



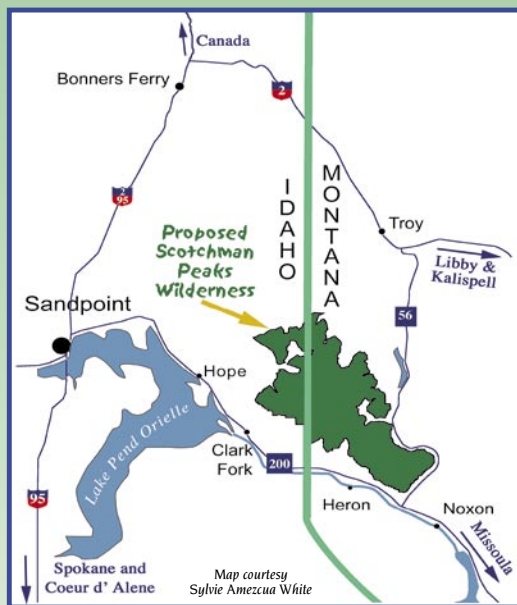
# PEAK EXPERIENCE

The Newsletter for Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness, Inc.

Volume 5, Number 5 • September / October, 2009

## Mission Statement

"We believe that the 88,000 acre Scotchman Peaks roadless area, spanning the Idaho/Montana border, deserves **permanent protection** as wilderness. Faced with growth and change, we want to make sure this special place stays the same."



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  
Designer: Pama Bangeman

## New Wilderness Bill in Montana!

By Doug Ferrell

Senator Jon Tester introduced legislation in mid July including over 670,000 acres of new wilderness in Montana. S1470, the Forest Jobs and Recreation Act, has been very well received and earned approval ratings over 70% around the state. The bill includes provisions for logging and motorized recreation as well as wilderness designations for three separate landscapes in Montana. The bill results from recommendations developed by diverse community groups working together over several years.

This bill has critics from various points of view, but most wilderness supporters in Montana have responded with great joy and hope that we can break the long drought of protecting Montana wilderness. The Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness has focused, since our inception, on the single issue of securing wilderness designation for the Scotchmans. The board of FSPW considers Tester's proposed legislation a very positive step forward for wilderness and forest management in Montana and we believe that passage of S1470 will improve our chances of protecting the Scotchmans. A complete position statement is available on our website.

We encourage our friends to consider supporting this legislation. For details about the bill, with links to the legislation, maps and how to register support go to: [tester.senate.gov/legislation/foresthome.cfm](http://tester.senate.gov/legislation/foresthome.cfm).

An overview with good information and photos is available from the Montana Wilderness Association at: [www.wildmontana.org](http://www.wildmontana.org).

## Scotchman Natives Bracken Fern

By Valle Novak

Bracken fern (*Pteridium aquilinum*), is the common fern or "brake," of forest, meadow and wildlands, providing shady cover to a variety of areas high and low. Preferring damp and shaded sites, they are found in sunny glades as well.

They have a long history of practical use from European Medieval times to ancient America's shores. Since they are native in many parts of the world, they have been appreciated for many benefits from the obvious, such as bedding, cover for campfire coals to hold the heat till morning (they were used as such by charcoal burners), and/or boiled with oil or suet as a salve for healing wounds.

Until recently, they were considered edible in early summer when the tight new fronds - or "fiddleheads" - were used as a cooked vegetable. However, it's been warned that eating them can cause stomach complaints and possible abortion in pregnant women.

Though generally considered invasive in ornamental gardens, they are still a pretty native shade plant, giving protection to such other shade-lovers as Hostas, Coral bells and similar beauties that wilt in the sun. If they gift you with their presence, keep them where they're serving such a purpose, otherwise grasp the stem at the bottom and simply pull them out where they're not wanted. Use them then as ground cover to hold moisture around shrubs, or put them in the compost pile as a valuable addition.



**Bracken Fern**  
Photo courtesy Marilyn George



# Peak Views

## FSPW Announces Additional Upcoming Fall Hikes

The Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness are pleased to announce our fall hike schedule is now complete, with additional outings for your hiking pleasure! Check the list below and contact the individual hike leader to sign up. We have something for every skill level and interest. For more details on each hike, please visit our website. Join us to see firsthand why the Scotchmans are so special.

