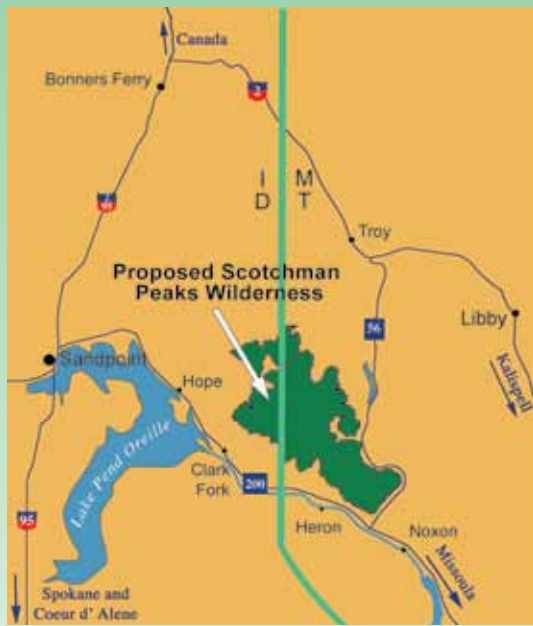




## Mission Statement

“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.

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

Editor: Ann Wimberley

Layout and design: Celeste Boatwright Grace

## Milestones: Taking Bonner County government to the top



**Toughing it out on top with the Bonner County Banner**

### A message from the Executive Director

Progress along the path toward any significant goal is usually measured in segments or milestones. Otherwise the journey is too daunting to even begin. So it is with school, where, before we graduate, we must pass each successive grade to get to the next and eventually receive a diploma. The summit of a mountain is usually impossible to see from the base, but we know we are getting closer as the trail turns at each switchback and we climb ever higher.

Advocating for Wilderness is the same. In order to bring about congressional designation we must first secure certain measurable levels of support. Grassroots advocacy is based on the notion that broad-based support from a large number of diverse people is a foundation. Then the chorus of supporters becomes a strong local voice which leads, eventually, to the inevitability of political action. Along the way, support from key community leaders is a critical benchmark.

On a Saturday in mid-October, as part of the Bonner County Wellness program, a small group of Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness volunteers led two Bonner County Commissioners and two county employees to the top of Scotchman Peak. We were joined by the Idaho Panhandle National Forests Sandpoint District ranger and the news editor of our local paper, the Bonner County Daily Bee. At the summit, commissioners Cary Kelly and Glen Bailey unfurled a banner which proclaimed: “Bonner County Loves Scotchman Peaks”!

Such a sign of support does not alone create a wilderness, but it is a very significant milestone. There is a growing chorus of local voices,

**Continued on page 2**



# Tenth Anniversary Gala is January 9!

Where does the time go? It can't be a decade, can it, since the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness held that first meeting in the Sandpoint Health District conference room? Yes it can! Our formative meeting was held on January 14, 2005, and, boy, has it been a full ten years!

To that end, we want to invite you to a gala tenth anniversary event at Panhandle State Bank Atrium beginning at 6 pm on Friday, January 9, 2015, to help us remember all we have accomplished. It will be a fine, fun evening full of stories, entertainment, great food catered by Tango Café. We will also have a silent auction and a "limited edition" live auction featuring just a few rare items from FSPW history.

## Bonner County on top, from page 1

individuals, business, influential community leaders and elected officials who believe that the Scotchman Peaks deserve to be designated as Wilderness. And, who also believe that our communities deserve the benefits which Wilderness will bring.

This is not the end of the campaign. In fact, we are just beginning the next phase and have a ways to go. But this is an important milestone where we can measure the progress that has been made. We hope you will join us in continuing the work that needs to be done to move to the next milestone.

— Phil Hough



Hikers pause for a group shot at the trail head: Left to right: Phil Hough, FSPW Executive Director, Bonner County Commissioner Cary Kelly, Cheryl Bailey, Bonner County Commissioner Glen Bailey, FSPW volunteer Mary Franzel, Sandpoint District Ranger Erick Walker, FSPW volunteer Deb Hunsicker, Bonner County employee Brent Heiser; Kneeling: Bonner County Daily Bee New Editor Keith Kinnaird, Bonner County employee Jennifer Ralls, and Idaho Conservation League associate Brad Smith.

Just as importantly, though, this will be a chance to recommit ourselves to the next decade of stewardship and advocacy for the beautiful proposed Scotchman Peaks. Wilderness. We aren't done yet!

Mark the date. Friday, January 9, 2015. And come help us celebrate a decade of good work. Tickets go on sale soon!.

## Continuing a tradition of success: Seventh Annual Plein Air Paintout.



Diane Moses Botkin, Sandy Compton, Susan Conway Kean and Kally Thurman show off Kean's prize-winning painting

The 2014 Scotchman Peaks Plein Air Paintout was a bit shorter than it has been in past years, but that didn't dampen the spirit of the Plein Air nor the ardor of the artists. October 4<sup>th</sup> marked the Seventh Annual Paintout, and artists from around the region gathered at the Outskirts Gallery in Hope and made good use of a beautiful day to produce some wondrous new works featuring the Scotchmans and surrounding landscapes.

