

Sightlines

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Spring 2018

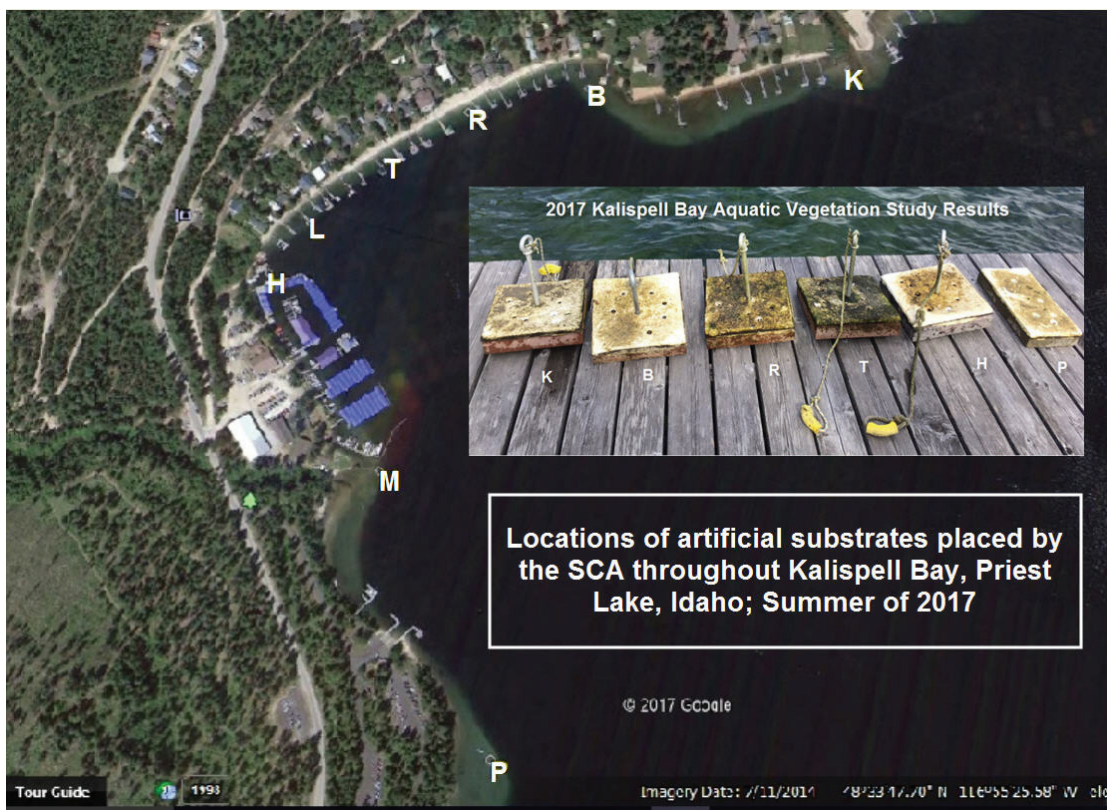
Newsletter of the Selkirk Conservation Alliance

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Sightlines is the newsletter of the
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providing environmental
oversight and public information
for the Selkirk Mountains.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

As I type this my fingers are nearly frozen, I have two coats on, a blanket in my lap, and an electric heater buzzing at my side. It's snowing like crazy outside and my house here on the lake is gutted to the studs, with tarps flapping in the wind covering the big holes in the roof where the old fireplaces once protruded. Yes, my interior renovation to eradicate the hoards of ant, mice, squirrels, and the lead pipes that nearly killed me last summer is finally underway. And that means your 4-6 months (or more?) of having a hard to find executive director have begun! Because of my nearly frozen fingers, this will be a very short message – but I promise you won't really notice because so many members have stepped up to contribute some of their fondest Selkirk memories to this issue...

Last fall, when I started thinking about what the spring issue should look like, I realized we could all benefit from a look back at our collective history in the Selkirk's, and here at

Priest Lake. At major turning points in life like anniversaries, it can be helpful to take stock of where we've been, reflecting on the places and the people who have helped to forge our character and values. Then, after some soul searching, it's again time to set a path to the future you most wish to see – and start making it happen.

As we start this anniversary celebration year at the SCA, please put some careful thought into how you have, and will continue to help preserve this region, and this organization moving forward. We all need to pitch in to make sure it's still here to celebrate another 30 year milestone, and "the wild" continues to thrive for the next generations who seek solace in this special region as we have.

Until next time ---

Cheryl Moody
Executive Director, SCA
moody@scawild.org

SCA Membership Report

Fall 2017	162
Spring 2018	107
	(+ 57 Renewals Pending)
Goal for 2018:	250

SCA Social Media Report & Facebook 101

June 2016	194 Facebook Likes
March 2017	243 Facebook Likes
March 2018	434 Facebook Likes!

Please remember to "Like" and "Follow" our page and to "Like" "Comment" and "Share" our posts with your friends periodically.

Remember, all SCA activities appear as Facebook Events on our Facebook Page. Whenever we post a new event it will help to promote it across social media platforms if

you simply indicate you are "Interested" in the event, even if you have no intentions of going.

So please, get "Interested" in all the SCA events today and get "Going" to as many of them as your schedule will allow!

PayPal Giving Fund Supports Anonymous Donations

We know that some SCA supporters like to keep their association with us anonymous. There are many reasons companies or individuals opt to do this. The Paypal Giving Fund is a registered 501(c) charity, so any contributions you make to them will result your tax deductible receipt coming from them, not the SCA. However, when you designate the SCA as your charity under the fund, we'll receive the funds you donate within a month of receipt with no overhead or administrative deduction made by Paypal. We'll then issue a receipt to the giving fund for our records – so if you choose to remain anonymous when you make the donation to Paypal, we'll absolutely have no way of ever finding out who you are...

Room with a View: Stories from the Fire Lookout

BY ROBERT BOND, SCA MEMBER

Fire Lookouts. I can't remember when I first became enamored with the idea of manning a fire lookout, but it had to have been at an early age. My very first memory dates to about age three and involved playing in the sand along Sherwood Beach on Priest Lake in the early 1940s. From then on my father would take me on varying outdoor adventures whenever he had time, be it camping, hiking, fishing, or just driving the back roads around Priest Lake.

In those days there were no off-road type vehicles except army jeeps, and my father drove his 1942 and 1948 Cadillacs up some ridiculous roads. I remember the radiator boiling over and one time being stranded when he knocked a hole in the oil pan. These adventures often involved either driving or hiking to various lookouts, and I dare say I have visited a good percentage of the lookouts in the northern tip of Idaho and northeastern Washington. In those days it was a rare mountain top that did not host a lookout of one flavor or another, and I have set foot in a good many of them over the years.

At some point the notion of spending a summer on top of a mountain became an obsession, and after my junior year in college I applied for one or two lookout positions but did not land a job. After my senior year I became a little more proactive and applied to six or seven ranger districts and was accepted for every one! So I had to make a decision, and hence my first job with the Sullivan Lake Ranger District manning Sullivan Mountain LO in the summer of 1960. I had just graduated from college and could think of no better way to unwind before starting medical school in the fall. The first three weeks were spent attending fire school and working trails on Hall Mountain. We were fed very well in the mess hall, but I was rather shocked to see the amount of food that some of the workers managed to ingest. There was one fellow who wouldn't dirty his plate with fewer than 10 or 12 eggs. Then the first of July I drove my 54 Mer-

cury to the top of Sullivan Mountain, not an easy task if you know what that road is like. A brand new lookout had been built in 1959, so I was the first person to man the new LO in 1960. One of the first items of business was to tear down the old tower that had been built in 1937. At age 21 a true sense of nostalgia had not yet set in, so there was no remorse in seeing the old tower come crashing down.

What a great summer! I remember reporting eight to ten fires that summer. It was a challenge to get the fires precisely located using the Osborne Fire-finder, but satisfying when it happened. Unfortunately, the one fire I still remember the most is the one that I missed, even though it was closer to me than any other lookout. My fire patrol officer was not pleased.

What does one do with 24 hours of uninterrupted solitude on top of a mountain aside from the regular schedule of searching for fires, taking weather recordings, cooking, and hauling water? In those days the lookout people stayed up all summer, unless bad weather allowed one to come down, which happened maybe once a summer. My activities included lots of reading, wildlife viewing, feeding the Golden-mantled Ground Squirrels (I had them trained to climb the 20-foot tower for peanuts) and plenty of time to just contemplate life. A family of Blue Grouse, now known as Dusky Grouse, stayed around the tower for most of the summer, and were unbelievably tame. One day a black bear spent time in my dump, but he found fairly sparse pickings. Evenings found me sitting on the catwalk playing my ukulele. The nights were unbelievably clear, and one particular night the Aurora Borealis was absolutely stunning. And then there were the long water hauls by trail, 2 1/2 miles each way to the spring and back that supplied my water. I made the water haul every other day, hauling five gallons in my water backpack. That load was 44.6 pounds!

