

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 receive this newsletter by mail and have an email address you can help us save postage by sending us your email address.

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THE SUMMER I LEARNED TO BUILD TRAILS

By Marla Groot Nibbelink

Why do people carry 4-pound tools miles up a mountain to bust their butts on a day off? I'm not sure; I haven't asked the others. As for myself, I learned of the trail work Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness coordinate after hiking Big Eddy trail #999 (to Star Peak) last year. Seeing what a gorgeous realignment they had realized, I made myself promise to help out as a sign of appreciation.

Donating money would have worked, but I didn't have any, so I thought I'd help build trail for one or two days, and ended up joining nearly every project. The summer of 2016 is the summer I learned to build and maintain forest trails.



I never thought learning to use a pick-mattock, loppers, Silky and crosscut saws and combi tools would be so invigorating. Being naturally inquisitive, there was also opportunity to learn how a trail is designed, techniques to create a switchback, understand why those trees died and how to move them off trail.

We had a 3-day trail work excursion on Spar Peak, which I wrote an account of in my blog. (<https://marjoleingoesstoamerica.wordpress.com/2016/08/01/trail-work-at-spar-peak/>). Each workday the soil was different; we dealt with large rocks, roots tangled in an impermeable maze and loose dirt. Our days in the forest included spotting goshawk, a bear, intriguing insects, exchanging food gifts and the promise of roaring laughter.

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Marla Groot Nibbelink displays her preference for the pickmattock on Trail #65

Phil Hough photo

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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

A season of remarkable change, Autumn, is in the air. The changing leaves remind us that what seemed to be a forever green of summer can, and does, become something new in the fall. The anticipation of winter can be felt with every breath of cool, crisp air.

Looming elections bring change too. Even before the vote they hold up work in congress. As floor debates give way to televised debates and then to the act of voting, fresh legislation rarely starts and even more rarely finishes.

But elections hold potential new ends and new beginnings. Even when the players stay the same, the lame duck resets the legislative clock, ticking quickly for a few weeks. In January, the next session of congress begins. The slate board is wiped clean and legislative work commences anew. A new congress may look like the same old congress but even then there will be new dynamics, new priorities, new possibilities.

The work of Wilderness is rooted in optimism. Protecting something in perpetuity is forward looking and hopeful. We build on the hopes we already have. So it will come as no surprise that we are hopeful that in

a post-election session of congress (be it in November or January) we will see forward progress from the Idaho delegation on a bill to designate the Idaho portion of the Scotchman Peaks as Wilderness.

We are hopeful too that work with the common ground committee of the Kootenai Forest Stakeholders Coalition will advance Wilderness designation for the Scotchman Peaks. As the Kootenai Forest Stakeholders note, on the home page of their new website: "We believe the brightest days of northwestern Montana are ahead of us". We couldn't agree more!

— Phil Hough

SANDY COMPTON AWARDED BRASS LANTERN

At the recent Montana Wilderness Association (MWA) annual gathering, Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness program director, Sandy Compton, was honored for his job and as a volunteer with a "Brass Lantern Award."

Here's how MWA describes the Brass Lantern Award: "The Brass Lantern Awards (7 recipients annually) are given to members and non-members alike, for leadership and taking action that promotes wilderness, quiet trails, and responsible management by managing agencies."

In presenting the award, former MWA President and FSPW Board Chair, Doug Ferrell, described Sandy's contributions to Wilderness: "Sandy's family settled in Sanders County in the early 1900's, and he still lives on the land that his great grandparents settled. The land is located at the base of the Scotchman Peaks and several of the peaks are name[d] after his family. Sandy has been a tireless wilderness advocate for the protection and stewardship of family wildlands. He is a powerful storyteller and has worked for the Friends of Scotchman Peaks



Sandy Compton and Doug Ferrell

Wilderness since it was founded over ten years ago and has supported MWA as a solid partner and member. I cannot think of a more deserving brass-lantern recipient."

Sandy was unable to attend the MWA gathering to accept the award, as he was busy that weekend teaching school kids how to build trail, stock-piling water at an alpine cache site for whitebark pine restoration project and helping to put on the FSPW Thompson Falls Picnic. Doug Ferrell presented the award to Sandy at the picnic in Thompson Falls on Sunday, September 11.

WORKING TOGETHER ON THE KOOTENAI: STAKEHOLDERS' COMMON GROUND COMMITTEE

The Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness has been a proud participant on the Common Ground Committee of the Kootenai Forest Stakeholders. Representatives come from timber, business, motorized recreation, conservation and other viewpoints in the community. Together we are working to help the Kootenai National Forest be more successful.

We do this by bringing diverse views together and mapping the areas of agreement toward multiple-use

management. By focusing on common ground, we can help advance all our goals for the Kootenai National Forest.

The Stakeholders are coming together with agreements on timber management, motorized recreation and wilderness designation. You can find out more at <http://www.kootenaifuture.org/>

The Stakeholders will be conducting public presentations about these agreements. To learn when and how to participate, watch the website or read the FSPW Insider.

