



# PEAK EXPERIENCE

The Newsletter for Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness, Inc.

Volume 9, Number 3 • May/ June 2013



## Scotchman Birds:

### Mission Statement

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



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

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Editor: Ann Wimberley

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## THE VIEW FROM CALIFORNIA

© JON ISACOFF

*Buffleheads headed our way from the Snake River*

**By Jon Isacoff, PhD**

Here's a fun thought: it's 68 degrees, sunny and not likely to be anything but 60s and 70s for the next 3 or 4 weeks. Is it the Scotchman's in early summer? Actually I write this from San Diego in early April. Normally "spring is almost here" and other clichés are silly in columns about the Scotchman's but as I write, I understand it was 74 degrees in parts of Northern Idaho earlier this week – warmer than it is down here in San Diego! So maybe, this time only, spring really is on the way.

It's been great fun to look at some of the wintering and migrating birds down this way and wonder: will any of these be traveling to the Scotchman's for the summer breeding season? Maybe a few will.

So, down by the mouth of the Tijuana River, in view of the lovely border fence that's been constructed and with helicopters circling overhead ubiquitously, a trio of Northern Shovelers flew over. Now these could be going many different places but what if they're heading to the Clark Fork Delta for some fine summer accommodation? Also, the several dozen Buffleheads hanging around certainly won't be in this area for long. As cavity nesters, Buffleheads will need one of the few things that are lacking in coastal San Diego: trees (other than planted palms).

Hanging out in the little patch of trees and shrubs next to the Tijuana Slough NWR Visitor Center were an abundance of standbys that most birders will note moving through the Scotchman's by the thousands during spring and fall: Yellow-rumped Warblers ruling the tree tops and fly

**Continued on page 8**



## Message from the Chair

### The Time is Now

Springtime is a period of renewal and rebirth so it seems very natural that our connection to this planet, Earth Day, would be celebrated every April. As we renew our connection to the natural landscape each spring we benefit from recognizing that each one of us is part of a larger community, a community of people and a community of connections to each other and to the natural world.

In reaching out to our communities and advocating for the preservation of the Scotchman Peaks for a number of years now, I have become convinced that most everyone who lives in our area shares a common set of values and interests in preserving our connection to the natural landscape. We may express this interest in different ways, the exact language and nuances reflecting our diverse backgrounds and overlapping interests. We may even have differences in defining exactly what preservation means. But our common desire to live close to nature, to cherish clean air and clean water, to marvel at the critters who share this landscape define our common interests. Preserving the Scotchman Peaks, as they are right now, for ourselves, for our families and for our future is a commonly valued community interest.

As Wallace Stegner noted: *"We simply need that wild country available to us, even if we never do more than drive to its edge and look in. For it can be a means of reassuring ourselves of our sanity as creatures, a part of the geography of hope."*

The Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness has been at the forefront of public conversation about the value of Wilderness designation for the Scotchmans. Support for this idea has come from diverse groups including sportsmen, environmentalists, business and civic organizations and from many

*"Nothing is as powerful as an idea whose time has come."*

~Victor Hugo

individuals who call our area home. In recent months we have been working with less traditional wilderness allies and gaining their support too, including representatives from the Timber and Mining industries. Our success in gaining support from a broad spectrum of partners was chronicled in a recently released film *Grass Routes: Changing the Conversation*.

The release of the final revised management plans for the Kootenai and Idaho Panhandle National forest is scheduled for later this summer. After ten years of public input, every indication is that these plans will contain strong recommendations for wilderness protection for the Scotchmans. We believe that the time is now for gaining the additional support and momentum which will encourage action from our states' congressional delegations.

Victor Hugo once noted: *"Nothing is as powerful as an idea whose time has come."*

Preserving the Scotchman Peaks as Wilderness is a powerful idea because it would allow us to continue renewing each spring our connection to this incredible landscape. This April we should pledge to ourselves to take those action steps in the coming year which will allow us to celebrate and salute the Scotchman Peaks as a Wilderness area on every Earth Day in the coming year.

— Phil Hough

## From the Top

A look at upcoming events on the FSPW calendar reveals how invested we are in the stewardship of this beautiful area we love. We have a lot of sweat equity here, in addition to the purely recreational events we enjoy. The summer promises a lot more fun: our first "doggy" hike, parades, and to top it off at the end: Plein Air. Trilliums and morels mean spring is really here, despite occasional cold and gloomy days. Before long, we'll be wishing for rain to cool us down.

—Ann Wimberley

## Did you know?

### Donate via PayPal – Monthly Recurring Donation

You can also set up a Monthly Recurring Donation, at one of various levels:

Supporter : \$10.00 USD – monthly

Donate Monthly



<http://www.scotchmanpeaks.org/donate/>

For as little as \$10 per month you can sign up for automatic monthly donations. Sign up one time and each month your paypal account or credit card will be conveniently charged for the donation you wish to make. This is an easy way to become a Scotchman Peaks supporter with a steady stream of contributions that allow us to put together dynamic projects, programs and newsletters like this one.



