



PEAK EXPERIENCE

The Newsletter for Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness, Inc.

Volume 8, Number 5 • September / October 2012



Mission Statement

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



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

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

Editor: Ann Wimberley

Layout and design: Sandy Compton & Celeste Grace

Trail Talk:

A Starry Summer!



Emily Downing (front center) and Jeremy Leibenguth pack lumber for a restoration project from the mules to the Star Peak lookout while packers Casey Burns (left) and Mark Pengelly tend to their animals.

Phil Hough photo

By Bonnie Jakubos

It's been a busy and productive summer on Scotchman Peaks Wilderness trails. The Spar Lake and Star Peak trails have been the focus of most of the work.

We were able to benefit from two different youth crews from the Montana Conservation Corps working on the Spar Lake trail. These hard working kids repaired and re-routed about a quarter of a mile of the worst parts of the trail. The first crew camped at the Spar Lake campground and worked from the bottom up. The second crew hauled heavy packs and tools up to Little Spar Lake and worked down the trail.

Thanks to the volunteers who elected to spend some time with the crews. We got to know the kids and they found out more about advocating for the Scotchman Peaks Wilderness. In addition, the crew leaders and members are all new Friends.

Shifting to Star Peak, we had two separate and exciting projects going on. First of all, we kicked off a trail reconstruction project on July 8, and over

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Message from Chair – Find Yourself In Wilderness

Recently, Sandy, Deb and I joined two “extreme plein air” artists and one of their 13 year sons on a backpacking trip into the wild basins and peaks of the Scotchmans. During a summer that has been filled with meetings, mules and trail projects the escape was especially welcome. No email, cell phone calls, no headline news or advertisements about elections or Olympics to distract us.

The opportunity this trip provided is one of the great benefits Wilderness has to offer, the opportunity to find yourself in a place with no distractions, where rugged terrain challenges us, where remarkable beauty inspires us and where the vast and intricate web of nature allows us to connect in very personal ways. In short, we can find our unique and true selves in wilderness. The results are different for each person but going through this process with friends and companions is a bonding experience as we reveal a part of ourselves to each other.

What happens in the backcountry stays there, mostly, as it is hard to replicate it elsewhere. But I will say that watching an artist look at a favorite basin with an artists’ eyes, and seeing what they select to paint, is to see the basin in a new light. Witnessing a 13 year old on his first backpacking trip stirs up recollections of our own first wilderness steps, even mine which were many decades ago. While some people are content to remain in one place and paint a scene several times through shifting light, or sit in quiet reflection on a billion year old rock, others will poke and prod among the groves of sub alpine fir or wildflowers, splash in the springs, or spend the day exploring new routes in and out of the basins and to the tops of nearby peaks. We each seek out, and find, what

we need to find, and define, ourselves. And here, high in the basins of the Scotchmans, we find those places in the wild, and within, that we can’t find when we are back in the office or in town or at home. No matter how rural or urban, those are civilized places and what we find in wilderness are the wild places and surprises of nature as well as the wild places of the heart.

It’s not too late. In fact, the fall is one of the best times to find yourself in Wilderness. Summer days passing into the frosty nights of fall stir up the pensive side in many people. Whether for a day or a weekend or longer, great hiking and soul searching is still in store for those who seek it. Fall colors inspire many questions and help us to reflect; the coming shorter days of winter move us naturally indoors and inside our own selves. So go out now and find yourself in Wilderness!

Phil Hough

From the Top

Summer is a busy season here in North Idaho. It’s easy to get caught up in gardens, guests and summer activities and miss the quiet experience of wilderness. FSPW volunteers have worked with the Forest Service on projects that will improve hiking for all of us. It’s time to take Phil’s advice and head on out. And please, if you have a particularly exciting or funny experience in the Scotchmans, contact me so we can share it with our readers in future issues of *Peak Experience*.

Ann Wimberley

Lincoln County Report: Making Headway

By Molly Kieran

Our goal is communication and visibility in an effort to work together for the good of the entire community. In that effort we have had a busy year. In February, we presented, free of charge, Wilderness Films at Libby’s Little Theater. We did ask folks to bring food items for our food pantries in both Libby and Troy. As always, participants came loaded with food items. In addition to the films, Phil Hough and Doug Ferrell were on hand to answer any questions folks had regarding the Kootenai National Forest Plan before the public comment period took place.

For the first time, we had a FSPW booth at the Libby Health Fair. Hiking in the Wilderness is one good way to get exercise for both body and mind. Well over 50 Scotchman Peaks maps were handed out and we signed up many new Friends. This is an event we will most certainly be involved in next

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FSPW executive director Phil Hough and Lincoln County Coordinator in the Libby Logger Days booth, a milestone first for Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness.



Money Matters: Funding Film and Wildlife Study FSPW Financial Goals

In July 2010, Jake Glass, Joe Foster and Matt Stauble, all from Connecticut, spent two weeks filming scenes and on-screen interviews around the Scotchman Peaks for a Muhlenberg College student project. That fall, as Wildman Pictures, they produced *En Plein Air*, a documentary film focused on the Extreme Plein Air, our annual backcountry art project. They also did a trailer for *Grass Routes*, a film showcasing the efforts of FSPW to protect the Scotchman Peaks as Wilderness.

