an excuse to spend time in some of the most beautiful terrain on the planet.
3. It involves you in an important, community-based project.
2. The planet needs wilderness, and you live on the planet.
1. The Scotchman Peaks, in all of their wild beauty, need and deserve Wilderness designation.

If you would like to volunteer for any or all of the above reasons, don't be shy. Send an e-mail to [sandy@scotchmanpeaks.org](mailto:sandy@scotchmanpeaks.org)

***It will make your Mom proud.***



## FSPW / Forest Service cooperative trail workdays scheduled for Trails 65, 998 and 1036

As summer approaches and snow melts from the trails into the Scotchmans, the need for continued maintenance on these paths into the wilderness is revealed anew. This year, the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness have opportunities to help the Forest Service repair and maintain trails on both sides of the state line.

"These work days are a good chance to get to know other Friends of Scotchman Peaks, as well as learn more about the trails," says FSPW program coordinator Sandy Compton. "It also gives folks a chance to do something meaningful for the hiking community we are all part of and take part in an event that may stretch their limits, even while having fun at the same time. I can't imagine anyone will regret being a trail maintenance volunteer at the end of the day."

In Idaho, famous Trail #65 to Scotchman Peak suffered a huge amount of blow-downs in a fall, 2009, microburst. Though many of the trees have been removed from the tread, there is still a lot of work to do to bring the trail up to a good level of hikeability. To that end, the FSPW and the US Forest Service will have a cooperative workday on June 19. Volunteers and Forest Service

personnel will meet at the trailhead at 9 a.m. for a safety meeting, and work will continue into the afternoon.

"I want to have everyone back at the trailhead by 4:00 p.m.," says Mary Ann Hamilton, Panhandle National Forest Trails and Recreation manager. "All you need to bring," she adds, "is your lunch and a sense of humor." The Forest Service will supply gloves, water, bug spray, sunscreen, tools and direction.

On the Montana side of the line, Forest Service employees and FSPW volunteers will be working on the Star Peak Trail # 998 on July 10. Cabinet Ranger District Recreation Technician Joel Sather will bring a sawyer and provide hand tools for volunteers.

After working up the trail to Star Peak Lookout, volunteers will leave their tools to be picked up by another group on July 24, who will work their way out the Pillick Ridge Trail #1036, camp on the ridge under a full moon on the night of the 24th and continue out the trail to Bull River Highway on the 25th.

Both of the Montana workdays are associated with hikes posted on the FSPW Summer Hike Series schedule (see page 3)

## Scotchman Rocks

### Ancient Ephemerality (Part 1)

By **Bill Martin**

The first time I went searching for bones in the badlands of eastern Montana, I found a chunk of dinosaur bone about 20 inches long and 5 inches in diameter, recently exposed on the surface. Returning to the site two year later, it had disintegrated into little fragments, which I would have overlooked had I not known what and where it was. A fossil at least 65 million years old after only two years of weathering was all but obliterated in far less than the blink of the geological eye. I was struck by the ephemerality of such ancientness. Here, in the far older rocks on the Rockies west side we can see the corollary of this: the ancientness of ephemerality.



**Ripple marks**

Photo by **Jim Tonkyn**

Mere moments of time have been captured in billion year old stone snapshots. Even raindrops have left their imprints. Tracks of tiny unknown creatures can still be detected. In bedrock around here it is common to find mud cracks and ripple marks, weather reports from the Pre-Cambrian.

Hot summer days dry the mud on receding shore line or riverbanks. Cracks appear in a criss-cross of lines forming polygonal shapes; they bake and harden in the sun. A subsequent run-off or spring tide covers them and fills the cracks with softer, sometimes different sediments, and the process continues back and forth, strata after strata. Often it is the underside rather than the top that is seen, a sort of three-dimensional negative, with networks of ridges rather than cracks, creating an interesting and puzzling surface, if you're not aware of how it was formed.

Ripple marks were (and are) formed by wind, wave, and water flow. Wave action creates symmetrical ridges, sloping equally on both sides, with gently rounded bottoms between. If wind over shallow water changes direction, so do the waves, and they were building new ridges across old ones. These are called interference ridges. A sudden shift in the wind, an afternoon storm blowing in from the south hundreds of million years ago, recorded on a stone surface.

