



## 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: Celeste Grace

## Scotchman Plein Air 2013



**Kally Thurman and Marilyn McIntyre with Diana Botkin's winning painting**  
Photo by Neil Wimberley

### By Neil Wimberley

First, the sunny weather of the first October weekend was rewarded with resplendent Fall colors, and was most welcome following a very wet and gray September in North Idaho. Then, there was the annual convergence of artists coming together once again to celebrate plein air painting, camaraderie, and the joined spirits of nature, wilderness, and art. On Sunday they filled the walls of the Outskirts Gallery with their freshly framed oil paintings to be enjoyed and judged. Before taking on her role as judge of the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Event, based on winning the 1<sup>st</sup> place prize last year, Marilyn McIntyre of Grouse Creek presented the Friends of Scotchman Peaks with a very special gift - a beautiful hand crafted folio made by Marilyn which contained a treasured painting from each artist with their favored quote. Phil Hough gave an update to the assembled crowd on the steady progress made in the wilderness campaign, and Kally Thurman followed up with the awards. First Place prize this year went to Diana Botkin of Naples, Idaho, for her painting “Morning Smoke”. Second Place prize was awarded to Suzanne Jewell of Post Falls, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place to Terry Gonzales of Hope, Idaho. The very special Artists Award was given to Patsy Parsons of Spirit Lake for her Fall rendition entitled “Birch Glow”. Many of these outstanding paintings are still available to enjoy and purchase before Christmas at the Outskirts Gallery in lovely Hope, Idaho.



## Over the Top Volunteers: Peaking FSPW's Forest Stewardship

**By Kristen Nowicki**  
**FSPW Project Director**

A pool of 27 Friends stepped up to the challenges set forth by the *Treasured Landscapes, Unforgettable Experiences* conservation campaign, a restoration project recently established in the southwestern corner of the proposed Scotchman Peaks Wilderness area. The amount of time spent by each volunteer was variable, but all of the Friends gave 100% effort throughout the duration of their work, which occurred almost every week throughout the summer. "I have gotten more area surveyed than I expected to," USFS Botanist Jennifer Costich-Thompson remarked.

In June, 15 individuals conducted noxious weed mapping in the Lightning Creek drainage complex: dividing into 7 teams and surveying 9 trails, volunteers mapped over 35 miles of trail edge for the intensity and composition of noxious weed encroachment. Special thanks to Molly O'Reilly for her devotion to the project's goals by taking on an extra 4 miles of trail mapping in addition to an already 6 miles of trail surveying and two full day reconnaissance surveys in the high elevation forests. Special thanks also to Kenneth Thacker, for leading our volunteer training course in Weed Species Identification, as well as undertaking multiple mapping surveys in addition to all the trail maintenance assistance he provided throughout the summer, not to mention his forever-undying passion for killing weeds everywhere!

In the months of July, August, and September 12 individuals rotated in teams of 3-8 and headed up to high elevation forests of the peaks associated with the project's watershed boundaries. These days were long and the weather sure got hot this year! Nonetheless, 5 full day and 3 multiple day research excursions were completed by our volunteer crews, resulting in a successful endeavor in phase one of this habitat restoration work. Special thanks to John Harbuck and Fred Gaudet, for their extended commitments in reaching remote research sites by repeatedly performing long days of labor to obtain the required data (while simultaneously picking ridiculous amounts of huckleberries!).

What seemed most important to FSPW's volunteers was that

their actions be contributory, accurate and meaningful. The sincere attention to quality data collection was ubiquitous among FSPW crews. And survey work is not just another walk in the park! Frequently, these surveys required traversing steep and uneven terrain in uncomfortable conditions and with the possibility of encountering uncommon hazards (but hey, that's half the fun of it too, right?). After 20 minutes of wading through pokey, sticky, fragrant, 5 foot-tall shrubbery hiding large, uneven boulders and holes on the forest floor, its important to know you've got a pretty good reason to get to the other side.

So, what did they find out?

Definite patterns emerged as the noxious weed data was being collected. As expected, trails with greater levels of disturbance proved to have a greater weed abundance and greater complexity of species composition. In the project area, this included trails most recently converted from old roadbeds, trails with significant sloughing due to flood events, and trails in which off-road vehicles are permitted. Char Creek, East Fork Peak, East Fork Creek, and Porcupine Lake trails, areas with historic cut and compacted roadbeds, proved to hold the most severe infestations. Gem Lake trail was documented as having an absence of noxious



**L-R: Fred Gaudet, John Harbuck. Standing by a Whitebark Pine during a multiple day forest survey**  
 Photo by Phil Hough

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### From the Top

This issue, going to press at the time of harvest, is a cornucopia of what FSPW has accomplished in the past year. What an awesome collection of wilderness paintings our Plein Air artists produced! Kristen's article documents the amazing amount of work done by our volunteers in documenting what plants (and animals) are part of our wilderness area and also the unending work in progress fighting invasive species. The long anticipated release of the forest plan culminates years of work by many individuals. Our photo contest is under way with the opportunity for individuals to share their favorite shots of special places. The goat climbed to the top of the mountain as the Cinnabar goal was again reached. And with winter ahead, we look forward to the Rare Carnivore project and heading out to enjoy the winter wonderland.