"We scaled back the amount of time a bit this year," said FSPW Program Coordinator Sandy Compton, "but it didn't detract from the nature of the event. In fact, I think it might have made it an even more intense experience for the artists."

In the past, the Plein Air Paintout has taken place over two or three days, with artists painting for one or two days, and then a show and reception on Sunday. This year, the Plein Air was contained in one Saturday, with painters pulling out the palates at first light and painting furiously until late

Continued, page 11



## Wilderness Happens by Invitation

FSPW volunteer Justin Randall (far left) was one of 14 youth nationwide awarded a scholarship trip to the 50th Anniversary National Wilderness Conference. Here, he and other participants have an encounter with "Aldo Leopold" during opening ceremonies at the conference.

Sandy Compton photo

### By Sandy Compton

We are gathered at the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary National Wilderness Conference—"we" being FSPW executive director Phil Hough, youth volunteer Justin Randall, our Forest Service partner and volunteer Joel Sather and myself. About 1,200 other folks are also here in Albuquerque with us, come from around the nation to celebrate the 1964 creation of the Wilderness Preservation System.

Of the 1,200 others, about 100 came first to a preconference training session to take a look at the future of the Act and

**"We are poised on the edge of the biggest decisions that civilization will ever make."**

*~Sylvia Earle; Marine biologist, explorer, author, lecturer and National Geographic explorer-in-residence, in her keynote at the 50th Anniversary National Wilderness Conference.*

Wilderness, with a capital "W" on this continent. We even had representation from Parks Canada.

We come from many different background; culturally, educationally, spiritually and emotionally; but wild country has somehow affected us all, and we know that we are beholden to it for something or another. We all love, for our own disparate reason, wilderness, and so, by default, Wilderness.

We have been talking about, basically, what to do next. Where, with a dysfunctional, stalled Congress; reduced federal budgets for maintaining trails and managing Wilderness, and good stewardship needed more than ever, do we go from here?

The level of passion in this initial group was palpable; as is the commitment they feel toward "the cause." We worked very hard for those two days, led by staff from the Forest Service, BLM, Park Service, and Fish and Wildlife Service as well as Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards, Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center, the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance and Society for Wilderness Stewardship. We were evenly split between agency folks and groups like FSPW, and we came up with concrete ideas of

where to go and how to get there.

I am encouraged.

This morning, the main conference is underway and the initial rush of gathering is over. Our keynote

speakers included amazing oceanographer Sylvia Earle; Chris Barns of the Carhart Center; Sally Jewell, our new Secretary of Interior; New Mexico Senator Martin Heinrich; and, last evening at the opening ceremonies, a televised address from former President Jimmy Carter.

*Continued, page 11*

## Over the Top Volunteers

### Volunteerism Achieves Restoration Goals

By Kristen Nowicki

FSPW Citizen Scientists successfully completed three unique restoration-related activities this summer in the proposed Scotchman Peaks Wilderness. Under the Treasured Landscape Designation in and near the proposed Scotchman Peaks wilderness, scientists and local citizens have been working together to maintain the pristine nature of the Lightning Creek drainage complex.

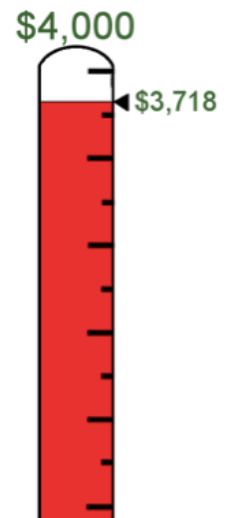
Three main goals were set forth for this second phase of the three-phase restoration effort that hit the ground last summer: noxious weed mitigation/suppression, Mud Creek Trail stream revegetation, and high elevation headwater forest analysis, also know as the Whitebark Pine survey.

*Continued, page 9*

CINNABAR  
FOUNDATION

Challenge Grant  
2014

**Almost there!**  
**Now's the time to**  
**double your money**  
**and send us over the top!**



[www.scotchmanpeaks.org/donate](http://www.scotchmanpeaks.org/donate)



## National Public Lands Day closes out the trail season for FSPW

In the scope of things public, we have no more precious collective possession than our public lands. Whether state or federal, Americans have huge spaces in which to wander unhindered and enjoy what the natural world has to offer, whether it be a riding an ATV or hiking into Wilderness. We celebrated that heritage on National Public Lands Day, September 27th.

To mark the moment, Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness (FSPW), the Sandpoint District of the US Forest Service and the National Forest Foundation (NFF [www.nationalforests.org](http://www.nationalforests.org)) cosponsored a trail day on Morris Creek Trail #132 in the NFF Treasured Landscape of Lightning Creek.

"The Morris Creek Trail work is traditionally our last trail work day of the year," said FSPW Executive Director Phil Hough. "It's a good chance to close out the trail season in style, and also a sort of farewell to summer picnic."