We are raising funds for the completion of this project, and if you watch the trailer, you will understand why we wish to finish the film. You can view it at <http://www.wildmanpictures.com/page/grassroutestrailer.html>)

To complete *Grass Routes*, Glass and Foster visited again in July of this year. They are now engaged in the time-consuming process producing a film telling the story of the Scotchman Peaks, as well as what makes FSPW a unique conservation group.

Certain benefits come with certain levels of giving:

Moviegoer — \$50 – \$99: a ticket to the premier showing in Sandpoint and a listing in the credits as an underwriter;

Film Lover — \$100 – \$249: a pair of tickets to the movie's premier, and underwriter film credit;

Film Patron — \$250 – \$499: four tickets to the premier, underwriter credit, and a DVD of *Grass Routes*;

Associate Producer — \$500 or more: credit at the beginning of the film with the tag line, "made possible in part by a donation from" (along with a company logo) four tickets to the premier and a DVD of *Grass Routes*.

In order to be mentioned in the film credits, your tax-deductible contributions must be received by October 31st.

If you've seen and enjoyed *En Plein Air*, you know the film-making Wildman Pictures is capable of, and you'll be as excited as we are about the prospects for *Grass Routes*. If you haven't see the movie, as a Friend of Scotchman peaks, you owe it to yourself to see this great film. You can view it online at <https://vimeo.com/46852120>

En Plein Air will also be for sale in DVD format soon. Watch for an announcement on the website and Facebook page.

We also wish to continue funding the FSPW Wolverine Project, a rare carnivore study we have undertaken for the last two winters. We had great success helping Idaho Department of Fish and Game monitor mustelids and other rare predators in the Scotchman Peaks, as well as the Selkirk

Mountains. Our success was not only in the field, but also in drawing attention to our goal and adding many Friends to our ranks. Our goal is to continue our involvement in the study at a significant level.



Double your money!

The Cinnabar Foundation has again given us a \$3,000 Challenge Grant.

The FSPW Wolverine Project is a citizen science initiative driven by volunteers and supported by FSPW, IDFG, and Idaho Conservation League. The project relies on remote camera stations as a non-invasive way to collect population data on multiple rare forest carnivore species. We provide the coordination and logistical support necessary for our volunteers to successfully deploy these remote camera stations throughout the mountains of the Idaho Panhandle and Western Montana.

Last year, much of our funding was provided by a Zoo Boise grant, and we will apply to them again, but individuals, businesses and organizations can help by financially "adopting" individual stations. We have much of the equipment we need already, but we want to bring

a project coordinator on board to facilitate and direct volunteers and hope to be able to rehire last year's coordinator, Kelsey Brasseur.

Helping us meet our goals. We currently have two matching funds that allow donors to "double their money." The Cinnabar Foundation has given us a \$3,000 matching grant for our general fund and we have an anonymous matching grant of \$1,000 aimed specifically at the Wolverine Project, a generous gesture made by one of last year's wolverine volunteers.

To help either of these causes, donate online at www.scotchmanpeaks.org/donate When you visit the donate page, check the special instructions that will enable you to designate your donation for whichever fund you wish to add to, or send your check with your preference noted directly to:

Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness
PO Box 2061
Sandpoint, ID 83864

Contact us at info@scotchmanpeaks.org with any questions.



Along the Trail

July 4: Dozens of FSPW volunteers marched in 4th of July parades in Sandpoint and Clark Fork.

Molly Kieran and Bonnie Jakubos worked at a booth at the Troy Fourth Celebration

July 7 – 15: Joe Foster and Jake Glass of Wildman Pictures shot footage and did interviews for *Grass Routes*, a movie about FSPW and the place we advocate for.

July 8: FSPW volunteers and the US Forest Service Cabinet District began work on the Star Peak Trail reconstruction and reroute.

July 20: Star Peak Trail reconstruction and reroute workday.

July 23 – 27: Montana Conservation Corps youth crew and FSPW volunteers worked on the Little Spar Lake trail.

July 28: FSPW staff, volunteers and Forest Service personnel installed trailhead signs at Dry Creek, Blacktail Creek and the new Star Peak trail.

July 30: Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness was voted Bonner County's "Favorite Conservation Group" for 2012 in a poll conducted by the Bonner County Daily Bee

August 1 and 2: Mule team days on Star Peak trail. The Nine Mile Pack String and FSPW volunteers hauled supplies for the reconstruction of Star Peak Lookout to the peak.

August 3: Star Peak Trail reconstruction and reroute work day.

August 8 - 11: FSPW staff and volunteers took part in the Extreme Plein Air hike into Savage Basin and Little Spar Lake.

August 6 – 10: Montana Conservation Corps youth crew worked on the Little Spar Lake Trail

August 10 – 12: FSPW had an outreach booth at the Huckleberry Festival in Trout Creek.

August 17: The final Star Peak Trail reconstruction and reroute work day for the season ended with a barbecue for the volunteers.

August 20 – 25: FSPW volunteers and staff answered questions and signed up new Friends at Bonner County Fair.