—Ann Wimberley



## Scotchman Rocks: Looking Down at the Flood

### North Idaho Ice Age Floods Field Trip

By **Tony Lewis**

**President, Coeur du Deluge Chapter, IAFA  
Sandpoint, ID**

On a breezy but warm Saturday morning on September 14<sup>th</sup> a crowd of over 100 people from Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana gathered at City Beach in Sandpoint to participate in an all-day field trip lead by Roy Breckenridge, recently retired Director of the Idaho Geological Survey, and Jack Nisbet, Spokane-based author, teacher and naturalist. The field trip focused on the geology, physical geography, history and culture of Northern Idaho.

Using the natural setting of City Beach on the north shore of Lake Pend Oreille, with the Purcell Trench to the north and the mouth of the Clark Fork to the southeast, Roy provided an overview of the geologic history and importance of the local geology to the where's and why's of the Ice Age Floods. Using part of an 1823 map by David Thompson and mid-1800 field sketches by a British Army officer, Jack explained the importance of post-ice age floods geomorphology on overland and water tribal trails and present day settlements and highways.



**Spokane author and naturalist Jack Nesbit makes a point on the IAFA field trip**

**Photo by Neil Wimberley**

After the overview, participants loaded onto the two buses to proceed eastward toward the Cabinet Gorge Dam with field stops that highlighted new geologic research on late glaciation of the Purcell Trench, the formation and collapse of the Clark Fork Ice Dam, and the erosional power of the Lake Pend Oreille sub-lobe glacier.

After a short drive we stopped at the Highway 200 Geologic Overlook and a great view looking south across Lake Pend Oreille to the Green Monarch Ridge Buttress and east to the Pleistocene location of the ice dam that formed Glacial Lake Missoula. Repeated failures of this ice dam resulted in the largest floods known. These Ice Age Floods eroded, transported and deposited massive amounts of materials that affected portions of Montana, Idaho, Washington and Oregon. One deposit, a 160 ton erratic boulder and likely a Belt rock from north Idaho, was transported over 500 miles to the Willamette Valley of Oregon. Almost due south was the Green Monarch Ridge Buttress where, after charging through the Purcell Trench, the Cordilleran ice sheet crashed into this formidable buttress and split into sub-lobes. One sub-lobe went east into the Clark Fork valley and another followed and modified the already scoured valley of present day Lake Pend Oreille.

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## Birds of the Scotchmans

### Observing and Describing Birds

By **Jon Isacoff**

Over the past few years we've covered the 4-season cycle many times over and hit upon so many of the bird types one is likely to see in the Scotchman's at any given time of year. So for a change, how about some discussion of the art of observing and describing birds? Whether you are strictly a feeder watcher or somewhat of an expert, everyone can always use some brushing up on some best practices for observing and describing birds.

First, for the observing part: most of us just look at birds and if something strikes us, we notice, and if not, then we don't. But the best birders, regardless of experience level, do more. Take note of small things: did the bird have a long tail or a short tail? Long wings or short wings? Did the bird flutter around a lot or fly in a straight line? Skittish or bold?

Eating seeds or bugs? There are so many little things that are easily observed that not only help give clues to bird ID; they can be quite fun to watch. Generally, we can divide these into three categories: (1) visual marks, including color, shape, size, and so forth. (2) Audio sounds, including songs, chirps, calls, chips, tweets, and hoots! (3) Behavioral traits, such as flycatching, diving, gliding, tail flicking or wagging, head bobbing, and so forth.

When looking at some birds next time, try to note a few things from each of these categories; it need not be anything fancy. The other thing, and this is a secret I learned from a book by renowned birder Ken Kaufmann: always pay attention to what the "regular, every day" birds look like and how they behave. The key to discovering rare birds is knowing when something that is slightly different from the norm shows up, but sometimes the

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## Message from the Chair

The Kootenai and Idaho Panhandle Forests' Final Forest Plan hit our desks several weeks ago. You couldn't miss it; at 3,000 pages the combined plans landed with a loud "thump"!

The planning process began in 2013 with public meetings held by the forest service to gather public input. Ten years and hundreds of meetings later, the plans have finally arrived!

These plans rely on the best available science, extensive community collaboration and public input. The agency faced, and made, difficult decisions. No individual or group got *everything* they wanted, so no one sees this plan as perfect. Then again, no group or individual was sidelined. Everyone got *something* they wanted. Such is the compromise inherent in managing public lands.

An improvement over the current and outdated 1987 plan, the new plan takes a thoughtful approach, establishes desired objectives and outlines a process to achieve them. The forest service listened to our many supporters and responded with strong wilderness recommendations for the Scotchman Peaks. Thank You!