PHOTO COLLAGE OF LOOKOUT, SEE BACK COVER!

Communication in those days was primarily by radio, and I still remember the call numbers for that radio, KOG796, but forest service rules precluded trivial conversation between lookouts in order to keep the airways free for official use, a rule only loosely enforced. However, Sullivan Mt. was the only remaining lookout with the old fashioned telephone, serviced by the long wire strung from the ranger station on Sullivan Lake to the lookout. The powers that be wanted to have at least one lookout with an alternative method of communication, just in case. One older gentleman, who had manned Sullivan Mountain in previous years, figured I was lonely, so he would call up in the evenings just to talk, and that was greatly appreciated. I remember hearing about all the old telephones just being dumped in a scrap heap when they were removed from the lookouts. I would dearly love to have one now.

Cooking was something of a foreign concept to me as I had never done any. Necessity is the mother of invention, however, and I survived and became an expert at baking pancakes with huckleberries as the summer progressed. I also became very proficient at opening cans, boiling eggs, and making sandwiches.

My second year on Sullivan Mountain was the summer of 1961. I was married to the love of my life, Georgene Thompson, and after a few days of honeymooning at Priest Lake and Glacier National Park, we were back on top of Sullivan mountain. Now you might question the wisdom of two newly married individuals being cooped up away from civilization for two months in a 14 foot square room with no one else to socialize with. We must have survived quite well as we are now into our 57th year of marriage. The downside was that now the 2 1/2 gallons of water every other day had to support two people as I was not anxious to make

LOOKOUT

CONTINUED, PAGE 4

LOOKOUT, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

that hike daily. One has to be quite creative in conserving water, and by the time it was discarded it was rather thick and opaque. We even managed to take a bath at least every other day. Bathing led to some rather interesting side stories. One day Georgene was taking a sponge bath in the cabin on top of the tower when the fire patrol plane came flying by at window level. Georgene staunchly declares that he saw nothing. That may or may not be the case because the pilot was intrigued enough to do a quick 180 and came back flying by the window for a second look!

The summer of 1962 was the last break I had in medical school, and we were back again on a lookout, this time on Roman Nose in the Sandpoint Ranger District in the Kaniksu National Forest. There was no road to this lookout, so we packed up the horses at the Shiloh guard station, trucked them up to the trail head, and hiked the four miles or so up to the tower. Georgene had some school responsibilities that delayed her arrival for 10 days, and I hiked down one evening to meet her and we hiked back to the LO in the dark. I remember when hiking down, I happened on a family of juvenile owls sitting on a limb and I couldn't identify them. In retrospect I strongly suspect that they were a family of Boreal Owls, but at the time no one was aware that they even nested in the lower 48. We arrived back at the tower well after dark and Georgene couldn't see much in the starlight, but she could tell that we were on the edge of a cliff as, in fact, the legs of the tower were a mere eight feet from the edge. With the tower twisting in the wind I think she felt we would be at the bottom of the cliff by morning. But talk about a spectacular view! Below our windows were two gorgeous mountain lakes nestled below a sheer cliff of nearly 300 feet leading to a long granite rock slide into the closest lake. The only visitors we had all summer, besides rangers with pack horses bringing in supplies, were our respective families and two guys who hiked up together from the lake. We became friends with the Hoary Marmots and the Golden-mantled Ground Squirrels, and enjoyed

watching Black Swifts diving by the tower, only one of two locations we have seen these acrobats in the Idaho Panhandle. The water haul to this lookout was only about 3/4 of a mile, but much steeper than on Sullivan. On Sullivan mountain we had a propane stove and oven, but on Roman Nose Georgene had to learn how to use a wood stove and oven. At first baking bread was an adventure in the culinary arts. Her great cooking was a far cry from what I had experienced my first year alone on the lookout. I remember that while on Sullivan Mt, a gentleman on another LO was having trouble baking bread, and he eventually called a couple working on a different lookout, inquiring what it meant to "knead bread." He was about as ignorant of cooking terminology as I was.

Leaving Roman Nose at the end of the summer was bittersweet, as we knew that our summers for the rest of our careers were occupied, precluding working on lookouts. Nostalgia is a phenomena affecting some individuals more than others, but I confess to a severe case of this malady, and I look back on summers on fire lookouts with a great deal of wonderful memories, wishing for the opportunity to replay those great times. Georgene and I still visit lookouts around Priest Lake every summer and even though the era of fire lookouts is largely past, there are still five lookouts actively manned in the Priest Lake area. The lookout on Sullivan Mountain stands, although in poor condition, but we visited it during the summer of our 50th wedding anniversary, bringing back wonderful memories. Unfortunately the lookout on Roman Nose fell down several years ago, not because the tower was in that bad of condition, but because the support cables were gone and it could not withstand the wind. We of course followed with interest the story of the Sundance Fire which roared right over the top of Roman Nose in the summer of 1967, resulting in a terrifying experience for the person manning the lookout. Fortunately he and his dog and the tower all survived that incident.

In this era of constant electronic communication, social media and instant news, my wife and I look back on a time

when we were allowed time to sit, think, contemplate life and enjoy the beauties of nature and wildlife in a way almost unheard of in this day and age. As I sit writing this piece I have been listening to records from the time of my early life, one of the songs being "Memories." Memories are a wonderful part of life, and memories of our summers on lookouts are among our best. I am not alone when it comes to the allure of the lookout era. The word "lookout" applies not only to the physical structure of the fire tower or cabin, but also applies to the individuals who manned the lookouts. We old "lookouts" still relish those solitary times spent in the great out-of-doors, and some are still manning the few lookouts towers that remain. A gentleman in his late 80s was still manning the lookout on Gisborne Mountain as recently as the summer of 2017, having manned lookouts for over 35 years. Preservation of the few remaining lookouts is a priority of the Forest Fire Lookout Association, an organization of mostly old fire "lookouts" who continue to enjoy the memories of their time spent on the mountains. No one has contributed to preserving the memories and the importance of the lookout era more than Ray Kresek, author of *Fire Lookouts of the Northwest*, the bible of the history of lookouts in this area. He has created a museum at his home in north Spokane, a must visit for anyone interested in the history of fire lookouts. Air patrol and satellite monitoring have largely replaced lookouts as the preferred method of fire detection, but lookouts still have their place and hopefully will for the foreseeable future. Many of the few remaining lookouts are now being restored and used as rentals for those interested in a night or two of secluded relaxation. Most of the remaining lookouts in use are manned by volunteers, and if you happen to visit a lookout this summer, stop in and say hello. Most "lookouts" will be happy to show you around and explain the way of life existing in a 14-foot square room. They might even tempt you to volunteer for a gig on a mountain top for a week or two or even for a summer. It is a cheap vacation. You can't spend any money up there, but you will be able to take away memories that will last you the rest of your life.

A Family's Hundred Year History at Priest

BY SANDRA MANSFIELD, SCA MEMBER

Oakesdale, Washington farming families of Anna and Robert Kilpatrick and James and Ida Seney told tales that dated back to 1918 of treks to Priest for fishing and picking huckleberries. These were years of the Old Mother West Wind stories where Old Mother West Wind and her Merry Little Breezes came down from the purple hills in the golden light of morning to see the creatures of the forest play and learn the lessons of the day. Our families were in awe of this place and saw these hills as purple and read these books on their outings. They knew of Nell Shipman's filming "Girl from God's Country" and for decades the family simply referred to Priest as 'God's Country.'

Coolin and Cavanaugh Bay became destinations and Russ Bishop and Leonard Paul became their friends. At the marina you could get fishing advice and rent a boat. At the store you could have your bacon thick sliced, pick up the rest of your groceries and pay the day you were planning to leave. Anna and Robert's two children Sadie and Ross and their spouses Byron and Una moved to the area in the 40s and 50's and enjoyed decades of going to Leonard Paul's Store to pick up their mail, buy their groceries, put everything on a tab and then simply paid for it in person at the end of the month.

In the 40s was WWII draft. You could not remove all the farmers from farming. Bob Seney and Ralph Kilpatrick joined the army and Bill and Edwin Kilpatrick farmed the land while Ross and Una left the farm to move to God's Country. They purchased the mule lot north of Hunt Creek. Here the mules had been barged with supplies before their climb to build and supply the Lookouts.

Cavanaugh Bay was the end of the road during these decades so you walked the lakeside trail or used a boat to head north. Ross and Una pulled their first load of cabin materials on a barge behind a boat. The barge tipped in a storm and the supplies landed at the bottom of the lake.

Persistence and better weather followed and the two-bedroom cabin was built with a full length screened front porch full of beds. The outside stone fire place and a long table became the gathering place for family, and 4th of July reunions became a tradition. Huckleberry pancakes was the favorite meal and some years if you only had three huckleberries in the batter, it still counted.