The Future Looks Bright

September 1: Submission period for the 2012 Scotchman Peaks photo contest begins. For more information, visit www.scotchmanpeaks.org/2012-photo-contest

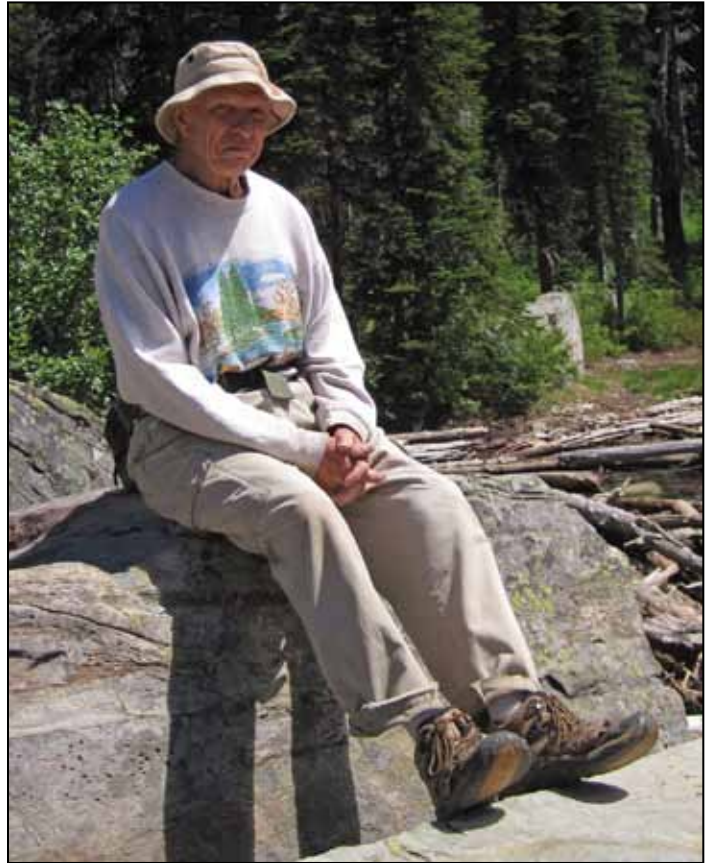
September 15: Annual Scotchman Peaks Highway 200 cleanup day. Contact jacob@scotchmanpeaks.org for more information.

September 29 (National Public Lands Day): FSPW and the US Forest Service Sandpoint District will work together on the Morris Creek trail. Contact trails@scotchmanpeaks.org for more information.

October 5 – 7: Annual Scotchman Peaks Plein Air Paintout will be held in and around the Scotchmans, with headquarters in Hope at the Outskirts Gallery

October 31: End of submission period for the 2012 Scotchman Peaks photo contest.

Over the top volunteer: Phil Degens



FSPW volunteer Phil Degens rests on a rock at the outlet for Little Spar lake in the prosed wilderness. A few minutes later, he was cutting tread with a Pulaski.

By Sandy Compton

Phil Degens is our over the top volunteer for this issue, but he's kind of shy, and declined to be interviewed.

What do we know about Phil? He is 73 years old and a Navy veteran who takes college classes that he finds interesting. He's in great shape and not afraid to take on jobs like preparing beaver carcasses for rare carnivore bait stations. He also swings a mean Pulaski and was our most stalwart volunteer to work with the Montana Conservation Corps youth crews this past summer on the Little Spar Lake trail.

Phil has been volunteering for Friends of Scotchman Peaks as well as attending events regularly for several years. He's quiet and observant and always has a great attitude and a friendly smile for others. He eschews coffee and other stimulants in favor of lots of water and eats his own blend of healthy foods.

He's a great hiker, recently covering the trail to Little Spar Lake twice in two days, both times carrying a Pulaski — and using it often along the trail.

Thanks, Phil, for all you do for the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness.



Photo Contest: Klaus Wins Winter 2012 — New Contest Opens NOW!

End of summer seems sort of a funny time to announce the winner of our winter photo contest, but summers are busy times here at Scotchman Peaks Central. Besides, naming our winter winner is also a good opportunity to tell photographers that it's time to submit entries for the 2012 photo contest (as well as publish the remainder of our winners from last summer).

Summer visitors to the mountain are very familiar with the sight of Andrew Klaus's winter subject; the iconic outhouse door at Star Peak. But, not many have seen it (from outside or inside) in the unusual light of winter. Andrew wins an overnight stay at Huckleberry Tent and Breakfast (huckleberrytentandbreakfast.com) for this great winter shot.

The 2012 photo contest is open for submissions now. The rules are pretty simple.

Submissions open September 1, 2012 and close at midnight on Halloween.

Pictures must be taken in or around the Scotchman Peaks between November 1, 2011 and October 31, 2012 (we give preference to pictures taken inside the proposed wilderness.)



The Winter 2011-2012 Photo Contest winner: "Brrrrrr" by Andrew David Klaus

Send what you think is your very best. You can submit just one photo to this contest.

Submit pictures electronically by emailing them to sandy@scotchmanpeaks.org or as prints by mailing them to Photo Contest, P.O. Box 2061, Sandpoint, ID 83864. Please include information about where, when and, if you like, why you took the picture.

Electronic photos should be 2MB or larger. Prints should be 4 by 6 inches or larger.