## FSPW's New Face

### Welcome Kristen Nowicki to FSPW Staff

By **Sandy Compton**

Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness is pleased to welcome Kristen Nowicki as our new program and projects coordinator. She began work during the first week in April, and had already put in her first day at a table by the end of the week with an appearance at the Libby Health Fair on April 6.

Kristen is new to Sandpoint, but not to wilderness. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Natural Resource Management/ Conservation Biology in 2003 from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. Since then, she has worked in a variety of outdoor-oriented jobs, including trail building and maintenance for the Colville National Forest, and specifically in the Salmo-Priest Wilderness, for which she received the Forest Service Certificate of Recognition Award.

Other adventures in employment and volunteering have taken Kristen from Eagle River, Alaska, where she was a Volunteer Naturalist Aid at the Eagle River Nature area to the North American Bear Center (closer to her growing up home) in Ely Minnesota.

"I think Kristen is a great match for FSPW," said Executive Director Phil Hough. "She's got a passion for the outdoors as well as experience and training that will be very valuable to us."



**Kristen Nowicki was a natural at her first FSPW event, the Health Fair in Libby**

Photo by Phil Hough

Kristen is certified in Chainsaw and Crosscut Saw operation, as well as Wilderness First Aid, and has worked as a biological science technician and hydrologic technician. She's also an experienced backpacker and camper who loves teaching her two boys how to find their way in the woods.

Kristen will be coordinating many of our summer stewardship projects as well as the continued involvement of FSPW in the Multi-Species Baseline Initiative Friends staff and volunteers have been involved in for the past three winters.

Kristen may be contacted at [kristen@scotchmanpeaks.org](mailto:kristen@scotchmanpeaks.org)

## Trail Talk

By **Sandy Compton**

Trail Talk is most often about the wonders and challenges of one of the tracks through the Scotchman Peaks. For this round, we are concentrating not on what our trails do for us, but what Friends of Scotchman Peaks are doing for trails and the surrounding landscape in order to maintain accessibility, monitor and reduce the presence of invasive species and understand and enhance some of the Peaks' rare biota.

Three years ago, FSPW board and staff were faced with the prospects that a.) it could be a long haul in today's political climate to achieve Wilderness designation, and b.) once designation was achieved, FSPW would have to find another focus or disband. So, FSPW made a considered decision to move from pure advocacy toward more stewardship. In so doing, we found ourselves on the leading edge of a movement exemplified by National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance, an organization committed to fostering



**Star peak trail crew wielding pulaskis**

Photo by Phil Hough

*Continued on page 10*



## The Future Looks Bright

**May 10 – 12:** Trail Skills Class at Bull River Campground. Chainsaw and cross training on Friday, May 10. Trail building skills Saturday and Sunday. Contact [trails@scotchmanpeaks.org](mailto:trails@scotchmanpeaks.org) for more information (see "Trail Talk," page 3)

**May 17 – 19:** FSPW will be represented at Wild Idaho, the annual Idaho Conservation League gathering at Redfish Lake.

**May 31:** The State of the Scotchman, our annual meeting, features Hiking With Dogs, with Ruffwear spokesman Whitney "Allgood" La Ruffa and his hiking companion Karluk the dog. The meeting begins at The Eureka Center, 513 Oak St. at 5 pm.

**June 1:** Hiking With Dogs with Ruffwear spokesman Whitney "Allgood" La Ruffa and his hiking companion Karluk the dog will visit Libby, beginning at 4 pm MST at the Fireman Memorial Park, upper pavilion, on Mahoney Rd off Hwy 2..

**June 1:** National Trails Day, featuring a FSPW "doggy" hike

**June 6-7:** Two day training class on weed identification and survey techniques for weed monitoring project. At the Sandpoint Ranger District Office. Contact [trails@scotchmanpeaks.org](mailto:trails@scotchmanpeaks.org) to sign up. (see "Trail Talk," page 3)

**June 8:** Old Growth Ecology with Brian Baxter at Ross Creek Cedars with emphasis on structure; vegetation; fungi; forest hawks and owls; woodpeckers; weasels; caribou; bears; big game and thermal cover. Contact Brian Baxter at [b\\_baxter53@yahoo.com](mailto:b_baxter53@yahoo.com) to register.

**June 9:** Sanders County Picnic and campground cleanup day. Potluck picnic at 3:00 at Bull River Campground. Contact [trails@scotchmanpeaks.org](mailto:trails@scotchmanpeaks.org) for information on cleanup.

**June 12-14 :** A three day training class in botanical survey techniques - field identification of native plants for our botanical study project in the Lightning Creek "Treasured Landscape." At the Sandpoint District Rangers Office. Contact [trails@scotchmanpeaks.org](mailto:trails@scotchmanpeaks.org) to sign up. (see "Trail Talk," page 3)

**June 20 – 21:** Kickoff campout for Star Peak trail days. Two days of tread work on the new Star Peak trail. Overnight June 20 with the Montana Conservation Corp youth crew at Big Eddy Campground.

