

PEAK EXPERIENCE The Newsletter for Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness, Inc. Volume 7, Number 3 • May / June 2011

Mission Statement

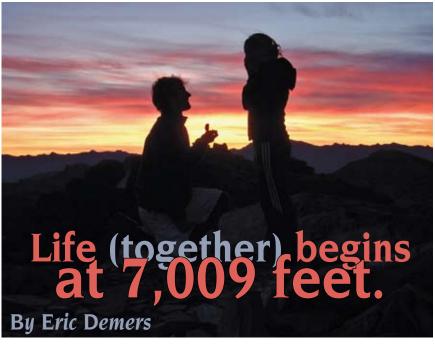
"Spanning the Idaho/Montana border, the Scotchmans are one of the last, and largest, wild areas in our region. We conduct education, outreach and stewardship activities to preserve the rugged, scenic and biologically diverse 88,000 acre Scotchman Peaks Roadless Area. We believe the Scotchman Peaks deserve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



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

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Editor: Ann Wimberley Layout and design: Sandy Compton



The alarm sounded at one o' clock a.m. on the morning of September 3, 2010. It was time to go for a hike. Natalee and I were going to hike Scotchman Peak. One may wonder why someone would awaken so early in the morning to go for a day hike. It wasn't that we had a long drive or had to do an early hike to get back to work. We woke up that morning for an even better reason; we were going to watch the sun rise from the summit of Scotchman Peak.

I got the idea to do the early morning hike earlier in August when some friends and I began an early morning through-hike from the Scotchman Peak trailhead over to Scotchman Two, Savage Mountain and then down to the trailhead at East Fork Creek. To complete this hike in one day we knew we had to leave very early in the morning. We summited Scotchman just as the sun was rising that morning and the goats were right on the summit. It was one of the most beautiful mornings I have ever seen. We continued the tremendous day hike and made it to our car at East Fork trailhead just before sunset. It was an amazing day but nothing stood out to me more than that sunrise on the summit of Scotchman.

During the late summer season of 2010 I had been trying to develop my engagement plan and the thought of Scotchman Peak had crossed my mind. The thought of proposing on top of a mountain seemed very special and unique to me. However, her birthday was on August 23rd and we had a romantic getaway planned for Banff, Alberta. Banff just happens to be on the top of each of our lists of favorite places and we were going to stay at a nice and fancy resort. I was torn between my options of where to propose. On one hand I had the landscape of Banff combined with her birthday weekend and on the other I had the glorious sun rise and solitude of Scotchman Peak. I knew both places



Message From the Chair: Good Stewardship Makes Good Friends

Our brand of advocacy is not about engaging in conflict; we are about building partnerships and community support. Education and outreach are hallmark activities for groups like ours. Stewardship is an important part of effective outreach.

During our first few years we "dabbled" with trail projects, mainly helping to facilitate other groups and opportunities in the Scotchmans. Then, in the fall of 2009, a severe wind event badly damaged the Scotchman Peak trail. A large number of volunteers responded to our call for help and, in one day, working alongside a forest service crew, we restored the Scotchman Peak trail. We had similar success with projects on the Pillick Ridge trail. We could easily see that we had plenty of volunteer interest for additional projects.

Last December, we met with the three district Forest Service Rangers and recreation staff to evaluate our summer 2010 projects and to set priorities and begin planning for expanded trail projects in 2011. We also looked at how to work better together and build a partnership to preserve the wilderness character of the Scotchmans. Among the results is a formal partnership agreement which identifies what we can do to help each other with good stewardship of the Scotchmans.

Stewardship means more than trail building. It means educating the public about appropriate human behavior among wild animals, such as mountain goats and grizzly bear. Stewardship also means learning and understanding more about the natural resources. Last winter, we assisted Idaho Fish and Game with their Rare Forest Carnivore Study by setting up and checking several stations used to collect photos and hair samples to monitor populations of lynx, wolverine,

From the Top

As the song says, "Spring is busting out all over". And so is our newsletter – so much info for so few pages. Just look at all the fun events and hikes listed in this issue! Partnerships for FSPW are growing too, with the new Idaho Master Naturalist – Pend Oreille Chapter (see article) and for the second year with NAMI Far North (Bonner and Boundary Counties affiliate of the National Alliance on Mental Illness) as we lead the annual "Walk in the Woods for Mental Health" during Mental Health Month in May. Jack Nisbet is again a guest columnist with an article linked to the upcoming David Thompson Columbia Brigade which will travel the Clark Fork at the base of the proposed Scotchman Peaks Wilderness area. Check out the interview with Sandpoint native Patrick McManus who has added mysteries to his list of publications. And finally, help us welcome Maria Trujillo who has volunteered to take on the job of layout and design for Peak Experience. Maria, an avid hiker and lover of the outdoors. will add her unique talents to our newsletter.

— Ann Wimberley

fisher, and marten. In an era of shrinking budgets, our volunteers can be of great help to agencies whose work is important to the long-term preservation of the Scotchmans.

These stewardships activities are a natural form of education and outreach. We bring both new supporters and long time friends to a deeper level of commitment and understanding especially when we combine the studies with special speakers like Doug Chadwick. Our recent tracking hike, led by Brian Baxter, is another example of building understanding and community. We are now entering a partnership with the newly formed Pend Oreille Chapter of the Idaho Master Naturalist Program to find ways that we can support teach others' educational and volunteer goals.

Our Facebook Friends show, and share, a keen interest in all these activities, generating positive dialogue about events, speakers and stewardship topics in general. A social network for Stewardship! In short, good stewardship becomes an effective strategy for engaging the community, of building more support and achieving our outreach goals.

Watch for upcoming field trips, seminars, and trail maintenance opportunities, in addition to our regular summer "hiking" program. In order to coordinate all these activities we will be hiring a summer intern. As we look to the future, we hope that the Scotchmans are designated as Wilderness and that we develop a legacy of people who care enough to be good stewards for this very special place.