**Note: For all Sept. and Oct. hikes we strongly recommend bright orange apparel.**

E=Easy, M=Moderate, S=Strenuous

Date	Rating	Destination	Leader	Description/Contact Info
Sat. Sept. 5th through Mon. Sept. 7th	S	Spruce Lakes, Savage Peak, Drift Peak	Phil Hough	Come explore seldom visited areas at the north end of the Scotchmans. Join us for a backcountry excursion, off trail, as we follow the high ridges along the Scotchman's northern spine, we will visit Spruce Lakes, Savage Peak, and Dift Peak among other hidden gems. Contact Pil Hough, 208-946-9127 or nowhere_man97@hotmail.com
Sat. Sept. 5th	S	Goat Mountain	Todd Dunfield	Goat Mountain - Steep and stunning! First of three separate day hikes over the Labor Day weekend led by Todd Dunfield. If you do ALL three hikes you can collect on Todd's "Labor Day Triple Play" challenge and receive a complimentary Scotchman Peaks Bandana, in your favorite color! Contact Todd Dunfield, 509-239-9960 or dunfield@gonzaga.edu
Sun. Sept. 6th	S	Scotchman Peak	Todd Dunfield	Scotchman Peak - it's not the length (4 miles) but the elevation gain (almost 4,000 feet) that makes this a strenuous, and rewarding! Climb to the highest point in Bonner County and soak in the Scotchman views. Contact Todd Dunfield 509-230-9960 or dunfield@gonzaga.edu
Mon. Sept. 7th	S	Star Peak	Todd Dunfield	Star Peak - Another steep, strenuous hike with stunning views of the Cabinet Mountains and Clark Fork valley - Contact Todd Dunfield 509-230-9960 or dunfield@gonzaga.edu
Sun. Sept. 13th	E	Lightning Creek	Joyce Pence	A leisurely fall stroll up the Lightning Creek Road along the boundary of the Scotchman Peaks roadless area with views of Lightning Creek. Contact Joyce Pence, joyce.pence@yahoo.com or 208-266-1107
Oct. 3rd & 4th	M	Trail Maintenance	Jace Bylenga	September or early October, in the Scotchmans, to benefit the Spokane Inner City Youth Outings. For details contact: Jace Bylenga at Bylenga@gonzaga.edu or call 509-313-5524
Sat. Sept. 26th	E	Adopt-a-Highway (rescheduled)	Jacob Styer	Join in with other "Friends" of Scotchman Peaks to help beautify our section of State Highway 200. There is potential for a post-cleanup hike in the area. Contact Jacob for more details, jacob@scotchmanpeaks.org or 208-265-3408
Sat. Oct. 10th	E	Ross Creek Cedars	Joyce Pence	Discover the majestic forest cathedral that is Ross Creek Cedars. This easy loop trail winds through a grove of ancient cedars perhaps a thousand years old. Lush ferns and mosses grow profusely in this magnificent example of an inland temperate rainforest. Picnic tables are available to eat lunch by Ross Creek. Contact Joyce Pence, joyce.pence@yahoo.com or 208-266-1107
Sun. Oct. 11th	S	Scotchman Peak	Phil Hough & Deb Hunsicker	Climb the highest point in Bonner County - Scotchman Peak. Enjoy fall colors, stunning panoramas of Lake Pend Oreille and the rugged countryside of the Proposed Scotchman Peaks Wilderness area. Mountain goats frequent these peaks. the trail is a steep and steady climb with no on-trail water. Bring good shoes or boots, as well as your binoculars and cameras. Volunteers from the "Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness will talk about our efforts to protect this special place. nowhereman_97@hotmail.com or 208-255-2780

## Summer Birding in the Scotchmans Region

By Jon Isacoff

On a glorious Saturday in late June, eight Birders from the Coeur D'Alene Audubon Society set out to bird the proposed Scotchman Peaks Wilderness region. Kris Buchler, Joan and Bill Gundlach, Janet Callen, Jan Stevertson, and Valerie and Mike Zagar and myself, hit lake, river, fields and mountains to see the different habitats of the Scotchman Peaks Region. Weather was approximately 80 and sunny around Lake Pend Oreille and a wonderfully comfortable 72 at 3,300 feet in the proposed wilderness where we ended our day.

We started our trip on the Sunnyside Loop near Hope, one of the best birding spots on the North Shore of Lake Pend Oreille. Though not technically in the proposed Wilderness boundaries, it is part of the "Greater Scotchmans Ecosystem" that includes the uplands, the river valleys and floodplains, and of course, the Lake. In this sense, Lake Pend Oreille is to the Scotchmans what Yellowstone Lake is to the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. This leg started with some disappointment as the field that had been full of Bobolinks a week earlier had been mowed - a sorry sight indeed. However, just a few hundred meters down the road in a different field, we were able to observe gorgeous male and female Bobolinks perched on fence posts. Shortly thereafter, we were treated to outstanding views of a surprise Caspian Tern, and then while scanning for more Terns, we found 2 adult Franklin's Gulls, which are truly rare in North Idaho.

We proceeded up the Lightning Creek drainage in search of Dippers and Harlequin Ducks. Unfortunately, a new gate forced us to park about 2-3 miles further downstream than would have been ideal. Pardoning the pun, we "dipped on the Dipper" but just before we decided to return from our walk, Bill Gundlach spotted 1 female Harlequin Duck, our main (and most difficult) target for that leg.

We finished the trip by birding our way up to an old cut near the Scotchman Peak trailhead at about 3,300 feet. Despite the powerful mid-afternoon sun, many Winter Wrens, Swainson's Thrushes, Chestnut-backed Chickadees, and Townsend's Warblers, were singing in the shaded woods near the trailhead. Two very friendly hikers from Missoula told us they encountered a Dusky Grouse on the road just downhill from our spot as well as a 2nd about a mile up the trail (a spot where I've seen one before as well, perhaps the very same bird!), indicating that the species does frequent elevations of 3,000-4,000 feet when the habitat is suitable and one need not hike up to 6,000 foot meadows just to get a look (though that's not a bad idea!)

The highlight of the trip, fittingly, came at the very end, when we were treated to outstanding views of an adult Northern Goshawk - one of the rarest and most beautiful raptors in North America. After a tantalizing brief flyover, the Hawk returned and circled in plain view for at least 2 minutes providing spectacular viewing. We finished the day with 73 species observed and/or heard.



