



Uniting thousands of Montanans and Idahoans to save the wild Scotchmans for our children and grandchildren.



Trails open for summer fun



Want to be a Trail Ambassador? See page 8!

Dave Kretschmar and Jeff Pennick love the Scotchman Peaks, and especially Scotchman Peaks trails. On a gray day in April the two trudged up Goat Mountain Trail #135 on a mission to explore what needs to be done to improve that track. It's kind of steep, to put it mildly, and they were helping to find ways to make it a bit more user-friendly.

That's basically the job of the

Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness trail volunteers; making trails easier to find, stay on and — sometimes — even climb. A good example is the first three-quarters of a mile of Scotchman Peak Trail #65, which the FSPW trail crew “remodeled” during the 2015 and 2016 trail work seasons. The average pitch of the stretch dropped from about 25% to about 14%, which gives hikers a chance to warm up a bit at the bottom

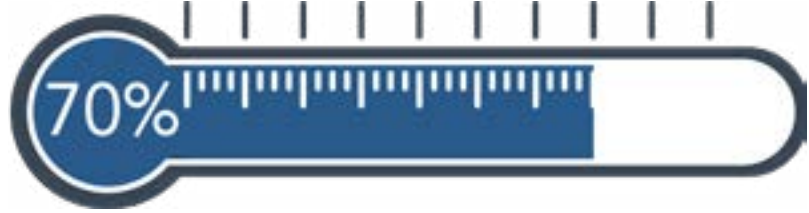
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Double your donation!

Thanks to a challenge grant from the Cinnabar Foundation, FSPW could receive \$5,000. The trick is that we need to raise \$5,000 this summer to match it.

The Scotchman Peaks need sup-

porters like you to help us get there. Folks have given nearly \$3,500 so far. Join the race to \$5,000 by visiting our website or by dropping a check in the mail today.



Save us a stamp!

Sign up to receive Peak Experience by email at scotchmanpeaks.org/friends

Page 2: The Call of the Wild
Chances for Summer Adventure around Every Corner!
Pages 7: A Walk in the Moist Montane

THE CALL OF THE WILD

From the director

Leave a legacy of Wilderness

Become a founding supporter of the Scotchman Peaks endowment fund.

Your planned gift will help to save the wild Scotchmans for everyone. Forever.

To find out more, email legacy@scotchmanpeaks.org

The wild Adirondacks are calling, all the way from upstate New York! At 6 million acres, Adirondack State Park is larger than Yellowstone, Everglades, Glacier, and Grand Canyon National Parks combined.

This summer I plan to hike across this vast landscape.

In 1873, the first New York Commission on State Parks recommended the creation of Adirondack



The Adirondacks • Wikipedia Commons

State Park. The commission was interested in “political economy.” They feared a timber drought. They wanted to assure replanting and active management kept a sustainable supply of timber and water. They also wanted forest preserve lands to be kept wild. Their solution was a mosaic of public

and private lands, managed as one park. The seven-member commission included my great, great grandfather, Franklin B. Hough.

The creation of the Adirondacks was a focus of Franklin’s life. One of the

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The editor’s desk

I grew up in Scotchman territory. There’s something about living your formative years in mountain landscapes that gets into your blood.

It’s just one reason why I’m excited to contribute to Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness as a newsletter editor.

And fittingly, my debut newsletter is all about summer fun. Whether it’s huckleberry picking, fishing, hiking, hunting or simply the pull of nature that gets you outside,

summer tends to bring out the best in the experience.

The beauty of the Northwest is that line separating humans and nature is slim indeed. I learned that growing up in the Montana mountains. And it’s part of why I’ve lived for years in Sandpoint. You could say I found my wild place in this area.

How will you find your wild place this season? There’s no better time to find out than now.

-Cameron Rasmusson

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A passion for nature

Sophie Conerly drove 39 hours from Georgia to her summer quarters at Trout Creek Ranger Station on the Cabinet Ranger District. That's a long haul, but she was excited to make the trip, ready for a big adventure. She's having one, too. Sophie is the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness 2019 backcountry ranger/outreach intern.

She is a soft-spoken native Georgian who says "yes sir" and "yes ma'am." She has a twin brother, and her dog Waylon — who stayed at home — is named for a country singer. She is a rising senior at Georgia College and State University. Her major is outdoor education, with a minor in environmental science.

Sophie is a confident addition to the FSPW team. She looks forward to the know-how — and adventure —

her time in wild country with FSPW will provide. "I intend to seek a job as a ranger," she says. "This job will provide knowledge for my future."