— Phil Hough

Partners in Stewardship

By Ann Wimberley

On Tuesday, April 19, classes began at The Waterlife Discovery Center on Lakeshore Drive in Sagle, Idaho for the first class of the Idaho Master Naturalist - Pend Oreille Chapter. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game sponsors the program with Pete Gardner serving as the local sponsor. The mission of the Idaho Master Naturalist Program is to develop a corps of well-trained volunteers to work toward the stewardship of Idaho's natural environment. An Idaho Master Naturalist completes 48 hours of combined class-room and field training about Idaho's ecology, plants, animals and natural systems the first year and then an additional 8 hours of advanced training each succeeding year.

To be certified students must also complete 40 hours of volunteer work each year. Idaho Master Naturalists are trained in two tracks, a Conservation Education Track and a Citizen Scientist Track and may choose to volunteer through either or both tracks. It's only natural that FSPW is an official partner of the Pend Oreille Chapter. Watch the FSPW newsletter,



An Interview with the Man Who Mysteriously Hijacked Scotchman Peak

MURDERS

PATRICK F. MCMANUS

By Sandy Compton

Bonner County, Idaho, is not only the home of the namesake peak of the proposed Scotchman Peaks wilderness, it is also the home — formerly or presently — of several famous folk. Besides Dr. Forrest Bird, Jerry Kramer and Vigo Mortensen there is (or was) the renowned humor

writer and now crime novelist. Patrick McManus. McManus. who now calls Spokane home, admits to growing up in and around Sandpoint, and to being "part of the landed gentry of North Idaho — we owned the wall we had our back to."

McManus wrote humor for decades, including hundreds of columns for magazines and 15 books, the first of which was A Fine & Pleasant Misery. A few years ago, though, he changed genres and began creating novels starring Bo Tully, the sheriff of Blight County, Idaho. Since, he has published four Bo Tully novels and a fifth approaches publication. In his latest book, The Huckleberry Murders, we find that Scotchman Peak has been hijacked to Blight County, and HUCKLEBERRYseveral folks were found dead on its slopes in a huckleberry patch.

As protectors of the Scotchmans, we decided to investigate the investigation.

Q. First of all, Pat, why did you steal Scotchman Peak?

A. I have climbed many of the mountains in the Cabinets but never Scotchman. Still, it was a mountain with which I was very familiar and it is much easier to write about something you can picture in your mind.

Q. And what did you put up in place of the mountain? Is that some sort of cardboard cutout?

A. After the novel was written, I put Scotchman Peak back. That's why there's no big hole there.

Q. So you did put Scotchman Peak back, but there is a Scotchman Lake, which is haunted, in The Huckleberry Murders. Outside of being in Blight County in your book, is there a Scotchman Lake? And is it really haunted?

A. There's a Scotchman Lake in Blight County because years ago I discovered a haunted lake back in the Cabinets at the base of a mountain that had a sheer cliff running down to the lake. I suspect anyone finding that lake will not argue the point.

Q. That it's haunted?

A. That's correct.

Q. Hmm. Onward. Blight County bears a resemblance to Bonner County, but it seems to be south of here. Where exactly is it?

A. Blight is about an 8-hour drive from CDA. Aspects of Bonner County appear in the Blight County because Bonner is the county I am most familiar with. The reason Blight County is in Idaho is that Idaho is a funny state. Washington isn't funny. It's rather dull, in fact. Idaho simply lends itself to humor. Every Idahoan I know has a great sense of humor.

ment that I do so.

Q. Speaking of humor, why did you switch from writing humor to crime novels?

> A. I turned to writing mysteries because I wanted to do something that was fun. Writing mysteries is fun. Writing humor is not. I work a bit of humor into the Tully mysteries whenever it occurs to me but there is no require-

Humor can come as a surprise in a novel but it's expected in a short-humor piece. And, short humor is one of the toughest sales to magazines, because editors, I think, are afraid of it. I once got a letter from the editor of a magazine who said he wanted me to start writing for his magazine. "... but not humor, it's too dangerous." Exact quote.

You may ask, "Dangerous for whom?" The editor, of course. He didn't want the responsibility of judging whether a piece was funny

Q. Sheriff Bo Tully, the main character in the Blight County series, is funny . . . sometimes. But, mostly, he seems to have a knack for stumbling onto clues and enamoring women. How many girlfriends can Tully have at any given time?

A. Any good-looking woman that appears in a novel may be assumed to be a Bo Tully girlfriend sooner or later.

Q. Lucky sheriff . . . maybe. I noticed that some of your other characters bear a resemblance to some of the old gang from the Fine and Pleasant Misery days. Is that coincidence?

A. Some characters have been moved from the humor collections to the Tully novels. Poke Whimsey is somewhat based on Rancid Crabtree. But he is also based on a great teacher I had at Sandpoint High School.

Q. The biker guys in the book — the ones with the AK-47s do you know them personally?

A. I have known the type personally; none of them are as bad as they like to think themselves but not someone you'd like to move in next door.

Q. Blight County has two ranges of mountains across Blight Lake from Blight itself, the Snowy Mountains and the Hoodoos. Which range is the Blight version of Scotchman in?



Scotchman Past: David Thompson Downstream on the Columbia

By Jack Nisbet

The easiest way to keep track of North West Company fur agent David Thompson's considerable activities in the year 1811 is by crew and canoe. At the tail end of January of that year, after a tough crossing of the Rocky Mountains over Athabasca Pass, Thompson consolidated his most trustworthy men at the junction of the Canoe and Columbia Rivers, the northernmost

River survey, 1811;

Courtesy Jack Nisbet,

The Mapmaker's Eye,

Washington State

University Press"

hairpin turn of the big river. Thompson's Columbia He dispatched a Nahathaway Cree hunter named Yellow Bird to pile up moose for food, then fanned the remainder of his barebones crew out to search for birch bark to make a canoe. The three vovageurs--Pierre Pareil, Joseph Cote, and Rene Vallade—found no bark suitable for the job.