The NFF "Treasured Landscape" designation of Lightning Creek makes it a standout project on a national level. NFF, which is headquartered in Missoula, was created by



**FSPW volunteers and USFS personnel line up for a photo before heading out on the trail.**

Congress as the official non-profit partner of the USDA Forest Service in caring for and managing our National Forests. As such, they have undertaken restoration of the Lightning Creek drainage, which includes weed control, revegetation projects, whitebark pine research, flood damage mitigation, and trail maintenance and construction in the drainage. Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness have been NFF partners in the Treasured Landscape for several years and provide

**Continued on page 10**

## Trail #999 Dedicated on September 21



**Celebrating the dedication of Trail #999; kneeling, l to r, Phil Degens, Sandy Compton, Joel Sather and sons, Irv McGeachy; standing, Holly Clements, John Gubel, Joe Zimmerman, Mark Sheets, Phil Hough, Ken Thacker** Deb Hunsicker photo

An opening dedication and celebration of the new Star Peak Historic Trail #999 at the southern boundary of the Scotchmans in western Sanders County was held Sunday, September 21, at the new trailhead just off Montana Highway 200.

The new tread was dug largely by volunteers from Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness (FSPW), with assistance from USFS trail crews, Montana Conservation Corps, the Youth Conservation Corps and the Montana Wilderness Association Continental Divide trail crew.

"Trail 999 is actually a reconstruction of a trail abandoned in the late 40s for a mining exploration road," said FSPW executive director Phil Hough. "Joel Sather, recreation technician on the Cabinet Ranger District, suggested the project to us in 2011,

**Continued on page 6**



## Tales of the Scotchmans

### A Most Memorable Wilderness Experience

By **Lyndsie Kiebert**

"I stood on the porch steps with my boots in hand as the sun rose. I gazed over the tree line and toward the soft, growing light. With one deep breath, I could feel the pure joy swell in my chest. This is was the perfect day for an adventure; this was the perfect day for a hike."

This is an excerpt from an essay I wrote about the first time I hiked Scotchman's Peak. I've been in this scene dozens of times, before dozens of hikes, and no feeling of anticipation is more fulfilling or exciting. I live for these moments.

Last year, I participated in the local 4-H hiking project for the fifth time. We had a small group, which was both a good and bad thing. It was a shame that we couldn't get more kids involved in the project, but it also gave us the opportunity to try more difficult hikes. All of us were experienced hikers, so we tried new things and learned a lot in the process. For instance, on a trip to Packsaddle Peak, we came off the trail to find that the tire of our leader's truck was flat and she had forgotten to bring a spare. After a short journey down the road in search of cell phone service, I finally got my dad on the phone and an hour later I was introduced



**FSPW volunteer Mary Franzel presented Lyndsie a \$300 Friends of Scotchman Peaks Scholarship for her essay at the 2014 Clark Fork High School awards banquet,**

to the wonders of Fix-A-Flat. We eventually made it off the mountain with an unforgettable day and a lesson learned.

There is nothing quite like the expression on someone's face when they ask you about your weekend plans and you respond, "I'll be hiking 10 miles." I work in a breakfast café, so I receive this question often from wealthy out-of-towners who probably expect me to say something like, "I'll be sleeping in, thank goodness!" They never expect this teenage girl to have early morning plans in the Cabinet Wilderness.

I have been raised to love the outdoors. I have parents who never missed the opportunity to take my sisters and I fishing, huckleberry picking, or hiking. I've always been motivated to explore further, adventure to more mountain tops, apply the wilderness even more to my life than I already have. This time, I plan to apply it to my future.

There was a moment this summer when I decided that I wanted to make hiking and outdoor living a part of my college education and hopefully my career. We were hiking up to Harrison Lake, and I found myself leading the group until I could no longer hear them behind me. Soon, I reached the lake and

stood completely still on a piece of granite jutting out from the shallows. A beautiful silence was all I could hear, and the air smelled as pure as it ever has. In that moment, I realized that I could never end up in an office cubicle.

**Continued page 11**

## Trail Talk: Back country ranger's final report

By **Joe Zimmerman**

Summer is rapidly coming to an end and so is my time with FSPW. It has been a great experience to see another side to land conservation. Getting exposed to a new group of people and seeing their passion for what they are doing was fantastic. But as all things go, my time has come to an end.

Looking back this has been the most relaxed, yet adventurous summer so far. Work was not really "work" when I get to hike all day in some great country. It was always a great relief to get to explore a new trail or go out for the day with the Forest Service Trail crew. Throughout the summer, I was able to spend my days off

exploring Glacier National Park, and my days at work exploring the Scotchman's and the Cabinet Wilderness.