SCOTCHMAN'S WINTER APPEAL

By Don Otis

The craggy summit of Scotchman Peak is a rite-of-passage for anyone who lives in our region. The high point on the Idaho side of the Cabinet Range beckons hardy hikers like the sirens of ancient Greek mythology. Even on a good day, this is not a climb to be taken lightly. The elevation gain (3700 feet) is more than some of Colorado's high peaks. But what Scotchman lacks in elevation she more than makes up for in beauty and serenity. In the winter, Scotchman can be a magical experience with breathtaking vistas.

Henry David Thoreau once said, "In the wildness is the preservation of the world." And that wilderness is no less evident in the Scotchman area than just about anywhere else I have been in the world. We are blessed. We can do a day hike on Scotchman Peak, Goat Mountain or Star Peak and be home by the afternoon. No matter how many times I have climbed Scotchman (probably two dozen by now) it never

gets old. The challenge is always there. The views are unmatched. The scramble along the high ridge is as good as any I have seen. Our peak barely tops 7,000 feet but it has all the intrigue and challenge as peaks much greater in height.

I've climbed Scotchman at night, in the morning, had late starts and wintery conditions. Still, the peak draws me as few do. Why do we keep going back to the wild places we love? Perhaps it is because we find a true sense of ourselves in nature. This is what drew me to the mountains as a young man growing up in Los Angeles – darkness, quiet, challenge, and beauty. Where else do we find these compo-



Jeff Beeman at the summit

Photo by Don Otis

nents but the mountains? In spite of climbing above 14,000 feet more than a hundred times, I am always drawn to Scotchman. I think of it as something to be treasured, appreciated, enjoyed, and protected. This wildness is *ours*.

What's it like to climb Scotchman in the winter? Exhilarating! Yes, there's the

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"FEW PLACES IN THIS WORLD ARE MORE DANGEROUS THAN HOME. FEAR NOT, THEREFORE, TO TRY THE MOUNTAIN PASSES. THEY WILL KILL CARE, SAVE YOU FROM DEADLY APATHY, SET YOU FREE, AND CALL FORTH EVERY FACULTY INTO VIGOROUS, ENTHUSIASTIC ACTION."
— JOHN MUIR

SUMMER 2016:

TRAIL DOGS, WHITEBARK PINE, WEED WARRIORS AND GOAT PEOPLE

FSPW's 2016 summer stewardship season was an unqualified success. Two interns — Lindsay Ashton and Kara Adam — put in several hundred hours working with Forest Service trail crews and several dozen volunteers worked nearly 800 hours maintaining and constructing trails in the Scotchmans. Starting things off, Phil Hough led an Earth Day trip up Regal Creek for some brushing and tread work. Six volunteers and staff were certified for chainsaw and crosscut saw by Joel Sather of the Forest Service in May. This was augmented by Jeff Halligan's crosscut maintenance class and the FSPW trails training day on June 4 and 5.

In June, work resumed on the Scotchman Trail #65 realignment, a new section replacing the first three-quarters of a mile, making the approach more sustainable as well as a lot more user friendly. The trail crew got rained out or chased off Trail #65 by lightning twice in July, but a six person crew put in two days of hard work on the Spar Peak trail on the last weekend of July.

In August, volunteers and staff put in a National Forest Foundation-sponsored work day on the Morris Creek trail, brushing and improving tread. Brad Smith led a cross-cut crew up Goat Mountain trail to clear blowdown trees, and Lindsay Ashton took volunteers up Pilik Ridge to clear trail.



Spar Peak Trail #324 was improved with a couple of days of hard work by this crew - (L to R) Karen Sheets, Marla Groot Nibbelink, Lindsay Ashton, Kara Adams, Matt Davidson and Sandy Compton

Photo by Gerber Steady

In spite of weather delays, the Trail #65 realign was finished handily on a two-day work weekend September

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HOW I FELL IN LOVE LAST SUMMER

By Lindsay Ashton



Lindsay in her element **Photo by Joe Foster**

Last summer I learned how to run a chainsaw, mastered driving a manual truck, and discovered the joys of digging tread. I learned that glacier lilies are delicious and that picking huckleberries is addictive. Most of all, I fell in love with this place called the Scotchman

Peaks. Prior to beginning my internship with the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness, I wasn't sure what to expect as "backcountry ranger" and "outreach coordinator." I didn't know what I would find in the scarcely populated mountains of Northwest Montana and Northern Idaho. However, after moving into the bunkhouse at the Cabinet Ranger Station in Trout Creek and beginning to work, I quickly realized that I had found the perfect job (and home) for the season.

Throughout this thirteen-week internship, my time was divided between three different tasks: working with a Forest Service trail crew, acting as a Wilderness Ranger for the Scotchman Peaks Recommended Wilderness Area, and helping out with various volunteer and outreach events for the Friends.