The greater the flow and velocity, the bigger the ripples. South of Hot Springs, Montana on the Camas Prairie between there and the Perma Junction on MT Hwy 200 are giant ripples, the largest known on earth. Though a hundred or more miles away and not in rock, they have a geological connection to Scotchman Peaks. They were formed by the outwash of water from Glacial Lake Missoula, when the ice dome at the foot of Scotchmans collapsed and released its mighty flood. They are best viewed from the air.



## Along the Trail

**March 4 & 5:** Walkin' Jim Stoltz made presentations to the kids at Trout Creek School on the 4th, and then the students at Thompson Falls Elementary on the 5th. He also appeared in concert on the 5th at Thompson Falls Elementary School at 7:00 p.m. The concert was sponsored by FSPW and free to the public.

**March 6:** Holly Clements led three other hikers on a winter hike into the Ross Creek Cedars

**March 6:** FSPW had a table at the Winter Wildlands Backcountry Film Festival, sponsored by the Idaho Conservation League, [www.idahoconservation.org](http://www.idahoconservation.org). These films were shown in the auditorium of the Sandpoint Business and Events Center.

**March 9:** Phil Hough and Sandy Compton presented "A Proposed Scotchman Peaks Wilderness" to 30 members of the Spokane Downtown Kiwanis Club at their noon meeting in the Spokane Club.

**March 13:** FSPW Treasurer Jacob Styer led a group of hikers to the top of Star Peak

**March 16:** FSPW volunteers had a table at Radical Reels in Sandpoint's Panida Theater.

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

**March 20:** Jim and Sandii Mellen led 5 other hikers and a couple of dogs to the top of Goat Peak.

**March 25:** Phil Hough and Sandy Compton presented "A Proposed Scotchman Peaks Wilderness" to 15 Friends of the Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge at the Refuge shelter.

**March 27:** FSPW staff and volunteers attended the Cabinet Resource Group annual meeting at the Big Horn Lodge

**April 5:** Phil Hough and Deb Hunsicker presented 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. This was part of the "Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness Presents Adventure Series."

**April 7:** Erin McKittrick and Bretwood "Hig" Higman read from their new book "A Long Trek Home: 4,000 Miles by Boot, Raft, and Ski" and spoke about their wilderness adventure from Seattle to the Alaska Peninsula. This "Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness Presents Adventure Series" presentation was at Sandpoint Community Hall.

**April 11:** FSPW staff manned a table at the Telluride Film Festival at the Panida in Sandpoint. The Festival was sponsored by the Selway-Bitterroot Foundation

**April 21:** Phil Hough presented "A Proposed Scotchman Peaks Wilderness" to NAMI Far North, the Bonner and Boundary affiliate of the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

**April 22:** FSPW volunteers and staff joined Idaho Conservation League, Lake Pend Oreille Waterkeepers and 20 other eco-minded and art-oriented groups in the 40th annual Earthday celebration at the Sandpoint Event Center.

**April 24:** FSPW staff manned a table at Green Pride in Bonners Ferry, a Boundary County celebration of Earth Day.

**April 24:** Jim and Sandii Mellen led the last hike of a successful FSPW winter hike series to Scotchman Peak.

## Rocky Mountain Maple

*Continues from Page 1*

evergreens, but in the home landscape will generally top out at about six feet tall and as wide across. As a tree, it can grow to astonishing heights. Research done by Master Gardener Emeritus Lois Wythe some 10 years ago, found that the (in 1973) National Champion in the Clearwater National Forest, was 47 feet tall and had a 38-inch circumference.

Beautiful in the forest or transplanted at home, these trees are the logical alternative for the ornamental Japanese Maple, which is not reliably hardy in our climate. Grown as a shrub, the Rocky Mountain Maple provides lush summer shade and glorious fall colors of yellow and/or red leaves which form a gorgeous long-lasting colorful carpet after they fall. The opposite, deciduous, five-toothed leaves emulate those of the larger tree maples and birds welcome their cover as well as the small yellow-green flowers that form in short terminal or auxiliary clusters, appearing with the leaves in April to June. The traditional maple "keys" or "wings" appear in the late autumn, also providing food for birds and squirrels and creating interest when they fall in the characteristic spiral fashion. (Great for potpourri, too.)