The plan takes a consistent approach to managing recommended wilderness across both forests. Activities which don't conform to eventual wilderness designation will not be allowed, reducing the potential for conflict that could stall congressional action. Other, more suitable, areas of the forest are selected for activities not compatible with wilderness.

For the Scotchman Peaks, the plan draws reasonable boundaries and creates a strong platform around which our communities can come together to support wilderness

designation. The wilderness character of the Scotchman Peaks will be preserved until congress is ready to act.

The plan has one more step before it is implemented. For 60 days, people who previously made comments can object to plan decisions and offer alternatives. Then the agency has 90 days to resolve objections or provide detailed responses. Other people who are interested in how specific objections are resolved may be included as an "interested party" during resolution proceedings.

While we believe the plan, overall, does a good job in recommending wilderness for the Scotchman Peaks, we intend to track and participate in this final process to maintain these strong recommendations and seek improvements where possible. In 5 to 6 months the forest service will issue a final Record of Decision and will implement the plan.

This final process does not solicit additional input, it's about resolving existing technical arguments and issues; and we will be there to represent the concerns and interests of our supporters.

Still, it never hurts to let people know you appreciate their hard work! When they are back to work (as of this writing most forest service personnel are furloughed) let the agency folks know that you appreciate the challenging work they have done on this plan. While you are at it let the editor of your local paper know the Scotchman Peaks are important to you and you appreciate the plan's strong recommendations for the Scotchmans. Or write your congressman and ask them to act on these recommendations!

—Phil Hough

## Along the Trail

**September 3 - 6:** FSPW ED Phil Hough traveled to Seattle for presentations at Woodland Park Zoo and a showing of *Grass routes: Changing the Conversation*.

**September 9 - 12:** Kristen Nowicki and FSPW volunteers assisted with a botanical survey backpack in Lightning Creek NFF "Treasured Landscape."

**September 13:** FSPW Program Coordinator Sandy Compton and volunteer Brad Smith began a realignment survey on the lower portion of the Scotchman Peak trail. See story on page 9.

**September 21:** FSPW trail crew worked on the Star Peak historical trail.

**September 22:** FSPW board member Bill Martin and volunteer Kim Matthew worked on the stone staircase at Star Peak Lookout.

**October 4:** FSPW, in cooperation with the Forest Service and the National Forest Foundation, celebrated National Public Lands Day with a workday in Morris Creek and Mud Creek in the

National Forest Foundation's Treasured Landscape in Lightning Creek; Jacob Styer led volunteers on the annual highway cleanup day on Highway 200.

**October 4 - 6:** Sixth Annual Scotchman Peaks Plein Air Paintout, headquartered at Kally Thurman's Outskirts Gallery in Hope, was held in and around the Scotchmans. The Sunday show resulted in 9 sold paintings. See the story on page 1.

**October 13:** FSPW Volunteer Appreciation Day was held at Beyond Hope Resort. Trail crew, weed warriors and botanical survey folks were thanked for their summer service

**October 24:** Premier of Summit Idaho on Idaho Public Television featured a 6 minute segment on a day on Scotchman Peak with FSPW staff and volunteers. View the video online at <http://video.idahoptv.org/video/2365102528/>

**October 24 - 27:** Program Coordinator Sandy Compton and FSPW ED Phil Hough attended the National Wilderness Stewardship Conference in Big Bear California.



## Wild Creatures of the Scotchmans

By Michael Lucid

Regional Wildlife Biologist

Idaho Department of Fish and Game

I've developed a bit of a bad habit. I can't stop turning over rocks. This began long ago. When I was growing up I would often search under rocks to see what type of wild creatures lived in my decidedly un-wild urban backyard. Somewhere along the way though, probably middle-school, I just quit looking. Let's face it, looking under rocks is decidedly un-cool.

Since then I've spent much of my time as an adult seeking out wild animals but I never picked up my rock lifting habit again until just a few years ago. As they say, once a rock lifter always a rock lifter and once I was back to my old habit there was no stopping me.

This began innocently enough by occasionally turning over a rock on the forest floor to see if there was a snail under it - but before I knew it I found myself in middle of fast moving streams looking under every rock I could find.

One of my favorite animals to find under rocks in streams is a rocky mountain tailed frog. Forsaking the warm still waters some of their frog cousins prefer, tailed frogs seek out the coldest and fastest mountain streams they can find.



*Never know what you will find*  
Photo by Michael Lucid

Tailed frogs begin their life cycle in the fall when mating occurs. The female retains sperm over the winter and, come the next summer, will firmly attach her eggs to the bottom of rocks in streams. These eggs will usually hatch the same summer. But the tadpoles may take another full year to leave the rock they are under, at which point they may get bold and move to another rock. They hold tight to these rocks with suction cup like mouths which help them from being swept downstream. The tadpoles eat mostly plant material for several years until they metamorphose into fully formed adult frogs. As adults they switch their feeding habits from plants to invertebrate animals.



Even after metamorphosis the adult males retain part of their tail for their whole life, hence the creative name 'tailed frog'. Even after completing metamorphosis and the frog looks like a fully formed frog to us humans, it takes several more years for it to reach sexual maturity and mate in the fall like its parents.