**June 24 – 26 and 28 – 30:** Wilderness First Aid Classes, each beginning with an evening of CPR (June 24 and 28) and then two days of First Aid training. Write to [trails@scotchmanpeaks.org](mailto:trails@scotchmanpeaks.org) for more information. (see "Trail Talk," page 3)

### On the Horizon:

**July 4:** Parades galore for Friends of Scotchman Peaks to walk in. If you wish to walk in Heron or Noxon, MT, Clark Fork or Sandpoint, ID, write to [sandy@scotchmanpeaks.org](mailto:sandy@scotchmanpeaks.org)

**July 12 — 14:** Kid work weekend on the Star Peak Trail

**July 12 & 25, August 9 & 23:** Star Peak Trail work days.

**July 16:** Workday in upper South Fork of Ross Creek.

**August 9 – 11:** FSPW volunteers will participate in the

Huckleberry Festival in Trout Creek.

**October 5 – 6:** Sixth Annual Scotchman Peaks Plein Air Paintout. Write to [neilwim@yahoo.com](mailto:neilwim@yahoo.com)

## Along the Trail

**March 1:** An art reception was held at The Readery on First Avenue honoring our Plein Air Paintout painters.

**March 3:** Rare carnivore study field season ended with a mustelid study volunteer appreciation party and awards ceremony.

**March 14:** 250 people attended the Sandpoint premier of *Grass Routes*, the movie about FSPW and the Scotchman Peaks at the Panida Theater. *En Plein Air* was also shown.

**March 16:** *Grass routes* and *En Plein Air* were shown in Libby at the Little Theater and at the Rex Theater in Thompson Falls.

**April 5:** Kristen Nowicki joined the FSPW staff as projects and program assistant (see story page 3)

**April 6:** Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness signed up 17 new Friends at the Libby Health Fair in the Memorial Center.

**April 19 – 22:** FSPW took part in the Earthday Celebration in Sandpoint, including the Earthday Festival at Forrest M. Bird Charter High School.

**April 25:** *Grass routes* and *En Plein Air* were both shown at the Wolff Auditorium at Gonzaga University in Spokane.

**May 3:** Phil Hough attended a screening of *Grass Routes* at Muhlenberg College, in Allentown, PA.

**May 3 – 6:** FSPW program coordinator Sandy Compton traveled to Boise for a Zoo Boise presentation.

## Thank you Sarah!

With the demands and time constraints of a new job, Sarah Lundstrum recently resigned from our board. We want to thank Sarah for her years of service to the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness and for her many contributions to our efforts. We wish her great success in her new endeavors. Current board member and Idaho Vice Chair, Carol Jenkins, has been elected to take over the duties of Board Secretary. Thank you, Carol!





## Over the Top Volunteer - Ken Thacker

Ken Thacker and wife Bonnie Jakubos wandered into Sandpoint at just the right moment for a left-leaning couple shopping for a new town. They'd already checked out Bozeman, Missoula, McCall and Hailey, and not one fit the bill perfectly. Their visit to Sandpoint, though, had sort of a "just right" feel to it. It happened to coincide with the weekend of the September, 2011, Wild Night for Wilderness, a celebration at Evan's Brothers Coffee co-hosted by Idaho Conservation League and Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness.

Bonnie describes it this way. "We went to the Wild Night and thought 'These are our people!' " Ken was in agreement, but he'd already made up his mind. His conversion had come on an earlier guided fishing trip on the lake when he captured the bass in his picture. "And, then the guide made me put it back!" he exclaimed.

Wilderness lovers *and* green-thinking fishing guides. Welcome to Sandpoint!

After growing up in Arcata, California and Medford, Oregon, and a false start in electronics and the Air Force, he found himself catching fish in Holter Lake on the Missouri south of Great Falls. "I like it here," he thought, and mustered out of the Air Force and began thinking about college.

"I always wanted to wear a Smokey hat," he says, "so I decided to go to forestry school. When I started in Missoula, it was like going home. I knew I was in the right place." Four years later, he graduated with a Bachelor's in Forest Management and minor in soils. It was his soils that got him a permanent job with the Bureau of Land Management, which he stayed with for 25 years; first in Dillon, Montana; then in Vale, Oregon, where he met Bonnie; and finally in Pocatello. Working for the BLM got Ken into weeds, not to be confused with "in the weeds."

"I was doling out money to counties to do weed work, but I wanted to know what was going on. So, I used some of my budget to buy equipment and went to the BLM weed training, which is the best in the country. We started doing a lot of our own weed work."

His last three years with the BLM were transcendent. "I got to work on the ground at Idaho National Laboratory (INL, formerly known as INEL) doing management." His eyes light up when he talks about it. "Grazing was removed from INEL in 1950.

No cow tracks. No cow pies. We had a 15-mile-long transect of plots that provided baseline on ungrazed grassland steppes."

His favorite job with BLM, though, was monitoring mining companies in the Vale area. "I was making them put their roads and other disturbances to bed, reseed and rehabilitate. I was able to be an environmentalist and get paid for it."