**Northern Goshawk**  
Photo courtesy Don Jones. Check out "Born Wild in Montana", Don's new photo book on baby animals of Montana, a fun book for both kids and adults. Available for \$12.95 at [www.donaldmjones.com](http://www.donaldmjones.com)



## Scotchman Past

### Scotchman's Peak, 1826: A Missed Opportunity By Jack Nisbet

Scottish naturalist David Douglas, usually known as a prolific collector and scientific namer—see Douglas's squirrel, Douglas's onion, Douglas's iris, and Douglas fir, among many others—was also a mountain climber of some ambition. On his first run up the Columbia from Fort Vancouver in the summer of 1825, he took on the rugged slopes of Table Mountain above what is now Bonneville Dam; when he crossed Athabasca Pass in early spring of 1827, he snowshoed far up the shoulder of the massive Mount Brown. In 1833 he had his eye on Mount St. Helens before venting steam from the volcano turned him south for an unsuccessful attempt on Mount Hood. When he visited the big island of Hawaii in 1834, he ascended both Mauna Kea (elevation 13,796 feet) and Mauna Loa (13,680), the two tallest peaks in the chain.



Illustration by Emily Nisbet

Such ambitious treks make it all the more unfortunate that Douglas did not take up the invitation of Hudson's Bay Company agent John Work in the late summer of 1826. When the two men met at Fort Colville, Work offered to let Douglas tag along to his fall fur trade posting in Montana's Flathead country. Douglas, fearful that tribal unrest might keep him stuck inside the post stockade, politely declined, thus depriving the Clark Fork drainage of a wealth of baseline natural history data.

If the naturalist had accompanied Work, they would have followed one of the standard fur trade routes from Kettle Falls to the Pend Oreille River, then picked up the ancient tribal Road to the Buffalo that ran along the north shore of Pend Oreille Lake. If they switched to canoes there, the mountain known today as Scotchman Peak would have soon slid into view.

If the traders stopped at the annual summer tribal encampment in the meadows around the Clark Fork Delta, Douglas would probably have followed his customary habit of asking around for a guide who could lead him on an excursion; all he was looking for was peak that combined good collecting opportunities with a view of the surrounding countryside. Then, as now, there was one obvious answer to such a question: Scotchman Peak.

In 2009, after crossing the Mosquito Creek washout that begins the hike up Scotchman Peak, the meadow below the trailhead abounds with three of David Douglas's favorite plants—a bracken fern familiar from his childhood in the Scottish heath, a purple lupine that he introduced into the gardens of Great Britain, and Indian hemp, *Apocynum cannabinum*, an important source of tribal cordage that fascinated him for they way Northwest natives used it to weave everything from fish nets to water-tight hats to flat twined bags. It's hard not to wonder whether Douglas would have seen this same mixture of lupine, hemp, and bracken growing in a Mosquito Creek meadow two hundred years ago. How different, in fact, would the whole hike up the mountain have looked to him?

Even though forest management, fire scars, and introduced weeds have altered the makeup and density of the woods along Scotchman's flanks, Douglas would have experienced the higher-elevation plants, trees, birds, and animals much as we see them now. Certainly he could have seen the same cornucopia of edible berries along the way—Douglas snacked on a stringently delicious mix of strawberries, serviceberries, currants, gooseberries, thimbleberries, buffalo-berries, raspberries, rose hips, kinnikinnick, Oregon grape, and huckleberries throughout his Northwest travels. He had a special eye for the lilies and penstemons of our region, and would have been delighted with the abundance of three-spot mariposa lily and elegant blue penstemon of Scotchman—new species that he surely would have collected seeds from to propagate back in England. He just as certainly would have been intrigued by a small desert parsley that appears on the open slopes about halfway up—he had watched Plateau tribal women dig the roots of several different desert parsleys, and liked to sample the different tastes.

The interaction of jay family birds with people fascinated him, and he might well have taken a pot shot at a squawking Clark's nutcracker when it shadowed him from treetop to treetop. Small mammals were another of Douglas's specialties, and as he reached the scaly rocks of the high country he would have gone after the pikas that nip in and out of the cracks.

Douglas thought a lot about geology—he recognized Grand Coulee as a massive water feature the moment he saw it—and surely would have noticed the distinct ripple marks on some of the ancient Belt mudstones that formed the pika's homes. Would he have seen those ripples as ancient water features, and wondered how they ended up on a mountainside? Would he have noticed various clues to the great ice dam and torrential bursts of the Ice Age Floods that tore through the Clark Fork and Pend Oreille system?

Despite many dependable constants in Scotchman's landscape over the past two centuries, the world Douglas walked in would also have shown some striking differences. Presumably, in those days before blister rust, the ghostly stands of dead whitebark pine that walk the high ridges would have been living trees bearing healthy cones. In late summer, grizzly bears would have pawed after their seeds. And it's not clear whether the mountain goats that haunt Scotchman Peak now, casually stepping out of the way of sport climbers, would have been so cooperative two centuries ago.

David Douglas spent a lot of time trying to figure out the distribution and collect good specimens of what the fur trade voyageurs called mouton gris (bighorn sheep) and mouton blanc (mountain goats). He had looked for both up the Kettle River near Fort Colville, which was sometimes called the White Sheep River. He also called mountain goats "antelopes," a perfectly reasonable name because they do indeed belong to that larger family. His friend John Work gave him a goat-fleece nightcap woven by a girl of the Lakes tribe; Douglas liked the feel of that cap on his balding head so much that at the Arrow Lakes he traded for some more goat fleece in the hopes that it might be spun into some snug stockings for his legs. Douglas would have given just about anything to come upon a mountain goat in the wild, but he never saw one alive.