Photos will be judged by Facebook Friends of Scotchman Peaks, who will vote by "liking" pictures posted in a special album. Ties will be decided by FSPW staff.

Prizes: Top four photo takers will be awarded a swag package from FSPW including a hat, bandana and t-shirt.

Grand prize: a personal or family photo session with professional photographer Kibby Walton, whose work you can view at www.facebook.com/artisanportrait

The way to win: Send those pictures in and invite your friends to vote for your photo on the Scotchman Peaks Facebook page, www.facebook.com/scotchmanpeaks!



Summer Winners, 2011. clockwise from above:
Steeper Than a Cow's Face by Brian Joekla
Early Summer Maple Leaves by Deb Hunsicker
The Work in Progress Tree by Denise Zembryki
Coya Out in the Snow as Usual by Jim and Sandii Mellen





Peak Views

The 2012 Summer Hike Series

Hike date	Exertion Rating	Destination/ Hike Name	Leader(s)	Description and contact info
9/15/12	Easy/ Moderate	Highway 200 Cleanup	Jacob Styer	Contact info: jacob@scotchmanpeaks.org or 828-989-8095 Help with our annual Highway 200 Cleanup (FSPW has a two-mile stretch just west of Clark Fork). Generally a half day of ditch walking paid off by lunch near the drift yard.
9/23/12	Strenuous	Scotchman Peak	Phil Hough and Deb Hunsicker	Contact info: 208-946-9127 or phil@scotchmanpeaks.org This is the classic hike up the namesake peak of our proposed wilderness. It's short but steep. We go at a slow pace, so steady effort is all that is needed to summit. Wide panoramas, stunning views of Lake Pend Oreille, fall colors and possible late season huckleberries will be highlights. Round trip: 8 miles Elevation gain: 3800 feet.

We are now accepting proposals for our 2012-13 winter hike series. Contact trails@scotchmanpeaks.org with your winter hike plan.

Scotchman History: Establishment of Scotchman 2 RNA

January of the coming year marks the 25th anniversary of the designation of an area surrounding Scotchman No. 2 as a Research Natural Area (RNA). The following is from the Establishment Record, which adds nicely to the reasons Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness feel that the Scotchman Peaks IRA should be designated wilderness: (References within the report text have been omitted for the sake of space.)

Introduction

Scotchman No. 2 Research Natural Area (RNA) is located in Bonner County, Idaho along the Idaho - Montana boundary within the Sandpoint Ranger District of the Kaniksu National Forest administered by the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. *It is reserved National Forest land surrounded by National Forest and is within the proposed Scotchman Peak Wilderness* (emphasis ours).

Land Management Planning

Scotchman No. 2 was recognized in 1974 as a possible candidate RNA by Dr. D.M. Henderson of the University of Idaho and was proposed as a candidate RNA by the Idaho Natural Areas Coordinating Committee. It was approved as one of the candidate RNAs to be included in the Forest Plan, Idaho Panhandle National Forests, at a meeting on August 6, 1981 of personnel of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest, Northern Region RNA Committee, and the Idaho Committee. The Environmental Impact Statement for the Forest Plan states that the alternative of the Proposed Plan calls for the addition of all RNAs recommended in the Regional Guide. The Northern Regional Guide assigned an alpine type to the Kaniksu National Forest for inclusion in a RNA. Scotchman No. 2 is listed as a candidate RNA in the Forest Plan of the Idaho Panhandle National Forests, and



Aerial photo of the Scotchman 2 area with the RNA outlined. The RNA is approximately 1270 acres, or two square miles.

in the Record of Decision, Forest Plan.

Objective

The objective of the Scotchman No. 2 RNA is to *preserve in an undisturbed (by man) condition a high-elevation, mountain-top area with its vegetation and complex geology* (emphasis ours). The RNA will serve as a reference area for study, as baseline area for determining long-term ecological changes, and as a monitoring area to determine effects of techniques and practices applied to similar ecosystems."

Justification

Although the highest mountain peaks of the panhandle of Idaho are not high enough to develop truly alpine vegetation, they do support some alpine plant species. Subalpine situations are important, too. Scotchman No. 2 was selected to represent upper-elevational, subalpine to near-alpine conditions on sedimentary rocks in the panhandle of Idaho. It was selected, also, as a representative of the complex geology of low-grade metamorphism of Precambrian sedimentary rock strata that have been folded, tilted, fractured, and glaciated. Geologically, Scotchman No. 2 is a tortured landmass. It is also habitat for grizzly bear.

The report goes on to call the area "A geologic wonderland of folded, tilted fractured, glaciated sedimentary rocks. . ." which is something many of our Friends have discovered over the ensuing years.

A copy of the report from which this information was gleaned was sent to us by Kent Wellner. Kent's father Charles, as a Forest Service volunteer, along with Robert Mosely of the Nature Conservancy, prepared the initial report to establish the RNA. We are grateful to Kent for his contribution.



Plein Air Seasons: 4th Annual Extreme and 5th Annual Paintout

Plein air painting, that specialized division of visual arts involving painting in the outdoors and quickly, has traditionally been done with oils. Until this year, though, the Scotchman Peaks Extreme Plein Air painters have confined themselves to watercolors due to restrictions placed upon them by the necessity of putting their supplies into already overloaded back packs and then transporting the art home unharmed. Oils dry slowly and tend to stick to surfaces for some time, including ones they are not intended to stick to.