My days working with the Cabinet District's trail crew gave me a peek into the world of the Forest Service and invaluable experience working with both chain- and crosscut saws. I learned how to improve a trail corridor and how to read the binds in fallen logs. I got to work on Pillick Ridge, Loveland Peak, Stevens Ridge, Twenty Odd Peak, and countless other trails scattered across the district, gaining a better knowledge of the area's unique landscape. As a backcountry ranger, I got to go on solo hikes within the borders of the Scotchman Peaks Wilderness Proposal, tools in my pack and Pulaski in hand. I hiked nearly every trail in the area at least once: Pillick Ridge, Hamilton Gulch, and Napoleon Gulch on the east side; Morris Creek and the infamous Scotchman Peak to the west. I made numerous trips up the Historic Big Eddy Trail, once to assess the

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THE CALENDAR

Along the Trail

July 15, August 5, and August 26: FSPW led hikes for kids to Ross Creek Cedars, the East Fork of Blue Creek and Trail #999

July 16: James Flocchini led twelve folks on a Morris Creek Medicinal Plant ID Walk

July 22: Eight FSPW volunteers and staff got lightning off Scotchman Peak Trail# 65

July 29 – 31: Six FSPW volunteers and Sandy Compton enjoyed a campout while working on Spar Peak Trail. They improved several thousand feet of trail over the three days and picked a bunch of hucks

August 5-6: FSPW staffers Jen Kreiner and Jay Sicilia worked at a booth at Noxon Blues Festival

August 8-13: FSPW volunteers and staff worked at the FSPW Booth at Bonner County Fair. The Mountain Goat Education Program earned FSPW a special award

August 12-14: FSPW volunteers and staff worked at the FSPW booth at the Trout Creek Huckleberry Festival

August 19: National Forest Foundation sponsored a Morris Creek Trail #132 Workday, led by Phil Hough and Sandy Compton, with 7 volunteer trail crew members

August 27: A Goat Mountain trail clearing workday was led by FSPW volunteer Brad Smith

September 7: Amy Hildebrand from Eastern Washington University presented the Libby draft trail plan to the Libby Trails Committee

September 9: Sandy Compton gave a trail building seminar to Clark Fork High and Middle School students at Judy Hutchins' property on the Idaho-Montana border with CF teachers and Kaniksu Land Trust staff

September 10: Brian Baxter led an Outdoor Ed Class on Wetlands

September 11: 45-plus folks attended the Inaugural Thompson Falls Picnic held at Power Park. Program coordinator Sandy Compton was presented with a Montana Wilderness Association Brass Lantern Award at the picnic by FSPW board chair Doug Ferrell

September 16: Montana Wilderness Association and FSPW hosted the second annual Harvest Festival at Riverfront Park in Libby, attracting 25 vendors and about 250 attendees. Thanks to Ashley South of the Libby office for her great efforts on this event.

September 21: Colorado based EcoFlight took three flights over the Scotchmans with press members, local political leaders and FSPW staff and volunteers; Vick Soderberg of Sygnet Stategies presented the Libby Visitor Assessment that grew out of the Prosperity Forums sponsored by FSPW

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WINTER BIRDS ARE COMING!

By Jon Isacoff

“Winter is coming!” Unlike in the epic TV series, *Game of Thrones*, visitors to the proposed Scotchman Peaks Wilderness probably need not fear frightening white snow monsters or a deadly winter that never ends. To the contrary, nothing beats a snowshoe or ski on Scotchman Peak on a crisp, sunny, mid-winter’s day (Confession: I’ve never made it to the top in winter!)

What can a bird-seeking visitor to the Scotchman expect when the snow is deep and the temperature below freezing? Note that the number and diversity of winter birds in North Idaho plummets after fall migration. Most of our songbirds take off for warmer, greener pastures. But three bird types become more prevalent among the small numbers of local birds that stick around.

Woodpeckers.

It’s not that there are more of them in winter. But with the departure of hundreds of thousands of migrants, the woodpeckers that stay stand out more. In addition, many birds including woodpeckers will travel downslope from the higher elevations in search of food sources that are not buried, literally, under ice and snow. The typicals are Downy, Hairy, Pileated and Flicker. The desired rarer species is the American Three-toed. Yes, they only have three toes (most birds have four!)

Raptors

While many of our local raptors migrate slightly, many more from Northern Canada and the Arctic



Northern Goshawk on a beaver carcass during the 2014 wolverine study

Photo by Reconix

spend their winters in North Idaho. In fields and prairies look for the tundra breeding Rough-legged Hawk. In towns and at bird feeders, look for the bird-devouring Cooper’s and Sharp-shinned Hawks and Merlins, which resemble a miniature Peregrine Falcon. Lucky birders may catch a glimpse of the elusive Northern Goshawk.

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Voice , from page 1

Obviously, trail work is also a great workout. Like CrossFit, but more fun.

Born terribly clumsy, I was never able to shake the odd sense that my limbs are shorter and more flexible than they truly are. Adding a pick-mattock (my tool of preference) to this psychological defect might not create the healthiest situation. It’s true—I have countless times banged myself in the shins or lost my balance, ending up in thorn bushes; returning home looking as if I’d gotten into a bar fight. In summer I wear a lot of dresses, so the damage is obvious, and just as one day’s work damage has slowly healed over two weeks’ time, the next trail day comes up and the cycle starts all over again. My office is next to that of FSPW and because everyone understands the work I’m doing, I proudly wear my cuts, bruises and scars to work.