Sophie attended USFS Guard School during her first week of work, where she learned fire-fighting skills. She will work on wilderness trails with both Forest Service and Scotchman Peaks trail crews. It's apparent that she's ready for her new job. She reported to training in Chippewa work boots that exceed USFS trail work standards. And they were broke in.

She's doing solo patrols on popular trails in the Scotchman Peaks, working on trails and visiting with people about relating to wild places.

"I'm passionate about teaching visitors about the environment," she says. "I want to use my positive attitude and love of the outdoors to educate visitors about how to protect the area's wild



Sophie Conerly

character."

On the more civilized side, Sophie is working tables at FSPW outreach events. She will be with FSPW through the end of the Trout Creek Huckleberry Festival in August before driving back across America to start her last year of school. And her next adventure.

-Sandy Compton

Telling the Wilderness tale

The environment is a running theme in my work as a journalist these past eight years. It's just one reason why I'm so excited to join the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness team as a communications specialist and newsletter editor.

You may already know me from

my work as the Sandpoint Reader editor the past four years. And moving forward, you'll still see my byline within the Reader pages as its

editor at large. Prior to the Reader,



Cameron Rasmusson

I worked as a staff writer for the Bonner County Daily Bee, and I still freelance for various local and state publications. I'm working to broaden my experiences as I prepare for law school next year — more specifically, environmental law, if all goes according to plan. There's no better way to appreciate why the environment is worth protecting than by participating in the boots-on-the-ground work the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness does every day.

To that end, I'm writing blog posts and press releases, collecting testimonials and, of course, working on this very newsletter. It's exciting work, and I'm proud to be a part of it.

So cheers, North Idaho! I'm excited to be working on an issue close to so many hearts, and I hope you are too.

The amazing Pulaski

Next time you are out with the FSPW trail crew or walking one of the Scotchman trails, remember Ed Pulaski. He invented (or, at least, refined) the trail tool that bears his name. The combination axe and mattock was Edward Crockett Pulaski's forged response to the Fire of 1910. He was there to watch it burn up the country around Wallace, Idaho — and try to stop its progress. When the monster fire tried to devour his 45-man crew, he saved 40 of their lives — and his



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FSPW's upcoming events

Want more details? www.ScotchmanPeaks.org



40th Annual Huckleberry Festival

Aug. 9-11

FSPW will be on hand at this year's 40th Annual Huckleberry Festival in Trout Creek, and we need your help. Volunteers will be on hand to share their Scotchman Peaks adventures with locals and tourists alike while providing information on local hikes, stewardship projects, and volunteer opportunities.

Stay in the know as an FSPW Insider!

To sign up, email info@scotchmanpeaks.org



Bonner County Fair

Aug. 21-24

The Bonner County Fair in Sandpoint is always a major draw in connecting visitors and locals with local organizations, Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness included. Come enjoy great food and fair activities while getting the Wilderness word out.

Brews for Benefits

Sept. 19

Toss back a beer or two for a good cause at Big Eddy's in Thompson Falls from 6-9 p.m. Mountain Time.



Kootenai Harvest Festival

Sept. 14

Starting at noon, bring in the harvest with FSPW at Riverfront Park in Libby. Check out the live music, fresh produce, beer from Cabinet Mountain Brewing and German food from the Gracious Table.

National Public Lands Day

Sept. 28

For National Public Lands Day, FSPW is celebrating the volunteers that keep the dream of the wild Scotchmans alive with a picnic in Clark Fork.

Jesika Harper brings Wilderness expertise to FSPW board



Jesika Harper

Jesika Harper has embraced a life-long love of Wilderness issues. She brings that dedication — and a new perspective — to the FSPW board.

Jesika was born in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Her family has strong ties to the timber industry with a grandfather and two uncles who owned and operated logging companies for more than 40 years. Jesika graduated from Regis

University in Denver, Colo., with a degree in business administration. She works at Northwest Farm Credit Services and is a relationship manager who provides financial resources to farmers and ranchers.

She and her husband enjoy packing in the wilderness, hunting, and snowmobiling. They have three children and live in Rathdrum.

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Finding fun in summer sun

When the weather gets warm, the FSPW crew heads outside! There's no shortage of events to entertain while doing Wilderness work.