David Douglas worked for the London Horticultural Society. His job was to collect plants that showed promise as garden ornamentals, and his original contract called for him to return to England from the Columbia country in the fall of 1825. But he was overcome with the scope of the whole drainage, and decided to spend 1826 exploring the shrub-steppe of the Columbia Plateau and ascending the mountains that surrounded it. If he had taken up John Work's gracious invitation and ascended Scotchman Peak in late summer of that year, the view from the top would have opened out into an entire universe of landscape and habitats, flora and fauna, that he had not yet seen—the Green Monarchs and Pend Oreille Lake behind him to the west, the Bitterroots to the south, the Cabinets and Selkirks to the east and north, the big Rockies beyond. If he had worked his way through the whitebark pines to gain Scotchman's summit, and found his goats along the way, he might never have gone back to England at all.

Teacher and naturalist Jack Nisbet lives in Spokane. His book *The Collector: David Douglas and the Natural History of the Northwest* will be out in October 2009. For more information, visit [www.jacknisbet.com](http://www.jacknisbet.com)

## Red Hot Merchandise

The new black and blue hats are in. Jim Mellen reports that we now have hats for all occasions: blue for the ladies, red for hiking during hunting season, black for when you're feeling bad, and beige for everyday use. Also new for the summer season are the Scotchman Peaks bandannas, designed by Sandy Compton. Pick up your summer Scotchmans gear at Café Bodega, Eichart's, Outdoor Experience, or Sandpoint Sports in Sandpoint, ID, the Hope Market Café in Hope, ID, Mountain Meadows in Libby, MT, Huckleberry Thicket in Trout Creek, MT or REI in Spokane, WA. All hats are \$10, short sleeved tees are all \$10, long sleeved tees are \$15, sweatshirts are \$30 and hoodies are \$35. Out of the area, contact [jmellen@imbris.net](mailto:jmellen@imbris.net). 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).



## Over the Top Volunteer

### Jon Isacoff - One Flew Over the Eagles Nest

Where else could wild landscapes and abstract, humanized, ideas about political process come together except in a classroom study on Ecology and Political Thought? And who else could bring them together but a political science professor who directs the Environmental studies program at Gonzaga and spends his spare time as a Spokane Mountaineer hiking, and birding, in the Scotchmans?

In his essay "Walking" Thoreau notes that: "When a traveler asked Wordsworth's servant to show him her master's study, she answered 'Here is his library, but his study is out of doors.' It's very easy to imagine a student asking for Professor Isacoff's office hours and finding themselves led to a place not unlike Emerson's study, to a wild place out of doors.

Jon Isacoff found the Scotchmans through fellow Gonzaga faculty and Spokane Mountaineer, Todd Dunfield. On a cold and snowy day in January several years back, Todd brought Jon, and a group of 16 Gonzaga Students, on a snow shoe trip into Ross Creek Cedars, his first visit to the Scotchmans. Shortly after pausing at the trails highpoint, a perch where we viewed the Cabinet Mountains across the Bull River Valley, Jon was hooked. By the time we had made it in and out of the Cedars that day, Jon had already formulated the basic curriculum for a course on Ecology and Political thought in which he would use the Scotchmans as a case study. The class was designed to be part of Gonzaga's "service learning" program, which brought the students, in an Emersonian fashion, out of doors and into the Scotchmans, to do trail maintenance and to experience firsthand the wilderness, to have time for personal reflection and later to write about the impact of those experiences.



**Jon Isacoff**  
*Photo courtesy Phil Hough*

In addition to the classroom, Jon has led hikes and assisted with tabling opportunities in Spokane and Coeur d'Alene, all to help our outreach and education mission. Serving for 2 years as co-chair of the Spokane Mountaineers hiking committee Jon helped to strengthen our connection with that group, as well as the faculty and staff at Gonzaga and many individuals in the Spokane area. He is a Lifetime Member of the Spokane Audubon Society and a Regional Reviewer for the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Ebird.org. Starting in 2009, Jon will be the Washington Birder County Year Lister for Spokane County. Jon has recently begun development of a comprehensive bird list for the Scotchmans and in July took over writing the "Birds of the Scotchmans" column for our own newsletter.

With two young children, ages 2 and 4, Jon may lead fewer hikes these days but becomes even more passionate about preserving the Scotchmans each time he comes home and looks into the eyes of the next generation of birders, students, teachers and wilderness lovers who will enjoy our region's gems.

## Message From the Chair

As summer fades into fall, we are busy attending some Scotchmans' events and planning yet other events and presentations. Hiking conditions are about as good as they get and huckleberries are just waiting, ripe and juicy, to be picked. So we are also trying to get as much trail time in as possible!!

I'll keep this message brief so you too can have time to join us on the trail or at an event. As a wilderness lover, I am very excited about the introduction this July of legislation by Montana Senator John Tester which would designate 670,000 acres of wilderness in Montana! While the Scotchmans are not included in the areas proposed for designation, our future is certainly linked to the success of this bill. This newsletter will contain a general overview and information on how to find out more details about this bill, its impact on wilderness and on our campaign.

We would like to congratulate the many Montanans, from diverse backgrounds and interests, who have worked together on developing the proposals in this important piece of legislation and who are now coming together to work towards its successful package!

## Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness 2009 Summer Photo Contest!

### Photo Categories:

- Scotchman's Scenery
- Scotchman's Spirit (people in wilderness)
- Wilderness Water (falling, flowing, or still)
- Wild Scotchman's (plants & animals)

A committee of Friends will choose the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners in each category.

### Prizes:

- 1st Place: Friends of Scotchman Peaks Sweatshirt (hooded or crew)
- 2nd Place: Friends Long-sleeve t-shirt
- 3rd Place: Friends t-shirt (blue, black or white)

### How to enter:

Send your photo(s) of the Scotchman Peaks area by e-mail or on CD (e-mail preferred, CD's will not be returned) to [slundstrum@wildmontana.org](mailto:slundstrum@wildmontana.org) by September 30th include where you took it, when you took it, and if you were on an FSPW hike include the hike leaders name and what hike it was.

You will be notified by October 15th if your photo was chosen as a winner. Winning photos may be printed in the various issues of the Friends Newsletter or used in our printed or online materials.

### Rules:

Only photos of the Scotchman Peaks proposed wilderness will be considered. Submission deadline is September 30th, 2009. E-mail entries are preferred, CD's will not be returned. FSPW reserves the right to re-print photos while giving proper credit. Photos can be color or black & white.

## The Hills Are Alive Version 3.5

**The Scotchman Peaks, the snow-fed creeks,  
The mountain goats and elk,  
Are worth more than a money fix;  
Worth protecting from being bilked.**

**Decree an edict for this home of epics,  
Preserve this play of life.  
Wilderness is the planet's hope,  
a source of nature's might.**

— **Victor Vosen**

This poem, by a Heron, MT poet, has been submitted by FSPW to the "Heart and Soul" grant contest.



## Tales of Scotchman Peaks

### Scotchman Winter Assent, part 2

(Part 1 is in the July/August newsletter)

By **Tim Daugharty**

(Tim, a panhandle native, now lives and teaches in Alaska.)

We trudged on up Scotchman with renewed vigor. The rays of the sun were starting to cool and we knew shelter was necessary. We reached what we have always called the "false summit" and decided it was time to dig in. With the snow cave instruction manual in hand, we worked feverishly to build our castle. The construction was fun and the deeper we dug, the warmer the insulation of the snow grew.

Finally, we decided we had enough space for a cooking area plus room for us and the dog to lie down. Murphy was unsure he wanted to enter, but it only took little venison salami for him to join us. Things felt right as the light faded and the upper level clouds treated us to a sunset of pinks and mauve colors.

It was amazing how a couple candles and a stove warmed things up. The wind outside was picking up slightly as we sensed a weather change. Being in the cave, however, gave us a false sense of security. As we drifted off to our well-deserved rest, we couldn't predict what might happen next.

Sometime later we were awoken by the flapping of the door tarp and a fine dusting of snow on our bags. Steve peeked out the entrance hole and came back looking like a youthful Santa. It was a full-blown white-out in the dark of night. Our entrance hole continued to blow closed and with the help of a ski pole, we maintained our touch to the torrent outside.

We slept sparingly for the rest of the night, not really understanding the austerity of our situation. An opaque light from above was the only thing that informed us that daylight had arrived. Suddenly, Steve started swearing and Murphy cowered from his uncharacteristically harsh attitude. The space blanket had collected a puddle of water and the down bag was drenched. The learning curve started to rise.

The place where we slept had become a perfect imprint of our bodies. Without any insulation, the divots left became six foot lakes we were now forced to navigate

around to stay dry. We huddled to the side walls and the white-out raged on.

With the weather roaring above our dripping cave, we tried to create space away from the ever-growing lake in the middle. Wool clothing became soaked and heavy. Skin started to shrivel, and spirits dampened as the only thing improving was the lake in our Eskimo Castle. The storm raged on.

We passed the time telling stories or lies, depending on the exaggeration of the truth. Steve tried to read a book but the pages became saturated with moisture. We ate through our plentiful storage of supplies. Murphy really enjoyed the meals and camaraderie, and his close proximity to his friends. He seemed to be the only one staying dry and positive.

Finally, it happened during dinner preparation. The closeness, attitude, and situation boiled over between friends because of a disagreement on how to cook the noodles. A small space, with a dog, and the two six-foot-plus men couldn't take it anymore. Pots and pans were thrown; loud voices diminished the roar of the storm. Tears of anger and a silence you could cut with a proverbial knife infiltrated the cavern. There was little dry space left and everyone clung to the sidewall. Time was immeasurable at that point, and all we had left was our own personal thoughts.

I know not how long the silence lasted, but sometime in the now darkened cave someone said, "I'm sorry." It might have been the dog who spoke first, but it was a welcome respite. A delirious laughter started to swell from down under and the storm played on.

We huddled together at one edge of the cave for the remainder of the night. A mass of wet down, wool, dog, and spirits too afraid to move for fear of inconveniencing the others. I awoke with that opaque color filling the cave. A strange ambience had fallen above our hole. I poked my head out after some forty hours of seclusion to see large snow flake prisms lightly drifting vertically down. The silence outside the cave was deafening. I rejoiced: the sun was going to shine on us today.

I reported the news to those below. Steve stated, "You're the wrong gender, too ugly, and boring for this. Let's get the hell outta here."