So finding this long lived, slow to mature species, in the fast moving streams of the Scotchmans is a an awesome thrill to me. The more often I'm rewarded by a sweet find the more rocks I want to look under. And this is what they call addiction.

When you face addiction you begin to prioritize the addiction over the things you should really be doing in life. Answering emails, cutting wood, going to meetings, and cleaning up the garden all move to the back of my mind as I lift rock after rock. I'll get to all those things though...as soon as I look under one more rock...

## The Future Looks Bright

**November 15:** FSPW and Idaho Conservation League team up to show *A Fierce Green Fire* and *Grass Routes: Changing the Conversation*. Sandpoint Events Center, Doors at 7, films at 7:30. No host beer and wine available.

**November 18:** Phil Hough travels to Gonzaga University in Spokane to present the Scotchman Peaks proposal as a case study.

**November 20: Open House** at our new office in Libby at 108 4th St. Suite 205. Stop by for a cup of coffee and a cookie. **A Bear of an Evening** in Libby. Kim Annis and Wayne Kasworm present on bears both grizzly and not. Doors open at 6:30 pm at the VFW, 114 W. 2nd Street, in Libby. No host beer and wine available.

**November 21:** Phil Hough will make a presentation to Trout Unlimited Sandpoint chapter.

**December 2:** Annual Sip and Shop event at the Pend Oreille Winery. 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Stop by and buy a glass or bottle to help the cause, and get an update on our proposal status.

**December 7:** Rare Carnivore research station training will be held at the Sandpoint Ranger District Office on Ontario near Highway 2 in Sandpoint.

### On the Horizon

**January 23:** FSPW and Idaho Conservation League present the Winter Wildlands Film Festival in Coeur d'Alene at the Eagles Club, 209 E. Sherman. 7:00 doors, 7:30 films. No-host beer and wine.

**January 26 and 27:** FSPW volunteers will be present at our information table at the Banff Film Festival in Coeur d'Alene at the Kroc Center.



# Scotchman Past

## Camp 5

By Emory J. Clark

The Camp 5 region  
 Anchored between  
 Antelope and Scotchman mountains,  
 famous for tendering  
 Domestic and foreign  
 Collections of men,  
 Ordinary,  
 Special,  
 Jacks of all trades,  
 willingly metamorphosing  
 into quintessential lumberjacks  
 living in the hills,  
 working like dogs,  
 muscling mighty logs  
 from stump to mill.

Of these legions  
 flourishing  
 in this deep  
 wilderness cleft,  
 little was saved;  
 Few clues are left,  
 and no man remains.  
 Only stories survive  
 describing **Camp 5**  
 as wild and untamed,  
 Its charter drawn by  
 Bankers and lawyers,  
 Its population -  
 Teamsters, Sawyers,  
 Hookers, Scalers,  
 Cooks and Jailers.

Scattered in huts  
 and common halls  
 along this road  
 Where now, only ruts  
 remain,

To remind one of the  
 thoroughfare  
 it used to be  
 Of the busy, noisy place  
 of lash and crash and jangle  
 It will never be again.

Stopping, I drink  
 from the icy spring  
 that watered beasts  
 tame and wild

horse and man  
 and on muddy knees,  
*me*, as a child.

In the clearing, bricks,  
 mossy and green,  
 Twisted boards, rusty cans  
 and a grey porcelain wash pan.

Smiling I hold it aloft,  
**"Camp 5 !**

So this is you?  
 Your horse fields, once so proud  
 Are for deer and squirrel again,  
 With fir and pine and tamarack  
 gradually closing in.

*Pull the bell wire, "Clangity, clang!"*  
 And fifty, hungry, laughing,  
 lumber jacks  
 Start in from the woods;  
 With whiskers  
 and burlap covered water jugs,  
 standing paired in the wash up line,  
 Shouting "Hot dam,  
 don't that stew smell fine!"

No sooner had they sat  
 Than the place roared and shook!  
 "Let's hear it for the cook!"  
 And "Three cheers for  
 Swede and Pat!"



**This 1920 picture of Strong's logging camp, located south of Blanchard Lake in Bonner County, is not of Camp 5 but evokes the timbre of Emory Clark's poem.**

**Photo courtesy Bonner County Historical Society Museum**

For seven decades,  
 I've known you, **Camp 5**  
 empty and gone  
 Before **I** was alive."  
 Rows of rusty nails  
 on cedar planks appear  
 Telling me there the mess hall stood.

*I see the cook rush past,*

Hip, hip, Hooray!  
 Hip, Hip, Hooray!  
 Hip, Hip, Hooray!"  
 A hell of a record they'd set;  
 A White Pine with 25 hundred  
 board feet  
 Fell, limbed, and bucked in  
 one hour flat!!



Then like sad magic,  
Silent walls fell around me  
until the only living sound  
was my breathing.