He retired from BLM in 2004, but not from weeds. Using his experience and tapping into his passion, he began Idaho Weed Guy, which he has been pursuing since and brought with him when he and Bonnie moved here last year. It's partly economics, but it's much about passion, too.



*The one that was let away*

Photo by Chad Landrum

Weeds most often come in with people, machines or domestic animals, and Ken recognizes them as a threat to wilderness qualities. "I remember walking into Many Glaciers Lodge one time and finding a big spotted knapweed plant in full bloom right next to the front door. The environmental reason for weed control," he says, "is the protection of native habitat."

Hiking or driving around with him is an experience in weed education. "Stop!" he yells. And then, for a half hour, we pull hounds tongue, a nasty invasive plant with a velcro-like seed that grows fast and spreads quickly.

"Hand pulling is good," he points out, "but the really aggressive weeds — hawk weed, knapweed, hounds tongue — without chemicals, we probably won't ever stop them.

"Some people are anti-herbicide, no matter what the treatment is. I think they need to be more informed. Really dangerous stuff like DDT and Agent Orange are off the market. Modern herbicides are specific, have no heavy metals, are designed to be used at very low concentration and don't bio accumulate (move up the food chain)."

Ken will be spreading his weed knowledge around this coming summer as a volunteer for FSPW, which will be his second season. After Bonnie took the job as Project Coordinator for FSPW last summer, Ken became her number one volunteer, cutting tread on trail projects, putting up trail head signs and helping with tables and the Bonner County Fair. What really got him excited, though, was a big patch of knapweed on the Star Peak trail reconstruction. "We gotta do something about that!" he says, and he means it.

Ken will put his weed knowledge to work for FSPW this summer by training volunteers to identify invasive plants for a weed survey FSPW is undertaking with its Forest Service partners.



# Song of the Wolverine

by Kelsey Brasseur

One winter's day I thought to climb  
A ridgeline long and thin  
And ambled out  
Toward narrow gulch  
To where a trail had been

Though many years had left it faint  
It wove yet tree to tree  
til cutting near  
A cliff-band sheer  
It gained the gully steep

Up the narrow slot I pushed  
My snowshoes nimble not  
Determined still  
There groveled til  
I gained the snowy top

The hoar frost lay in diamond glint  
The sun cast shadows short  
They curved around  
The snow-burmed mounds  
Where Seuss-drawn trees kept court

And up I climbed from burm to burm  
These wind-blown steps like waves  
Where drifts between  
The wells of trees  
A sea-swell landscape made

As ridgeline came within my view  
My skin sparked shivered bumps  
I shook them down  
Nerves heightened now  
And crested o'er the hump

Where there upon that ridgeline thin  
With only snow in sight  
Another came  
Across that same  
Expanse of drift and ice



**Kelsey reads her poem at the 5th annual Plein Air Paintout reception**

A phantom did it seem at first  
So quiet did it glide  
With perfect track  
Laid on the pack  
By quick and loping stride

From far across the ridge it came  
Our frozen distance closed  
And loping still  
Down saddle spill  
The straightest path it chose

Now as I watched it bounding near  
My heart beat loud and fast  
So swift a gait  
Was sure to take  
Its track across my path

Most surely as I thought this thought  
The creature thought it too  
And just as quick  
Brown eyes were fixed  
Upon my own that hue

So keen was she in eye and build  
Her coat draped thick and black  
With snowshoe paw  
And cramp-on claw  
No power did she lack

Through tales of old her form had stalked  
So fearsome and unknown  
Where shadows blend  
And mountains mend  
Her mystery was sown

Elusive in all sight and tread  
An apparition true  
Through fable's rhyme  
And legend's time  
Her wonder lived and grew

Like grizzly bear, like wolf and cat  
Those enigmatic beasts  
Who stop us cold  
In pulse and soul  
Where if by chance we meet

Our chance was there upon that ridge  
Where whiteness married white  
And wilderness  
And wilderness  
Bled through horizon's line

**Editor's note:** Kelsey Brasseur, the 2012 FSPW Wolverine Project Coordinator, wrote this poem for a gig with the Storytelling Company. She returned to Sandpoint in late August after finishing her third season in Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve where she worked as the lead

field technician on a behavioral study examining the effects of large vessel traffic on breeding populations of Kittlitz's murrelets, a rare seabird in the alcid family which is thought to be dependent on glacial environments. She currently is the Program Director for Lake Pend Oreille Waterkeepers



In moments paused as still as stone  
Our breaths were ghosts of white  
As stood we there  
The strangest pair  
To ever match in sight

It boiled my blood, it shook my core  
Her deep and primal stare  
It gave a start  
Within my heart  
For wantings that slept there

I could not put a finger on  
Those longings that heaved up  
But something lodged  
Deep stomach lodged  
Had quickly come unstuck

That something drifted up my throat  
Could not be gulped away  
A trembling  
Of midnight dreams  
Now vulnerable by day

Solidarity and fear arose  
A fear I could not name  
A reckoning  
A beckoning  
From confidence untamed