## Extreme Plein Air Wilderness Trek Followed by Art Reception at Timber Stand Gallery

By **Neil Wimberley**

An "extreme" four day wilderness trek deep into the heart of the Scotchmans Wilderness with two artists, a writer, and a poet culminated in a relaxed and enjoyable art show at Jim Quinn's Timber Stand Gallery in downtown Sandpoint on August 7th. The artists, Jared Shear and Aaron Johnson, framed and hung dozens of their delightful watercolors fresh from the wilds for the crowd of art and wilderness admirers to wander through and enjoy. One fascinating work by Jared that attracted much interest was painted using burnt reddish algae that he discovered near the site of his painting. Aaron brought a massive painting from his studio that spoke to the grandeur of the rocks, sky, and snow they had witnessed, and brought the smell of thick and still wet oil paint into the gallery which accented the freshness of all the work. Sandy Compton compiled an array of photographs which opened more windows into their hiking adventures. The importance of keeping and preserving a few remaining tracts of wilderness to give sanctuary for such creativity, adventure, and spiritual renewal, was lost on no one.

Jared and Aaron are posting their art for sale on their websites. Use the links below and enjoy the work of these talented artists. If you decide to make a purchase, let them know you are a "Friend of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness" and in addition to getting a valuable work of art to enjoy for years to come, FSPW will share in the proceeds. These delightful paintings are now hanging in the Outskirts Gallery in Hope, Idaho where they may be viewed and purchased. If you have questions, email the artists directly or call Kally Thurman at Outskirts Gallery at (208)264-5696.

Aaron Cordell Johnson: [www.cordellart.blogspot.com](http://www.cordellart.blogspot.com)

Jared Shear: [www.terrapeer.blogspot.com/2009/07/scotchman-peak-plein-air-paintout-2009.html](http://www.terrapeer.blogspot.com/2009/07/scotchman-peak-plein-air-paintout-2009.html)

Please join us for the second annual fall Plein Air Paint Out to be held Sept 19th and 20th. Details in "The Future Looks Bright" in this issue.



**Deb Hunsicker and Jared discuss the paintings at the Timber Stand opening.**

*Photo courtesy Neil Wimberley*



# Along the Trail

**June 24-27:** FSPW was an enthusiastic supporter of the 4-day David Thompson Bicentennials 2009 Conference which included an educator's workshop, a symposium, and the Kalispel Encampment. This was a wonderful and rare opportunity for historians, educators, tribal representatives, and the general public to expand and enrich our understanding of the early days of human presence in the Scotchmans area. Our appreciation extends to Bonner County Historical Society Museum Curator, Ann Ferguson and the committee that planned this outstanding conference.

**July 4: Clark Fork:** The American pirate ship, FSPW, with cowboy nuances sliced through the waves of downtown Clark Fork in the 4th of July parade, bringing New Orleans music, candy, goat posters, bumper stickers, maps, imported moonpies, and Mardi Gras beads to the joyful crowd. Mark Heisel wearing his mining helmet and Scotchman shirt sounded the long anticipated coronet herald to "Second Line" followed by a rifle shot off the snare drum of Lindsey Kiebert starting a wall of music from the 12 member Krewe of Cougar Creek Band, who then belted out the "Saints Go Marching In" and the "Cougar Creek Rag". Assorted blue shirted pirates (30 total) and revelers following in the ship's wake danced and pranced to the music while lofting "throws" to the crowds. After the parade, trophies were received for the Best Adult Group and also the Best Float in the kids division, and a Good Time was had by All.



## Best Float, July 4th, Clark Fork

*Photo courtesy Will Rolofson*

**Troy:** July opened with a blast as a corps of Scotchman volunteers manned our information booth with great success. Many folks stopped by to ask questions, and 30 of them signed on as new Friends of Scotchman Peaks.

**Sandpoint:** FSPW was well represented by enthusiastic supporters marching or cheering from the sidelines again this year at the Lion's Club Fourth of July parade. Board member Will Valentine's daughter Molly was married at his home on the fourth. Before the ceremony, the wedding party marched through Sandpoint in Scotchman's shirts, adding a unique experience to their special day.

**Noxon:** Thanks to Howard Bakke for his help with the parade.

**July 11:** Don Clark, Molly Montana and Charlie Clough presented to the Chain of Lakes Property Owners Association at Happy's Inn, 40 miles south of Libby. Ten attendees signed up as individual supporters of Friends of Scotchman Peaks.

**July 25:** Bill Martin, Don Clark and Charlie Clough sweltered in 100° heat, as they manned the Scotchman's booth at the Yaak Wilderness Fest in Troy. At the evening's end, they grinned in disbelief as they counted the names of 35 new Friends that had been added to our list.

**August 1:** Between 175 and 200 happy folks turned out for the 2nd Annual Scotchman Peaks Boogie. Once again, the summer sun roasted both the musicians and the faithful, who boogied down on the Roosevelt Park grass near the pavilion. More than just a few took advantage of the cooling Kootenai River only a few steps away, and 20 folks signed our list as new Friends.

**August 9:** The Lincoln County Picnic was held in Libby, at the Firemen's Park. Ample food and drink was enjoyed by those in attendance, and one of our Friends made a very generous donation of \$500 towards the Cinnabar matching grant.

**August 14-16:** FSPW had our usual Scotchmans booth and parade entry at the 30th annual Huckleberry Festival in Trout Creek. This is a great event to interact with

people from all over Sanders County and beyond. We signed up 59 new Friends. The parade is a great scene. A group wears Scotchmans gear, carries a banner, pulls our float, and throws candy to the crowd. It seems that the crowd's applause rolls right along with our float. Many thanks to Howard Bakke for the float, and to Ernie Scherzer for organizing the whole fun event.