Clockwise from top: Shelby Herber and Deb Hunsicker march in the Sandpoint Fourth of July parade; a smiling Larry Siegrist displays his Old Goat award; Jared Shear, Carol Maddux, Ed Robinson and Aaron Johnson show off their Extreme Plein Air paintings; the Western Montana Picnic honors Scotchman Peaks volunteers.

Trails, from page 1

of the trail. Also, the views that first mile went from near zero to a whole bunch.

The change in grade and the added views are important, but so is how durable the trail is. The new tread goes a long way to prevent water damage from runoff. And, it has the stamp of approval of stock users Alan and Jesika Harper, who deemed the ride on Trail #65 one of their favorites. "When I am riding my horse in the Scotchmans," Alan said, "I can't help to think how lucky I am to have such a wild place with awesome views within an hour of my home."

FSPW volunteers help keep the Scotchman Peak trails in good shape. The 2019 "summer phase" Old Goat (volunteer of the year) is Larry Siegrist, one of the most stalwart trail volunteers. Larry started volunteering on Scotchman Peak trails in 2016, and in

2018 put in a record eight days. That kind of dedication translates into better, more accessible trails for everyone. Public lands belong to everyone, and FSPW trail volunteers strive to keep local trails open for all to walk.

"I love the Scotchman Peaks," said Kretzschmar. "I've been rambling their trails ever since I arrived here. They are rugged and wild and the hand of man is light on the landscape."

Trail season is open and trail work adventures are waiting. Helping make and keep trails user-friendly can some-

"They are rugged and wild and the hand of man is light on the landscape."

Dave Kretzschmar



Dave Kretzschmar

times be hard work, but it is also great exercise, good citizenship, a source of camaraderie and very satisfying.

Flip flops and mountain goats

FSPW's scholarship-winning essay By Yeo Won Yarnell



Phil Hough and Yeo Won Yarnell

I was raised in a household that highly valued doing outdoor activities like hiking, biking and skiing. My parents first took me backpacking when I was 2 years old, and ever since I have fallen in love with being in the wilderness. My father has a huge passion for backpacking and is one of the reasons I love it so much. He has many stories from all his travels like his 30-day backpacking trip on the Pacific Crest Trail in Washington. Backpacking has always been something we did as a family, and through these adventures I have gained many skills and knowledge. One of my most memorable trips was backpacking to Rock Lake when I was 9 years old.

Rock Lake is part of the Kaniksu National Forest in the Cabinet Mountain Wilderness of Montana. The trail is about five miles long, fairly rocky and steep. With my father, mother and little sister, we cheerfully hiked up to the lake, singing songs all the way. My

father told us that being loud would help keep the bears away, so it became a tradition that my little sister and I sang every time we hiked to keep our family safe. My father taught us many things on that trip, such as how to use a compass, set up a tent, build a fire and filter water. I was getting to the age where I could help set up camp and carry more weight. This trip was a huge learning curve where I saw how much work needed to be done to back-pack safely.

That night while we were sleeping, my dad heard movement in our camp. He saw the shadow of an animal as it knocked over one of our cups. He grabbed his gun and cocked it, which woke up my mother. He peeked out and saw that it was just a mountain goat. He safely put away the gun and went back to bed. The next morning when we woke up, we saw the footprints the mountain goat had left. My father had hung our food in the tree so the mountain goat didn't eat any. However, I had forgotten to put my flip flops in my tent the night before. When I went to put them on, one was missing and the other had a giant bite mark in it. The mountain goat had eaten my flip flop! I learned a very important lesson that day: Never leave your flip flops outside!

The trip to Rock Lake is a memory I will always treasure because of the lessons I learned and the connections

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Get your hike on!

For a full schedule, visit scotchmanpeaks.org

Whitebark Pine Field Trip

Aug. 3

A hike to stands of mature whitebark pine on Scotchman Peak

Morris Creek for the Dogs

Sept. 21

Bring your furry friend out for a walk in the woods

How to volunteer

For a full schedule, visit scotchmanpeaks.org

Ross Creek Crossing at the South Fork

Aug. 3

Rebuilding Trail #142 creek crossing

East Fork Creek and East Fork Peak

Aug. 17

Brushing, clearing blowdowns, tread work and more

Morris Creek Trail End Game

Aug. 24

Brushing and tread work on the upper end

Goat Mountain Rebuild

Sept. 7, 8, 28

Heavy maintenance to restore Trail #135

Email info@scotchmanpeaks.org for more information

Pulaski, from page 3

own — by leading them into an abandoned mine. To keep the men there in their panic, he stood at the entry with a pistol in his hand and vowed to shoot anyone who tried to leave. By



Ed Pulaski

the end of that day and night, he was badly burned and temporarily blind. He slowly healed and regained his sight, but only in one eye.