Young trees/shrubs have smooth, reddish purple stems, turning to a grayish bark after a few years. Their natural hillside habitat generally offers some open sun space and moist but well-drained soil, but they are remarkably hardy and grow with abandon (having self-sowed) on my inhospitable base-of-Schweitzer site.

Some people find them invasive, however I find their beauty an asset anywhere they choose to settle. They make a lovely single focal point or thrive in a grove situation. If you want to transplant, it's not difficult to find a single-growing sapling (or sucker) among a grove. Simply dig wide and deep so as to get the entire root clump, cutting cleanly through the lateral root that adjoins its parent trees' root. Plant at the same depth as it was growing and in the same site-type. Water in, then let it be. Never fertilize or amend your natural soil for native plantings.

Note: If you purchase a Rocky Mountain Maple, make sure you get *Acer glabrum* and not the more common (non-native) red maple (*Acer rubrum*).





## 2010 Summer Scotchman Peaks Photo Contest

The Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness annual photo contest starts May 26 and runs through October 5 this year. We are seeking photos in the following categories:

- Flora, fauna and water in the Scotchmans
- Scotchman scenics
- Microcosms in the Scotchmans (closeups and macro shots)
- People in the Scotchmans
- Scotchman cell phone pictures

A committee of Friends will choose 1st and 2nd place winners in each category, excepting cell phone pictures, which will be awarded a prize in each of the other categories, as well as best overall cell-phone picture. A grand prize will be awarded for best overall Summer 2010 photo. A special prize will also be awarded to the funniest picture submitted.

### Prizes:

**Grand Prize:** A professionally framed copy of your winning photo.

### 1st place in category and best overall cell phone picture:

Friends of Scotchman Peaks hooded or crew sweatshirt

**2nd place in category:** Friends long-sleeved black T-shirt

**Cell phone category prizes:** Friends blue, black or white T-shirt

### Rules:

- Entries for the summer contest must be taken after the FSPW Hike Season Kickoff Party on May 26th and submitted by

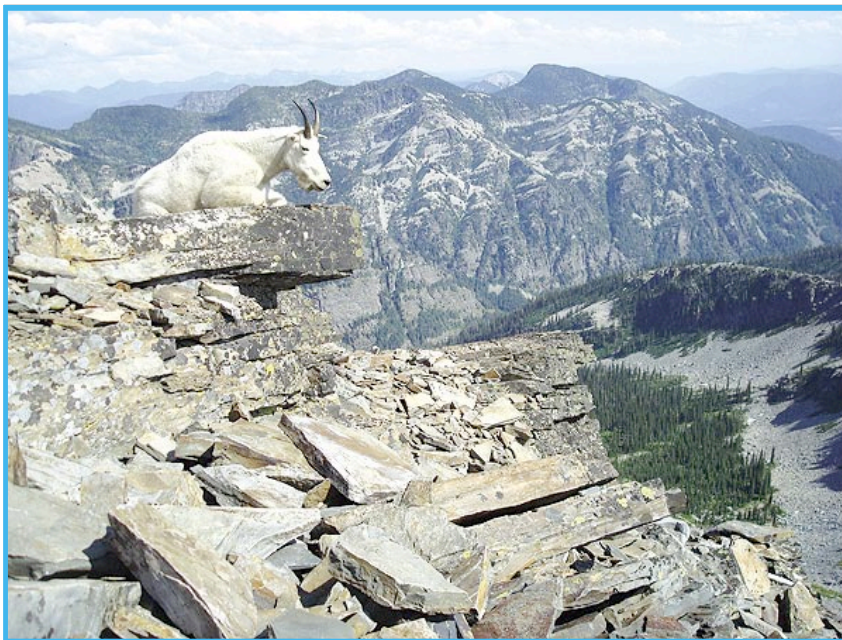
October 5th.