The ages of these doubtlessly deranged folks who build trails in blistering heat or pouring rain run from 20 to 77. I met a botanist, a filmmaker, US Forest Service workers and I’m a 29-year-old Dutch marketing director with a casual passion for birds. Everyone is welcome and any effort is appreciated. Lindsey Ashton (20), the summer intern from Missoula (see Lindsay’s story on page 4), became known for building the most perfect tread, displaying curious driving skills and somehow looking as if she’d been intentionally rolling in the dirt after about 5 minutes. Phil Degens (77) made me realize I’m not as tough as I think, after passing me seemingly effortlessly on the steepest trail of North Idaho (#135 to Goat Mountain). Handsome Brad Smith from Idaho Conservation League led a day of crosscutting and evi-

dently works his crew pretty hard, as we returned with a busted axe handle and a new saw missing one tooth.

Though wildly panting from exertion prohibited me from speaking during most of the work, conversation ranged from sharing secret campsites to chem. trails, to crazy outdoor experiences and musings on life after death. We giggled a lot and about every hour someone would rise, looking around mildly puzzled, consider what they’re doing and declare “I’m not getting paid enough for this”. But you know what? That cold beer that’s waiting back at the trailhead is worth 50 bucks after a day like that, and I can’t describe the satisfaction of being the first to walk a stretch of virgin tread.

I had never stopped to think how all these trails came to be as I’d been joyfully bumbling along them for years. Now I understand what it takes and hiking will never be the same again. So come on, join us for a day or two in the summer of 2017. You will not regret it.

FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMAN PEAKS WINTER TRACKS PROGRAM BEGINS IN JANUARY

For the third year, Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness will be leading school kids into the winter woods to discover for themselves what the outdoors has to offer in the snowy season. FSPW volunteers and staff will lead a variety of modules designed to teach local students about winter habitat and the habits of the creatures who live there.

“We’re shooting for nine Winter Tracks courses this year,” said FSPW program coordinator Sandy Compton. “Our goal is to have four in Montana — two each in Lincoln and Sanders Counties — and five in Idaho.”

Two schools have already signed on for Winter Tracks and FSPW assistant program coordinator Britta Mirely and Montana staffers Ashley South and Jen Stone Kreiner are issu-



Mary Franzel and Celeste Grace discuss furs and skulls for the Winter Tracks Program **Photo by Fiona Hicks**

ing invitations to others. They are also seeking volunteers to teach classes, as well as be group “escorts.”

Each Winter Tracks consists of four modules, each taught at a dif-

ferent station. The students move from station to station throughout the day. The modules, which vary according to teacher availability, include winter ecology, leave no trace, winter birds, forestry and tree identification, winter habitats, hides and skulls, camera station protocol and tracking.

“These classes have proved exciting and popular with the students who take part,” Compton says, “as well as the teachers who accompany the groups. Of course, it’s always fun to get ‘out of school’ for a day. It’s also a very satisfying thing for our volunteers to participate in.”

The Winter Tracks program is part of the FSPW education program and offered at no charge to any school that wants to participate. Class levels have varied from fourth grade to seniors.

To learn more about Winter Tracks or to volunteer to teach or be a Winter Tracks escort, write to britta@scotchmanpeaks.org

2016 BONNER COUNTY FAIR

By Britta Mireley

Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness have an outreach booth at the Bonner County (Idaho) Fair every year, and 2016 was no different. This year’s fair theme was Farm Gate to Dinner Plate and FSPW opted for a Mountain Scape to Camp Plate theme for the booth. A banner and pictures throughout the 8’x8’ booth pointed out food sources from the Scotchmans. These included everything from huckleberries (and huckleberry pancakes) to trout and elk.

As with any outreach event, maps, brochures, bumper stickers, newsletters, buttons and a “New Friends” sign-up sheet were also at hand. Over the course of the five days, volunteers and staff signed up 69 new Friends and had

countless interactions with fairgoers. FSPW even made a little money through the donation jar, but that wasn’t the main purpose of participating in the event; educating the public on the value of the Scotchman Peaks as Wilderness and what that means for them as community members was the main goal.

Staff dedicated a large portion of the booth to education about mountain goats as well. With the mountain goat education program taking place this summer, FSPW felt that it was important to shed some light on the mountain goats of Scotchman Peak. FSPW received an award from the children participating in the Ag Exchange program because they felt

they learned the most from the FSPW booth above all the others at the fair. The children spent some time talking with staff about the Scotchmans, wilderness, and of course, the mountain goats. The award was an honor to receive because FSPW staff and volunteers have been working hard this summer to communicate to the public the importance of letting the mountain goats be wild. The goat education program has brought a lot of clarity and education to hikers on Scotchman Peak Trail #65 as well as education at outreach events such as the Bonner County fair.

Overall, the 2016 Bonner County Fair was a successful 5 days for FSPW through utilizing interested volunteers to work the booth and engaging the public.