I had no right to feel akin  
But felt it just the same  
She seemed to see  
This hope in me  
And knew no ill was aimed

Those moments came like years to me  
I lived a lifetime there  
Through gaze so thick  
Her spell so thick  
No movement would I dare

And in the ever of those years  
There lived a secret song  
Of simple verse  
Sung unrehearsed  
That flowed the mountain long

Where whiteness married white it rang  
From all horizons seen  
From wilderness  
Of wilderness  
The song of Wolverine

She sang it silent to my soul  
Each note passed eyes to eyes  
And last the verse  
Soft to be heard  
Was wanderlust divined

So quiet fell her final rhyme  
The wind was made to pause  
And with those notes  
Came to my throat  
The first full breath I'd drawn

Her lifted nose so slightly moved  
A twitch from side to side  
The wind was fair  
And on the air  
The purpose of her climb

She would not linger long with me  
While buried bones kept cold  
Where avalanche  
Or winter harsh  
Had taken sick or old

So just a moment more that spell  
Was held between our eyes  
Then in the split  
Of seconds quick  
Her strong limbs leapt to stride

I snapped awake as from a dream  
There left to cherish awe  
To fix in mind  
And fix in time  
This creature snow had wrought

She stopped along the ridgeline's crest  
There turning back her head  
To beckon me  
To mountain deeps  
The wilderness she tread

And though she could not draw my feet  
I knew that they were freed  
And I would follow  
In my time  
That lonesome wolverine.



### **Tale, from page 9**

with the moose and find out the purpose of her trip, so we settled for heading back down the way we came. The return trip started out just fine. The snow was good, the slope wasn't beyond our downhill ability, the sun still shone and Kristin had Buddy and the best view. Then we got to one of those steep bits and John picked up more speed glissading than he wanted or could handle at the time, especially with a lively weight on his back. The inevitable happened and he fell.

Now you can fall in three basic directions while on snow: to the side, folding nicely as you go down, to the back, landing gracefully on your seat, or forward, face first, downhill. John went with the third option. That meant that Kristin also went with the third option. Luckily she stayed in the pack, no one got hurt, the rest of the downhill trip was uneventful, even the steep bits, and the marriage survived. Kristin didn't seem to mind the fall too much, although I didn't hear her say "Do it again, Daddy." Then again, she's never gone up Scotchman again, even in the summer.

Check out our bandanas, tees, sweats and hats! They're available at Mountain Meadows in Libby, Mt, Huckleberry Thicket in Trout Creek, MT, The Hope Market Place in Hope, ID and Foster's Crossing, Eichardt's, and Outdoor Experience in Sandpoint, ID. Out of the area, contact jimnsandii@gmail.com. Limited edition sweatshirts saluting Team Laughing Dog in the Race Across America are available at Greasy Fingers Bike Shop in Sandpoint. 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).

**Indian Paintbrush  
hats arrive in time  
for the season!**





## Peak Views

Hike date	Exertion Rating	Destination/ Hike Name	Leader(s)	Description and contact info
6/1/13	Easy/ Moderate	New Route on Star Peak Dog Walk: <b>A National Trails Day Event</b>	Phil Hough	<b>Contact info: 208-946-9127 or phil@scotchmanpeaks.org</b> We'll explore the first mile and a quarter of the new trail we are building on Star Peak. The walk will be dog friendly and celebrate National Trails Day, with "Hiking with Dogs" presenter and Ruffwear Ambassador Whitney Laruffa and Karluk. Space is limited, reservations required.
6/2/13	Easy	Ross Creek Cedars	Carol and Irv Jenkins	<b>Contact info: 208-265-9204 or irvorcarol2011@gmail.com</b> 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.
6/8/13	Easy/ Moderate	Old Growth Ecology <b>A Scotchman Peaks Education Series hike</b>	Brian Baxter	<b>Contact info: b_baxter53@yahoo.com</b> Old Growth Ecology with Brian Baxter at Ross Creek Cedars with emphasis on structure; vegetation; fungi; forest hawks and owls; woodpeckers; weasels; caribou; bears; big game and thermal cover.
7/19- 21/13	Strenuous	The Andrew Spring Backcountry Trip	Sandy Compton	<b>Contact info: sandy@scotchmanpeaks.org</b> Enter via The East Fork of Blue Creek and exit to the Ross Creek Cedars. This 3-day, 2-night hike will explore upper Ross Creek. Both nights will be spent at the Andrew Spring, which will allow for a central day of exploration in the crags Group size limit 8 - Distance: 12 mile.
8/12/13	Strenuous	East Fork Peak	Chuck Gross	<b>Contact info: liv2trek@live.com</b> Join us on a 3200' climb almost 4 miles to the summit of East Fork Peak and look into the heart of this rugged, beautiful area and the Lightning Creek drainage. Get a glimpse of rarely-seen Alpine Larch. Straddle the state line of Idaho Montana just east of the summit as you enjoy views of many Western Cabinet peaks including Savage Mountain and Scotchman #2. Bring plenty of water. This hike is dry after crossing a creek near the beginning. Expect to take up to 3 hours up and a couple of hours to return to the trailhead
8/20/13	Strenuous	Sawtooth Mountain	Sandy Compton	<b>Contact info: 208-290-1281 or sandy@scotchmanpeaks.org</b> 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. Walk across a pristine, primitive landscape and gain rare views of the internal Scotchmans and the Crags. Bring your headlamp. Round trip: 12 + miles. Elevation gain, 3500 + feet.
8/25/13	Moderate	Ross Creek Falls	Neil and Ann Wimberley	<b>Contact info 208-264-5379 or afwim@yahoo.com or neilwim@yahoo.com</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
9/7/13	Easy	Kid's hike in the East Fork of Blue Creek	Celeste Grace	<b>Contact info: 208-627-2463 or celestebgrace@gmail.com</b> Explore the base of Practice Mountain. Find the secret spring. Bring your lunch and your Mom and Dad if you want (or leave them behind). Car pooling available. About five hours. Parent release required.
10/12/13	Strenuous	Scotchman Peak	Phil Hough and Deb Hunsicker	<b>Contact info: 208-946-9127 or phil@scotchmanpeaks.org</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. 4 miles one way, 8 round trip with an elevation gain of 3,800 feet