The 50's saw Ross's sister Sadie and her husband Byron purchase a two-room cabin in Cavanaugh Bay with 150 feet of white sandy beach. They brought boards, doors, windows, and hammer straightened nails from his farm homestead to enlarge the cabin and give it windows. Sadie became known as the fisherwomen of Cavanaugh Bay as she caught her limit of silvers even though she threw everything back that was not the size of her measuring stick. The stick was from Byron to assure that the silvers would smoke evenly between the shelves of the smoker made from an old refrigerator. Byron enjoyed locating and tagging buckskin tamaracks and the two of them would section and haul the wood back to the cabin. They also hauled truckloads of manure onto the beach to grow a good garden.

Ross and Una and Byron and Sadie enjoyed years of cabin projects, fishing, and picking huckleberries. Family reunions continued to be yearly highlights and became more frequent with the growing family and the arrival of grandchildren and great grandchildren through the 60s and 70s and early 80s.

The Kilpatrick cabin stayed in the family while the Seney cabin was sold. A new decade of discovering campgrounds around the lake began for granddaughter Sandra and her husband Bob, whose family had spent every vacation at Elkins in his growing up years. There were kayak campouts to Upper Priest, Kalispel Island, and the Outlet. Favorite vacations with their children happened at Lion Head and Reeder Bay Campgrounds. Then in



Pictures from Top Left: Pack string of mules/horses (Courtesy of Priest Lake Museum); Kilpatrick Family Cabin; Mules on Barge (Courtesy of Priest Lake Museum); Sadie with Fish; Mules on Barge (Courtesy of Priest Lake Museum); Kilpatrick Family (Sadie and Ross, Anna and Robert); Seney Family Cabin (Center)

1993 they purchased a cabin on the west side in the narrows.

The Mansfields interest in helping to preserve this pristine place which they had grown to love from the east side to the west side and from Upper Priest Lake to the Outlet found them involved in the works accomplished by the Selkirk Conservation Alliance. Recently they helped test water quality, collected lichens for the caribou, and attended meetings for Thorofare improvements and forest management. There are many critical issues where SCA is making a difference.

The Kilpatrick cabin on the east side and our cabins on the west side continue to be gathering places for family. Young children now playing on both beaches are sixth generation from Robert and Anna Kilpatrick and James and Ida Seney.

We now tell Old Mother West Wind stories to our grandchildren and enjoy lessons from the woodland creatures. And, Mother West Wind still gathers her Merry Little Breezes at the end of the day before Jolly Round Red Mr. Sun goes down behind these purple hills that many in our family still call God's Country...

Hanna Flats Update

Thanks to all the SCA Members who answered Laura Westbrook's plea for comments to the USFS regarding the proposed Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) Timber Sale at Hanna Flats.

At the Open House staged in Nordman on December 14, 2017, visitors could see revised maps of the project and ask questions from USFS staff and contractors – but no opportunities for public comment or questions were provided. In the handout provided, the USFS acknowledged receipt of 41 comment letters or emails, with a sum total of 448 different comments.

Per the USFS handout, some of the major issues identified by commenter's included Idaho Dept of Land involvement, using a categorical exclusion (CE) tool, and the regeneration type treatments.

They didn't really address these or most other issues in any significant detail in their response, simply referred readers back to the original scoping document.

They did, however, provide approximately seven pages of tables that detailed specific changes by harvest unit that were proposed/studied/made. This included delegation of an additional 483 acres into potential old growth recruitment status and agreed to postpone cutting of an additional 133 acres until such time that field studies and visits could resume.

Also on the win side for commentators was additional attention paid to wetlands, streams, and riparian areas that had not previously been mapped; resulting in more set-asides/areas excluded from harvest/roading. These included some areas adjacent to impaired

streams or waters that flow into sections of streams that are already classified as temperature impaired. Buffers of 100'-150' were created around the newly mapped areas. The USFS also eliminated several treatment areas to preserve viewsheds for individual landowners in the project area.

While potential impacts to wildlife species, such as the fisher, were more or less ignored – the many small changes made definitely decreased many of the potential negative impacts that likely would have resulted from the original plan. This shows the value of engaging in the comment process on the local landscape level – even if we currently lack the financial means and manpower to challenge the USFS on the larger issues of GNA use in general, such as that lack of non-adjacent state lands.

Advertising Opportunities in *SightLines*

To help offset newsletter production costs, a business card advertisement is now being offered at \$35/year, a quarter page for \$75, half-page for \$150, and full page for \$300.

Digital submissions of advertisements should be sent via email to sca@scawild.org no later than April 1 for our spring newsletter and by October 1 for our fall edition.

Each ad will run for two consecutive newsletters.

We will contact you for payment upon receipt, review, and acceptance of your print copy. The SCA reserves the right to reject advertising that is not consistent with our mission or is deemed otherwise offensive by our Board of Directors.

SCA Corporate Match Sponsors Grow

In late 2016, we were nominated to join the Benevity Platform, which matches employee donations for many major corporations across the globe.

In early 2017 we also joined the Boeing Employee match program, which was used last fall by two SCA donors. Late last fall, we also joined the Schneider Electric Foundation's employee match program and are in the process of receiving an employee match donation from Stellar Solutions.

These employer match programs will have contributed—\$2,000 to date—a significant amount of money to a small non-profit like the SCA! If your employer offers a match program, please consider nominating the SCA to their giving platform.

SCA Awarded Spokane Mountaineers Conservation Fund Award

In late 2017, the SCA was awarded a substantial grant from the Spokane Mountaineers Conservation Fund, which arrived during our year end match campaign. This meant it was doubled by SCA Board Member and Supporter Extraordinaire John Abelson.

The Mountaineers also sent many of their members to our winter arboreal lichen collection events which really helped meet our 2017 goal (see update on Page 4).

To learn more about them and their many recreational and training opportunities northwest, visit spokanemountaineers.org.

Thanks, Spokane Mountaineers!

100 Years of Change at Priest Lake: For Better or For Worse?

BY ELEANOR HUNGATE-JONES, SCA BOARD MEMBER

Ah, reminiscing—to indulge in enjoyable recollections of past events. At a recent family visit, we realized that together we represented four generations of a family devoted to a specific log cabin on crystal clear shores of Priest Lake. And, we realized—our passion for this area of the Selkirks is deeply rooted in our childhood experiences at the Lake.

Each of us spent summers on Canoe Point—as many weeks as our parents could take off from their professional lives. We cherished becoming close to our cousins as vacations overlapped. We spent weeks together in complete freedom. Berry picking, boating, hiking, learning to swim and dive off the dock. We all had camp chores and we used an outhouse.

TRAVEL

Of the four generations present, each of us had traveled to Priest lake by different means. My uncle's first visit in June of 1918 meant arriving from Coolin in an outboard powered with a ½ horse-motor. Before that, his brothers and father rowed that distance! The next generation recalls the happiness of being able to load their boat from an ever-expanding road along the West side with Granite Creek the last launch area. The early 50s allowed car arrivals albeit very scary ones—meeting loaded logging trucks on narrow dirt roads was more than a roller coaster thrill! And, now East Shore Road is double lane and paved. Cabin arrival has transformed into quite a difference experience.

SUPPLIES

I mentioned loading the boat for the trip to the cabin. Yes, we had clothes but the bulk of the load was food—food that had to survive no refrigeration. My uncle remembers live chickens packed in. He and the following generation remember buying blocks of ice from Elmer Berg at Beaver Creek not only for our large standing oak wood ice chest, but also to make special occasion ice cream in

the 40s onward, each family brought a cooler with a block of ice and hoped it wouldn't melt too fast! There was no dashing off to the store for anything. If it wasn't at camp, you did without!

When fresh fruits and vegetables ran out, canned goods were the order of the day. None of our memories included being hungry—but vividly eager for meal time and lots of great conversations and laughs at the long mixed-generation table. My cousins and I have lingering memories of powdered milk and its chunks that didn't mix in. Ugh! But you ate the meals, or you chose to be hungry. It's a bit different now, and we as the older generation silently chuckle about dietary needs being met—gluten free/vegetarian/lactose intolerant. But the rule is the same—you bring it, or you do without. Now the option also includes time out of play time for the road trip to the nearest store at the end of the lake.

LIGHTING OUR WAY

Coleman gas lanterns hung from the ceiling were the inside cabin lighting—with yearly improvements of these lanterns until electricity stretched to Canoe Point in the late 70s. In the early years, flashlights were not common given the short life and expense of batteries. Our outdoor light was a Palouse—a used tin can with a wire handle and a short candle mounted inside. Stern warnings were given using these. Traversing the terrain outside at night was a challenge—and as kids, the idea of creatures lying in wait for their next meal was the real danger! In the 50s, a favorite birthday/Christmas gift was our very own flashlight to use at the lake. To this day, flashlights appear to still be lots of fun for kids at night!