WOLVERINE WATCHERS RETURN TO THE SCOTCHMAN PEAKS

FSPW will take part in a new, albeit more modest, rare forest carnivore study this winter. FSPW will be partnering with Montana Department of Fish Wildlife and Parks to set up camera stations in six quadrants in North Idaho and Western Montana. As of this writing, the quadrants are defined, but specific points are not set. Watch the FSPW Insider for details about this study.



BUTTONS AND BUMPERSTICKERS REVAMPED

Two of the FSPW standards at outreach tables have been redesigned. Kids and adults alike love to pick up our bumper stickers and buttons, and both have a new look. New bumperstickers — printed by local business Selkirk Press — feature more color and a new font. The new buttons were produced by Bonner Awards in Ponderay. The buttons and the bumper sticker both still feature a mountain goat, but, with a nod to our mountain goat education program, one that



appears at a more appropriate distance. “I really like the picture we used for the button,” said FSPW program coordinator Sandy Compton. “That’s a very polite goat.” Former FSPW employee Lauren Mitchell took the picture on Scotchman Peak.



Intern, from page 3

Star Peak Lookout for the Montana Lookout Association. Best of all were my treks up to Little Spar Lake, a blue gem surrounded by jagged cliffs and thick huckleberry brush. There I spent time enjoying the scenery and working to improve the campsites, picking up an abundance of micro-trash, fishing aluminum foil and rusty cans from fire pits, dispersing ash, and improving fire ring structures. I learned that trying to minimize impact and maintain the pristine nature of popular sites is no small task.

Some of the finest days of my summer were those spent working with the Friends’ dedicated volunteers, diligently digging new tread up to Scotchman Peak. It was always fun to hear the stories of seasoned volunteers and share in the excitement of those new to the challenges and thrills of trail work. I also had the opportunity to meet many other interesting people while working at events such as the Troy Fourth of July celebration, Bonner County Fair, and Trout Creek’s

famous Huckleberry Festival, where I was able to share my knowledge and love of the Scotchman Peaks.

My time interning with the Friends of Scotchman Peaks was the opportunity of a lifetime. I was able to spend nearly all my days outside, where I’m undeniably happiest. I had the privilege of working with people who love

their jobs and have an inspiring passion for public lands. Perhaps more importantly, I was able to see firsthand how partnerships between non-profits like FSPW and agencies like the Forest Service are able to come together to build and maintain trails and educate the world about wildlife, wilderness, and respect.



Lindsay in the back country of upper Ross Creek.

Photo by Joe Foster

THE FRIENDS BRING 'LEAVE NO TRACE' TO THE SANDERS COUNTY WATER FESTIVAL

By Jen Stone Kreiner

We engaged young and brilliant 5th grade minds at the 2016 Sanders County Water Festival! This traditional event, hosted by both the Green Mountain and the Eastern Sanders Conservation Districts, invites 5th grade students from Dixon, Plains, Hot Springs, Thompson Falls, Trout Creek and Noxon to participate in hands-on learning about our environment. Rotating groups of about 20 students (which include two different schools) visited with six different interactive stations. Example topics from other stations included: Fisheries with Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks; Wildlife Tracks with Avista Utilities; Weed Identification with the Natural Resource Conservation Service; and of course LEAVE NO TRACE with the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness!

Exposing kids to the seven principles

The basic concept of leave no trace is not as well-known and practiced in recreation areas around western Montana as it could be. Sharing the basic principles with 5th grade students is a great place to start—it's not too late to connect the dots of cause and effect...



Waterfest engages every fifth grader in Sanders County

Photo by Jen Stone Kreiner

especially in an area that is public use intended for all. I introduced myself and FSPW by saying that we really, really like to be outside and do fun stuff in the woods, and we really, really like to take care of those wild places we like to go so that they will always be there for us to use. A goal of our station was to teach the seven principles of leave no trace and have each point be relatable to the kids' lives and experiences.

Game-based learning

The focus of our hands-on activity was 'Dispose of Waste Properly'... and yes we covered the 6-8" hole! Our game asked half of the students to grab a garbage item off of a table from a banana peel, newspaper, plastic and glass bottles, fishing line, Styrofoam and more! The other half (which we usually divided the schools) were given cards with an amount of time, from 2-4 weeks, 2 years, 50 years, 500 years, 100,000,000 years and beyond! Then the fun began with all students talking to each other trying to find which product matched the amount of time it takes to decompose. Lots of surprises from the students and teachers alike!

We had such great enthusiasm and input from the students. Kids are constantly absorbing information around them. FSPW education programs build a connection to the outdoors for both students and adults. I am so excited to be a part of the mission that the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness upholds through education and promoting stewardship. If one child from the Water Festival goes on to encourage Uncle Jimmy to pick-up his tangled fishing line and styrofoam worm cup off the riverbank because it will take 600 years to FOREVER for it to go away, then the FSPW education model is working.