After careful consideration, Thompson had them fell a large cedar tree and set to work constructing a plank canoe of his own design. Over the next several weeks, a hybrid vessel sewn together with spruce roots took shape in the place known from then on as Boat Encampment. On April 17th, the four men set off upstream, making for Thompson's original Kootanae House post at the Columbia's source lakes

and the trade route he had established over the previous four years west of the Continental Divide.

It was more of a slog than a paddle, with days spent wearing snowshoes and pulling the boat over ice. The cedar planks leaked like crazy, and much time was spent making and thawing "Pine Gum" to seal the cracks. Vallade suffered from snowblindness, and Thompson complained bitterly about the messy camp Pareil kept. On May 2, they tore into their trade goods and "put a stripe of Linnen well gummed over every Seam." In spite of all their efforts, "the Canoe leaked very much."

Sheet 7" (detail), It took more than two weeks to reach an open channel, but in early May they met two "fine steady" Iroquois who Thompson immediately engaged: Charles in the bow, "being an excellent Canoe man," and Louis "to Hunt & be the foreman or Steersman of a Canoe." The new crew worked their way past Kootanae House and carried the 26-foot long boat across the short portage to the Kootenai River. Headed downstream now, they swept south across the 49th parallel and into modern-day Montana.

At the mouth of the Fisher River they abandoned Thompson's first cedar plank canoe and purchased horses to cross over to

the Clark Fork drainage via a tribal trail that followed the Fisher and Thompson Rivers. From this point on Thompson met free trappers every day, and engaged one particular Iroquois named Ignace, "to be Steersman of my canoe" at the high wage of 550 livres plus a kit of standard equipment. One trapper told Thompson that his clerk Finan McDonald had abandoned the company's Saleesh House post near Thompson Falls,

but Thompson still hoped he might find a letter there explaining Finan's intentions. He found

> From Saleesh House, Thompson continued on horseback, traveling downstream toward Lake Pend Oreille. Spring runoff made for soggy riding, and when

> > Ignace, his latest Iroquois hire, was nearly swept away fording a creek, Thompson camped near a cedar grove (probably at modern Swamp Creek) to construct plank canoe #2. The men sewed this one together with cedar instead of the preferred spruce roots and completed the craft in only seven days. Thompson, always critical, made

several design changes on the fly and pronounced the cedar root cordage "weak."

Thompson's crew had constructed Kullyspel House near modern Hope in the fall of 1809; since then it had served mostly as a warehouse for goods and furs. When the travelers found "no person, nor any writing" there, Thompson had no choice but to continue across Lake Pend Oreille. Still struggling with leaks in his new canoe design, he put ashore below the "Sandy Point" that marks the location of the city of Sandpoint and "gummed the Canoe which from the House has been so leaky as to keep a man continually bailing out water."

From the Pend Oreille River's outlet at Dover he continued downstream past Albeni Falls to a Kalispel encampment near the town of Cusick, Washington.

There the elder called Le Bon Vieux informed Thompson that Finan McDonald was staying at Spokane House, and before long the crew had secured fresh horses to make their next portage, between the Pend Oreille and Spokane drainages. Canoe #2 remained behind as Thompson and his growing crew, including experienced translator Michel Boulard, moved south to the

Detail of the Clark Fork/ Pend Oreille drainage from David Thompson ca. 1823, "Map of North America from 84° West,

> Public Record Office. London

> > Spokane, then back north through the Colville Valley to Kettle Continued page 6



Scotchman Past: Clark Fork History Celebrations on Tap

Brigade to Paddle Down the Clark Fork

A group called the 2011 David Thompson Columbia Brigade is recreating David Thompson's 1811 route from the Rockies to the Pacific. They are doing this in voyageur canoes and camping in communities along the way, including Thompson Falls and Noxon, Montana, and Clark Fork, Dover, and Oldtown, Idaho, on their way through this area. They will be in Clark Fork on Sunday, June 12. Clark Fork mayor Jeff Jeffers and Ann Ferguson, Director and Curator of the Bonner County Historical Museum, are coordinating some events to coincide with their arrival. As many as 150-200 Brigade members will land their canoes at the mouth of Mosquito Creek and camp in the ball field by the Clark Fork Senior Center. Jack Nisbet will speak on the history of David Thompson's 1811 trip Friday, June 10, at the Senior Center. FSPW is cosponsoring Nisbett's talk with Bonner County Historical Museum.

For more information on the brigade, check their website www.2011brigade.org.

Sagle, Idaho resident, Bill Brusstar, built a 25-foot replica of the cedar plank canoe built by David Thompson in the spring of 1811. Peak Experience, Vol. 5, No. 4, July/Aug 2009, archived on our website at www.scotchmanpeaks.org, features a picture of the replica of the canoe at the Bonner County Historical Museum and an article on the David Thompson Bicentennial event. The Summer 2009 issue of Sandpoint Magazine included an article on Brusstar who built the canoe from the same materials, cedar and spruce roots, used by Thompson. He also used the same primitive tools, fire, water, an axe and a crooked knife, following directions from Thompson's journals.

Happy 100 Clark Fork

Clark Fork, the city nearest "our" wilderness area, incorporated in May of 1911, and to mark 100 years of municipality, the community between the Clark Fork River and Scotchman Peak will hold a day-long commemoration on Saturday, July 2.

"We want this to be a day of celebration of being a town and being a community, of being neighbors," said Roger Anderson, a Clark Fork city councilman who is helping organize the event.

Beginning with a pancake breakfast at the Senior Center at 8:00 am, the day will include a car show, live music, demonstrations and commercial booths at Clark Fork High School (9:00 am to 4 pm). Historical photos will be on display, including some very early photos of the Scotchman Peaks. FSPW will have a booth, and "Fiddlin' Red," musician and repairman of vintage instruments will reveal another talent as a blacksmith.

Merriweather Inn, on the east end of town, will host a fishing derby for young kids, and softball umpire Dave Broughton (also of KPND fame) is organizing a softball tournament. In the midst of the tournament, he hopes to arrange an exhibition game between Clark Fork and Sagle, hearkening back to a hard-hitting rivalry that existed even prior to the town's incorporation.