PICKING & HIKING

Huckleberry picking is an experience for all Lake-coming generations. While there are bushes for casual tasting, it is the lure of the perfect and plentiful berry patch that leads one up into

the hills. From the early 1900s to the 60s, our family's picking routine was taking a boat right after breakfast to a hillside beach, hiking up the trails into the woods, picking all morning, a short rest for lunch before filling our buckets to the top and a hike back down the trail and boat back to the cabin. The passing years have not changed the expectation that all in camp, except babes in arm, are to add to the supple of fresh berries for breakfast pancakes and oatmeal and, best of all, a pie!

Now picking has changed. The once-beautiful trails, many of them maintained for the rangers in the mountain lookouts, are difficult to even scout out. When the trail crossed a roaring stream, a high wire was strung across to hold onto as you navigated across a fallen log. We drank cold water from those creeks. Even in the early 60s, the climb up Look Out Mountain was an all-day trek—the trail head started from the beach at the Lion Head Campground. Today? Wheeled vehicles traverse the many logging roads to the berry patches and take hikers up the mountains to a near-the-finish starting place.

CONCLUSION

One hundred years—and the berries taste just as delicious. Having electricity is great—and hot running water, communication modes, kitchen conveniences, etc. (tho' huckleberry pies baked in the Great Majestic wooden stove are hard to beat). The ease of arrival for our ever-expanding family continues to be a joy.

New generations continue to jump into the lake with delight. The thrill of seeing a moose meander across the beach has not diminished. Card games, puzzles, and wonderful conversations extend into the night.

The big question in the room that we decided to defer to a later date is the question of pros or cons on these changes. Your thoughts?

2017 Aquatic Vegetation Study Update

BY JAMES LEA, SCA BOARD MEMBER

In the 2017 Fall *SightLines*, I wrote an article discussing the excessive aquatic vegetation growth along our shorelines and its attendant adverse economic impact. This last summer we decided to do something about it.

Professor Jan Boll and I conducted a preliminary study of aquatic vegetation growth along Kalispell Bay. Dr. Boll is professor of Environmental Engineering at Washington State University and a specialist on water quality. As luck would have it, he also is my neighbor at the lake.

We employed a technique utilized by Idaho DEQ to monitor the growth of algae. Using an artificial substrate of styrofoam placed on the lake bed we measured the accumulation of algae by measuring Chlorophyll A. The substrates were placed in 10 feet of water and sampled serially from mid-July to mid-September. Substrates were placed along the bay from the mouth of Kalispell Creek to the point southeast of the USFS boat launch. In the photo you can clearly see a marked difference from north (K) to south (P). Very little growth was seen in these areas, but in the center of the bay (R and T) there was considerable growth. The striking finding was that these were areas of obvious groundwater outflow.

The conclusion of this preliminary study is that nutrients from the groundwater were essentially creating oases of seaweed and algae. When we measured the groundwater compared to lake water there was very little difference in nitrogen but significant differences in phosphorus. Our lake is considered to be oligotrophic with aquatic vegetation growth limited by phosphorus availability. We, therefore, concluded that the groundwater is being loaded with phosphorus and this in turn is creating the seaweed/algae problem.

Some of the phosphorus in the groundwater is unquestionably naturally occurring from the local geology and rotting vegetation. However, there is also a probable contribution from us humans. This is what professor Boll is prepared to investigate formally over the next two years. This study will fund a master's level student from WSU to measure groundwater chemistry in the aquifer at various points and in the nearshore lake environment. Hopefully, in one or two years we will have some answers.



Eurasian milfoil likes phosphorus, commonly found in soap and fertilizers.

In the meantime Dr. Boll has secured about 60% of the funding but more is needed. You and/or your home owner's association can help fund this important study. Whatever is discovered at Kalispell Bay will likely have broad applicability to Priest Lake as a whole.

Here's what you can do:

- Don't use phosphorus containing soaps.
- Don't fertilize your grass with phosphorus containing fertilizers.
- Consider reseeding your grass with native drought resistant grasses.
- Don't dump gray water (soapy water) into the lake or onto the ground near to the lake.
- Don't bathe your dog or yourself in the lake.
- Don't wash your boat in the lake. It's best to take it home for a good washing.
- If your cabin is older, make sure that your kitchen sink does not connect to an old dry well.

SCA Offers Lakeshore Homeowners Kits for 2018: Your Own Lakefront Measurements and Comparative Data on your Aquatic Vegetation

If you are concerned about excessive aquatic vegetation in your area of Priest Lake, the SCA is offering a kit that lakeshore homeowner's can use to conduct their own science project. We will provide the artificial substrate and materials to sample the chlorophyll accumulation throughout the summer growing season. We will deliver the materials to your dock in June and pick up the frozen samples in September. The samples will be batched and measured at Dr. Boll's lab in Pullman.

In the fall we will provide you with a print out of your results with comparison data from various parts of the lake. By doing this experiment you can see how your area of lakeshore compares to others and at the same time we will be building a data base of the lake at large to determine if there are problem areas that deserve deeper investigation.

For SCA members we will provide the kit for \$100. For nonmembers the cost will be \$200. This cost includes a one year membership (2018) in the SCA, which includes a subscription to our biannual *SightLines* newsletter.

If you are interested please contact James Lea at 208-755-3796 or email sca@scawild.org no later than June 15, 2018.

Get to Know an Invasive Species: 'Garden Thugs' aka Purple Loosestrife

BY SHARON SORBY, SCA BOARD MEMBER

In Australia, bushland conservationists team-up with gardeners and nursery associations to protect their natural bushlands from becoming infested with aggressive garden escapees. They call their program, 'Garden Thugs' after the garden plants that misbehave, climbing over the garden wall and running rampant over the surrounding natural areas.



A single purple loosestrife plant successfully invading a natural shoreline...

We suffer the same problem here, in this country, without the benefit of a similar program. We find many of our wildland weed problems rooted in our history of importing plants from afar due to their beauty, medicinal or other useful values.

Through our trade and travel practices, we have imported, both intentionally and accidentally, plants that have proved harmful to our natural areas. We are globally homogenizing our plant and animal communities and many areas are losing their unique values.

For the most part, imported plants have behaved themselves -- or at least have not created a problem -- while proving invaluable to us for food, fiber and medicines. Leave it to only a few bad

characters to ruin the reputation of imported nursery stock. We call these foreign problem plants, noxious weeds.

When we call a noxious weed foreign or alien, it is not necessarily from another country. It is alien to our eco-region. This encompasses a large area, taking in the greater Pacific Northwest and most of the northern Rocky Mountains.

In Washington and Idaho, we have laws and regulations to ameliorate the harmful effects of noxious weeds. From these, we are directed to control or at least contain our noxious weeds. This is also why some of the plants we would like to see in our gardens are quarantined from entering or being transported through our states.

Our weed laws organize weeds into different categories with specific goals for prioritizing control measures so they are most cost effective. The first priority includes noxious weeds with very few infestations and the goal is eradication. The second priority includes noxious weeds with few infestations in a given area and the goal is also eradication. The last two priorities are noxious weeds with an abundant population in a given region or throughout the state and the goal is containment. Many of the noxious weed species with limited abundance and distribution as well as all aquatic plants are quarantined in Idaho and Washington.

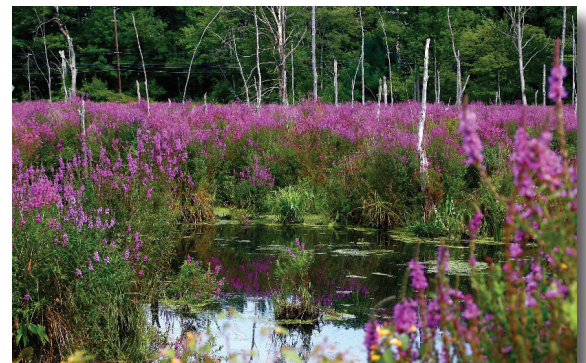
Purple loosestrife, *Lythrum salicaria*, is an escaped garden ornamental plant that has a propensity for invading wetlands and riparian zones. It is a noxious weed in both states, with limited distribution in our immediate Selkirk ecoregion. It can alter ecosystem processes and functions, especially wildlife habitat.

Due to the plants' tendency to grow as a close colonnade, it forms an effec-

tive fence at the waterline. Near shore shallows are unavailable for the amphibians and invertebrates that make up the dietary needs of many of our ducks for brooding and rearing their young. Access to nesting sites and materials is also prevented.

Shoreline fishing and water egress or ingress for boating or swimming activities are effectively blocked by a purple loosestrife infestation.

A prolific seed producer (over a million seeds from a large plant), purple loosestrife's reproductive potential is powerful. Seeds remain viable in the soil for three years, and stems that are cut from the plant and left uncollected can root where they fall or float off to, rapidly expanding a population.



... can quickly expand to encompass the entire shoreline, destroying waterfowl habitat and recreational values.

In 2016, a small population of purple loosestrife was found along the Priest Lake shoreline near Coolin. The Bonner County Weed Supervisor released a bio-control agent on the population that is very effective at keeping an infestation contained, but by its nature, cannot ensure eradication.