It's hard to try and pick out one specific trail or day as the "best of the summer." Each day was different and an adventure. The only days I would skip if I could would have to be the office days, I would much rather spend them on the trail! But everything has its time and place, so it worked out. While I spent most of my time on the Scotchman Peak, Little Spar Lake, and Spar Peak trails, I was still able to enjoy each day



**FSPW back country ranger Joe Zimmerman on Morris Creek trail.**

**Continued on Page 7**

**Celeste Grace photo**



## Along the Trail

**September 3:** The 50th Anniversary of the signing of the Wilderness Act.

**September 5 & 6:** FSPW and Idaho Conservation League celebrated the 50th in Sandpoint, with a panel on Wilderness attended by 50 people, hikes in the Selkirks and Scotchmans and a Saturday evening party at Evans Brothers Coffee Roasters.

**September 9 – 11:** FSPW volunteers and staff participated in a Whitebark Pine Study in the Lightning Creek Treasured Landscape.

**September 20:** 27 guests joined us on the Shawnodese for a fundraiser that included gourmet hors d'oeuvres buffet, beverages, a three-hour tour and a Gilligan's Island trivia contest.

**September 21:** Dedication of Star Peak Historic Trail #999

**September 27:** Fourteen volunteers and FS staff spent National Public Lands Day on a work project in Morris Creek the Lightning Creek Treasured Landscape.

**October 3 - 4:** Nearly 20 artists took part in the Annual Scotchman Peaks Plein Air Paintout held at the Outskirts Gallery in Hope, Idaho.

**October 5:** Annual FSPW Highway 200 Cleanup near Clark Fork was held.

**October 7:** Forty people attended the Community Prosperity Forum on Healthcare held at the Cabinet Peaks Medical Center in Libby.

**October 8:** FSPW volunteers and FS staff planted hundreds of willow plants in the Mud Creek drainage in the National Forest Foundation Lightning Creek treasured landscape as part of the NFF landscape recovery program.

**October 11:** Brian Baxter led a class on Reading Maps, Compass, Tracks and Sign; Phil Hough led two Bonner County commissioners and other hikers on a hike to Scotchman Peak.

**October 13 - 20:** Phil Hough and Sandy Compton, as well as FSPW volunteers Justin Randall and Joel Sather, USFS, attended the National Wilderness Conference 50th Anniversary celebration in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

## The Future Looks Bright

**November 12:** Executive Director Phil Hough travels to Gonzaga for a classroom presentation. Program Coordinator travels to North Idaho College for a career day.

**November 13:** FSPW project coordinator Kristen Nowicki will present FSPW will present "Where the Wild Things Are" to youth grades 1st-6th, but all who are young of heart are welcome to attend! 3:30 p.m. at East Bonner County Public Library

**November 18:** Community Prosperity Forum, a free public event focused on rebuilding the Lincoln County economy. "Making Sense of Business Loans, Grants and other Incentives" begins at 6:30 pm, Ponderosa Room in Libby City Hall.

**December 3:** Pints for the Peaks. A fundraiser at the Idaho Pour Authority with Stone Brewery. 5 to 7 pm.

**December 13:** Winter Tracks Series begins. A Winter Tracks educational program with Brian Baxter for middle-school and high school youth. This is a great opportunity to get the up-and-coming generation into the wilderness in the solitude of winter. Register online at [www.scotchmanpeaks.org/event/winter-tracks-series/](http://www.scotchmanpeaks.org/event/winter-tracks-series/)

## On the Horizon:

**January 1:** The 2015 Winter Hike Series begins. Visit [scotchmanpeaks.org/hiking](http://scotchmanpeaks.org/hiking) to learn more or sign up to lead a hike. (See related story, Page 9)

**January 9, 2015:** A gala celebration of the 10th anniversary of Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness. To be catered by Tango Café in the main level of Panhandle State Bank Atrium. Live and silent auction. Entertainment. See related story, page 2.

**January 14:** Tenth Anniversary of Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness

**February 10:** Pend Oreille Winery Sip and Shop Valentines Day Celebration.

**February 13:** Backcountry Winter Film Festival with Idaho Conservation League, Coeur d'Alene Eagles Club

### Trail 999, from page 4

and we have been working on the new trail for the past three summers. When I look at the amount of work our volunteers have done in that time, I'm amazed."

Trail #999 ascends the south face of Star Peak, renamed from Squaw Peak in the 1990s. After 2.7 miles, it intersects Trail #998, which then proceeds to the Star Peak Lookout, at the southern end of the proposed Scotchman Peaks Wilderness.

FSPW program coordinator Sandy Compton and volunteer Rod Barklay installed a new sign at the intersection of 999 and 998 on October 6.

"It's an amazing trail, with huge views that you don't get from the old road," Compton said. "It's a bit rough in spots, but as it matures, I think it will become a hiker favorite."

The trail opened for business on August 3 when FSPW volunteers connected the new tread to the old at the end of a three-day work camp. The trailhead is 200 yards off Montana Highway 200 on Fatman Road #2292, which intersects Montana 200 at MP 6.2. There is limited parking at the trailhead, plus a large parking area at the intersection of #2292 and 200.