We have room for more booths, musicians and historic demonstrations," says Anderson, "and we invite those who are interested to visit our website to contact us (http://clarkfork100.com), e-mail me at roguefish1@gmail.com or call 208-266-0376."

Along the Trail

March 4: Phil Hough made a presentation to the National Association of Active and Retired Federal Employees at the Elks Club in Ponderay.

March 10-13: Phil Hough and Sandy Compton attended the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada.

March 17, 18 and 19: Doug Chadwick, author of The Wolverine Way, presented to over 175 guests on his favorite mustelid in Sandpoint, Trout Creek and Troy.

March 18: Sandy Compton took an FSPW display to the Winter Wildlands Film Festival at Gonzaga University in Spokane.

March 21: Phil Hough presented sweatshirts to the members of Team Laughing Dog as part of the FSPW sponsorship of their Ride Across America for Autism.

April 6: Lincoln County Coordinator Molly Kieran made a presentation to the Yaak Yaakie Yaakers Red Hats organization at the Yaak River Lodge.

April 8: Phil Hough made a presentation to 70 people at the Idaho Virtual Academy during their science fair at the Ponderay Event Center.

April 13: Phil Hough and Deb Hunsicker made a presentation to 80 appreciative listeners about their time on the Continental Divide Trail at the Sandpoint Community Hall. Donations benefitted FSPW and Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society.

April 15: FSPW volunteers had a table at the International Wildlife Film Festival, sponsored by the Sandpoint High Adventure Club, at the Panida Theater in Sandpoint.

April 22 and 23, Earthday Weekend: FSPW participated in the April 22 Earthday celebration at the Sandpoint Events Center, where Earthday cofounder and wilderness advocate Doug Scott spoke. Saturday, April 23, FSPW participated in the Bonners Ferry and Coeur d' Alene Earthday events.

April 25: FSPW board member Sarah Lundstrum gave a presentation at the Lewis & Clark County Library in Helena.

April 28: Phil Hough and Sandy Compton made a presentation at the Missoula REI store.

April 29 to May 1: FSPW staffers and board attended the Montana Wilderness Association meeting in Gallatin Gateway, near Bozeman.



From page 4: Thomspon

Falls. There Thompson spent another frustrating few days looking for good birch bark before retreating to a grove of small branchy cedar on Mill Creek, just north of Colville. He and his men fashioned cedar plank canoe #3, dragged it the eight miles back to Kettle Falls and tossed it into the main stem of the Columbia on July 3. After six full months of preliminaries, the surveyor was ready to make his 10-day, 700-mile run to the Pacific.

For this trip, Boat Encampment veterans Pierre Pariel and Joseph Cote joined Michel Boulard and free hunters Michel Bourdeaux and Francois Gregoire as paddlers. The Iroquois Charles and Ignace took their seats at the bow and stern respectively. A San Poil couple came along as translators of the unfamiliar Interior Salish languages they would encounter downstream. It was a crack crew, and they did steady work on the trip that entered Thompson's name into modern history books as the first surveyor of the Columbia's entire length.

But in the larger scheme of events, this section of the river represented simply another leg of a much longer journey. It took six months for the Nor'Westers to build the three boats and cover the water and overland miles that got them to Kettle Falls. Over the next nine months, Thompson and various groups of men and women would cover all those river miles twice over, and build no less than seven more full-sized cedar plank cargo canoes. They ended up right back at Kettle Falls, ready to shove off for the upstream paddle back to Boat Encampment, where it all began. In the fur trade world, the river ran an endless circle. And Thompson's strange plank canoes became the model that grew into the Columbia River bateaux, used to haul goods and furs over the next four decades for both the Columbia and Fraser River fur districts.

2010 Summer photo contest.

First Place, Funniest



"Hiking Sandals" by Angela Potts-Bopp (Second place: Sandii Mellen)

Put a camera in your pack!

As we go to press, the end of the Winter 2011 photo contest has passed.

We will announce winners online at our Facebook page as well as on our website in Mid-May.

The 2011 Summer photo contest opens soon. Watch for details at www. scotchmanpeaks.org

The Future Looks Bright

May 12: Michael Lucid and Lacy Robinson from Idaho Fish and Game will give a presentation on the 2011 rare carnivore study and wolverine search that took place in the Scotchmans over the winter with assistance from many Friends. 6 p.m. at the East Bonner County Library in Sandpoint.

May 19: Phil Hough and Sandy Compton will make a presentation to the Missoula Chapter of Montana Wilderness Association

May 20 – 22: FSPW staff will attend Wild Idaho at Redfish Lake Lodge in Stanley Basin.

May 31: The Annual State of the Scotchman meeting takes place at Sandpoint Community Hall beginning at 6 p.m. Volunteer appreciation presentations, short films, an update from FSPW exec Phil Hough and an overview of stewardship projects for the summer will be included. Snacks, beverages and door prizes will be provided, as well as a silent auction.

June 4: National Trails Day. Take your family for a walk in the woods.

June 5: Phil Hough will make a presentation to the residents of Luther Park in Sandpoint at 1 p.m.

June 9: Phil Hough and Sandy Compton will make a presentation to the Sandpoint Chamber of Commerce; 11:30 at Tango Café in the Panhandle State Bank building.

June 10: FSPW and Bonner County Historical Museum cosponsor a talk by Jack Nisbett about explorer David Thompson at the Clark Fork Senior Center, time to be announced. This event is in advance of a visit by the 2011 David Thompson Brigade visit to Clark Fork on June 12 (See story on page 5).

June 12: The FSPW Sanders County picnic will be held at Bull River Campground beginning at 4 p.m.

June 19: FSPW will host a picnic and live music in Troy at Roosevelt Park beginning at 5 p.m.