2016-17 WINTER HIKE SCHEDULE • E = EASY • M = MODERATE • S = STRENOUS • S+ = S+UPID :-)

Hike date	Exertion Rating	Destination/ Hike Name	Leader(s)	Description and contact info
11/25/16	M	Black Friday on Trail #999 <small>(Inspired by REI's #OptOutside program.)</small>	Sandy Compton	Contact: Sandy Compton — sandy@scotchmanpeaks.org REI stores close the day after Thanksgiving. They pay employees to get outside and do something with friends and family. We'll stroll up Historic Big Eddy Trail #999. No agenda. No need to summit. Just chance to get outside, wear off a little Thanksgiving dinner and enjoy each others' company.
1/7/17	M	Regal Creek Snowshoe Hike	Phil Hough	Contact: Phil Hough — phil@scotchmanpeaks.org Our annual Winter Tune up snowshoe hike up Regal Creek. Depending on conditions we will ski, snowshoe and/or hike from the end of the plowed road to Regal Creek Trailhead and then up the trail to views from the scree field. Round Trip approximately 7 miles. Elevation gain approximately 600 ft.
1/28/17	M	East to West to East Fork Blue Creek Meander	Sandy Compton	Contact: Sandy Compton — sandy@scotchmanpeaks.org This is a snowshoe loop of about 6 miles through varied terrain that follows old roads and game trails on the point of land that lies between the East and West Forks of Blue Creek. Really, it's a walk in the woods with no significant grades, just a chance to get out and enjoy winter.
TBA	M	Snowshoe to Ross Creek Cedars	Randi Lui and Deb Hunsicker	Details on this and other hikes to be posted soon at http://www.scotchmanpeaks.org/hiking/current-hiking-schedule/



CONSERVATION ALLIANCE AWARDS FSPW GRANT



Aaron Theisen's photo taken at the top of Scotchman is a prominent image on the Conservation Alliance website.

FSPW owes a big thanks (and a volunteer hat) to Sandpoint photographer **Woods Wheatcroft**. Woods is one of 183 members of the **Conservation Alliance**, and has nominated FSPW several times for grant consideration. Thanks to his latest nomination, FSPW received a \$20,000 grant from the Alliance for fiscal year 2017, which began October 1.

The Conservation Alliance seeks to protect threatened wild places throughout North America for their habitat and recreational values. The Alliance is a group of outdoor industry companies making grants to nonprofit organizations working to protect the special wild lands and waters in their backyards. In the last grant cycle, they awarded \$820,000 to 23 North American environmental groups.

FSPW is in good company. Other groups receiving grants include Pacific Crest Trail Association, American Rivers, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society and Audubon Alaska.

CINNABAR MATCH GRANT IS MET!

"Small" donors make a big difference.

Cinnabar Foundation has given us an annual match challenge many times, and we have never failed to meet it. This year, the match was \$4,000, and thanks to individual donors, we have once again achieved the goal. Thanks to these folks for recent donations, many of whom "doubled their money."

Mike Fantasia, Los Angeles, CA
Paul Bradt, Libby, MT
Tim Lindsey, Troy, MT
Bob Rust, Sandpoint
Ken Bush (In honor of Ann Bush), Sandpoint
Susan Beard, Dover, ID
Sandy Compton (In memory of Amanda Compton), Heron, MT
Carl Rantzow, Newman Lake, WA
Debra Halcro, Naples, ID

Rebecca Reynolds, Hope
Vinetta Spencer, Coeur d' Alene
Doug and Mindy Ferrell, Trout Creek, MT
Sharon Kopriva, Houston, TX
Will and Marie Valentine, Sagle
Randy and Judy Kelsey, Troy MT
Pend Oreille Veterinarian Service, Ponderay, ID

Melissa DeMotte, Coeur d' Alene
Selkirk Press, Sandpoint
Aimee Moran, Boise, ID
Brian McVey, Clark Fork, ID
Phil Degens, Kootenai, ID
Jacob Styer, Sandpoint
Judy Hutchins, Heron, MT
Steve Ferweda, Sandpoint
Judy and Larry Hull, Sandpoint
Eugene and Vicki Pontecorvo, Clark Fork, ID

Irv and Carol Jenkins, Sagle, ID
Jenna and Steve Bincarowsky, Cocolalla, ID
Wildwood Grilling, Kootenai, ID
Georgia York, Sandpoint
Sally Washburn, Hope, ID
Irv and Michelle McGeachy, Hope, ID
Ken Vanden Heuvel, Newman Lake, WA
Nancy Low, Sagle, ID
Mick Duff's Brewing, Sandpoint
Kate Crowell Walker, Sagle, ID
Dave Colavito, Rock Hill, NY
Susan Bracken, Greenacres, WA

SCHEDULED GIVING MAKES DOLLARS AND SENSE FOR DONORS AND FSPW

Our donation system makes it easy for regular FSPW donors to become — well — even more regular. It's easy to schedule an annual, quarterly, monthly, or even weekly donation.

They can be set for any amount, \$5 or over, and directly deducted from your checking account or charged to a debit or credit card. The donor can set an expiration date, if they wish.