**Phil Degens helps put up the new #999 sign**



## Scotchman Rocks

### Stromatolites: The Unpretentious Fossils

Mark McFaddan, PhD

Disguised among countless bedrock outcrops of Belt Supergroup rocks in the panhandle of northern Idaho are the modest remains of some of the greatest game-changing organisms in the geologic history of planet Earth. The unimpressive, paper-thin wavy layers are fossils of stromatolites, or cyanobacterial mats common in Precambrian time. Many fossils in the rock record are hard to overlook: petrified wood, dinosaur bones, or shellfish are fairly obvious to most casual observers. Stromatolites, however, meekly blend in with their surroundings and require a closer look; in this case, some of the most significant fossils of all show little evidence of being even remotely noteworthy.

Scientists estimate that the present oxygen content of our atmosphere could be completely replenished by our modern photosynthesizing plants in a few thousand years – the mere blink of an eye in geologic time. Early in the history of Earth, however, billions of years passed before oxygen levels in the atmosphere accumulated to what we mammals find essential today. The long and complicated process of atmospheric evolution received a huge boost as cyanobacteria arrived on the scene. These organic mats existed in a variety of water depths long before plants colonized the land surface, and thrived in a world lacking grazing organisms such as snails. As Earth's first great photosynthesizers, they began to pollute the pristine early atmosphere with increasing levels of oxygen, initiating one of the first great environmental crises in our planetary history.

Fortunately, from crisis commonly rises opportunity, and the weathering of rocks, formation of new minerals, and life on Earth moved on in a promising new direction. The tiny, wavy lines in the photo represent the thin layers of organic material (mats) responsible for all of the geologic uproar; they



**Paper-thin, crinkly lines are the fossil remains of stromatolites. Organic mats of cyanobacteria such as these were critical in the production of oxygen and the evolution of the atmosphere of early Earth. Pen for scale. Photo by Mark McFaddan, PhD**

alternate with equally thin layers of sediment stuck to them during storm events. Like grass growing upward through a new layer of sand following a shallow flood, the sticky organic mats re-colonized the new surface every time they were buried by sediment until the domal shapes so common in Precambrian rocks formed. Earth would never be the same.

Sometime this Fall, turn your gaze downward from the magnificent scenery around us (even though it is also chock full of great forensic evidence of our geologic past) to the most inconspicuous mud puddle near your feet. Most likely, the bottom is covered with a thin, green organic mat distantly related to its cyanobacterial ancestors. Look even more closely, and you will notice the tiny bubbles of oxygen ready to join the modern atmosphere. Nothing quite like a little geological perspective with that crisp Fall breeze in your face!

### Trail Talk, from Page 5

on the trail. There were always some new tracks, people to talk to or some small project to keep me busy for the day.

One of the common things that people have been telling me is that "this is going to be the best summer of your life." And while it is definitely up there in terms of being one of the greats, I always find it hard to label something as the "best" in terms of jobs of seasonal activities. This is because each adventure is different and while it may seem easy to compare it to others, the people you meet, the places you see and many more factors all add up to give each adventure its own character.

But looking back, this has been a pretty good summer. I have been able to meet a lot of different people with different

ideas, beliefs and be a part of many different projects. Getting to help finish the Big Eddy Historic trail was a lot of fun. The three day campout, August 1-3, was a great way to finish it off. Getting to camp instead of hiking in and out multiple times made the weekend much easier.

Even with the many fun adventures this summer has given me, I continue to find myself itching for a new adventure, a new challenge. And this winter is definitely looking like it will provide. Shortly after I finish up with FSPW I will be moving to Park City, Utah for the winter, where I have been lucky enough to get a position on the ski patrol at a ski resort there. This has been one of my life long dreams and I cannot wait to explore a new area, advance my skills and see what new adventures can be had.



## Birds of the Scotchmans

### Cold is Coming

By Jon Isacoff, PhD.

Days are getting shorter, darker, and wetter. Time to sharpen up snowshoes and wax the skis! I confess I haven't done as much winter birding in the Scotchmans as I'd like to, but even "just a taste" reveals how much fun it could be.

Since I've covered almost everything to cover during the past several years: winter birding, yard birding, chasing rarities, Lake Pend Oreille waterfowl, in this issue we'll have a little reflection and review. First, before winter comes, check the skies and the lakes, especially Lake Pend Oreille and the Clark Fork Delta. Hundreds of thousands of geese, swans, and ducks will move through the region and many more will over-winter.

Many of the species moving through and over-wintering will be the same. For instance, most geese will be Canadas, but with luck one, might find a Snow or a Greater White-fronted. If you see a little flock of Canadas that are very small with short necks and stubby bills, you have yourself some Cackling Geese, a close relative but different species of goose! Dabbling ducks include Mallards, American Wigeon, Gadwall, Northern Pintails, and Green-winged Teals. Diving ducks include Redhead, Scaup, Ring-necked Ducks, Bufflehead, and Goldeneyes.