***The clearest way into the Universe is through a forest wilderness. — John Muir***

### Birds, from page 1

catching, and down in the scrubby brush, White-crowned Sparrows. Of course there were abundant Common Yellowthroats and Song and Savannah Sparrows too sharing the space, but these latter are almost certainly locals that won't be leaving.

The common hummingbird down this way is the Anna's (also the year-round resident in coastal WA and Puget Sound area closer to home, as it were). And boy, are they common and noisy. But here and there among the dozens of larger, louder Anna's, occasionally one might glimpse a flash of brilliant copper orange. Could it be a migrating Rufous Hummingbird on

its way to Clark Fork or Trout Creek to breed in its mixed conifer summer habitat?

There are plenty of familiar faces in the larger wading family down here including Great Blue Herons, Double-crested Cormorants, and American White Pelicans. Working the grassy marshes were many Northern Harriers, another familiar "wing" as it were. An uncommon local resident or visitor down south is a staple of summertime near water in the Scotchman's: the fish-eating Osprey. While it's unlikely that any of these larger birds will be making the trek 1800 miles North from the edge of Mexico to the edge of Canada, who knows? One might be just ready for a long distance trip.





## Tales of the Scotchmans - Mother Nature comes through for Mother's Day

By **Susan Bates-Harbuck**

John Harbuck has been up Scotchman many times, in many seasons. Susan Bates-Harbuck has hiked up it only twice, once in summer and once in winter. Our daughter Kristin's first trip up Scotchman was the only time she's been on top, and it nearly turned out to be her last trip up any mountain.

Mother's Day 1984 dawned beautiful and sunny. It seemed that the only logical thing to do on such a lovely May day in North Idaho was to gather up the family, bundle up, put on the Sorels and head up into the hills. I had not gone up Scotchman before, so we decided that was the perfect choice. The snow had just hard enough a crust to kick steps and create a loooooong stairway, which made going up possible for a mere human like me. At 15 months, Kristin was still small enough to fit in the Gerry



**Susan Bates-Harbuck and Kristen enjoy the calm before the storm.**

pack on John's back, which meant she had it the easiest, at least on the way up. I carried the other essentials like water, snacks and diapers. Kristin carried Buddy, her disreputable yet beloved blanket.

The trip up was uneventful, other than the usual steep bits. We couldn't feel too rough and tough for making it to the top through the snow, since we followed moose tracks all the way to the summit, and the moose was a bit too heavy to stay on top of the snow. I'm not sure if the moose was a cow celebrating Mother's Day like we were, since she or he was gone by the time we reached the top and we couldn't ask. I do know that the tracks continued going right on down the other side.

**Photo by John Harbuck**

We had our lunch, basking in the sun while leaning against what still remained of the old lookout, took photos to commemorate the day and then packed up our belongings and child. We didn't think there was any way we could catch up

**Continued on page 7**

## Scotchman Past

*Thanks to Ed Butler of Hope, Idaho for sharing these descriptions of his home town. The 2010 census listed the population of Hope as 86.*

Hope, Idaho as described by E.V. Smalley in *The Northwest*, Feb., 1890, and in *The Official Northern Pacific N.P. Guide of 1892*.

Hope is an odd sort of place. It is built on three terraces – the lower one wide enough for the railway yards and station buildings but the upper ones barely accommodating a single street each, and this accommodation is so scanty that there is room for buildings only on one side of these shelf-like streets. So abrupt is the slope that the backyards of the houses are higher than their roofs. The little town, clinging to a mountain side and looking out upon the lake, would be quite Swiss in its appearance were it not for the newness of its wooden buildings.