A year after the fire, he came up with the tool that became the standard U.S. Forest Service fire fighting tool. It turned into a favored trail-building and maintenance tool as well.

Ed applied for a patent, but it was denied. In fact, he was never paid for his design and had to fight for compensation for his own injuries and those of his crew members. He also pursued — and eventually received — funds for a monument to fallen fire fighters, tending the graves of Big Burn victims until his own death.

Ed Pulaski, who retired from his 22-year Forest Service career a year before his death on Feb. 2, 1931, was a modest man who seldom spoke publicly about his heroics during the fire. Sometime during a trail day, pick up a Pulaski, give it a swing and remember the man who made it: Ed Pulaski, hero of “the big burn.”

Learn more about Ed Pulaski at <http://bit.ly/EdPulaski> and in the book, “The Big Burn,” by Timothy Eagan.

A walk in the Moist Montane

What is the Moist Montane, anyway, and what do I see when I walk there on a warm July morning?

Story and art by Marilyn McIntyre

In the Northern Rocky Mountains, the forests are divided into three major forest zones: The Dry Montane, The Moist Montane and the Cold (sub-alpine) Forests. Here in the Moist Montane (elevation: 3,200 feet) we have lush forests resulting from moist marine air from the Pacific Ocean running into the rugged glacier created topography of the Cabinet mountains. So when I walk I see a broad diversity of plants and animals, one of the most important in this time of warming climate is the beaver.

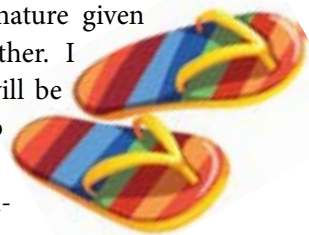
The last few years have been dry

with the snow pack very low in moisture and melting early. This leaves the beavers, who are natural water keepers to mimic the snow pack in holding water back for the two hot, dry months of July and August and keeping the creeks and streams running. We have two new dams in our neck of the woods, and I hope you are able to see some beaver sign when you take your summer hikes with FSPW. And, if you can, read Ben Goldfarb’s delightful book “Eager: The surprising secret life of Beavers and why they matter.” Have a wonderful and fun filled summer in the Cabinets.

Flip Flops, from page 6

it created with my family. That trip was a pivotal learning experience, and I acquired many new skills, including how to use a compass and start a fire with a flint. The moments I shared with my father, who taught me those skills, and singing along with my mom and little sister are irreplaceable. Even getting my flip flop eaten by a mountain goat is something I’ll always look back

on and laugh at. This particular trip was special, but all of the wilderness adventures I have gone on have taught me so much. I have a huge appreciation and passion for nature given to me by my father. I hope one day I will be able to pass it onto my kids and go on more crazy adventures.



Ambassadors keep the peace with goats



Tracie Babor hard at work as a Goat Ambassador

The mountain goats that call Scotchman Peak home are still there. And so are some very well-dressed trail ambassadors. The fourth season of the partnership between FSPW, Idaho Fish & Game (IDFG), and the Idaho Panhandle National Forests (IPNF) is underway.

Volunteers have been out on weekends and holidays hiking Scotchman Peak since mid-June. They chat with other hikers about safety in mountain goat country. This includes how to keep those pesky goats away when they are in

search of salt (AKA sweat). And also, why to keep them away.

In 2015, a Scotchman Peak hiker was letting a mountain

An ode to morels

Merriweather, that explorer intrepid,
called our favorite fungi "insipid."
He thought morels not so great,
and noted it during the Corps' long wait,
for Lolo Pass' winter snows to thaw.
Did he try Morchella esculenta raw?
They're much better cooked in garlic
and butter
which makes a mushroom lover utter,
"Mmmmm."

Even with no butter, garlic, or tarragon,
Mr. Lewis' options for morels were not gone.

The Corps could have fried them up in bear fat,
something naturalist friends say that
could be a wonderful presentation
of our favorite spring fungal creation.

They follow the fires or appear in odd places.
Finding them brings smiles to our faces.
Hunting them is akin to unearthing great treasure.
Eating them allows our taste buds full measure
of one of nature's loveliest blessings:

-Sandy Compton

goat lick the sweat off his leg. The hiker decided he was done and ready to move on. The goat disagreed. Some stitches and conversations with FSPW, IDFG, and IPNF later, there was a plan in place to close the trail. The goats needed some time away from people.