As a kid 70 years back,  
I remember a weathered shack  
Where the woods boss ran the camp  
Where he hired, fired, and  
Kept the books.

And a path carved  
by years of **Camp 5** cooks  
led to the cellar  
now marked by sunken ground.

My family will dig there soon,  
culinary history  
will be found!

Bottles, jars, and cans,  
finger prints  
from the hands of time  
left behind  
to solve the crime  
of 'who stole the show'?

Of which bottle  
Were there more:  
Whiskey?  
By a score!

And next,  
A product bottled  
Explicitly to defeat  
objectionable tastes  
by slathering on  
spicy tomato paste!

Catsup, stealing the act  
Hienz to be exact  
Hundreds of bottles  
Still intact  
And third,  
Patent medicine bottles,  
With camphor smells  
still holding fast,  
and Snake Oil,

With blatant "cure all" claims  
Written in glass.

Cow herds driven  
from Cascade Creek  
For Friday nights  
Explain the cache  
Of steak sauce;  
Lee and Perrins  
Worcestershire  
From England  
Making history in 1847  
With its "savory taste of heaven".

### **Back in the Day**

Coaxing giant trees  
from stump to mill  
not for the faint of heart;  
Across the flats,  
down the old flume hill;  
the remarkable part!

As kids, we collected railroad spikes  
Used to hold down tracks,  
I imagined then, as I do now,  
Log trains chug in,  
and load booms groan,  
as they did a hundred years back.

Angling up the hill a piece,  
I stop where the new forest grows.

Old stumps rotting  
In and around new one's toes,  
babies, these cedars,  
maybe a hundred years old.

Thinking as I walked to my car,  
"This old operation,  
However antique,  
never left a scar! No,  
Just a few tin cans  
and a crumpled porcelain wash pan."

### **Footnotes**

For the whiskey!  
Boys and men  
Worked hard!  
Lumberjacks shared,  
but many a pint  
was polished off  
in the outhouse,  
the empty bottles  
"protected" from the elements  
For a hundred years.

A plethora of Steak sauces  
In clever, triangular, rectangular,  
equiangular glass  
Worcestershire, unusually delicious!  
Popular in England  
since 1847;  
Liniment  
eased sore backs  
Slowed bed bugs in their tracks!

Wine, beer  
In pints and quarts  
McCormack's Vanilla and Mapleine  
Jars of Vicks and Vaseline  
Jars and cans of every sort  
A bevy of milks, condensed for oats,  
pepper, nutmeg, cinnamon  
Calumet Baking Powder  
5 Gallon syrup tins

### **Sourdough flapjacks:**

The morning fuel  
for lumberjacks  
and evening repast from work?

Cards, cigars and whiskey  
were the perks  
And the allure of Camp 5  
Were those wilderness nights?  
Of lumberjacks playing poker  
On an oil cloth  
In yellow lantern light.

**We need this thing  
wilderness more than it  
needs us. ~ Benton MacKaye**

**Directions:** Faithfully follow your map towards the Scotchman Peaks Trailhead. At Mosquito Creek, a hill facing East, rises gradually, steepens for half a mile, flattens out, and enters a clearing. It is there Camp 5 begins. The road turns sharply to the left (North). Stop! Park!

If you survey through the trees closely, at about 1 o'clock you may see the uneven surface where the old cellar stood. Park and tromp around. No one will complain. Explore in all directions. You may find artifacts, simple ones, such as shards of glassware from the table, rusty cans, bottles, chunks of cable. Take pictures but if you don't mind, leave "the stuff" there for other Scotchman folks to find.

**Emory J. Clark, August 1968, Revised July, 2013**



## Scotchman Natives

### False Hellebore: Mixed reviews of praise, scorn

By Valley Novak

A few years ago, a False Hellebore appeared in an open area on my wooded acre at the base of Schweitzer. I knew what it was and was rather pleased with its presence, watching it grow to about three feet tall, blossom, and disappear after the following winter, never to return. Its tall, coarsely veined leaves, growing alternately in the manner of cornstalks, and even the manner of its tasseled bloom-head, probably gave it its nickname of “corn lily”, and it is, indeed a member of the Liliaceae family.

At the time, I checked it out in my old copy of Jeff Hart’s “Montana- Native Plants and Early Peoples” and discovered that it had a background “both medicinal and poisonous, depending on the amount ingested.” Hart reported that Flathead, Kutenai and other area tribes knew it as “sneeze-root” after the manner in which they used it. They sniffed the dried and powdered rootstock as a decongestant, with the following – “sometimes violent” – sneezing serving to clear the nasal passages. Its powerful action resulted in the user’s decision not to allow its use on children.

Newly arriving Europeans incorporated hellebore into their medicinal stores, and in 1750, Hart quoted Swedish naturalist Peter Kalm as reporting its use in “washing scorbutic parts with the water or decoction” which was said to cause some pain. But boiling the root in water and putting a comb into the decoction to comb children’s heads was said to kill lice most effectually.