June 25 and 26: FSPW volunteers will assist Idaho Panhandle National Forests crews in clearing and rehabilitating trails in the upper Lightning Creek drainage. (See story on page 8)

July 2: First hike of the summer season. Andrew Klaus leads a hike to Star Peak (See the schedule on page 9)

July 2: FSPW volunteers will have a booth at the Clark Fork centennial celebration (see sidebar on page 5)

July 4: FSPW volunteers will march in parades in Sandpoint, Clark Fork, Heron, Noxon, Trout Creek and Troy. Join the parade! Call 208-290-1281 to find out details.

On the Horizon

July 24 and 25: FSPW Volunteers join the Cabinet District Forest Service trail crew and the Backcountry Horsemen to work on the Pillick Ridge trail complex. (See story on page 8)

August 20: FSPW volunteers join the Three Rivers District Forest Service trail crew to work on the Little Spar Lake Trail.



Birds of the Scotchmans

Scotchman Bird Time By Jon Isacoff, Ph.D.

Late Spring and early Summer is *the* time for birding in the US, especially in the Mountain West. That means birds in the Scotchmans; *lots* of birds. Early migrant birds have arrived and are already feeding wee little chicks in the nests. The later migrants, some coming from as far as South America, are back, singing, mating, and nest building. It is a wondrous time.

If you like colorful birds, the nesting season is the time when they're all in. This includes many painters' and artists' favorite subjects: Warblers, Buntings, Grosbeaks, Tanagers, and Orioles. Do these birds nest in the Scotchman's? Yes indeed! The largest diversity of this group is Warblers. There are some 50 species of breeding "Wood Warblers" in North America, about 8-10 of which are common in the Scotchman's region. Warblers are to the birding world what dry-flies and barbless hooks are to fly-fishing: challenging and frustrating on many levels. Warblers are notorious for hiding in thick leafy or needly vegetation and are serial "flitters," rarely staying still for a photo or a good look. They have melodious, distinctly

patterned songs, but there are so many of them, and some are so similar and others so different, that memorizing the entire repertoire is daunting. But they are glorious to behold, so like that trophy trout caught sight unseen with a dry fly on barbless hook, finding and



Photo by Donald M. Jones www.donaldmjones.com

identifying Warblers is a rewarding challenge.

If you are in the lower riparian areas of the Scotchmans, along the North shore of Lake Pend Oreille or the Lightning Creek or Bull River drainages, look for Yellow, Orange-crowned, Nashville, and MacGillvray's Warblers in the thick foliage. Rarer is the black-and-salmon colored American Redstart. In the coniferous uplands, you will find abundant

Continued on page 11

Scotchman Natives

Tiarella

By Valle Novak

One of the most delightful little flowering plants to grace the late spring to mid-summer moist habitats is *Tiarella*.

Tiarella, commonly known as "foamflower", is a member of the Saxifrageceae - or Saxifrage (rockfoil) - family, dubbed "coolwort foamflower" and "false mitrewort" - the latter connotation obviously due to its resemblance to the true mitreworts. While those have generally heart-shaped scalloped leaves, Tiarella has two leaf variations; unifoliata (one-leaved), and trifoliata (three-lobed), which plant scientists have now compressed into one listing - T. trifoliata (var. unifoliata).

The multitude of delicate stamens poking out from each tiny bell-shaped floret surrounding the stem give foamflower its name - for they literally light up the space they occupy with their foamy whiteness. I've seen more *Tiarella* along the paths of the Ross Creek Cedars just over the border in Montana than anywhere else. Their sweet, quiet beauty always stops me for a moment of reverent acknowledgement. There, they are accompanied

by wild ginger, false and starry Solomon's Seal, Goldthread, trail-plant and many other small treasures all watched over

by the large and ubiquitous Devil's Club (Araliaceae - with which one does not tarry).

Arthur Kruckeberg* recommends Tiarella for the home landscape, to wit: "This smallish woodland saxifrage combines neat foliage of maple-like leaves in a basal rosette with attractive clusters of daintily white flowers." He goes on to point out their beauty when mass-planted in the wild shaded garden, and praises their long-lasting bloom through the summer.

While several of my fellow nature-lovers/gardeners have transplanted Tiarella successfully, I haven't yet tried. Were I to do it, however, I'd find a very large patch of them, take out maybe two or three carefully with a trowel, keep them moist and cool in wet paper towels in a plastic

"I've seen more Tiarella along the paths of the Ross Creek Cedars in Montana than anywhere else."

Photo by Marilyn George



Trail Talk: Trail Stewards Needed.

Get the green hat the hard (satisfying) way.

So, you want to work on waterbars and pack a Pulaski? Be a weed whacker? Leave your track as rebuilt trail tread? Learn what it's like to be a "swamper?" Maybe you even want to learn to lace a diamond hitch knot. This is the season for such endeavors, when you can get all this and also work on your personal fitness (nothing in the gym can match a Pulaski for a full-body workout). Friends of Scotchman Peaks are ready to go into "trail" mode.

FSPW is entering further this summer into an aspect of wilderness that, in the parlance, puts boots on the ground: stewardship. "It's a natural extension of advocacy," says FSPW exec Phil Hough, "one that helps us help the agencies that are charged with caring for our wild lands. This sense of cooperation is a critical part of the future of wilderness in the Scotchmans and nationwide."

This thought was reinforced in March when Hough and program coordinator Sandy Compton met with wilderness "Friends" groups and Federal agency employees from all across the country at the first annual National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance conference. "It was exciting to see the agency folks and the "friends" all on the same page," says Compton. "I think NWSA is going to usher in a new age of good relations between the people in charge of caring for our wilderness and those who are eager to help them do it."

With that in mind, FSPW has interspersed into the summer hiking schedule (see page 9) three trail projects to be undertaken with the Forest Service, one on each of the ranger districts that the proposed wilderness lies in. Also, FSPW is bringing a Student Conservation Association intern on board (to arrive in late May), to help coordinate trail projects as well as some of our more traditional outreach programs such as Fourth of July parades, the Huckleberry Festival in Trout Creek and Bonner County Fair.