Scotchman Peak Trail ended up being closed for the remainder of the season due to fire. When folks started hiking it again in 2016, the herd had not forgotten how yummy they find sweat and human food. Luckily, the Trail Ambassador program kicked off that same year.

This season, hikers seem to be responding well to a little education. There is still the occasional selfie with a mountain goat licking people's ears. Luckily, the good advice from the ambassadors is spreading. There is an increasing number of unofficial ambassadors on the trail. If someone is letting a goat lick them, it's not just dangerous for that person and the goat, it's dangerous for all the other hikers to come. And people aren't afraid to let others know that.

If you want to join the volunteer Trail Ambassadors, the official season runs through the first weekend of October. All open dates can be found at <http://bit.ly/FSPWgoats>.

Dealing with mountain goats

Give them space! The recommended safe distance is 100 feet.

Be intimidating! Be loud. Wave your arms. Throw rocks at their hooves. Show the goat you're not an easy target for salt.

Practice "leave no trace" principles! Pack out all trash and food. Urinate well off-trail and in the dirt. Utilize the port-a-potties at the trailhead.

Eat somewhere else! The goats know the summit is a good place to eat. If they start to approach, pack up and move downhill to finish your lunch.

Remember where you are! You're in their home, not the other way around.



Photo by Bryan Tollbom

Growing up Scotchman

Why George and Diane Newcomer see Wilderness as a family matter

Every time they wake up, Diane and George Newcomer see Scotchman Peak out their window.

The mountain looms large next to their ranch just outside Clark Fork. It's a constant reminder of what they've built over the decades — and what they could lose.

"I don't want to see that turned into a mine or anything else," said George. "It's what we really love this area for."

The Newcomers sought out North Idaho in part for the lifestyle it offers. And there's no better symbol of that lifestyle than Scotchman Peak. From their ranch at the mountains' feet, Diane and George watched their children grow. It was the ultimate playground for childhood adventure.

"It's a beautiful place to raise kids, and I pretty much turned them loose on it," Diane said.

To the Newcomers, the Scotchmans aren't just trees, crags and wildlife. There are decades of memories hidden in those rugged corners. Inspired by the wonder of their wild backyard, the Newcomers built a life around nature. They are surrounded by their beloved farm animals: dogs, cats, horses and donkeys.

But the Newcomers know that the wild Scotchmans aren't a guarantee for their grandchildren. All it takes is a series of bad decisions, and that pristine land is gone forever. That's why they support action to save the wild Scotchmans. It's the one sure bet to save some childhood adventures for generations of

Idahoans and Montanans to come.

"It's been a great place to grow up, both for myself and the kids, and I can't imagine trying to raise kids in a city when you have country like this," said Diane.



George and Diane Newcomer

Call of the wild, from page 2

Adirondack's tallest mountains, Hough Peak, was named in his honor.

In 1894, New York's Constitution would be amended to direct state forest preserves be kept forever wild.

In September 1901, President McKinley was dying from an assassin's bullet. Intense pressure and scrutiny fell upon Vice President Theodore Roosevelt. To find strength and resolve, he hiked into the Adirondacks. Roosevelt camped at a small tarn below the summit of Mt. Marcy (New York's tallest mountain) the night McKinley was nearing death. A messenger was dispatched. Roosevelt was awoken and set upon a wild midnight hike, followed

by horse, carriage and train to Buffalo to be sworn in.

This summer, my wife and I seek out our own Adirondack adventure. I have assured Deb of no midnight rambles. We go for rejuvenation in the tranquil, serene beauty of nature. To explore mountains and lakes largely unchanged. We go to make personal connections. To see and feel what inspired Roosevelt and my great, great grandfather. We will camp in the shadow of Hough Peak. We will drink from the tarn that nourished Roosevelt's soul. We will listen to the call of the wild. We will



Deb Hunsicker and Phil Hough look for, and find, our own wild place.

-Phil Hough



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

YOU CAN SAVE THE WILD SCOTCHMANS!

- **Donate to FSPW** to save the incredibly wild Scotchman Peaks for our children and grandchildren. **To donate, visit our website or mail in the form below.**
- **Volunteer** your time whether it's breaking a sweat on the trail, talking to folks at an outreach table, or helping with office work.
- **Save us a stamp** and printing costs by receiving Peak Experience by email.

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