This year, though, original Extreme Plein Air artists Jared Shear and Aaron Johnson brought their oils to Savage Basin for a three-day intensive that included painting from the top of Savage Mountain. Shear came up with a simple and effective way of keeping the freshly painted panels from sticking together without adding significant weight to his pack. He and Johnson were able to create several dozen oils and get them home.

Shear's method involves a hard plastic box and back to back paintings held separate by small "dots" of thick felt. "It took me four years to think this up," he says.

The Extreme Plein Air, an annual extended pack trip into the Scotchman, was held for the fourth time this year, August 8 through 11, and took the painters to Savage Basin and then to Little Spar Lake in the interior of the wilderness.

Fifth Scotchman Peaks Plein Air Paintout is October 5 - 7

The Extreme actually grew out of the Scotchman Peaks Plein Air Paintout, an annual event to be held for the fifth time this year, October 5 through 7. Organized and run by FSPW volunteers Ann and Neil Wimberley and Kally Thurman of the Outskirts Gallery in Hope, Idaho (with much help from Vera Gadman), this weekend-long event has been very successful from the beginning. Painters come from all over the northwest to paint the Scotchman Peaks and environs. Last year, over two dozen

painters hung 60-plus new paintings at the Outskirts for the Sunday afternoon judged show and art sale.

The Paintout was conceived by Thurman as a benefit for The Scotchmans as well as the painters who participate. "Paint for the legacy; buy for the legacy," is the catch-phrase she uses for the Paintout; the legacy being the wilderness itself. The painters are not asked to donate their paintings for the cause, but both the artists and the gallery donate part of their share of any sales from the Paintout to the Friends' cause.

New elements are being added to this year's Paintout.

For this Paintout, perennial participant Marilyn Macintire will supply each participating artist with a 6-by-10-inch d'Arches 140# CP paper with the request that they do a special "journal" painting to be collected into a folio box she is building herself, including a specially produced tile by Sandpoint ceramist Gail Lyster for the lid. The collected paintings (and accompanying writings) will be used to produce a small art book to be used as a fundraiser for the Friends of Scotchman Peaks.

The fifth annual Paintout also marks the first annual challenge for the artists: Out of the comfort zone and into the wilderness zone.

"We are asking the artists to take a step into the wilderness," says FSPW program coordinator Sandy Compton, "and maybe take a stab at something they might otherwise not paint, either on the micro or macro level. We have many fine paintings from outside of the wilderness looking in, but it would be wonderful to have more that were actually made inside the proposal."

To facilitate that, artists will be provided with maps and suggestions about places they can access the proposed boundary with relative ease. "We're recruiting volunteer guides to help artists find their way to new vistas," Compton says

In any case, as always, it will be an artful way to spend a weekend, whether painter or patron: painting for or buying for the legacy. Write to info@scotchmanpeaks.org for more information or register for the Paintout.



Aaron Johnson (right) and Jared Shear paint en plein air at 6900 feet atop Savage Mountain in the Scotchman Peaks.

Sandy Compton photo



In more genteel surroundings, artists confer at the Outskirts Gallery during the 2010 Paintout.

Neil Wimberley photo



Scotchman Birds: Migration

By Jon Isacoff, PhD

The days get shorter and cooler and ducks, geese, geese, and more geese are in the air. September and October are arguably the two largest migration months in the continental US. In actuality, shorebirds and songbirds make their big pushes in August moving into September and ducks and geese are just getting underway in October. So as one wave of migrants wanes, another waxes. What might you see on a Scotchman's hike or through the house or car window this time of year?

Many songbirds have already made their way south by September, but not all. In particular, large flocks – anywhere from tens to hundreds – of Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Yellow-rumped Warblers, and White-crowned Sparrows, will move through the Scotchman's in September and the first half of October. If you pay a little extra attention in October you'll note that thousands of Robins are around, sometimes in flocks of up to 500 at a time. Most will be in trees, not on the ground eating worms like the Robins of Spring, hence why they go unnoted. But Robins that live in the high boreal forests of Canada and the Yukon need to go south to survive the winter. Coming from the East Coast, I had not seen flocks of Robins in the trees in the yard in fall (or at least didn't notice it). I've come to find joy in a new way of seeing these plain ol' Robins during fall migration.

In October, look for ducks, geese, and as the fall moves on, Swans, Grebes, and Loons. Virtually every duck species



Trumpeter Swan

Photo by Randy Beacham
randybeacham.photoshelter.com/

the Canada's. The Scotchman's can see both of the native North American swan species – the Tundra and the Trumpeter. As a rule of thumb with exceptions, if you see a large flock of 20 to 200 or more birds, they are likely Tundra's. The main difference between the two species is the Trumpeter is about 40% larger, with a much longer neck and bill.

Keep an eye out as well for Loons and Grebes, particularly Western Grebe, a graceful black and white water bird with a long swan-like neck, and its shorter, chunkier cousin, the Red-necked Grebe. The Horned Grebe in its winter plumage resembles a miniature Western Grebe with a short neck and small, thin, bill and is about half the size of a Mallard. Last but not least is the diminutive Pied-billed Grebe, the most common member of its family in our region and a year-round resident and breeder.