It is, in fact, only two years old. The Northern Pacific had a divisional terminus point at Heron, a little way up the Clarks Fork River, but it was a lonesome place, shut in by the dense forests that everywhere fill the narrow valley of that stream. An order from the General Manager set the whole place on wheels and moved it down to the shores

of the beautiful lake, where it has attracted new life and trade and has a good prospect of long-continued growth.

Just beyond the present limits of the place there is a handsome and almost level point jutting out into the lake which will afford ample building space for a town of 5,000 people. The present picturesque and precipitous site of the town was chosen because a railroad yard could be more economically graded here than elsewhere and the railroad official who had the matter in charge thought of nothing but his side tracks and roundhouse... (*The Northwest*)

\*\*\*\*\*

Hope, Idaho (1,453 miles from St. Paul; population, 500) is beautifully located on high ground on the northern shore of Lake Pend d'Oreille. It was formerly only a fishing and hunting resort, with a small hotel for sportsmen; but the removal of the Northern Pacific division terminus from Heron in 1888, and the discovery of important mines of silver ore on the south shore of the lake, have caused a rapid growth and the new town promises to become, in a few years, a place of considerable importance... (*The Official Northern Pacific N.P. Guide of 1892*.)



**Trail, from page 3**

partnerships between Friends groups and the agencies charged with management of the wild areas the groups advocate for.

The Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Park Service and National Wildlife Service have repeatedly faced budget cuts over the past few years, and some of the casualties of the cuts has been summer rangers, trail maintenance and trail construction. Friends groups all over the country, including FSPW, have stepped up to help keep trails accessible for hikers, hunters, berry pickers, fishermen and other recreationalists who use the national trail system.

FSPW began their stewardship presence in 2010 with a single maintenance day on the Scotchman Peak Trail, a single day on Star Peak Trail #998, and an overnight work trip on Pillick Ridge Trail #1036. In 2011, FSPW volunteers worked two days each on Regal Creek Trail#556 and Pillick Ridge Trail #1036 and another day on the Little Spar Lake trail. Last summer, volunteers spent multiple days on the Little Spar Lake trail with youth crews from the Montana Conservation Corps, four separate days reestablishing the lower portion of the historic Star Peak Trail, one day putting up trailhead signs and another day on the Morris Creek Trail. In addition, FSPW helped fund a Forest Service intern, Jeremy Leibenguth, who spent much of his time on the ground in the Scotchman Peaks proposal

In the summer of 2013, FSPW has undertaken ten more days of trail work, a weed identification, location and eradication project and a high-country whitebark pine survey in connection with the National Forest Foundation's Treasured Landscape designation of the Lightning Creek drainage. Once again, we will have a Forest Service intern on the ground in the Scotchmans, this time as a back country ranger.

You might suspect that FSPW and our volunteers have a lot to do this summer, and you would be right. But, forewarned is forearmed, and to that end, the

Friends have arranged for some resources to help our staff and volunteers fulfill our summer plans.

First of all, the art and science of trail building and maintenance will be explored in a three-day class based at Bull River Campground with instructors from the Forest Service and Shannon Freix of MWA's Continental Divide Trail

Program Manager. Instruction begins May 10 with chain-saw and crosscut saw training from Cabinet District Recreation Technician Joel Sather. Trails skills will be taught May 11 and 12, with hands-on work in both the Scotchmans and the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness trail system. Participants will camp at Bull River Campground May 10 and 11. In case of inclement weather, wall tents will be provided.

Graduates of the trails skill classes will be first in line for Wilderness First Aid training, slated for June 24 – 26 and June 28 – 30 at the Water Life Discovery Center on Lakeshore

Drive south of Sandpoint. Evening CPR classes on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> will each precede two days of first aid training. Participants will receive their Wilderness First Aid certificate.

The cost of trails skills and first aid training, as well as a portion of the meals involved in the trails skills weekend will be covered for individuals willing to commit to being a Project Leader or co-leader on one of our summer maintenance days this summer or fall. Project Leaders will attend all three modules: Trail Building Skills Training, Saw Training and First Aid (unless you are already certified in First Aid). Space is limited. Our most active volunteers will be given first priority.

A one-day training on weed identification and survey techniques for the weed monitoring project and a two-day training in botanical survey techniques and field identification of native plants for the botanical study project will be held in mid-June at the Sandpoint Ranger District meeting room. Exact dates will be announced via our Facebook page, listserv and our web page.

Consider what you'd like to do for your trails this summer, as well as those big spaces in between. Write to [trails@scotchmanpeaks.org](mailto:trails@scotchmanpeaks.org) for more information or to volunteer.



*All ages are welcome on our trail projects*

**Photo by Phil Hough**





## Wild Creatures of the Scotchmans: Hoary Marmot (*Marmota caligata*)

By Mindy Ferrell

*Editor's Note: This issue we welcome Mindy Ferrell as one of three rotating columnists for the Peak Experience animal column. Mindy, a retired teacher from Trout Creek, is a long-time supporter of FSPW and one of our "Over the Top" volunteers.*

Why are we drawn to hike into the mountains? Solitude, fresh air and scenic vistas, certainly. But there are also many companions we expect to hear and hope to see. Included in this recognizable group of sounds are the talus-dwelling, shrill whistlers of the alpine tundra, the Hoary Marmot. Their sentries quickly notify the den of any oncoming threats, causing a quick retreat back into their burrows, in which these mid-sized rodents spend 80% of their lives.