As we plan our gardens and share plants with our friends and neighbors throughout the gardening season, let's not invite any garden thugs home!

Comparing Priest Lake and Lake Tahoe Water Quality

BY JAMES BELLATTY, SCA BOARD CHAIR

The question as to how the lake water quality at Priest Lake compares with Lake Tahoe comes up when you're out on the water on one of those sunshine-filled days when the water is clear and the lake is glistening. That thought prompted me to take a closer look at how Priest Lake in the Selkirk Range compares with Lake Tahoe in the Sierra's of California and whether there are similarities or differences between these beautiful, high quality lakes. Or, is this like comparing apples and oranges?

Fortunately, we have water quality data and information at both places, including a 1997 Phase 1 Diagnostic Analysis at Priest Lake and a State of the Lake Report for Lake Tahoe prepared by the Tahoe Environmental Research Center. If you look at the water quality data and lake characteristics in these reports, in a side-by-side comparison, you will find these statistics:

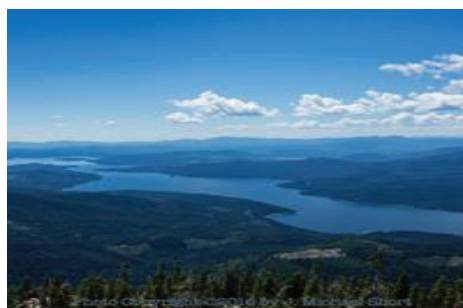
Parameter	Priest Lake*	Lake Tahoe**
Watershed Area (square km)	1,533	800
Lake Surface Area (square km)	94.4	495
Lake/Watershed Ratio	.06	.62
Lake Elevation (meters)	743	1,897
Lake Volume (cubic km)	3.7	147.6
Lake Depth - Maximum (meters)	112	501
Secchi Depth (meters)	9.8	21.1
Total Phosphorus (ug/L)	4	2.55
Total Inorganic Nitrogen (ug/L)	25	17.3
Chlorophyll a (ug/L)	1.5	.59

*Phase I Diagnostic Analysis Priest Lake (Rothrock and Mosier, 1997) <http://www.scawild.org/reports/Watershed/RothrockandMosier1997.pdf>

** Tahoe: State of the Lake Report 2017 (Tahoe Environmental Research Center) <http://terc.ucdavis.edu/stateofthelake/index.html>

A quick glance at the data for these lakes reveals some interesting contrasts and *general* conclusions:

- The Priest Lake watershed is almost double the size of the Lake Tahoe watershed;
- The surface area of Lake Tahoe is more than five times the size of Priest Lake;
- The surface area of Lake Tahoe comprises more than 60% of the watershed; Priest Lake only covers



Priest Lake, Idaho (photo SCA Facebook).

- 6% of the watershed;
- The volume of Lake Tahoe is almost 40 times larger than Priest Lake;
- Lake Tahoe is more than four times deeper than Priest Lake;
- The annual average water clarity of Lake Tahoe is more than double that of Priest Lake;
- The levels of nutrients in both lakes (phosphorus and nitrogen) is very low;

• The level of algal productivity in Priest Lake is more double the value of Lake Tahoe.

These are generalized conclusions, not a thorough analysis, from reports which were prepared at different times. You can interpret these statistics in many different ways. Regardless, it is clear that both Priest Lake and Lake Tahoe are very high quality, oligotrophic lakes. One of the advantages of Lake

Tahoe is a combination of being a very deep lake (ie. the second deepest lake in the United States), a large volume of water and a relatively small, montane-subalpine watershed dominated by coniferous vegetation and nutrient-poor soils.

A challenge for both Priest Lake and Lake Tahoe is maintaining the high quality status we enjoy today. Since lake water quality is linked to upland watershed processes, it can make a big difference



Lake Tahoe, California (photo 7X7.com).

as to how we manage and protect the watershed (e.g., impervious cover, road network, habitat disruption, and land disturbance) and the affect on hydrology, runoff and the rates of nutrient and sediment loading.

What can we learn from this comparison? Are these lakes like comparing apples and oranges or something else? In light of the fact that we have two very high quality lakes, albeit different hydrologic and geologic features, it would seem that we have two varieties of bright shiny apples! Regardless of the individual lake and watershed statistics, Priest Lake and Lake Tahoe are complex ecosystems which exhibit natural and human-caused variability. Although Priest Lake is not likely to achieve the same water quality as Lake Tahoe, we share many of the same challenges (eg. increasing levels of algae on the shoreline, climate change, and invasive species) and lessons learned to maintaining and protecting lake water quality in these watersheds.

If you want to explore more of the details about Priest Lake, I encourage you to visit the following document archived on the SCA Facebook page: scawild.org/reports/Watershed/RothrockandMosier1997.pdf

And if you are interested in knowing more about Lake Tahoe and the interesting work at the Tahoe Environmental Research Center (TERC), you can find them online: terc.ucdavis.edu/stateofthelake/index.html. >

NO! to Suppression of Lake Trout

BY STEVE BOOTH, SCA BOARD MEMBER

The Priest Lake Advisory Committee has completed its work on setting a course for Priest Lake fisheries management.

There was not enough support for managing the lake as a bull trout, cutthroat, kokanee fishery. It will continue to be managed as a lake trout fishery. The lake trout population will not be suppressed in the lower lake.

The lake trout have and will continue to be suppressed in the upper lake. This program has and will offer some protection for the bull trout (an endangered species) but it is not a viable solution the health of the bull trout. If lake trout suppression is not continued in the upper lake, we would definitely lose the bull trout population. There are almost no bull trout remaining in the lower lake.

Funding to continue suppressing the upper lake trout population may be at risk. One of the funders has already expressed a desire to not continue funding a program that is only a temporary "fix." Hopefully the bull trout will survive the politics and the next generation of our population will have sense enough to make the range, necessary to restore and protect Priest Lake bull trout.

SCA Board Receives Water Quality & Spokesperson Training

BY CHERYL MOODY, SCA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

On March 3, 2018, members of the SCA Board met in Spokane to learn from water quality experts about their thoughts on historic and current water quality data available for the Priest Basin.

Experts in attendance included: Glen Rothrock (Retired IDEQ and leader of the original 1990s Priest Lake Management Plan baseline studies), Jill Cobb (Retired USFS Hydrologist, Priest Lake Ranger District), Dr. Frank Wilhem (Limnologist, University of Idaho), and Dr. Jan Boll (Professor of Environmental Engineering, WSU/Water Quality Specialist). Our own SCA board chairman Jim Bellatty (Recently retired from WA Dept of Ecology/Water Quality) facilitated the meeting. After reviewing available data from the past and our 2017 program,

> A TERC idea that SCA may want to explore in the future is a Citizen Science App (CitizenScienceTahoe.com) which would allow Priest Lake visitors and citizens to share lake and watershed observations and concerns. Please let us know if you are interested in having SCA pursue an App for the Priest Basin!



SCA board members receive spokesperson training. Left to right: Jessica Moody, Eleanor Hungate-Jones, Sharon Sorby, Betty Gardner, and Jim Bellatty.

the board was able to gain insights and recommendations from our panel of experts on where our program should focus on for the next 3-5 years. Based on changes that have occurred to date, as well as management decisions about water levels, breakwater repairs, and dam upgrades being made by the State water board and others, it will remain important that the SCA maintain a vigilant presence on the lake. However, as noted in our last issue, we must also try to garner the resources needed to tackle temperature impaired streams in the watershed, as well as the heavily impaired Priest River. These are ambitious goals as the USFS and IDL continue to authorize timber sales in the basin which will cumulatively continue to take their toll on our water quality.

While our 2018 program has not been set in stone by the board, it looks likely that we'll have to continue two sample days/month (one north, one south), but will reduce our sampling months to June, July, August, and September. To learn more specifics, plan to join us on the SCA pontoon boat this summer (see our Facebook page for more information).

Before attending the Kalispel Tribe of Indian's caribou fundraiser, the SCA board received specialized training from Jessica Moody on how to frame their message and keep interviews and conversations on specific topics when talking to the press or the public. About half the board then applied their learning's in mock interviews. Thanks to Jessica Moody for donating her time to share her expertise in this area with our board!

Bush Whacking Goblin Knob with Debbie Butler

BY HEIDI ROGERS, SCA MEMBER

Goblin Knob has pulled at my heart strings for years. I would sit on the dock at our cabin at the northern end of the lake and gaze at the two big knobs ... like sentinels overlooking the beautiful steep walled cirque ridge of granite rock that lay between those knobs.

I have climbed most of the mountains that overlook Priest Lake through the years. First as a child and then taking my husband and eventually our sons on the hikes. However, I knew of no trail up to Goblin Knob. So I asked my Aunt Kate Batey and Uncle Harry Batey if they were aware of a trail? They were seasoned hikers and knew all the trails around the lake, but they knew of no trails ... However, Aunt Kate said, "Go talk to Debbie Butler. She will know and maybe even lead the hike." Who is Debbie Butler? Well, it just so happened that Debbie was bringing her kayak up to BCCA to go kayaking with Aunt Kate and John and Francie Agars that day. So, I got to meet this lady from the Forest Service.