Swans are among the most graceful and easiest to spot of waterfowl. Most nearby will be migrating or wintering Tundra Swans but there could be some Trumpeters as well. Their larger size and bulkier, longer bills identify the latter, which breed in the Greater Yellowstone ecosystem and other parts of Northwestern Montana. Also note the abundant Common Loons and Pied-billed, Horned, and Western Grebes on the big, deep waters. With luck a rarity such as a Pacific, Red-throated (both smaller than Common Loon), or Yellow-billed Loon (very rare and slightly larger than a Common but with a slightly upturned yellowish bill) may show up.

Winter Gulls will be mostly Herring, Ring-billed, and California Gulls, but check carefully for the larger,



**Pine Grosbeak**

Photo by Donald M Jones

lighter Glaucous-winged Gull, the common gull of the Pacific Northwestern coast. With greater luck, one might get a nearly all-white, giant Glaucous Gull wintering from its arctic breeding grounds. A medium-sized gull with a grayish-black mantle could be a rare Lesser Black-backed Gull, which breeds in Greenland but disperses thousands of miles for the winter, including to the Inland Northwest.

Winter is often "finch time." In yards and feeders, look for Goldfinches, House Finches, Pine Siskins, and Evening Grosbeaks. If there is another regional irruption, Common Redpolls also will attend happily to yards and feeders. If lucky enough to get flocks of Redpolls, keep an eye out for very pale, frosty individuals, which could be the very rare Hoary Redpoll, a more northerly breeding cousin of the Common.

In more forested areas, look for White-winged and Red Crossbills and Pine Grosbeaks. Also check Mountain Ash berry crops, wild or planted, for Bohemian Waxwings, Robins, and Varied Thrushes. Starlings too favor these berries, unfortunately. But so do Pine Grosbeaks.

Happy winter birding to all!

## Swag for the holidays!

### Give the gift that declares your Friendship!

Check out our bandanas, tees, sweats and hats available at Mountain Meadows in Libby, 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).







## Volunteers from page 5

### Noxious Weeds Suppression

Earlier this spring, FSPW volunteer weeds specialist Kenneth Thacker was awarded a contract for performing chemical treatment of noxious weed invasions occurring on nine high-use recreational trails in the Lightning Creek complex. These infestations were mapped by FSPW volunteers in the summer of 2013, data that Ken was able to utilize to prioritize his work this year. With over 35 miles of trail to treat and then re-visit to assess treatment efficacy, this was quite a workload, further complicated by weather conditions and a short window for treatment. FSPW volunteers were extremely helpful in providing efficacy checks to assist Ken with this time crunch.

Volunteers reported seeing significant improvement in the levels of colonization compared to the condition of the trails they surveyed in 2013. Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society Member and FSPW Volunteer Molly O'Reilly said, "We saw a lot of dying weeds and new growth in natives. Ken seemed to have missed the natives in his treatment, which takes a lot of skill and care. This trail was dispiritedly weed infested in 2013, and now is quite pleasant to walk. . . . We very much hope that there will be funding for repeat treatments in each of the next few years as it looks to us like that will really get rid of the noxious invasives on this trail."

### Headwater Forest Analysis (Whitebark Pine study)

This summer, forest reconnaissance continued in the headwater forests throughout the project area. Headwater forests contribute to stabilization of first to third order streams and reduce sediment loading and erosion conditions downstream. In north Idaho, whitebark pine habitat types contribute to this ecosystem function as well as provide staple nutrition sources for the Clark's Nuthatch, the endangered Grizzly Bear, and many other animal species that thrive in our subalpine environments.

Survey work this season was performed above Moose Creek, Quartz Creek, and Falls Creek. Volunteers had opportunity to work one-on-one with the USFS North Zone Botanist and learned a lot about details of these ecosystems and their inter-related ecological functioning. The area of ground covered in the amount of time spent in the field was greatly reduced with the assistance of FSPW volunteers. The USFS Botanist has been able to mark a large section of ground as completed and is working toward developing management proposals for restoration of these areas in the coming seasons.

### Mud Creek Trail Stream Stabilization

During the flood events of 2006, stream scouring was exacerbated and erosion accelerated. Problem areas were more clearly identified, in particular those along Mud Creek Trail, which passes through many small seeps and first-, second-

and third-order streams. Prior to this summer, the USFS Hydrology team identified several areas along the trail suffering from runoff erosion. The USFS Botany team received this report, and completed the assignment to collect softwood cuttings across several elevation bands intended to be used in plantings along these pre-identified areas.

FSPW volunteers teamed up to assist USFS Resource Specialists in executing this planting. This summer, over 500



**Planting willows in the Mud Creek drainage was part of the Treasure Landscape work in 2014** Mary Franzel photo

cuttings were established throughout the first two miles of this scenic trail. The vegetation plantings along these wash-outs will help to provide root masses to bind the soil and protect against further erosion.