Scotchman Natives

Cheery goldenrod brightens the landscape

By Valle Novak

"...the lands are lit with all the autumn blaze of Goldenrod..." (Helen Hunt Jackson)

Native to many lands, the goldenrod holds forth in late summer through autumn into frost, brightening the surroundings like dapples of sunlight. Often overlooked – or even maligned as an allergy bringer (it's the companion Ragwort that is the real culprit) – Goldenrod (*Solidago*) has been appreciated and even revered for centuries.

Our native plumed beauty, *Solidago Canadensis*, boasts composite clusters of yellow flowers formed above lance-leaved stems growing up to four feet tall. There are several varieties in our area, all preferring dry, sunny sites on meadows, slopes and up into the mountains and along riverbanks and gravel roadsides. *Solidago missouriensis* closely resembles *Canadensis*, but the Northern Goldenrod (*S. multiradiata*) looks and grows more like an aster – apropos, since goldenrods are members of the Asteraceae. A low-growing alpine Goldenrod (*S. spathulata*),

common on the coast but rare here, is great for rock-gardens.

Goldenrod is much appreciated in home gardens as a welcome accent to blue perennials: Larkspur, Delphinium, Monkshood, and the periwinkle-colored Rocky Mountain Aster or Michelmas daisy. Considered only as an ornamental now, in past eras, it was an important part of the pharmacopoeia of medical use. In the late 1500's John Gerard's *Herbal – The History of Plants*, extolled



Goldenrod (*Solidago Canadensis*)
Photo by Marilyn George

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Scotchman Rocks: Faked Out Again

By **Mark McFaddan, PhD**

Discovering fossils in the rocks is always one of the most exciting aspects of rockhounding and geology in general. Finding clues to our geologic past and the history of life on Earth catches our imaginations and gives us new perspective on the vastness of geologic time and a chance to envision landscapes long gone. And, of course, nothing is more fun than taking home our small fossil treasures and sharing them with others. However, a word to the wise: looks can be deceiving when it comes to “evidence” of past life!

Imposters lurk in every pile of loose talus, in every outcrop, and on the side of every road. These fake fossils, or pseudofossils, look unique enough to the untrained eye, and commonly take the form of secondary iron staining, sedimentary structures formed during deposition, or even distinctive surface features formed during fracturing of the rock. They make their way into countless private collections, rock shops, and even an occasional small museum.

Some of the most common pseudofossils are dendrites. These striking black features generally stand out against lighter rock colors, and get their name from the branching pattern they display on the rock surface. Commonly misidentified as “fossil ferns”, their delicate forms are convincing at first glance and seem to represent small fossil plants. It takes a closer look and some thoughtful insight in order to ferret out these geologic fossil frauds.

Dendrites form as water percolates through tiny fractures and cracks in the rock, leaving behind deposits of dissolved minerals. They are generally black because of their manganese oxide composition, and literally grow their intricate branching crystal forms as water moves deeper into the fractures and precipitates some of its mineral load. Similar to the manner in which ice crystals spread out across our automobile windshields on a freezing night, the dendrites advance over the surface of the microscopic fractures wherever water can penetrate.

But how can we tell that they are not really organic in origin? A closer look reveals that the branching patterns grow from the edges of a fractured rock surface toward the center from all sides. The rusty stains of iron oxides commonly accompany the growing dendrites, showing the slow advance of mineral laden water into rock fractures. Dendrites are also common on all surfaces of a broken piece of bedrock, commonly growing at right angles to any layering formed during deposition of sediment. True fossil plant material is generally aligned in planes as the sediment that carries it is deposited layer by layer.

The composition of the dendrite-bearing rock is usually another great clue that they are not the remains of ancient delicate plants. Rocks formed from deposits of superheated volcanic ash display wonderful dendrites, an environment that could never preserve fragile plant material. These pseudofossils also show up in rocks that were originally molten lava flows, coarse sands and gravels, and in metamorphic rocks formed under intense heat and pressure deep within the crust; none of these environments are capable of preserving such seemingly delicate forms.

So, keep an eye out for the delicate, intricately branching shapes of dendrites on rocks during your travels throughout northern Idaho. Although they are fossil fakes, they are still fascinating and worthy of collecting. Ultimately, dendrites are yet another good reason to bring home more rock samples for your bookshelf or flowerbed. Remember, if you find great ones on the side of the road or trail, it is a super chance to get your Christmas presents lined up early!

Delicate dendrites growing from the edges of the rock sample toward the center of the exposed fracture surface.

Photo by Mark McFaddan





Lincoln County, from page 2

year. Another first, and this was a huge one, was to have a booth at the Libby Logger Days event. Charlie Clough on the first day, Phil Hough on the second day, Doug Ferrell on the third day and Mollie Kieran on each day, chatted all day long with attendees. Sandy Compton had prepared us our own Lincoln County display board, a huge one, full of photos from events we have been involved in. Folks were very interested in viewing the information which gave us an opportunity to visit with them. We shared information about the Scotchman Peaks proposed wilderness – where it is, how to get there, what Wilderness designation is and how to get it, why it is so important and so on.