Hart went on to say that “the principal medical use of hellebore in recent times was as a heart depressant and spinal paralyzant” and that scientists recently found its medicinal action to be due to veratrum, an alkaloid chemical. Doubtless the reason for its listing as *Veratrum viride*.

Fast forward to today. A look at Lee Peterson’s “A Field Guide to Edible Wild Plants” of the Peterson Field Guide series: He describes its appearance, captions it as “Poisonous” and warns not to mistake it for Skunk Cabbage. I personally would never make such a mistake, since the leaf color, texture, growth pattern, and most of all the odor – are dead giveaways.

Gregory Tilford, in his “Edible and Medicinal Plants of the West,” did not give False Hellebore such short shrift, but took a good half- page for description; habitat (deep moist mountain

soil, wet mountain meadows, swamps and stream banks from Alaska to southern California (*Veratrum californicum*) and east throughout the Rocky Mountains); and medicinal uses.

The latter pretty much followed Hart’s descriptions, but added the note that the “powdered root is used as an insecticide” – thereby giving the Amen to the native’s using it for lice. Tilford, too, discounts trekkers’ ability to identify plants by stating False Hellebore in its early stages bears a “frightening resemblance” to other lily family members such as Glacier lily, Twisted Stalk

and False Solomon’s Seal. Again, I don’t agree, but then I’m a “plant person” and perhaps pay closer attention than some. His final end-of-paragraph caution is well-meant, though, for he prints in boldface type: **WARNING! Do not mess with this plant.**

In “Plants of the Lewis and Clark Expedition” by H. Wayne Phillips, only one encounter with our subject was identified as “California False Hellebore” though it was collected on the Lolo Pass along the Clearwater River watershed. All that was noted about it was that it was “growing in wet places.”

I’ve seen False Hellebore in various north Idaho sites, mostly in boggy areas in the mountains around Priest Lake, and up in the Trestle Creek area. I am always pleased when I run across it. It’s a handsome plant, pretty when

in bloom, and that’s enough for me. I have no intention to “mess with it” – just appreciate its place in the ecosystem.



False Hellebore

Photo by Marilyn George

### This one you can't buy!

However, the rest of our bandanas, tees (long and short sleeved, in 3 colors), sweats and hats will make great holiday gifts. Check them out 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, Greasy Fingers Bike Shop and Outdoor Experience in Sandpoint, ID.

Out of the area, contact jim@scotchmanpeaks.org. 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)







## Trail Talk: Flattening out Trail 65

By **Sandy Compton**

Back in the day, as the kids now say, I was a surveyor, wandering through the woods with others carrying theodolite, chain (a 300-foot tape, really), plumb bob, sandvik, stakes, hammer, grease pencils, survey ribbon and the occasional chainsaw. We navigated from one section corner to another in good order, keeping track of progress in a yellow “write-in-the-rain” notebook. Using the theodolite — or transit — made it a “class 1 survey,” a survey of the highest order, accurate to 1/10,000 tolerance. In other words, if you went 5,280 feet over hill and dale, keeping track of all the angles and slopes and feet (to the 100ths), you should “close” to within .528 feet, or about 6 inches. More than that, and you went back and did it again. Less than that, and the survey was eligible to be part of a legal document, like a deed or plat.

Another variety of survey I worked at is called RSDS, which stands for Rapid Survey and Design System, a “roughing out” method involving a good compass, a chain, a hammer, stakes, survey ribbon and a clinometer — a device for measuring angle of slope — and a couple of “H-I” sticks, H-I standing for “height of instrument.” The idea of RSDS is to follow a couple of simple parameters — no more than 6 percent grade on no more than 70 percent slope (which is pretty dangd steep) might be the tolerance — to do an initial survey on a road.

And then, there’s what a couple of us did a few weeks ago, a preliminary trail survey, which involves just H-I sticks, a clinometer and survey ribbon. That’s all. Simplest survey method ever. And one of the most adventurous. It is how trails get laid out — or in the case of the lower part of Scotchman Peak Trail #65, relocated.

Anyone who has climbed Scotchman in the past half-century knows that the lower mile of trail — how do we put this delicately — pretty much sucks. Going up, it kills you. Coming down, it kills you again. The “trail” below the first switchback



**Brad in the bush** Photo by Sandy Compton

is a heartbreaker and kneebuster all in one. Straight-up Joe, the legendary trail-maker of the Cabinets, pretty much did his level worst on the design, which at one point registers a cool 37 percent on the clinometer. Really. That’s steep, a rise of 37 feet over 100 feet distance traveled. If you’re familiar with Trail #65, you can just about envision where that is.

With the blessing of Mary Ann Hamilton, Recreation Program Manager on the Sandpoint Ranger District of the Panhandle National Forest, Brad Smith of the Idaho Conservation League and I made an initial foray September 13 into the brush and timber to the west of the current trail in search of a new and improved route. What we found was both daunting and encouraging. The good news is that the views will be much better when the new tread gets built (after quite a bit more surveying and the NEPA process). In fact, the new route will traverse several beautiful rocky meadows with wonderful views to the south. The bad news is that it’s going to be some rough going with the pulaskis and McLeods when it comes time to cut the new tread. (Just an early warning, Star Peak Allstars.) But, it will be to the advantage of hundreds of future hikers to finish the preliminary

research and get on to the business of actually flagging the new line.