There is a trail project scheduled for each of the summer months of June, July and August. In June, on the Sandpoint Ranger District, trail and recreation manager Mary Ann Hamilton's crews and FSPW volunteers will have a work weekend in the upper reaches of Lightning Creek. After last summer's highly successful Scotchman Peak Trail #65. Hamilton was excited to know FSPW is interested in doing more, and

suggested a complex of trails that they are reopening in the Rattle Creek – Lightning Peak

area. "Brush cutting started on #559 last

summer, and we accomplished 4 miles. For this summer, I

have submitted a grant to finish #559 to connect with #134. and finish #134 from the end of Char # 1030 to the junction with #559." While the grant is pending and the exact focus of the work to be done may change,

FSPW and the Forest Service will certainly do a project in Lightning Creek June 25 and 26. Details to follow.

On July 23 and 24, Joel Sather, recreation specialist from the Cabinet District, will direct Forest Service personnel, FSPW volunteers and the Cabinet Backcountry Horsemen on Pillick Ridge Trail #1036. This project, which is also a National Trails Day event, will involve clearing blowdown trees, rebuilding tread and waterbars, some brushing and weed eradication (there is an infestation of hawkweed along one section of the trail).

Mark Mason, recreation specialist from the Three River District on the Kootenai, will be the lead August 20 when Forest Service personnel and FSPW volunteers work on the Little Spar Lake Trail #143, which has seen some hard times in recent years."The tread along the creek is getting dangerously close to disappearing," says Mason, "if we got a good crew together we could hopefully knock it out that day."

These three projects are not the only opportunities for stewardship in the Scotchmans this summer. Sather promises to keep FSPW apprised of other trail work on his district where volunteers will be welcome.

Stewardship is a growing part of FSPW's vision for the future — reflected in the new mission statement on page 1 and on the webiste — and Compton believes that it is a natural component of what FSPW already does well — outreach. "Stewardship is a great outreach method," he says. "Folks you might not otherwise reach through less 'laborintensive' presentations and press seem to come out of the woodwork when it's time to rebuild a trail or do some other 'on-the-ground' project."

"Almost anybody can help, too," says Compton. "Not everyone is able put in a full day or two moving dirt and wood, so

> we make the days open-ended. Every little bit helps, even if it's just an hour or two. It's a great thing to get outside and be involved in something bigger than yourself. Volunteers never regret working on a trail project."

For more information on trail projects and other volunteer opportunities, e-mail trails@scotchmanpeaks.org



The Summer 2011 Hike and Stewardship Series

This shedule is partial and subject to change. Watch for the addition of several summer workshop hikes yet to be scheduled. For the most current information, visit www.scotchmanpeaks.org/hiking/current-hiking-schedule

Hike date	Exertion Rating	Destination/ Hike Name	Leader(s)	Description and contact info		
6/25-26/11	S	Idaho Panhandle National Forests Trail Project.	Sandy Compton	Contact info: trails@scotchmanpeak.org Weather permitting, we will camp Saturday night in the upper reaches of Lightning Creek, and work on trails both Saturday and Sunday. A grant to finish work started in the Mud Creek area is pending, and focus of the work will depend on the outcome of the grant and snow at higher elevations. This is a cooperative work weekend with the USFS		
Andrew and Dave Klaus	S	Star Peak	Andrew and Dave Klaus	Contact info: 406-827-6500 or akmontana@gmail.com This hike takes us to the rocky summit of Star Peak in the proposed Scotchman Peaks Wilderness. On top is a Forest Service lookout cabin and a historic stacked rock building. The spectacular view from the top includes the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness to the East and Lake Pend Oreille to the West. Round trip, 10 miles. Elevation gain 4140 feet.		
7/2/11	E	Fatman/Blue Creek view	Judy Hutchins	Contact info: 406-847-2717 or jhutch7494@aol.com This 3-mile ± out and back on closed forest roads is an ideal entry-level hike. Gentle grades in lots of shade lead to a spectacular view of the interior proposed Scotchman Peaks Wilderness. For the more adventurous, there is a potential side-trip to the summit of Fatman Mountain.		
7/8/11	M/S	Little Spar Lake	Sarah Lundstrum	Contact info: 406-755-6304 or slundstrum@wildmontana.org 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		
7/9/11	S	Goat Peak	Jacob Styer and Jake Ostman	Contact info: jacob@scotchmanpeaks.org 4,000 feet of climbing in under 3 miles. This is a strenuous hike with wonderful views of Lake Pend Oreille. More information can be found here: Distance, 6 miles round trip. Elevation gain 4000 feet.		
7/15/11	E	Delyle Ridge Full moon hike.	Susan Bates- Harbuck and Judy Hutchins	Contact info: harbuck@norlights.org or jhutch7494@aol.com This is a 3.5 mile hike through rolling terrain to watch sunset and moonrise over the spectacular Clark Fork valley. Although not actually in the Scotchman Peaks, Delyle Ridge offers one of the most stunning views of the southern face of the Scotchmans available and a look into the West Fork of Blue Creek.		
7/16/11	S	Star Peak	Jacob Styer	Contact info: jacob@scotchmanpeaks.org After gaining 4,000 feet in 5 miles, this is a well-rewarded hike when you reach the old fire lookout on the top and the views opens up 360 degrees.		
7/23-24/11	S	Kootenai National Forest Trail Project	Sandy Compton	Contact info: trails@scotchmanpeaks.org — A National Trails Day event This stewardship weekend on Pillick Ridge begins at the east end of the ridge. In cooperation with the Cabinet District trail crews and the Cabinet Mountains Back Country Horsermen, FSPW volunteers will clear trail, rebuild tread and remove noxious weeds. This is a cooperative work weekend with the USFS		
7/27-8/1	S+	Extreme Pleinair	Sandy Compton	Contact info: 208-290-1281 or sandy@scotchmanpeak.org This annual hike to explore and paint the interior of the Scotchmans is nearly full, but we will accept one or two more pleinair artists for a 4-night, 5-day paintout in the Scotchmans.		
7/30/11	S	East Fork Peak	John Harbuck	Contact info: 263-9894 or harbucks@norlight.org This hike starts with a stream crossingon a log, if it hasn't been washed out (but be prepared for wading)then climbs 3,200 ft. on a good trail in three miles. Good views of the northern peaks of the Scotchmans. If we're really ambitious we could try to go a bit further and attempt Savage Mtn.		
8/20/11	S	Kootenai National Forest Trail Project	Sandy Compton	Contact info: trails@scotchmanpeaks.org A trail stewardship project on the Little Spar Creek trail, in cooperation with the Three Rivers District trail crews, FSPW volunteers will clear trail, rebuild tread and remove noxious weeds. This is a cooperative workday with the USFS		
8/21/11	М	Ross Creek Falls	Neil and Ann Wimberley	Contact info 208-264-5379, afwim@yahoo.com or neilwim@yahoo.com 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.		
8/28/11	E	Ross Creek Cedars	Carol and Irv Jenkins	Contact info: 208-265-9204 or carol@scotchmanpeaks.org Discover the majestic forest cathedral that is Ross Creek Cedars. This loop trail winds through a grove of ancient, perhaps thousand-year-old cedar trees. Lush ferns and moss grow profusely in this magnificent example of an inland temperate rainforest. Picnic tables are available to eat lunch by Ross Creek.		
8/28/11	S	Sawtooth Mountain	Sandy Compton	Contact info: 208-290-1281 or sandy@scotchmanpeaks.org We will begin in the East Fork of Blue Creek and climb to the summit of 6500 foot Sawtooth Mountain and exit through the South Fork of Ross Creek. This is arguably the hardest day hike in the Scotchman Peaks, but well worth the effort. Round trip: 12 + miles. Elevation gain, 3500 + feet.		
9/10-11/11	S	No-Name Lake	Sandy Compton	Contact info: 208-290-1281 or sandy@scotchmanpeaks.org This is an exploration trip into the east side of the proposed Scotchman Peaks wilderness, our destination being a small lake below No Name Peak in the Dry Creek Drainage. Hike participants should be flexible thinkers and ready for an off-the-trail adventure. 10 to 12 miles round trip, with side trips. Elevation gain will vary, but is minimally 4,000 feet.		
9/24/11	E/M	Highway 200 Cleanup Day	Jacob Styer	Contact info: jacob@scotchmanpeaks.org Help clean up our adopted stretch of Highway 200 between Hope and Clark Fork, and enjoy a meal with the Scotchman Peaks Plein Air Paintout painters in Hope at the end of the day.		
10/08/11	S	Scotchman Peak	Phil Hough and Deb Hunsicker	Contact info: 208-946-9127 or phil@scotchmanpeaks.org This is classic hike climbs the namesake peak of our proposed wilderness. It's short but steep. We go at a slow pace and steady effort is all that is needed to summit. Wide panoramas, stunning views of lake Pend Oreille, fall colors and possible late season huckleberries are highlights. Wear hunter orange. 8 round trip with an elevation gain of 3,800 feet.		