Debbie was delighted to lead a hike up to Goblin Knob ... and John and Francie quickly jumped on board to join the hike! NO TRAIL ... we would be bush whacking and I was game to go, trail or no trail! So we picked a date and early in the morning drove around to the east side of the lake. We came to a logging spur off the main road and Debbie told us to turn off on this little spur. No signs, no state road number ... just a lone spur. I wondered how she knew to turn off on that particular spur?

We climbed out of the car at the end of the spur and grabbed our day packs with our lunch, water, and small first aid kits and warm sweat shirts inside. Then Debbie reached into the car and pulled out a big back pack that was full. I remember thinking ... it is just a day hike, why a big overnight back pack? Oh well, if she wants to carry all that weight that was okay with me!

The short spur lead to an old logging

road, we turned north up the road and hiked along it for around 20 minutes or so ... then the road started to narrow and we were bush whacking through lots of alder. As we lost the road Debbie told us to turn up the mountain and I remember thinking ... how does she know NOW is the spot to turn up the mountain? However, Aunt Kate had the highest regard for her mountaineering skills ... so I trusted her decision.

We scrambled up the side of the mountain for several miles and then suddenly it burst open at the bottom of the Goblin Knob cirque! Wow! I was getting more and more impressed with those mountaineering skills! Huge boulders greeted us ... along with the two knobs. Thus we started rock hopping. For those of you who have hiked to Hunt Lake ... that hike is ONLY ONE MILE and takes at least two hours ... well that is exactly what the Goblin Knob cirque was like.

However, I was delighted to clamber over those rocks and finally get to be IN the cirque that I had admired for so many years! We finally reached the edge of the cirque and Debbie had us turn up along the ridge that leads to the top of the West knob ... it was straight up with a combination of rock hopping and bush whacking. It was starting to get later in the afternoon but we were determined to reach the top ... and we finally did around 3 pm. The view was magnificent and my lunch never tasted so good! I wanted to hike the ridge over to the East Knob ... but I knew there would not be enough time to do that and get back to the car before dark. So I just waved at the East Knob and sent my happy greetings! It was enough to be at eye level with both knobs!

Then started the descent! If I had lead the hike I would have retraced my steps ... because I am directionally challenged (love my GPS in the car!). However, none of us wanted to go rock hopping again and so our fearless leader had absolutely no concern about changing the direction of our decent to the lake

and our car that was parked on the obscure little dirt spur. We soon plunged into thick alder and underbrush on our descent and it was not easy going. Hiking through alder bush/trees is not fun it is thick and unforgiving. After an hour or so of fighting alder we came out on an old logging road.

Debbie immediately turned south on the road and we were all very happy to follow. I remember wondering how she knew to turn south, for we could not see the lake or any land marks that would give her a bearing as to where we were located. However, I really did not concern myself with that as I was so happy to be hiking on a cleared logging road and not fighting alder and heavy underbrush. It was now several hours since we had started our descent and all of us were getting a bit concerned about the fact that we would soon be enveloped in the evening dusk.

We discussed how all we had in our day packs was a bit of water, empty lunch bags, first aid kits and our sweat shirts. No matches to make a fire, no warm sleeping bags to keep warm at night if we needed to spend the night in the forest. That was when the light dawned on me WHY Debbie was carrying a fully loaded pack. She was prepared for anything. She had extra food, matches, hatchet and several large heat preserving emergency space thermal Mylar blankets ... etc. She was not only prepared for her own needs but ours also. Wow! ... I was impressed and relieved.

Debbie stopped, looked around and suddenly said, "OK, we need to head down again." In my head I shout "NO!" I am tired of fighting alder and heavy underbrush and it is getting darker and darker and will be even harder to make our way. But plunge we did right back into the thick forest going straight down toward a lake we could not see. As we struggled through the alder and underbrush John Agars found a beautiful skull of a moose. John wanted to take it home and put it over his outhouse. However, a moose skull

Thank You, 2017 Donors!

BY CHERYL MOODY, SCA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A huge thanks to all who answered the call to our 2017 year-end match drive, and our earlier water quality program fund raising letter! Our summer water quality drives resulted in just enough donations to cover our last few laboratory bills, so our program effectively broke even in 2017. We expect to scale back a bit in 2018, but our special water quality board meeting this past March in Spokane helped narrow our focus and will result in some cost and time savings moving forward (see story page 11).

During our year end match drive, we raised just over \$15,000, and many of you also answered the call to renew your memberships – bringing our total funds raised to over \$18,500 at the end of January. Since that time several additional donations have also arrived.

We could not continue the important work of the SCA without the amazing generosity of John and Christine Abelson. Please let the Abelsons know you appreciate their support anytime your paths cross, as well as all the donors listed here who also contributed to 2017 fund raising campaigns.

is heavy and big. All we had were our little day packs. Debbie picked up that skull and put it in her back pack and carried it the rest of the way down the mountain. Never said a word that her pack was already heavy and this would add more weight ... she just picked it up and headed on down the mountain! Now dusk was starting to turn into night ... we could still see but we knew we would soon need to stop and set up camp if we did not get to our car very soon. It was during this discussion we learned of exactly what was in that big heavy pack of Debbie's. It made us feel safe and very relieved, however, we all really wanted to sleep in our own warm beds in our cabins!

It was at this point that we broke out onto another dirt logging road. We looked up the road and then down the

road. Was this even the road that would lead to the little spur we parked on? We all stood there pondering as darkness closed in on us. We all looked to Debbie. She stood quietly, reflecting, getting her bearings ... She then said, "We turn to the left (south)." There was no doubt in her voice. What blew us all away was 200 feet to the south around a curve in the road was the little logging spur and our car!!! How did she know? If she had said turn to the right, we would have spent the night in the woods. How did she know?

I have never hiked with someone who has a natural GPS in their brains like Debbie has. I peppered her with questions both during the hike and afterwards and discovered she goes bush whacking in the winter on snow shoes or skis and often just with her dog. She

is always prepared and always carries that big heavy pack.

There are two hikes I have done in my lifetime that stand out for me: the hike up Little Snowy that has 92 switch backs if you hike it from the bottom. (How do I know it has 92 switch backs? Because Mary Rutherford tied a knot in a long string she had attached to her belt. There were 92 knots at the end of that arduous hike!) The other hike is the Goblin Knob hike with Debbie. I gleaned much on that hike and now when I take a big day long hike, you will not find me wearing a day pack but a fully loaded pack, ready for emergencies!

Thanks to Debbie, I now can gaze at Goblin Knob from the dock and smile at the sweet memories of climbing that mountain and rock hopping up its cirque.

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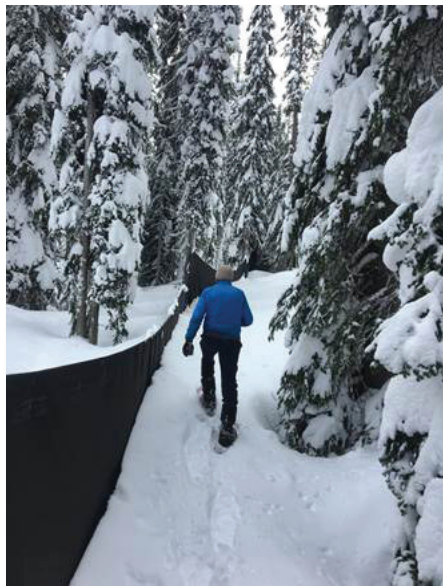
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Arboreal Lichen Collection Continues into 2018...

BY CHERYL MOODY, SCA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Last spring, SightLines readers learned about SCA's program to collect arboreal lichens. Lichens collected are used to transition pregnant Selkirk Mountain Caribou to a pelleted zoo feed during their first few weeks of captivity when the first Southern Selkirk maternal pen near Salmo, B.C. becomes operational.



The maternal pen as of 2/8; several more feet of snow fell after this picture was taken.

The SCA set an ambitious goal of ~200 pounds of dried lichens for 2017, and with a lot of help from some unexpected press and our conservation group neighbors to the north at Wildsight, we met that goal. Unfortunately, mother nature decided to bury our 15' high pen in ~150% of the normal snowfall... so the capture and penning had to be postponed. Instead, members of the international recovery team will capture and collar more members of the herd this spring, so they can be more closely monitored.

Even with the 2018 penning setback, we still plan to collect approximately 100 more pounds of lichen before the spring of 2019 penning. Why? If we have the feed and support ready, perhaps the Canadian government will

agree to augment our herd, which is what it really needs at this juncture.

How can you help in 2018?