### Working for Wilderness

We would like to give thanks to our 2014 Treasured Landscapes Volunteers: Molly O'Reilly, Gail Bolin, Fred Gaudet, Mary Franzel, Celeste Boatwright-Grace, Shane Sater, Derek Antonelli, Phil Degens, Dave Peitz, Jenn VanVolkenburg, Becky Reynolds, Carol Wilburn, Deb Dickerson and John Harbuck for their commitment to this project! The time and energy they have spent result in marked improvements for the project. We are looking forward to more project work in the 2015 season.

For more information or to become involved with this project, please contact [Kristen@scotchmanpeaks.org](mailto:Kristen@scotchmanpeaks.org).

## Winter Hike Leaders! Reserve your dates

Our 2015 Winter hike series begins January 1, and it's time to schedule the one *you* want to lead. We've made it easy to submit a hike, summer or winter. Our online form resides at [www.scotchmanpeaks.org/hiking/leading-hikes/](http://www.scotchmanpeaks.org/hiking/leading-hikes/) and is very simple to fill out. If you are technology-challenged, write to [trails@scotchmanpeaks.org](mailto:trails@scotchmanpeaks.org) or call Sandy at 208-290-1281 or Kristen at 208-627-2448.

**Let's go hiking**



## Wild Creatures of the Scotchmans

### Whitetail deer, *Odocoileus virginianus*

By Mindy Ferrell

They're everywhere, right? They're in our gardens and hedges, in our headlights and roadways, and in the mountains and fields. We coo at their newborn fawns in the spring, and we hunt them in the fall. They're an integral part of the web of life in the Scotchman Peaks, and are a part of our hiking / skiing / snowshoe experiences. Because of their constant presence, we probably know more about this mammal than any other around. But, here are a few tidbits, from a variety of sources, that you might be able to use to impress your friends and fellow hikers:

A deer's eyes, which are located on the side of its head, give it 310 degrees of vision without moving its head. However, this position of the eyes also makes it hard for a deer to focus on objects.

Whitetail deer are believed to be completely colorblind and have very poor depth perception.

The muscles in a deer's head allow the deer to turn its ears in any direction without moving its head. That hearing is so sensitive that it can determine how far away a sound was made as well.

A deer's powerful legs allow it to run at speeds of up to 40 miles per hour and jump fences up to 9 feet tall. A deer at a run can broad jump 30 feet. They can swim at rates of up to 13 miles per hour.

A 45-pound whitetail deer will expend 7 to 8 times as much energy walking in 16 inches of snow as walking on bare ground.

Deer are ruminants and have a four-chambered stomach that allows them to digest tough plant foods. Deer eat quickly without much chewing of food. Later, as they rest, they cough up their food and chew this cud.

Deer store most of their fat reserves during the summer months because the twigs they eat in the winter lack the nutritional value of green vegetation.

Deer eat an average of 7 pounds of vegetation in a day. They defecate an average of 13 times in a day

Deer usually occupy an area within a mile radius. However, harsh conditions such as drought and winter may force deer to expand that range and move elsewhere.

Even at birth, males are larger than females - males weigh in at 4.4 to 14.6 pounds; females at 3.5 to 8.6 pounds.

Fawns grow quickly, doubling their weight within 2 weeks and tripling their weight within 1 month.

While waiting for their mother to return, fawns lay flat on



USDA photo by Scott Bauer via Wikipedia Commons

the ground with their necks outstretched, well-camouflaged against the forest floor.

In severely malnourished areas, does will not breed until they are 2.5 years old, but yearling does are capable of breeding in areas with prime habitat conditions, although they usually give birth later in the season than older does.

Whitetail deer are crepuscular, feeding mainly from before dawn until several hours later, and again from late afternoon until dusk.

Most whitetail deer live about 3 to 4 years. The maximum life span in the wild is 20 years, but few deer live past 10 years old.

### Public Lands Day, from page 4

volunteer and staff support for all of the ongoing projects, of which Morris Creek Trail maintenance is part.

"Besides being beautiful," FSPW program coordinator Sandy Compton said, "Morris Creek Trail and neighboring Regal Creek Trail #556 are wonderful 'starter' trails. They don't just take off straight up the mountain. They allow folks less accustomed to hiking a chance to enjoy the woods under conditions less strenuous than some trails. Because of that, we do our best to see they are in good shape."

FSPW volunteers and staff and a Forest Service trail crew met at the trailhead for a day of trail work, then adjourned to the East Fork Creek trailhead for a picnic hosted by FSPW.



### Wilderness, from page 3

This afternoon, we begin the learning and teaching part of the conference, a four-day plethora of sessions and tracks too numerous to mention here, and as hard to choose from as various. In a few more days, we will go home, full of ideas and a renewed sense of our own ideals. We will have visited old friends and made new connections; listened and, yes, been listened to. FSPW is small compared to some organizations, but we also have a reputation for knowing how to do things well and do things differently.

I myself have a reaffirmed idea of the value of the incremental in what we do. As Phil notes in his message from the exec on Page 1, it is small steps and intermediate goals that take us to the top of the mountain; that being, in our case, congressional designation. Beyond that lofty peak lies a long and undulating series of peaks and ridges representing the continuing future stewardship of the Scotchman Peaks.