- Photos may be digital or traditional photographic prints (no slides, please)
- With the exception of cell-phone photos, we ask that digital photos be at least 300 dpi at 3 by 4 inches (1.5 megabytes in .jpg format. 3 megabytes .tif) Larger file sizes are preferred.
- Prints submitted must be 4 by 6 inches minimum, (larger preferred) color or black and white.
- Photos will be judged on content, composition and originality.
- Photos may be in color or black and white.
- Only photos of the proposed Scotchman Peaks wilderness will be considered.
- The following must be included with the submission: a photo name, when and where the photo was taken, the identity of people in the picture, and, if you were on an FSPW-sponsored hike, the name of the hike and the hike leader.

### How to enter:

Send your pictures of the Scotchman Peaks Wilderness by e-mail or on CD to [sandy@scotchmanpeaks.org](mailto:sandy@scotchmanpeaks.org) or Scotchman Peaks Photo Contest, P.O. Box 2061, Sandpoint, ID 83864. CDs and prints cannot be returned.

You will be notified by October 15 if your photo was chosen as a winner. Winning photos may be used in various FSPW publications, including but not limited to posters, brochures, maps, the Peak Experience newsletter, and our online venues. If we use a picture in this manner, it will be credited to the photographer.



## 2009 Photo Contest Winner, "Wild Scotchmans" Category

*Photo by Stan Myers*

## Wild Creatures of the Scotchmans

### Grizzly Bear *ursus arctos horribilis*

By Doug Ferrell

Grizzly bears are intriguing and interesting for many reasons. Besides being tremendously fascinating and impressive animals, their presence influences how we travel, camp and even reside in bear country. In addition, grizzlies have an important and controversial influence on public land management practices. In order to try to do justice to these three parts of the grizzly story, this column will tackle them one at a time. This edition will focus on the animals themselves.

Descriptions of grizzly bears tend to include lots of superlatives. They are among the largest terrestrial mammals in North America, and they are hugely strong and powerful. A grizzly can run as fast as a horse for short distances, and their sense of smell is legendary. They occupy the very top of the food chain, and have no enemies except man. Before European settlement, grizzlies occupied a vast area of western and central North America, from the arctic to central Mexico. Today, grizzlies are limited to some 2% of their former range.

Adult males in our area may weigh from 300 – 600 pounds; the females are significantly smaller. The bears are polygamous and several males may follow a female in estrus, a condition which may result in fights between males. Grizzlies can be very aggressive towards each other. Males are even prone to threaten young bears with their mothers, a situation which helps to explain why females with young can be so dangerous to an intruder.

Like the black bears featured in a previous column, grizzlies tend to be solitary, except for females with cubs; they den for the winter, and the young are born as tiny creatures – a pound or less - in late winter. The young nurse and rest and grow until they emerge in April or May. They may nurse for a year or more, and stay with their mother for two years or more.

The list of foods bears eat could fill many pages. Many people do not realize that the majority of a typical grizzly diet is vegetable matter. They also may eat a surprising amount of insects including ants and moths, and are adept at finding and exposing nests where insects are concentrated. One observer reported watching a grizzly eat a large wasp nest, hive and all. Grizzlies are not normally successful at attacking healthy deer, elk or moose, but they do prey on the young and weaker animals. Grizzlies also may drive wolves and other predators off a kill. Winter killed carrion can be an important food source when bears first emerge from the den. In our area, huckleberries are a very important high energy food late in the summer. The bears' ability to eat large quantities of rich food and store fat without suffering from heart disease or cholesterol problems is of great interest to medical scientists.

The tracks of a full grown grizzly are impossible to confuse with any other animal. The rear footprint may be a foot long and half a foot wide, with claws showing prominently. The front claws are even longer, to aid in digging and fighting. The claws are not retractable. I crossed a grizzly track in the snow below Spar Peak one day with a group of friends. The tracks looked pretty darn fresh. They got our attention in a hurry. I can guarantee our senses were very alert and sharpened for the next few hours.