- Walk your neighborhoods after storms and collect the lichens which blow off the trees and land on the ground. Store these in old pillow cases or clean open lidded trash cans out of the elements until you have a substantial volume, then contact us to arrange pick up or drop off locations,
- Download copies of the IDL or USFS permits from our website (<http://scawild.org/2017/04/17/come-collect-lichens-with-us/>), review the stipulations carefully, and find a place in the forest near you that is authorized for collection, or
- Join an SCA group event (see our Facebook events page).

Some tips for individual collection:

- Gloves that are smooth on the palms are easier to work with than textured materials that the lichens tend to cling to,
- If you can hang a cloth bag around your neck, waist, or shoulder to free both hands, it tends to go faster,
- Wad the lichens up into a small ball before trying to stuff into a bag – this makes them less likely to stick to the cloth and fight going in. It also allows the compression process to start, which is helpful in storing the lichens long term, but be aware if wet they need to be fully dried before storing or further compression,
- If you are planning on collecting above your head, wearing safety or sun glasses will keep the fragments from getting in your eyes, and
- Lightweight poles with flexible tip brushes taped to the ends (or pasta spoons!) work great for Alectoria collections. Bryoria grabs very tightly to the tamaracks so pole use can be less effective.

See SCA website for more information, scawild.org.



The maternal pen after construction last fall.

SCA GETS NATIONAL PRESS FOR LICHEN COLLECTION WORK

Who knew Cheryl's first 15 seconds of fame would come in the form of the NPR network? What started as a story in the Spokesman Review by Rich Landers, grew to several requests for interviews – including one from Emily Schwing of the Northwest News Network. Emily came up to Nordman and interviewed SCA Board Member Betty Gardner and Cheryl while they cleaned lichen of debris (twigs, cones, needles) so it would dry fully and weigh accurately. Naturally, this occurred as Cheryl was just developing an insane allergic reaction to all the spores falling out of the lichen in my garage. Emily's story first aired in the NW in late January, but later aired nationwide on the Here and Now program in late February and again in early March. Thanks to Emily for helping to get the word out. Her story resulted in several more inquiries from folks wanting to help and almost \$1,000 in new caribou program donations to the SCA.

USFS Starts Over-Snow Travel Planning Process on the Kaniksu

BY CHERYL MOODY, SCA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This February the USFS, the Panhandle Collaborative, regional snow machine/recreational groups, Homeland Security/Border Patrol, the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, and conservation groups including the SCA gathered in Sandpoint to start the multi-year process of developing an over-snow travel plan for the forest.

The SCA Board had previously determined that our involvement in this process is critical, as once the plan is in place, it's possible that the USFWS and the courts will lift the injunction that currently protects most of the critical winter habitat relied upon by the Selkirk Mountain Caribou herd as well as critical winter denning habitats for endangered

grizzly bear, and other threatened cold refugia species which rely on the high elevation/deep snow areas for critical parts of their life cycles.

In preparation for this process, the SCA GIS team has been processing available data for these species, so we are in a position to analyze results presented by the USFS, but also present alternatives to complete are closures or complete area openings where appropriate. As part of this effort we recently provided the USFS with a predicted and existing habitat map for the White Bark Pine, a listed tree species that has been damaged by motorized over-snow traffic in many areas. These areas, as well as peat lands, will receive some protection under any revised plan. The USFS

had previously prepared map layers for caribou, grizzly bears, lynx, wolverine, big game, etc.

One of the low points of this first meeting was when the USFS wildlife biologist incorrectly reported to the crowd that caribou have not been in the US since 2012. This was not correct. Collar data show the caribou were in the U.S. in 2015. Fires may be part of the reason they have not ventured southward since, but historically our mountains are part of their home range, so hopefully they will be back soon! In the interim the SCA will keep working to make sure they and other imperiled species have adequate habitat to recover in.

Pacific Northwest Scene Trail Planning Underway

BY CHERYL MOODY, SCA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

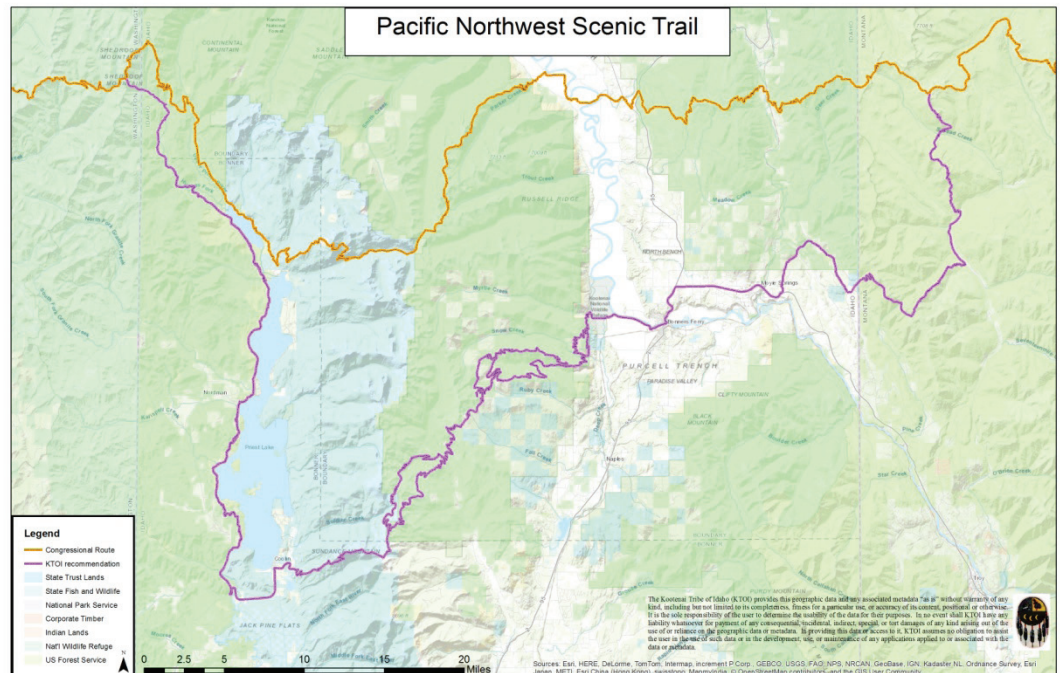
Concurrent to the over-snow plan, there is a national movement afoot to traverse the upper end of the Priest Basin with a major hiking trail that would tie into the Pacific Crest trail and provide another "thru-hiking" experience for recreationalists. While we love the idea of such a trail, its current siting may increase conflicts with grizzly bears, sensitive alpine areas, and other species (caribou included).

The Kootenai Tribe of Idaho has proposed the lower realignment which would create many more opportunities for hikers to interact with Priest Lake businesses and communities.

There are several web sites and pages developing where interested parties can comment and

participate in this process from the N. Cascades to NW Montana. We hope

to hear our members thoughts on both alternatives.



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Learn more at **defenders.org/gotgrizzlies**.



Defenders Grizzly Bear Electric Fencing Program

If you or anyone you know in this region has bear issues with chicken coops, livestock pens, etc. the Defenders of Wildlife would love to help! They provide cost share assistance for electrifying pens to reduce Grizzly Bear mortality due to these types of conflicts. Have them contact Russ Talmo

at 406.728.8800 or the SCA and we'll make the introductions. We can also provide brochures and other information about this program if they email us at sca@scawild.org.

In Honor of 100 Years: SCA Member Frank Hungate (+ Numbers)

BY ELEANOR JONES, SCA BOARD MEMBER

100 years old! Yes, on June 6, Frank Hungate celebrates 36,500 days of life.

He was born in 1918 and brought to Priest Lake that very summer in his Mother's arms. The family enjoyed tent-camping until 1924 when the first section of their log cabin was completed on Canoe Point.

Frank grew up in Cheney, WA until moving to University Texas Austin to earn a degree in Science, then on to Stanford for his PhD. After 12 years as a Professor at Reed College, he moved to GE, now Pacific NW Labs and as a consultant geneticist for the AEC spent a year in Greece. During those 41 years in the Tri-Cities, he was in charge of the gamma irradiator and a major project was a patent for blood irradiator to control lymphocytes.

Frank now spends summers at his Mosquito Bay cabin with a record of 95 summers at the Lake. Only gas rationing in WWII kept him from making the journey. 73 of those summers were spent with his loving wife, Mary Griggs. Along the way they added 4 children and in recent years the cabin has been filled with 10 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren, spouses and many friends.

Perhaps you'll be lucky to meet him this summer. He continues to chop wood, probably 250+ cords of wood in his 10 decades, and most deliciously estimates he's eaten at least 1,200 pieces of huckleberry pie! He pilots his pontoon boat especially enjoying a picnic along the Thoroughfare or the Upper Lake and pulls water skiers around the bay!

100 years...10 decades...1,200 months... 5,214 weeks... 876,000 hours = an incredible man with amazing numbers!!! Happy Birthday, Frank!