**August 23:** Sandy Compton's StoryTelling Company held a special evening benefit for the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness. Two of our Sagle, Idaho Friends, Bob and Judy Lange, opened their lovely back yard fronting on Fry Creek to host a special StoryTelling event complete with music by Wild Honey, tales of the wild Cabinet Mountains by Sandy, and a barbecue picnic cooked up by the Idaho Board of Directors. Ivano's Ristorante in Sandpoint helped sponsor the event which was designed to draw potential Friends from Sandy's many fans in North Idaho. Proceeds went to help meet the Cinnabar Challenge Grant

**August 25-29:** FSPW volunteers manned a booth at the annual Bonner County Fair, one day longer than last year. Many folks think that Scotchmans is already a Wilderness and we are just a local group of supporters trying to get people to enjoy the area. Our volunteers fielded questions and passed out literature.

**August 29:** Phil Hough spoke to a full house and enthusiastic crowd at the Western Outdoor Club Conference.

## OUR \$4,000 CHALLENGE

*By Carol Jenkins*

Are we up for a challenge? Yes! For the fourth consecutive year FSPW has gratefully received a challenge grant from the Cinnabar Foundation. If we are able to raise \$4,000 from our supporters, we receive that amount from Cinnabar, resulting in \$8,000 to support our outreach efforts. We met the challenge these last three years. So if you have passion for protecting the proposed wilderness, this is the perfect time to send in a contribution!

The Cinnabar Foundation was created over 25 years ago by Montanan's Len and Sandy Sargent. The Foundation grants to groups like ours, working to protect Montana and the Greater Yellowstone ecosystem. The Sargent legacy lives through the work that we are doing, and we believe they would be proud of our progress. Check our website to monitor our status in achieving this matching grant, and help our goat continue the climb up that mountain! Thank you!





## The Future Looks Bright

**Wed Sept 9th:** Jon Isacoff and Phil Hough will present the "Birds of the Scotchmans" to the Spokane Audubon Society. Contact Linda for details: [lindell4118@comcast.net](mailto:lindell4118@comcast.net).

**Sat Sept 19th:** 9am to 1pm Community Health and Wellness Fair at the Bonner County Fairgrounds: come visit the FSPW table display

**September 19th and 20th:** FSPW Fall Plein Air Event will be centered at Kally Thurman's Outskirts Gallery in Hope, ID. Forty talented regional Plein Air artists have been invited to capture in fresh paint many of our favorite visions of the wilderness. They will be working from sites in Idaho, from Heron to Bull River, and beyond. Framed art ready for viewing and purchase will be displayed at the Outskirts Gallery (Hope Market Café) from 2-6PM Sat & Sun with a judged Purchase Award for Best of Show presented at 3PM Sunday. Come meet the artists and join in the fun in lovely Hope, Idaho.

**Saturday September 26th:** Adopt a Highway Clean up. Come join other volunteers in helping to clean up our adopted highway section. Contact Jacob Styer [jacobstyer@yahoo.com](mailto:jacobstyer@yahoo.com) for details

**Oct 3rd and 4th:** Fall Scotchmans Trail Maintenance Project: to benefit Spokane Inner City Outings. For details or to sign up Contact Jace at [Bylenga@gonzaga.edu](mailto:Bylenga@gonzaga.edu) or call 509-313-5524.

**Sat Oct 3rd:** Join other Friends of Scotchman Peaks at the Idaho Conservation League's Annual Wild Idaho North. Contact Susan Drumheller at 208-265-9565 for details

**Mon Oct 26th:** Phil Hough will present to Gonzaga's Class on Ecology and Environmentalism

Montana: gone hunting.

## Scotchman Rocks

### The Very Old and The Very Young

By Mark Pullen

**Only two ages of rock formation occur in the vicinity of Scotchman Peak. One represents some of the oldest sediments found on Earth; the other represents some of the youngest.**

#### Part 1 – The Very Old

The rocks that make up most of Scotchman's Peak as we see it today are extremely old. They are much older than the entire Rocky Mountain Range that lifted them to almost 7000 feet above sea level. They are older than the present Polar Ice Caps which expanded during the Ice Age and sculpted some of the dramatic scenery we now see. They are older than the North American continent on which they occur, and the Atlantic Ocean that separates it from Europe. They are older than the Dinosaurs, and even the Trilobites. In fact, they are older than any plant or animal that has ever lived, including the fish in the sea. This is why no fossils (except perhaps Stromatolites and micro-fossils) will likely be found here even though the rocks are shallow marine sediments.

The Earth was a very different place way back then, and these rocks were also in a very different place on the globe. The Prichard Formation (see the Geologic maps in previous issues), which constitutes most of the rocks seen anywhere on Scotchman Peak, is part of the Precambrian Belt Series, and is about 1.4 billion years old. This is almost twice as old as any multi-celled life form. Although these rocks were originally sediments in a shallow ocean, the only living things on the Earth at that time were single celled bacteria and simple blue-green algae similar to modern pond scum. Probably the most important change in the life forms that were around during this time was the transition from primitive cells that had no nucleus (Prokaryotes), to Eukaryotes, with their DNA more protected from the environment in a central area of the cell. This transition set the stage for the evolution of all subsequent life. There were some areas of dry land in places, or else sediment could not have been washed into the sea to produce this formation, but that land was mostly barren rock without plants or animals. Any soil that would have formed from

## From the Top

I never find it easy to sit at a computer and type but cooler days mixed with the hot plus ripening huckleberries made it particularly hard to do so this issue. How fortunate we are to live in such a beautiful area and to be able to just walk out and enjoy the sights, sounds and solitude of the wilderness. How important it is to protect the wilderness for future generations to enjoy as pristine as past generations have left it for us.