We received three pages of new Friends, one of whom was Mike Cole who is running for Lincoln County Commissioner. It was a good event and a reminder of how willing folks have become to work together to promote healthy forests, wilderness places, and responsible logging. In addition to the events at which we have booths set up, we also gift many

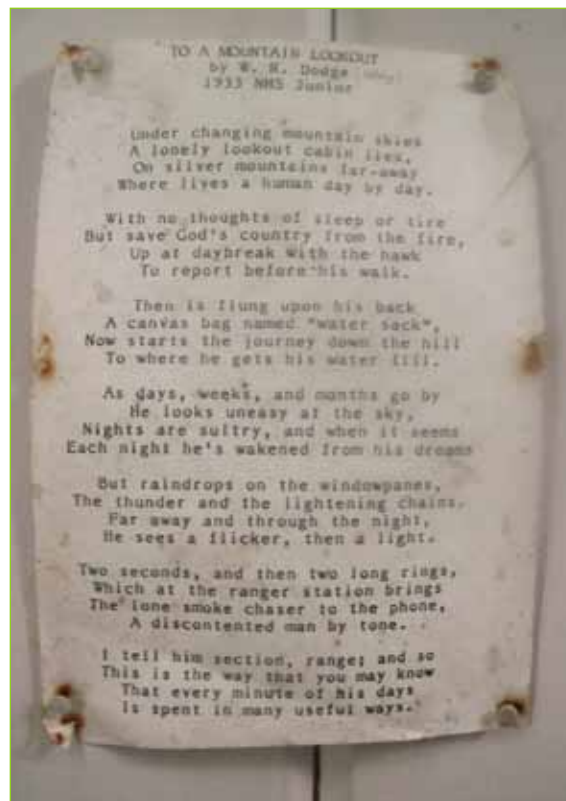
organizations for their fund raisers, to name a few, St. John's Lutheran Hospital and their Community Health Services, several Volunteer Fire Departments, both the Libby and Troy Chambers of Commerce, Ducks Unlimited and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.

Our "Community Prosperity" efforts which will be off and running at high speed the first of the year have been presented to the Lincoln County Tourism Bureau of which Mollie is a board member, the Kootenai River Development Council, both Troy and Libby Chambers of Commerce, the Libby City Administrator, the Lincoln County Commissioners, Flathead Valley Community College Libby Campus, Plum Creek Timber and various local business owners along with other entities. In addition we have joined the Common Ground Committee of the Kootenai National Forest Stakeholder's group in an effort to work with the forest industry, national forest management, conservationists and local citizens. All of these efforts bring us closer to public understanding and awareness as to what the Scotchman Peaks area is all about and why it should become a designated Wilderness.

Scotchman Tales: Wag Dodge — Lookout, firefighter, poet

Robert Wagner "Wag" Dodge grew up at Noxon and spent at least one summer as a lookout on what was then called Squaw Peak. His poem, "To a Mountain Lookout," was written in 1933, when he was a junior at Noxon High School.

Under changing mountain skies
A lonely lookout cabin lies,
On silver mountains far away
Where lives a human day by day.
With no thoughts of sleep or tire
But save God's country
from the fire,
Up at daybreak with the hawk
To report before his walk.
Then is flung upon his back
A canvas bag named "water sack",
Now starts the journey down the hill
To where he gets his water fill.
As days, weeks, and months go by
He looks uneasy at the sky,
Nights are sultry,
and when it seems
Each night he's wakened
from his dreams
But raindrops on the windowpanes,
The thunder and the lightening chains.



Wag's poem was discovered thumbtacked to the ceiling of Star Peak lookout. Photo by Sandy Compton

Far away and through the night,
He seeks a flicker, then a light.
Two seconds, and then
two long rings,
Which at the ranger station brings
The lone smoke chaser to the phone,
A discontented man by tone.
I tell him section, range; and so
This is the way that you many know
That every minute of his days
Is spend in many useful ways.
Wag was one of three survivors of 16 fire-fighters who went to the Mann Gulch Fire northeast of Helena in August of 1949. He was one of the smoke-jumpers who arrived via C-47 and parachute from Missoula on the afternoon of the 5th. When the fire ran up the gulch as a 20-foot high wall of flame and overcame thirteen men, Wag lit a backfire and then crouched in "the black," saving himself, and pioneering an escape method still taught to fire fighters today.

His poem was discovered thumb-tacked to the ceiling of Star Peak Lookout 3 days short of the 63rd anniversary his escape from the Mann Gulch Fire. Wag died 6 years later at age 39, purportedly of Hodgkin's Disease.



“Starry,” from page 1

the next two months, had an amazing volunteer team show up for four work days. They cut a mile and a quarter of trail and are halfway through the project. At this rate, it will be finished next summer.

To top off the Star Peak summer, the Nine Mile Mule Team, the Forest Service pack string headquartered in Huson, Montana, spent August 1 and 2 hauling restoration supplies to the lookout atop Star. Packers Casey Burns and Mark Pengelly were assisted by FSPW volunteers and staff, and journalist Rich Landers of the *Spokesman Review* was on hand to write a story about the project. Cindy Betlach from Three Rivers Ranger District and husband Steve, Kootenai National Forest archaeologist Rachel Reckin, USFS intern Jeremy Leibenguth and Terry Hightower of the Cabinet Ranger District all pitched in to help. FSPW staffers and volunteers Irv McGeachy, Melissa Demotte and U of M journalism student Emily Downing rounded out the crew.