Another sign of grizzly bears is the amazing amount of digging they do, along with tearing up rotten stumps and logs, and turning over heavy stones for insects. The characteristic hump on the grizzlies back is mostly muscle used to power the forelimbs. Our family watched a grizzly feeding on something some years ago, on a bicycle ride through Yellowstone Park in the spring before the roads were opened to cars. The bear was quite a long ways off, but I can clearly remember the sense of power and energy I felt embodied in that thick fur.



**Grizzly in Snowstorm** Photo by Randy Beachum, [www.agpix.com/beachum](http://www.agpix.com/beachum)

**Carol Jenkins announces that the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative ([www.y2y.net](http://www.y2y.net)) has awarded FSPW a \$3,000.00 grant in general support for our campaign.**



## Scotchman Past

### Lightning Creek Pass – Boom or Bust?

*Editor's note: This article from the Spokane Falls Review, 12 March 1890, is reprinted courtesy of the Bonner County Historical Society and Museum. The "Butler Brothers" are not related to Butlers currently living in Hope. Lightning Creek Pass is not found on any current maps. Where do YOU think it is?*

An Interesting Description of the Lightning Creek Pass to the Mines.

A Season Anticipated of Great Activity in Discovery and Development.

CLARK'S FORK, March 11– And still the indications are growing stronger every day to show that a boom and a stampede to this place in the near future are inevitable.

Another move is on the tapis, and is of no small importance. It is the erection of a half-way house near the summit of Lightning Creek Pass, for the accommodation of travelers. This same house may be the beginning of a very flourishing place of business, as the location will be midway on a great thoroughfare, this Lightning Creek route between the valleys of the Clark's Fork and the great mining regions of the upper Kootenai. Parties from all points between Thompson Falls and Hope and all of the tributary points on the Pend d'Oreille lake desiring to go to any part of the upper Kootenai between Bonner's Ferry and the mouth of Fisher Creek, or where it is supposed the Great Northern Railway will intersect with the Kootenai Valley, will find the Lightning Creek pass an available route, considering its short distance and easy access. Its southern terminus is at the village of Clark's Fork. The trail follows up the banks of a beautiful mountain stream, through forests of pine and cedar of remarkable growth and density, and continuing along for a distance of about twenty-five miles, we reach the summit of the pass. Here is scenery that is beautiful and grand beyond description. The writer will merely say that on one side can be seen the Pend d'Oreille Lake in all its splendor, and the hundreds of canyons opening into it, and on the other side can be seen the rough, wild, weird regions of the Upper Kootenai Valley. A bird's-eye view from this place on the summit, when described in appropriate language, would be food extraordinary to the lovers of the grand and sublime.

It is much to be regretted that the deep snow continues so exceptionally late in the spring this year. But everything seems

to be in readiness about Clark's Fork for a grand move to the new mines; even a great many who are owners of the rich mines near town are preparing to start for them, and we observe that the nearer the starting time comes the greater is the excitement. The hotel and boarding-houses are well prepared for the rush, and the business places in general are well fixed for such an emergency.

The "Big Eight" are in a happy mood. They are the eight fellows who own the two big claims near the summit of the pass, which claims are called the Northern Belle and the Welcome Guest. The former has a large ledge of concentrating galena ore, assaying from its surface cropping richly in silver, and carrying a large per cent in lead with a small quantity of iron carbonates. The Welcome Guest is much the same in quantity and quality of ore, and located near the Northern Belle. An eighth ownership in these two great claims changed hands last week, the consideration of which we learn were away up in the big figures, Butler Bros., a well-known and popular firm of this town, being the purchasers. After this purchase was made the co-owners held a meeting to determine the course of further proceedings. At the close of the meeting all seemed in one accord of confidence, inasmuch as they so expressed it in their joviality and in the many "good healths" indulged by them and all the citizens they could invite to join them.