*Ann Wimberley*

## Why Wilderness?

**(This question was the topic of the FSPW essay contest in Sanders County grades 1-12. Following is part of the answer given by grand prize winner eighth grader Nicole Riberio of Thompson Falls.)**

"Secondly, living in a big city would mean missing out on the astonishing bluish and purplish colors of the mountains covering us up like a big blanket. The dazzling blue and icy white of the rivers, lakes and streams just laying there luminous in the sunshine. The trees hiking up the mountainside waiting to reach the top before they die. All of this what we would be missing out on if there weren't wilderness areas."



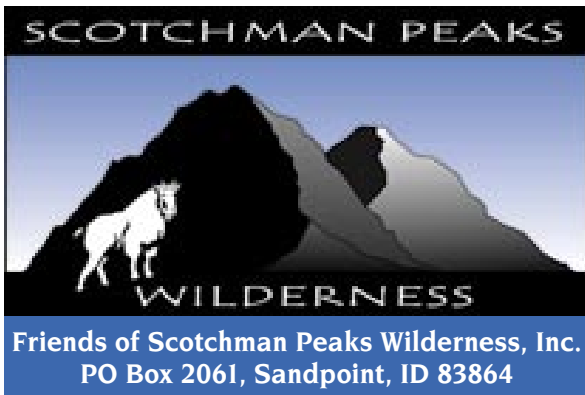
**This picture is an electron microscope image of fossilized eukaryote cells, which would have been the predominant life form around when the Prichard Formation was being deposited.**

physical and chemical processes was devoid of organic material.

The atmosphere and the ocean (there is really only one ocean, even now; we just give parts of it different names.) was also quite unlike that of today. The air back then would not support any modern animal or a human being. Oxygen was just beginning to accumulate at that time, and most of it was being used to form ancient iron deposits known as "banded iron". There was no ozone layer shielding the surface, and ultraviolet radiation from the sun was so intense that no life as we know it could survive. The ocean was also much less salty, because eons of erosion and evaporation had not yet concentrated the sodium from terrestrial rocks.

The sediments that eventually became Scotchman Peak were deposited very far away from their present location. Although many excellent books describe the "tectonic evolution" of our area in great detail, they seldom point out that the Pacific Northwest was not in the same place on the globe as it is now. Nor do they mention that these particular sediments already existed long before the time the "plate" collisions and subductions that created our region occurred. One newer theory is that the Prichard Formation sediments may have been eroded from part of an ancient super continent called "Rodinia", at a time when the only exposed land on Earth was in the Southern Hemisphere. This theory also suggests that a part of the rocks that eventually became Scotchman Peak broke off after being deposited, and are now part of Australia or Asia.

The mountain building episode that created the Rocky Mountain Range and brought the rocks of Scotchman Peak from below sea level to their present elevation began only slightly before the Dinosaurs of Jurassic Park, about 78 million years ago. This is but a tiny fraction of the age of the rocks that it is composed of. During the intervening 1.3 billion years, the evolution of the continents, ocean, and atmosphere; as well as all plants, fish, amphibians, reptiles, and mammals occurred. When the Scotchman Rocks were young, nothing that can be found there today existed on Earth, nor could have existed; and that is very old indeed.



## 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:

CHAIRMAN:

Phil Hough, *Sagle, Idaho*  
 (208) 255-2780 • [nowhere\\_man97@hotmail.com](mailto:nowhere_man97@hotmail.com)

VICE-CHAIRMAN & MONTANA DIRECTOR:

Doug Ferrell, *Trout Creek, Montana*  
 (406) 827-4341 • [ferrelldoug@gmail.com](mailto:ferrelldoug@gmail.com)

VICE-CHAIRMAN & IDAHO DIRECTOR:

Carol Jenkins, *Sagle, Idaho*  
 (208) 265-9204 • [irvorcarol@imbris.net](mailto:irvorcarol@imbris.net)

SECRETARY:

Sarah Lundstrum, *Whitefish, Montana*  
 (406) 755-6304 • [slundstrum@wildmontana.org](mailto:slundstrum@wildmontana.org)

TREASURER:

Jacob Styer, *Sandpoint, Idaho*  
 (208) 265-7206 • [jacobstyer@yahoo.com](mailto:jacobstyer@yahoo.com)

EAST BONNER COUNTY DIRECTOR:

Neil Wimberley, *Hope, Idaho*  
 (208) 264-5379 • [neilwim@yahoo.com](mailto:neilwim@yahoo.com)

Bill Martin, *Troy, Montana*  
 (406) 295-5258

Will Valentine, *Sagle, Idaho*  
 (208) 255-1114 • [valentine66@intermaxnetworks.com](mailto:valentine66@intermaxnetworks.com)

Charlie Clough, *Libby, Montana*  
 (406) 293-5210 • [bear2th@montanasky.net](mailto:bear2th@montanasky.net)