The lookout, a cabin that has been on site since the early

1950s, will benefit by the supplies hauled by mules Palmer, Ruthie, Sadie, Burt, Yoder, Kate, Tess and Meg. Restoration efforts by the Forest Service and FSPW will continue over the next few years.

Calling the group working on the Star Peak projects “amazing” is an understatement; they labored through some of the hottest days of the summer. The average age of the trail crew was 61 for the first three days. On the fourth day, Selkirk Outdoor Leadership and Education exec Dennison Webb brought youngsters Vaughn, Elsa and Martin, which gave the crew an opportunity to show young whippersnappers how to work.

Digging holes (another rock and yet another) for the Kootenai National Forest trailhead signboards rounded out the summer’s trail work. There are still some projects and just plain fun “on the horizon” for this fall, including a “makeup day” on the Cabinet in Blacktail Creek and Pillick Ridge and a National Public Lands trail work day on Morris Creek on September 29 with the Panhandle National Forest Sandpoint District.

Come on out and join us! Contact trails@scotchmanpeaks.org.

“Natives,” from page 8

it “above all other herbes for the stopping of blood in bleeding wounds” and bemoaned the fact that since it grew wild in Hampstead Wood was overlooked in favor of less efficient medications “from beyond the sea.” T’was ever thus, right? But we who love the outdoors and trust its healing powers can take heart in the fact that if we cut ourselves out in the boonies and there is Goldenrod in the vicinity, we can simply pat those showy flower heads into place on the wound. (We could also do the same with Yarrow’s {*Achillea*} ferny leaves but this column isn’t about them).

A century or so later, in 1649, Nicholas Culpeper published *The Complete Herbal* and reiterated Gerard’s words. But Gerard’s background was in garden design and hands-on planting, making the transition to herbal, rather than ornamental, usage gradually. Culpeper, however, studied pharmacology from the beginning – so his thrust was nearly totally medical. As a result, his approach to Goldenrod went Gerard one better – with even more enthusiastic praises for its benefits

Through study, trial and error, he found that while Goldenrod is “a sovereign wound-herb” it is “most effectively used as a distilled water” ...as... “an excellent diuretic and few remedies exceed it where there is gravel, stone in the kidney” ... so that “the parts are cleansed and healed at the same time.” It is also recommended as a gargle, mouthwash for throat ulcers, and a wash for “venereal cases.”

As backup, a modern day herbalist/medico writes that an infusion of 1 ounce of the leaves to 1 pint of boiling water taken in doses of 2 fluid ounces 3-4 times a day serves as treatment for arthritis, eczema and excessive monthly flow in women, as well as removing feelings of nausea due to stomach disorder. Too, the powder of the dried leaves can be applied to ulcers

externally to stimulate healing. Seven centuries of testing has to make one a believer. This stuff is really good!

If you’re not into natural healing with plants, go with Arthur Kruckeberg’s advice in his *Gardening with Native Plants of the Pacific NW*. He points out Gertrude Jeckyl’s use of Goldenrod as part of “the harmony of an old-fashioned flower bed.” He asks us to look closer and marvel at “the elegant symmetry of hundreds of tiny flower heads on slender arching branchlets making a golden glow on into autumn.” He tells us to simply cut some pieces of the extensive rhizome system for easy transplanting and mentions that Goldenrod also comes readily from seeds.

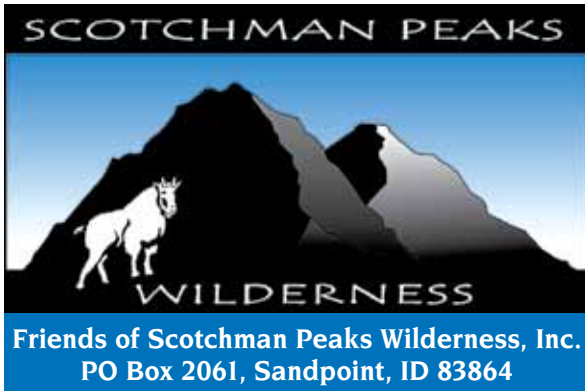
So, enjoy the fall show of Goldenrod and other landscape brighteners on your cool weather outings – and remember the surprising secrets of healing contained in those lovely golden plumes.

Be stylin’ and ready!

Our bandanas can save your bacon, with the printed-on Scotchman Peaks map. They and our other swag are available at Mountain Meadows in Libby, MT, Huckleberry Thicket in Trout Creek, MT, The Hope Market Place in Hope, ID and Foster’s Crossing, Eichardt’s, and Outdoor Experience in Sandpoint, ID. Out of the area, contact jimnsandii@gmail.com.

Limited edition sweatshirts saluting Team Laughing Dog in the Race Across America are available at Greasy Fingers Bike Shop in Sandpoint. Other Scotchman merchandise is available in our online store at www.scotchmanpeaks.org/store





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.

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