It is a good journey to be on, and it is a journey we continue here in Albuquerque as we meet with our peers and fellows. On Monday, we fly home, and by the time you read this, we will be back at more mundane tasks achieving the incremental, but with new ideas about where to go from here and how we might go there.

I believe that the first place we should go is into our own wild country; front country and backcountry both, and, we should invite others to go with us. And, we might invite them one or two at a time.



If that seems sort of an unspectacular form of advocacy, consider the value of the incremental. For one thing, it is something that every Friend of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness can do. Someone signed up to be our first Friend; and then, our second Friend. Now we have almost 5,000 friends! If each of them, sometime in the next year, invites one other person — a child, grandchild, niece, nephew, new friend, old friend — to take a walk, a hike, a look at a map, a visit to our website, one of our events, how many more Friends will we have at the end of that year.

If just half of our Friends invite a child — or two — to three afternoons exploring the outdoors, showing them the natural possibilities of our planet, how many more Friends and, just as importantly, *friends* of wild places, will we have at the end of the year; and *more* importantly, at the end of this decade. The best, and maybe only, way to save wilderness and to gain new Wilderness is to share it with others.

Chris Barns pointed out this morning, “When you go home, if you don’t do something to make a difference, you haven’t been here.”

We’ve been here. We are coming home and we will make a difference when we get there. We invite each of our Friends to help us make that difference. We invite you to invite other to learn and experience and thereby come to understand the value of wilderness, and by default, Wilderness.

Sylvia Earle’s quote in the inset on page 3 is about decisions that need to be made to protect our planetary home. A decision to invite someone outside might not seem all that big of a decision, but if enough of us make that decision, it will be huge.

There’s your phone. Make the call.

### Plein Air, from page 2

afternoon. Framing and hanging at the Outskirts Gallery were done between 6 and 7, and then judging began.

The Plein Air Paintout judge this year was last year’s winner, Diane Moses Botkin, an oil painter from Bonners Ferry who has participated in many of the Scotchman Peaks events. She chose Susan Conway Kean’s painting of Star Peak as the First Place winner, followed by Patsy Parsons’ “Birches,” and Leona Fox’s “Scotchman Peaks,” featuring the view into the West Fork of Blue Creek from the Johnson Creek Road. Fox was also chosen as “Artists’ Choice — Best of Show.”

The show and sale opened at 7:30, resulting in five “instant”

sales, as well as some lively jockeying for prize paintings. While two FSPW stalwart volunteers were discussing who would get to buy Keen’s winning painting a dark horse new Friend snuck in and took the first place painting home.

“It was a great day,” Compton said, “and we appreciate very much all the artists who came to ‘paint for the wild,’ as well as the art appreciators who ‘bought for the legacy.’ And I want to give a special thanks to Kally Thurman and Vera Gadman of the Outskirts Gallery in Hope for all of their hard work. Without them, this event wouldn’t happen.”

The Annual Plein Air Paintout is a three-way winner. It not only benefits FSPW, but also the artists and the gallery.

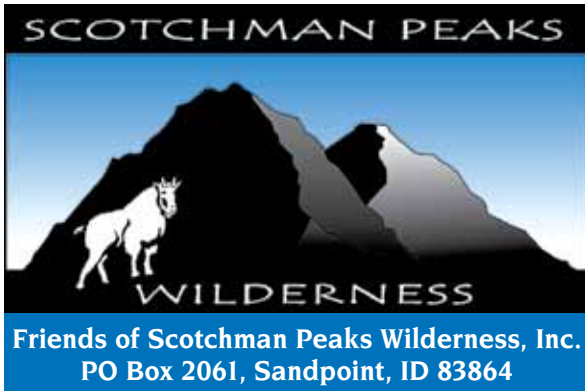
### Tales, from page 5

I wanted to make something of myself out here in the mountains. I wouldn’t want it any other way.

Although this essay was meant to be about a singular wilderness experience, I simply could not write about one. I tried for hours, starting and restarting, wishing I could choose just one. But my love for woodland trails is not a result of a single hike. My desire to make a life for myself by exploring and

writing about the places I go did not stem from one excursion. I am who I am today because I live for the days when I can stand on my porch watching the sunrise with my boots in my hand. No single hike or experience can encompass all I have learned from our area’s wilderness.

*Editor’s note: Lyndsie’s story was the winning essay for Clark Fork High School in the 2014 Friends of Scotchman Peaks High School Scholarship Essay competition.*



## How You Can Help

### Support Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Board Members & Staff:

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:  
 Phil Hough, Sagle, ID  
 (208) 946-9127  
*phil@scotchmanpeaks.org*

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

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

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

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

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

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

Maggie Pittman, Coeur d'Alene, ID  
 (208) 818-7875  
*maggie@scotchmanpeaks.org*

LINCOLN COUNTY COORDINATOR  
 Molly Kieran, Troy, MT  
 (406) 293-2934  
*molly@scotchmanpeaks.org*

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

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

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