**Continued page 11**

### **Birds, from page 3**

difference is ever so slight. A keen eye for what you see every day is pivotal for when you seeing something slightly different that may be the Eurasian or African cousin of your typical yard bird!

What about describing birds? One temptation is to include all kinds of supporting details — what clothes one was wearing when the bird was observed, what tune was on the radio (or mp3, etc.), the weather (which can be relevant), details about binoculars used, etc. Those may be somewhat of relevance but by far the most important thing to focus on when describing a bird is... the bird! And this is where some of the points discussed above come into play: what did the bird look like? Did it vocalize? Were there any behavioral characteristics of note? And one of the most important considerations: if you suspect you’re describing a rare bird, what is the more common, or “expected” bird that it looks like and how was the latter ruled out? Of course not everyone wants to describe birds, but if it never hurts to have game plan in mind if you feel like you want to.

### **Peak Views**

**Do you have a winter hike in your future? Would you like to take others with you? It would be more fun!**

We’re now accepting winter hike suggestions for the 2014 season. Follow this link — [www.scotchmanpeaks.org/hiking/leading-hikes/](http://www.scotchmanpeaks.org/hiking/leading-hikes/) — to our online hike submission form or write to [sandy@scotchmanpeaks.org](mailto:sandy@scotchmanpeaks.org)



**Volunteers, from page 2**

weed species. In September, contracts were awarded for weed control spraying on several FS roads within the project boundaries, and next year contracts are scheduled to be composed for weed control on the more severely infested recreational trails mapped by our volunteers.

Survey events for rare plants took place in high elevation lakes, meadows, and forests. Buxbau's sedge (*Carex buxbaumii*), Green Keeled Cotton-grass (*Eriophorum viridicarinatum*), and Marsh Willowherb (*Epilobium palustre*) were found and recorded in Moose and Blacktail Lakes. In addition, sightings of the endangered Western Boreal Toad (*Bufo boreas*) occurred during the Blacktail Lake survey. Coordinates were documented and photographs of the amphibians were given to the regional USFS Wildlife Biologist. Green Keeled Cotton-grass was also identified and recorded in a small draw near Bear Mountain. Lastly, during the Botanical Training Course field event at Mineral Point, two species of Moonworts (*Botrychium spp.*) were identified and their distributions at that site recorded. Nice bands of Whitebark Pine stands were identified in several locations throughout the project area. Good candidates for restoration activities were identified in and



**L -R Kate Walker, Jim Dubuisson, Jennifer Costich-Thompson, Richard Merkel, Kristen Nowicki, Philip Hough. At the base of Scotchman Peak, our crew sets out on a multiple day forest survey**

**Photo by Phil Hough**

around Scotchman Peak, Beetop and Roundtop Mountains, and around Lightning Mountain and Twin Peak. Western Blister Rust infestation amounts varied throughout the stands, but were nearly always present somewhere within the survey area. Data collected will help identify areas with the best potential to benefit from restorative burn treatments. The data FSPW and USFS crews collected on seed-cone bearing Whitebark Pine trees is currently being analyzed by the regional geneticist. Once uninfected seeds can be collected, rust-resistant Whitebark Pine seedlings can be propagated and used in replanting activities.

Outlook for this project's continuation includes the following activities: stream bank erosion control, weed spraying, trail reconstruction, and follow-up monitoring. Continued involvement by our volunteers will be key to this project's overall success. The pro-active approach utilized in natural resource stewardship ensures our communities' continued ability to assist the direction and growth of our national forests' management.

We live in a beautiful place, and we aim to keep it that way! I want to extend gratitude once more to everyone who participated in this project. FSPW volunteers are working for wilderness!

**You Pick the Photo Winner!**

The 2013 photo contest is on Facebook! Check out the album at [bit.ly/FSPW2013Photos](http://bit.ly/FSPW2013Photos) and vote for your favorite between now and November 30. **We will announce winners at the December 2 Sip and Shop at the Pend Oreille Winery.**



**L-R: Caitlyn Hughes, John Harbuck, Jim Dubuisson, Molly O'Reilly. Botanical Training session at Mineral Point**

**Photo by Phil Hough**



### Rocks, from page 3

Watercolor sketches made in 1860 illustrated an early view of Lake Pend Oreille and a Google Earth view were presented by Jack. Roy discussed his findings based on seismic data from the US Navy regarding the depth of glacial scour and glacio-fluvial deposits in Lake Pend Oreille. He was able to identify four stratigraphic units based on seismic reflection patterns and to demonstrate that the glacier scoured 214 meters below sea level to bed rock. Converting to feet and roughly adding up the distance from the lateral moraines to bed rock at the bottom of the lake level, the maximum depth of the glacier was over 4,000 feet thick!