Scotchman Rocks

Reading the Rocks: Before Plants Ruled

Mark D. McFaddan, Ph.D.

The early Spring storms that lash the landscape are certainly a familiar (if not always convenient) part of the cycle of seasonal change in our corner of the Earth. In this modern environment, the occasionally torrential precipitation is moderated by plant life that slows down runoff, allowing water to efficiently filter into the soil and broken rock veneer on the surface. Small tributaries gather into larger streams, and on flatter areas such as the valley floors, plants of all types border the channels

carrying water toward the ultimate base level of our oceans.

Today's spectacular scenery of tall mountains contributes gravel and coarse sand to the drainages downstream, where plant life stabilizes the banks of stream channels on creeks and rivers. Periodic flooding events top the banks and spread sediment on the floodplains until runoff recedes and the creeks retreat back into their well-established channels.

The common workings and "rules" of runoff and downstream transport of sediment of all sizes are so familiar to us that it is difficult to imagine any other system. But in the barren landscape of the Precambrian where our local rocks of the Belt-Purcell Supergroup were deposited nearly 1.5 billion years ago, everything was radically different. Without plants, all the rules change.

Even a cursory look at our Belt outcrops tells the story. Two major points are most striking when we take a close look at the layers of metasedimentary rock left behind from Precambrian time: the sediment is very fine-grained, and channels are rare. Our job is to understand these clues from the rock record.

More than 90% of the 10 to 12 mile thick stack of Belt sediments is fine sand in size or even smaller particles. (To the



Mudcracks and mudchips in Belt rocks near Clark Fork; the darker chips are finer-grained than the lighter sands surrounding them. Rock hammer for scale.

Photo by Mark McFaddan

unaided eye, fine sand looks almost like dust to most of us). The lack of gravels and coarser sediment over the huge area of northern Idaho and western Montana tells of a nearly flat landscape – a truly hard thing to imagine in our mountainous topography where steep slopes allow water to move gravel-sized clasts downslope.

Layers of clastic sediment were moved across this nearly featureless ancient surface by sheet floods unconfined

by channels; no plants existed to establish the banks. As the water carrying the sediment slowed down, finer silt and clay particles came to rest on top of the sandy bases. Vast mudflats were common, where the sun caused the sediment surface to shrink and crack upon drying just as modern mud puddles form cracks as the water evaporates. Some of the crack edges curl and peel up, so that the next flooding event may carry the delicate mudchips away and bury them in the overlying layer.

The Precambrian beds left behind in the rock record of Bonner County are remarkably extensive in many places today; some beds of quartzite (metamorphosed sand) can be traced laterally for hundreds of yards in the Cabinet Mountains east of Scotchman Peak. Mudcracks are still visible in many places if you look carefully at the edges of the beds, and the finergrained mudchips show up even more distinctly. Square edges indicate very short distances of movement, while more rounded corners tell of longer transport.