The advent of the Great Northern railway into the Kootenai by way of the Flathead Lake is almost a certainty. The region it will traverse is rich in mineral, but very little developed. In fact, it has been very little prospected, but in time the facilities for shipping ores will be better and will increase development extensively. Next to be considered, then, is where these ores will be shipped to for smelting. Great Falls will bid high for it, and Spokane Falls will undoubtedly, should a great smelter be established there, bid for it and command its traffic, because of it being much nearer. However the routes and facilities of incoming railroads will be, there will at no distant day be a great smelter here in Northern Idaho, and its most favorable location would be about midway between Clark's Fork and the village of Hope, on Lake Pend d'Oreille, which is indisputably in the center of an extensive mining district, with navigation, railroads, wagon roads, and pack trails pointing to it in all directions.

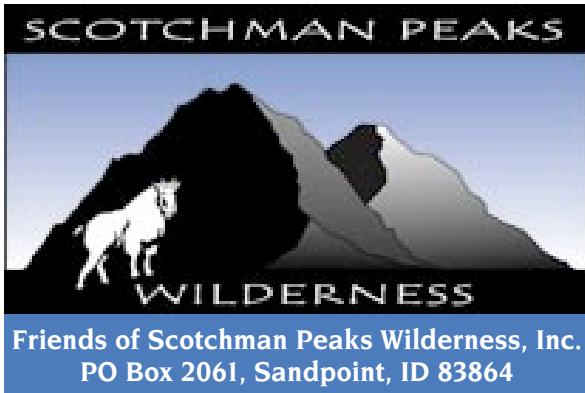
### Gear for All Temps

Layers are the key to hiking comfort and we have them all.

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. Try our long sleeved T's for \$15, short sleeved T's for \$10 or our bargain shirts for \$5. Our sweats (\$30) and hoodies (\$35) are perfect second layers. Pick up your Scotchman gear at Buttercups Gift Shoppe in the Meriwether Inn in Clark Fork, Café Bodega, Eichardt's, Outdoor



Experience, or Sandpoint Sports in Sandpoint, ID, Mountain Meadows in Libby, MT, or Huckleberry Thicket in Trout Creek, MT. Out of the area, contact [jimmsandit@gmail.com](mailto:jimmsandit@gmail.com). 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).



## 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 & Staff:

### CHAIR/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Phil Hough, *Sagle, ID*  
 (208) 946-9127  
[phil@scotchmanpeaks.org](mailto:phil@scotchmanpeaks.org)

### VICE-CHAIRMAN &

### MONTANA DIRECTOR:

Doug Ferrell, *Trout Creek, MT*  
 (406) 827-4341  
[doug@scotchmanpeaks.org](mailto:doug@scotchmanpeaks.org)

### VICE-CHAIRMAN &

### IDAHO DIRECTOR:

Carol Jenkins, *Sagle, ID*  
 (208) 265-9204  
[carol@scotchmanpeaks.org](mailto:carol@scotchmanpeaks.org)

### SECRETARY:

Sarah Lundstrum, *Whitefish, MT*  
 (406) 755-6304  
[sarah@scotchmanpeaks.org](mailto:sarah@scotchmanpeaks.org)

### TREASURER:

Jacob Styer, *Sandpoint, ID*  
 (828) 989-8095  
[jacob@scotchmanpeaks.org](mailto:jacob@scotchmanpeaks.org)

### EAST BONNER COUNTY

### DIRECTOR:

Neil Wimberley, *Hope, ID*  
 (208) 264-5379  
[neil@scotchmanpeaks.org](mailto:neil@scotchmanpeaks.org)

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

Will Valentine, *Sagle, ID*  
 (208) 255-1114  
[will@scotchmanpeaks.org](mailto:will@scotchmanpeaks.org)

### LINCOLN COUNTY COORDINATOR:

Charlie Clough, *Libby, MT*  
 (406) 293-5210  
[charlie@scotchmanpeaks.org](mailto:charlie@scotchmanpeaks.org)

### PROGRAM COORDINATOR:

Sandy Compton, *Heron, MT*  
 (208) 290-1281  
[sandy@scotchmanpeaks.org](mailto:sandy@scotchmanpeaks.org)

### NEWSLETTER EDITOR:

Ann Wimberley, *Hope, ID*  
 (208) 264-5379  
[ann@scotchmanpeaks.org](mailto:ann@scotchmanpeaks.org)