Thank You to Fall/Winter SCA Volunteers

Since our last newsletter the SCA has been busy! A special shout out to these volunteers who have been helping with various projects that are currently underway or events that will be happening during the summer of 2018:

- Linda Check & Betty Gardner; Treats for the Beardmore Holiday Open House
- Bates Coffield and Heather Ferrie; Website Support
- Glen Rothrock (Retired IDEQ), Jill Cobb (Retired USFS), Dr. Jan Bolls (WSU), Dr. Frank Wilhelm (University of Idaho); participated in our special Board Meeting on Priest Lake Water Quality, March 3rd, 2018 in Spokane (see story, page 11).
- The SCA Board of Directors: Keeping up with my endless email queries, attending the water quality summit, and other badgering!

Have you got a skill or passion you'd like to put to work for the SCA? Please email us at sca@scawild.org.

During the summer we can always use contributions of baked goods for our volunteers, or help driving laboratory samples to Coeur d'Alene (timely delivery required!). We've got jobs for note-takers, brawny anchor pullers, meter readers, garbage collectors, lichen harvesters/sorters, etc.

Check out our Calendar of Events (Page 18-19) for more ways to get involved in 2018.

SCA 2018 Calendar of Events

SCA 2018 activities are organized by theme below so we don't have to repeat information about what to bring, etc. All activities are free (except where noted), but a liability waiver is always required.

30th Anniversary Gala

Cavanaugh's on the Bay, Upper Room

August 18, Cavanaugh Bay at Priest Lake, 6PM - ?

Get your ticket early for this special evening where we look back at the last 30 years of SCA accomplishments and raise funds for our future. There will be a fabulous meal, open bar, auction, music, and guest speaker(s). Approximately 100 tickets will go on sale no later than June 1st.

Annual Meeting

USFS Reynolds Creek Group Camp Site

August 23rd, Kalispell Bay; 6PM – 9PM (overnight camping OK)

Pack a picnic dinner (and your overnight gear if so inclined), and join us for our annual meeting - followed by a Q&A session with your Board of Directors, and s'mores around the campfire.

Arboreal Lichen Collection

Locations Vary by Date,

See Facebook or Call the Office

May 28; 10AM – 1PM

(June, September, October & November Dates will be on Facebook)

Bring a sack lunch, dress for the weather, and perhaps a basket or can for any other foraging you may want to do – and help us meet our 2018 goal to collect 100 MORE pounds of dried lichens this summer. We'll supply the gloves, bags, and poles needed to harvest lichen efficiently. If you arrive after we've dispersed into the woods, please honk your horn 3 times so we can get you working efficiently.

Highway 57 Adopt a Hwy Clean-Up

Meet at MM 16.5 Under the SCA Sign

May 6, 10AM October 7, 10AM

Join SCA coordinator Rosemary Yocum as we clean our section of Highway 57 of litter each spring and fall. Snacks and beverages follow! Gloves recommended!

Wildlife Photography & Tracking Clinics with David Moskowitz

We have the option of having David teach one or both of these amazing 2-day courses again this year and can alter dates as needed to accommodate the most participants. Courses are \$175 for SCA Members, \$225 for Non-Members, Waivers & Transportation Required. See related story from tracking last year's Sightlines (Spring 2017).

Wildlife and Nature Photography Clinic

– August 17/18 or 18/19; Priest Lake Area (Limit 10)

Fundamentals of Wildlife Tracking

Course – August 17/18 or 18/19; Priest Lake Area (Limit 10)

Hikes

Hiking for Kids (Ages 8 – 12), August 2nd, 10:30 – 2PM

Pack up a lunch for your children ages 8-12, put it in their backpack and let them join their friends old/new to hike the West Shore Road while you enjoy some time to yourself.

We'll start and finish from the Beaver Creek Campground on the west side of Priest lake. Along the way we will cross streams, have great views of the Lake and mountains, pass through a variety of vegetation, explore some of the isolated beaches along the way and eat our lunch at one of them. Don't forget to pack them plenty of drinking water! This hike, led by Eleanor Hungate-Jones and Anne Ashburn, both educators and Priest Lake summer residents, is limited to 12 participants. Heavy winds/rain cancel the hike, see Facebook for updates/RSVP.

Kalispell Island Hike, August 4th

See Paddle Trips – The SCA pontoon boat may be available to take non-paddlers to the island for the hike, please email sca@scawild.org if interested.

Blacktail Hike, August 11, 10AM – 3PM

Pack your lunch and hiking gear, fill those water bottles, then lace up your hiking boots and join SCA Members Ken Vanden Heuvel, Barbara Conboy, and Jim Bellatty for a hike up Blacktail. Parking is limited at the trail head, so we will congregate at the gravel pit on the left (west) side of the end of Beaver Creek Road just after the pavement stops and the turnoff to Beaver Creek Campground passes on your right. Departure via car pool from the parking lot will be no later than 10:15 so please be on time. Only high fire danger would cancel this event. See Facebook.



SCA 2018 Calendar of Events

SCA 2018 activities are organized by theme below so we don't have to repeat information about what to bring, etc. All activities are free (except where noted), but a liability waiver is always required.

Paddles, Rows, and Floats

Priest River Float Trip, July 14, 1PM – 5PM

Join SCA Board Members Betty Gardner and Jim Bellatty for an afternoon on the scenic Priest River. Enjoy a short float trip on the Priest River using your kayak, raft, tubes, or other floatation devices. The event will include a pot luck, and you'll also have a few hours to enjoy more kayaking or swimming at the Crazy Creek Eddy. The entry location is just south of 8 mile rapids ending at Crazy Creek. The float is easy and child friendly. The trip is about 3/4 hour and can be done more than once in a day. Fishing is also a possibility. Limit of 20.

Woman's Kayak/Canoe Thorofare Trip, July 20, 9:30AM – 2:15PM

Give yourself a day to enjoy with active and like-minded women who enjoy the calm and tranquility of a paddle through the Thorofare. Eastside women 'set-sail' from Lion Head Campground launch area at 9:30 AM. Meet up with West side women who can launch from Beaver Creek Campground and either paddle to the Spit crossing or join us at the S-curve entry on the Thorofare at ~10:00 AM. Upon reaching Geisinger Campground at the entrance to the Upper Lake, we'll enjoy a self-packed lunch and good conversations before heading back.

Paddle & Kalispell Island Hike, August 4, 10AM – 3:30PM.

Join SCA members Jim Bellatty and Barbara Conboy as they lead a paddle to Kalispell Island where you can choose to circumnavigate the island by your watercraft or via the hiking trail - or just relax on the beach with a good book, swim, etc. More details will be forthcoming closer to the event.

On the Water Flotilla to the Upper Lake, September 15, 10AM – 4PM.

Join SCA Directors Jim Bellatty and Martin Stacey for a scenic fall trip up the thorofare and a picnic lunch. Rowboats, kayaks, canoes, SUPs, small watercraft are all invited to participate. SCA members and their guests will meet at either the Beaver Creek Boat Launch at 10AM, or if coming from the east side can meet at the breakwater sand bridge at ~11AM. Lunch will be at Swim Rock, Plowboy, or Geisinger.

Priest Lake Water Sampling: South and North

For each trip (2-3 monthly) we'll need at least 2 volunteers in addition to our pontoon boat captain and staff person. Volunteers must be able to take notes, help with the anchor/docking, or participate in the sampling process after training. The boat departs from Granite Creek Marina on the west side of the lake, but can pick up volunteers with enough advance notice. All trips are weather-dependent and take place around a 3-day window (M-T-W). We stop 1-2 times at local campgrounds for bathroom breaks but participants must be able to walk short distances to these facilities. Dress in layers, bring a sack lunch, sunglasses, sunscreen. Please email SCA@SCAWILD.ORG at least 5 days in advance of each trip window to participate.

Priest Lake South (Sites South of the Narrows)

June 4, 5, or 6
July 9, 10, or 11
August 6, 7, or 8
September 10, 11, or 12

Priest Lake North (Sites North of the Narrows)

June 18, 19, or 20
July 23, 24 or 25
August 20, 21, or 22
September 24, 25, or 26

Planning for the SCA 30th Anniversary Celebration is Underway! Can You Help?

On August 18th, the SCA will celebrate its 30th Anniversary with a gala event at Cavanaugh's on Priest Lake.

We have formed a committee to ensure this is a very special event which includes SCA Board Members Eleanor Hungate-Jones and Betty Gardner; and SCA members Mary Margaret Brajcich, Sandy Toone, and Sandra Mansfield.

If you want to join the fun, donate an auction item, or get in line for tickets early, please let us know. sca@scawild.org

Pictures (Back Cover)

from Top Center - Clockwise:

Georgene Cooking on the
Woodstove, Roman Nose

Roman Nose Lakes/Rainbow
From Below the Tower

Bob & Georgene, Roman Nose
Tower Catwalk

1960 – Old and New Towers

USFS Pack Horses Bringing
Supplies to Roman Nose

Roman Nose Tower Proximity
to Cliff

Sullivan Tower Room, 1961

Center: Georgene & Bob Revis-
iting Sullivan Mtn for their 50th
Anniversary