The Hoary Marmot is one of the most widespread alpine mammals in North America. They range from Alaska to northwest Canada, and on into Washington, Idaho, and Montana. Their name refers to their grey-tipped fur, giving them an aged cast, along with a soiled white belly, as if they've been crawling around the talus slopes for generations. Their ears are rounded and furred, with small, beady eyes. They sport a black cap and white patch between the eyes and on the tip of their nose. The Latin word, *caligata*, means "booted" referring to their black feet which distinguish them from their cousins, the yellow-belly marmot, who are bootless. They have well-developed claws on their front feet with 5 pats on their forepaws and 6 pats on their back paws. They are a mid-sized mammal, varying from 8 to 20 pounds, with a body of 18 – 21 inches and an addition tail length of 7 – 10 inches. Instead of Groundhog's Day, Alaska celebrates Marmot Day, but it's doubtful that these fellows are going to be found out and about on February 2

Marmots are a true hibernators. Their distant cousin, the Pika, harvests and dries hay for the winter, but hoary marmots must rely on their own body weight for survival. They leave the slopes to hibernate in their burrows in late September. Their body temperature drops to 36 degrees, and they will have one heart beat and one breath only every 5 minutes. But, come late spring, hoary marmots have been known to tunnel up through 10 feet of snow to bask in the warmth of the spring sunshine. They molt only once each year, most often immediately at the end of their hibernation.



**Hoary Marmot**

Photo by Eemeli Haverinen

Mating occurs shortly after hibernation, with females reproducing only every other year. Females have 2 – 5 young which stay close until their time of sexual maturity which is at 2 years old. After a gestation of 4 weeks, the young are born blind and hairless, and the mother is the primary caregiver. The young of the year are weaned at the end of July or the beginning of August and the rush is on to gain enough weight to get through the winter months. Winter mortality is greatest in the young. Their living groups usually consist of one male with several females and their offspring.

There's no need to be up before dawn to catch these critters.

Hoary marmots stay holed up in their burrows until the sun crests the horizon, which causes them to be up and out to soak in the sun's warmth, and to gather their preferred diet of flowers and flower heads, but they will also eat grass, seeds, berries, and even grasshoppers. Warm, sunny July days will find them spending 45% of their outside time basking on rocks or sprawled out on the ground, particularly during the late morning hours. They are a highly social animal, with physical greetings of nose-to-nose contact not uncommon. Unlike groundhogs or pikas, marmots do not rise up to spy on the world, but lie prone. One needs to look closely to see them.

The hoary marmot is an important indicator species because alpine areas are particularly susceptible to climate change. Their population dynamics are also an indication of snow pack, predators, and general health of the alpine tundra ecosystem. Although hides were once prized by western Native Americans, they presently have no commercial value. But, the experience of hiking, of absorbing the richness of space that we gain in our hearts as visitors to the mountain, would be lessened without this active, noble creature.

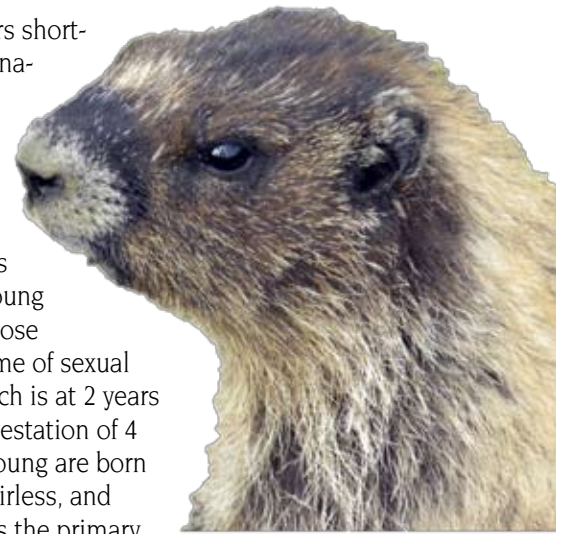
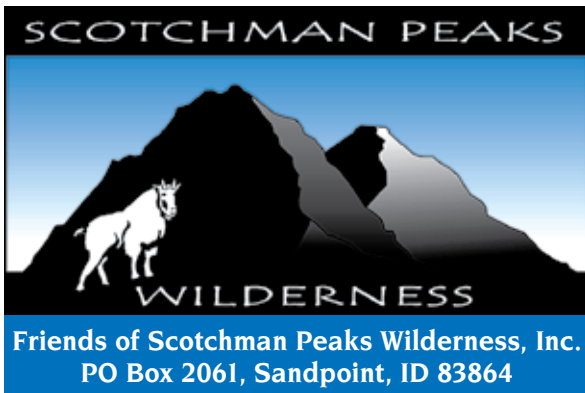


Photo by Mark A. Wilson



## 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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