Learn about scheduled giving at bit.ly/FSPWScheduledDonations

Trail, from page 3

23 and 24. The last 600 feet of tread and the upper connection to the old trail were accomplished handily by the 29 volunteers who showed up for the final weekend. After two seasons of work, the new chunk of trail was dedicated with a survey ribbon cutting by trail surveyors Brad Smith and Sandy Compton on Saturday the 24th, National Public Lands Day. The finishing touch — decommissioning the part of the old trail bypassed — was undertaken by 20 middle and high school students from Clark Fork on a rainy October 6.

Whitebark pine project proceeds

June 6, Phil Hough and FS botanist Jennifer Costich-Thompson of the led four volunteers to the newly-burned area on the southeast ridge of Scotchman Peak and surveyed surviving whitebark pine. Fire-damaged pines considered healthy enough were treated with a putty-like substance designed to fool western pine beetles into

thinking the stressed tree is “full.” A fall planting of whitebark pine seed was cancelled when first snow arrived before the planting could take place.

Weed mitigation in Lightning Creek

A summer of weed surveys were done on trails in the National Forest Foundation’s Lightning Creek Treasured Landscape. 16 volunteers using iPads and GPS units hiked 48 miles of trail, monitoring the success of weed control measures applied by weed specialist Ken Thacker over the past two seasons. A series of original surveys were done last summer by FSPW volunteers, and this follow-up work will help determine what further work needs to be done.

Goat Education Ambassadors

The first full season of goat education on Scotchman Peak trail #65 ended October 9, with great success reported by volunteer ambassadors, visitors and the education coordinator. This program was a partnership between FSPW and

the Forest Service, funded by a grant written by Dan Gilfillen, Northern recreation specialist on the Panhandle National Forests.

FSPW hired Jay Sicilia as the part-time goat education coordinator in May, and Jay did an admirable job of running the program before taking a full-time job in Spokane in August. Perennial FSPW volunteer Mary Franzel agreed to fill the part-time staff position through the end of the program, and brought her usual enthusiasm and diligence to the program.

The goat education program engaged 20 volunteers and two staff, who hiked Scotchman on 34 days — primarily weekends — and talked to literally hundreds of hikers. The ambassadors spread the word about keeping away from goats and other strategies to reduce the kind of goat-human close encounters that caused Trail #65 to be closed for several months last year.

FSPW is looking for ways to continue the program next summer.

Birds, from page 5

Peak Experience insiders will know that these secretive large forest hawks are known to attack carcasses hung on trees.

Waterfowl: Lake Pend Oreille is a winter home to over a million waterfowl. Epic numbers of geese and ducks as well as some Trumpeter and Tundra Swans will winter here, where the water doesn’t freeze and food is plentiful. In addition, look for loons and grebes, the fish devouring divers of the deep. The Common Loon is well, the most common species. But Lake Pend Oreille on occasion is host to the rarer saltwater species including Pacific, Red-throated, and the especially rare Yellow-billed Loon (two of Idaho’s handful of documented records all time). Bring your field guide and find one of these rarities!

For many the most exciting part of birding in winter is the arrival of the “winter finches.” The proposed

Scotchman Peaks Wilderness is home to some of these year round. Most local residents will know their House Finches, Goldfinches, Pine Siskins, and Evening Grosbeaks. Less common locally breeding birds include Cassin’s Finch, Red Crossbill, and the giant Robin-sized Pine Grosbeak. These subalpine breeders travel downslope in winter to find food. Check Mountain Ash trees and shrubs as well as bird feeders in Clark Fork. In some winters we see irruptions (aka, “invasions”) of Canadian breeding Common Redpolls and White-winged Crossbills. Rarest of all is the frosty Hoary Redpoll: a high arctic breeder that will sneak in with large flocks of Common Redpolls. On a *Friends* field trip several years ago, John Harbuck picked one of these out of flock of more than 200 Common Redpolls and got some amazing photos of it. We submitted the record to the Idaho Bird Records Committee and it was approved: only the 8th record

in the history of Idaho! Though not actually a finch, look also for Bohemian Waxwings, the larger Northern cousin of our familiar Cedar Waxwing.

Winter is a fickle time for birds. Be patient and don’t expect to see all of these species. The best approach is to put on your snowshoes or skis, head out for a lovely winter day, and see what’s out there. You may “only” get a lovely winter day of soaking in nature in the Scotchman’s but that ain’t too bad!



WANT TO BE AN FSPW INSIDER?