Next stop was Sam Owen Park and lunch. Jack, again using a David Thompson map, indicated our location and read early written accounts and descriptions of the landscape where we were eating lunch and where David Thompson would establish the "Kullyspel House" trading post in 1809. He also discussed how the local Native Americans (Flat Heads, Coeur d'Alenes and Kootenai) persuasively directed David Thompson and other explorers/trappers to where they wanted them to go even if it meant a longer or more difficult route. Roy focused on two topics: the characteristics of the ice dam and his paleo-magnetic based research on

a 34 meter thick section of glacio-lacustrine sediments and the rhythmites that make up this section in Lightning Creek. These rhythmites give a clue to the history of the duration, energy and time intervals of ice age flood events and help substantiate the model of multiple outburst flood events.

Due to time constraints our last stop was the Cabinet Gorge Dam. This stop is up the Clark Fork River at the approximate terminus of the glacial sub-lobe that created Glacial Lake Missoula. After some history on the construction of the Cabinet Gorge Dam and some mapping indiscretions, Roy discussed a model of the formation and destruction of the ice plug that dammed the Clark Fork. He also pointed out the existence of Glacial Lake Missoula standlines and proglacial deltas and kame terraces that post-date the catastrophic floods of the ice age. Lacustrine sediments on top of giant current ripples and other large flood event deposits indicate that later flood events were not as catastrophic.

This field trip is indicative of the Ice Age Floods Institute's dedication "to promote public awareness and education relating to the significance of the Ice Age Floods." It is one of many events offered by the 10 chapters of the Ice Age Floods Institute. Visit the IAFI website ([www.iafi.org](http://www.iafi.org)) for a comprehensive list of chapter events, information on ice age floods and a wide range of ice age floods related resources.

### Trail, from page 9

In the process of flagging the initial attempt, we learned a lot. First, it might be best not to tie flags on the first go-round. You're just going to have to go back and untie them once you discover what's wrong with your first route. Next, try for a shallower grade than you expect to get. A wise trail builder told us, after the fact, if you want 12 percent, shoot for 10 percent. Last, don't try to do it all in one day. There is a lot more to it than one might expect, if you are going to get a good result.

What's a good result? For this section of trail, we would like to create about a 12 percent overall grade, which will cut the grade in half, approximately. That means, of course, that the lower part of the trail will get longer, perhaps an extra half-mile between the trailhead and the second switchback. But, we think the effort will be worth it, aesthetically, cardiovascularly and orthopedically.

Watch for updates on the realignment in coming months and sharpen up your trail building skills. We're aiming to flatten out that first part of Trail #65 in next few years.

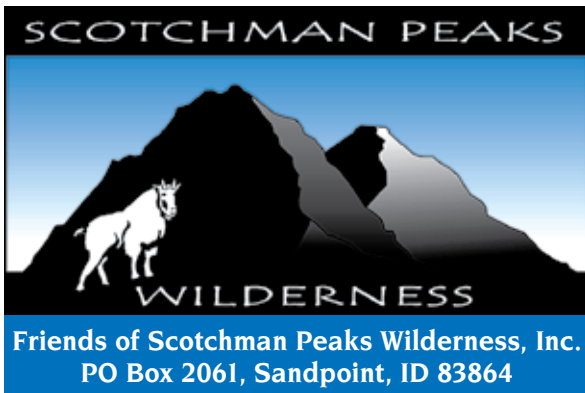
## Cinnabar donators! Thank you!



Once more you have stepped up and fulfilled our \$3000 Cinnabar matching grant. The Friends are grateful and promise to be good stewards of your donations as well as the match from Cinnabar.

**Next up on our financial wish list is wolverine season.** If you have supported us in the past for our winter rare winter carnivore research, we hope you will consider helping us again. The wilderness doesn't stop at the landscape, but continues to include the wild creatures that inhabit wild places. For the past three winters, FSPW has helped further studies focused on some of the wildest of the wild: wolverines, martins, fishers and the big cats who populate the Peaks. You can help us continue that support by going to [bit.ly/DonateToWolverines](http://bit.ly/DonateToWolverines) or mailing a contribution to FSPW, P.O. Box 2061, Sandpoint, Idaho 83864, Attn: Wolverines.

**Thanks for all of your past and future support.**



## 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.

### Board Members & Staff:

#### CHAIR/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

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

VICE-CHAIRMAN &  
MONTANA DIRECTOR:  
Doug Ferrell, Trout Creek, MT  
(406) 827-4341  
[doug@scotchmanpeaks.org](mailto:doug@scotchmanpeaks.org)

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

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

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

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

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

LINCOLN COUNTY COORDINATOR  
Molly Kieran, Troy, MT  
(406) 293-2934  
[molly@scotchmanpeaks.org](mailto:molly@scotchmanpeaks.org)

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

PROJECT COORDINATOR:  
Kristen Nowicki, Sandpoint, ID  
(208) 627-2448  
[kristen@scotchmanpeaks.org](mailto:kristen@scotchmanpeaks.org)

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