On your next scenic overlook, as you admire the modern lush sea of green, the mountain peaks and deep valleys, think of the rocks beneath your feet and try to imagine our landscape before plants ruled – quite a contrast!

From page 3: The Huckleberry Murders

A. Scotchman is in the Snowy Mountains.

Q. Is there a map of Blight County anywhere?

A. The Sheriff of a city in Montana, who provided me with a lot of technical information on what sheriff's do, had a deputy take my fingerprints and check them against the FBI file and instantly got a reply—No Match. I was greatly relieved. Anyway, that sheriff suggested I draw a map of Blight County and put it in the book. I should have done that, but I've been kind of rushed.

Q. Rushed to write another book?

A. I have written five novels about Blight County. The fifth one is yet to be published, and I'm not working on another Blight County novel until that happens.

We'll be waiting. Pat McManus' current book, The Huckleberry Murders, is from Simon and Schuster and available from Vanderford's in Sandpoint and other fine books stores.

A special thanks to FSPW board member and loyal Pat McManus fan Carol Jenkins for lining up this interview.



From page 1: 7,009 Feet.

would be very special and that she would love either of them. I then remembered just how beautiful that sun rise was and thought about how unique it would be to propose at five thirty in the morning.

Now I had to put my plan into action. Natalee is a girl who likes her sleep. I knew it would take some work to motivate her to get up at one a.m. and hike to the top of a mountain. She loves the outdoors and hiking but I had to make sure that she would commit to going so early in the morning. The proposal just would have not been the same if the sun had already risen. I showed her pictures from the early bird Scotchman hike in August and continued to tell her how beautiful it was and that I couldn't wait to take her up to see for herself. I had planted the seed and she began to become excited about our adventure through the darkness.

The morning had come. We did not get more than two hours of sleep on the eve of our hike and Natalee still managed to awake with excitement. My bag was packed with food, water, warm clothes and precious stones. We arrived at the trailhead around two thirty. We ate an energy bar, turned on our headlamps and started up the trail. We were ready for the hike and we were excited. I fortunately knew what to expect. I have hiked the trail numerous times and had one summit in the darkness under my belt already. Natalee on the other hand had never even seen the trail before. We made it up to the first switchback after the steep climb and I think she was mad at me. I probably failed to mention to her how steep the first half mile was. At this point I think she would have rather been sleeping but we kept hiking through the darkness and

started to near the summit. The time until sun rise was nearing and we had to hurry. We picked up the pace to ensure our arrival just before sun rise.

Now we were on top of the mountain and the sun was just peeking over the Cabinets to the east. My heart was racing with nervousness and my mouth needed water so badly. I knew it was time to unveil my surprise and the purpose of our trip. While Natalee was absorbing the breathtaking scenery looking over the Clark Fork River with her back to me, I grabbed the ring and dropped to a knee. When she turned around I said "Natalee, Will you marry me?" She was so stunned and so excited that she put her hands over her mouth and said "Oh my gosh, Baby!" Then I put the ring on her finger and she held it up in the rising sun light. It sparkled, we hugged, we kissed and then I realized that she hadn't said yes yet. I then asked her if she would please say yes, and she did. She was so shocked and excited that she had just forgotten to say it. We enjoyed the rest of the sun rise while we took pictures of the view and the ring and said goodbye to the summit. It was time to go back to Sandpoint to share the news, sleep, and start planning a wedding.

From page 2: Partners

website, blog and Facebook page for information on Master Naturalist activities. You will find the students leading some of our hikes and participating in some of our field work activities to complete their volunteer hours. We also plan to jointly sponsor educational events and speakers. To learn more about the Idaho Master Naturalist Program visit www. idahomasternaturalist.org

From page 7: Warblers

Yellow-rumped and Townsend's Warblers, and in the scrubby brushes of the subalpine meadows and scree areas, look for the diminutive, bright yellow Wilson's Warbler.

Warblers are not the only flashy show-offs at this time of year. A common nester in local drainages and often seen at birdfeeders is the Black-headed Grosbeak, which is actually black and a rich, beautiful tone of orange. Their song has been described as a "Robin after taking opera lessons;" similar but faster, louder, and more melodic. One of the most awesome sights in North America is the Lazuli Bunting, a neon-aqua colored bird with white and orange under-parts. Look for these beauties on brushy, dry, sunny hillsides. Finally, the Bullock's Oriole is the Scotchman's answer to Baltimore: a striking orange (females are yellow) and black beauty with a long powerful bill that you wouldn't want to get pecked by. Look for these also along riparian corridors making a loud, machine-like cackle in thick trees.

These are just some of the brilliantly colorful birds you can find in the Scotchman's during the peak breeding season. On your next hike early in the morning, listen to the cacophony of songs and try to pinpoint the sneaky little bundle of feathers and color making them!

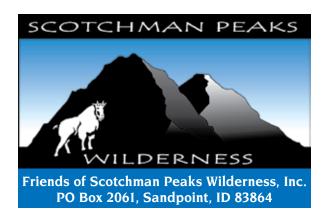
From page 7: Natives

bag, and plant/water immediately upon arriving at home in a like environment. (You may do the same if you're very careful and fill in your "divots.")

Renowned plantsman Allan Armitage opts for the cultivated species of *Tiarella* available today, created from crosses of our aforementioned tri- and uni-foliata wildlings and T. *cordifoliata* (heart-leaf) native to the northeastern side of the continent. Available in a variety of pinks and variegated shades, they are indeed a lovely boon to moist, shady sites and keep company gladly with heuchera, pulmonaria, brunnera, astilbe, ferns and other shade lovers.

Still, it's the small, lovely native of our own forests that brighten our forays into the wilderness. Beckoning from beside the trails, they remind us that the most fragile-seeming of Nature's gifts have a hardiness that guarantees us pleasure for years to come - if we only do our part as well and tread lightly.

* Gardening with Native Plants of the Pacific Northwest, Arthur R. Kruckeberg, UofW Press: ISBN 0-295-96853-2



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:	 	 	
e-mail:			

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

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