GET THE WEEKLY INSIDER NEWSLETTER
VIA E-MAIL BY WRITING TO INSIDER@SCOTCHMANPEAKS.ORG

Calendar, from page 4

September 23 & 24: Twenty-nine FSPW volunteers, including 8 high school kids from John Hastings' class, celebrated National Public Lands Day by completing the reroute of the lower Scotchman Peak Trail #65. The new section of trail was dedicated Saturday, Sept. 24

October 1: Phil Hough led a group of University of Montana Wilderness and Civilization students into Ross Creek to study the fire effects. Sandy Compton took students from the same group into the East Fork of Blue Creek and hauled out 70-plus years of plastic, aluminum and glass left at an old prospect camp. FSPW, Kaniksu Land Trust and Larson's Good Clothing teamed up to clean their sections of Idaho Highway 200. FSPW cosponsored with Bonner County Historical Society a presentation by Jack Nisbet. 100-plus folks came to Oden Hall to listen

October 2 and 9: FSPW Board Secretary Carol Jenkins led a Wilderness and Remote First Aid Class for FSPW volunteers

October 6: Sandy Compton led 20 Clark Fork High and Middle School kids up Trail #65 and decommissioned the abandoned section of trail.

October 8: The annual Scotchman Peaks Plein Air Paintout was held, headquartered at the Outskirts Gallery in Hope

October 9: The 2016 Scotchman Peaks Goat Ambassador program ended

October 10: The annual Bonner County Wellness Hike

October 15: Sandy Compton hosted the FSPW Annual Volunteer Appreciation Picnic at the Compton Pavilion in Montana

The Future Looks Bright

October 27: MickDuff's Brewing company taps a keg of Blacktop Brown to benefit the Friends of Scotchman Peaks

October 20: Assistant Program Coordinator Britta Mireley will attend Inland Northwest Conference for the Greater Good in Spokane

October 29: FSPW will be a sponsor of and have a booth at the Thompson Falls Harvest Festival

October 31: The Annual FSPW Photo Contest closes. Enter your pics at www.scotchmanpeaks.org/hiking/annual-photo-contest/

November 7 – 10: Phil Hough and Sandy Compton will attend the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance conference at the University of Montana.

November 8: Election Day. Vote for Wilderness!

November: FSPW Winter Tracks volunteer orientation

November TBA: Wilderness film presentations to Libby and Thompson Falls Schools

January 4: FSPW will have a fundraiser and kick off the Winter Tracks program at the Idaho Power Authority, 5 to 8 pm

January 13: FSPW Anniversary Party — Movies and Music — at a location to be announced

ON THE HORIZON

January 20: Winter Tracks at Round Lake State Park with East Valley 6th graders led by Chris Bachman

February 3: Winter Tracks at Round Lake with Forrest M. Bird Charter School

February TBA: A small fundraising event at Pend Oreille Winery

Scotchman, from Page 3

work and the elements to deal with but picking the right conditions in the winter can make for a memorable outing. Jeff Beeman, Cathy Schuller and I made our snowshoe ascent in near-perfect conditions and enjoyed unmatched views. Our greatest challenge was in reaching the trailhead (and yes, we've been stuck on the road going in before). We took a shovel, tow rope, and a saw in case there were downed trees along the road. If you go, be aware of the conditions getting in and out. If the conditions are icy in the morning, this makes reaching the trailhead easier. If the temperatures rise above freezing during the day it can be a roller-coaster ride getting out.

We set out at 8:00 am from the trailhead and took a direct line up the East Ridge (recommended for winter ascents). We were in snowshoes almost immediately. We found the snow through the forest (about 5,000 feet) soft. The deadfall was also hassle to negotiate but this is a relatively short section. We then negotiated the steeper sections just before the "Don't Feed the Goat" sign by zigzagging through the forest to keep the grade sensible. We were glad to reach the sign knowing we were home free (except for the ridge which is notorious for blustery conditions). Get an early start in the winter and watch the weather conditions closely. Be aware of your route so you can retrace your steps coming down if the conditions deteriorate. Winter ascents of Scotchman mean staying away from the cornices on the high ridge. The final section before the summit can be icy from the high winds that whip the top. Carry traction devices or crampons and use as needed on this final 100-150 feet. Finally, and this applies to any fall or winter hike, carry layers of clothing that you can easily put on or take off depending on the conditions. Expect temperatures to be 4 or 5 degrees lower per thousand feet that you climb and anticipate wind on the upper ridge above the trees.

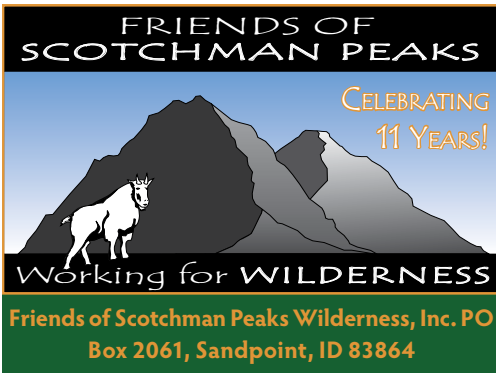
In the words of famed mountaineer, Royal Robbins, "We need adventure. It's in our blood. It will not go away." And for those of us privileged enough to enjoy this adventure in our own backyard, we are doubly blessed to live and play in the Scotchman Peaks area all year long.

HIKE LEADERS WANTED!

Lead a winter hike for us! List your proposal at www.scotchmanpeaks.org/hiking/leading-hikes

MORE HIKES TO COME!

Our hike leaders will be posting more soon at scotchmanpeaks.org/hiking/current-hiking-schedule



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 Creek divide 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.

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