

Swan View's News

Fall 2009



Swan View Coalition
3165 Foothill Road
Kalispell, MT 59901

"Nature and human nature on the same path."

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Looking Forward With 25 Years Experience!

As we wrap up our 25th Anniversary, it is also time to take stock of our core principles and use them to chart our course into the future. It is our intent to foster respect for community and wilderness through our choices of media as well as through our words and actions.

We've celebrated this year with a concert by Walkin' Jim Stoltz, our Celebrating the Swan Range Photo Exhibit (see results on page 4), and our 200th Swan Ranger outing. We will celebrate once more on November 8 by holding our annual general membership meeting at Inger Lemke's home on the fittingly named Swan View Road in the lower Flathead Valley (page 5)!

Without creating a huge bureaucracy nor relying on costly overhead, we have and continue to improve public land management through education, litigation, and community-building. While we keep abreast of current computer technologies and "social networking," we are selective in our use of media in order to not overwhelm either our members or our staff (page 2).

We believe that human nature is best nurtured and respected, rather than manipulated. And we think your donations are better spent protecting habitat for fish, wildlife and people (page 3) than on chasing blindly after each successive fad in computer and cell phone technology.



Swan Rangers toast 200th outing. *Keith Hammer photo.*

We'll continue our use of computer technology that allows us to conserve money and paper products. But we'll continue to recognize that a true wilderness and conservation ethic is one that relies less on gadgets and more on people getting out into the woods and speaking up on their behalf!

With that said, this thrifty outfit nonetheless needs your financial support to keep at its good work! We encourage you to take advantage of Cinnabar Foundation's offer to again this year match your donation dollar-for-dollar (page 6)!

Keith

The Medium is the Message

In 1964, Marshal McLuhan coined the phrase "the medium is the message" to emphasize that society is affected more by the characteristics of a medium than by the message it carries. In other words, you can watch all the health and fitness shows you want while sitting still in front of a television, but you won't become more healthy or fit until you engage in the medium of walking or other forms of exercise.

Therein lies the rub in trying to encourage folks to enjoy and help protect their public lands. We'd rather you be outdoors than reading this newsletter on your computer or at your kitchen table, but there are times we have to ask for your help protecting America's public lands.

We strive to keep our communications with you concise and measured. We do not subscribe to the practice of saturating your mailbox or email inbox in hopes it will improve our odds of getting you to write a letter to policy makers or to send us some money.

Nor do we intend to spend the money you do send us trying to reach everyone on each new media "channel" that crops up. Social networks like Facebook, Myspace, and Twitter rely in large part on limitless viral, exponential growth in subscribers and ad exposure. When cells in our bodies act this way we call it cancer.

We prefer at this point to keep our communications with you as direct and two-way as possible. We'll mail or email you our quarterly newsletter and invite you to subscribe to our Swan Ranger email list, where you'll also receive weekly Swan Ranger reports and occasional action alerts to help conserve the Swan Range. Our promise to you is that your address will not be shared and you will not be bombarded by spiraling viral requests to join this cause and that as you attempt to track us via social media.

In return, we ask that you recognize we will only ask for your help when it is truly important and that you dedicate the few moments necessary to hear us out. If we ask too much of you or too often - or not enough, please let us know rather

than simply toss our newsletter or add us to your spam blacklist.

To truly appreciate and conserve wilderness requires an attention span of more than a few seconds, so don't look for us on Twitter! We'll keep you posted via our newsletters and email and hope to meet you at a Swan Range Community Jam Session, on a Swan Ranger outing, or along the trail. As Barbara Brown Taylor writes: "Sometimes we do not know what we know until it comes to us through the soles of our feet." The medium is the message.



Lawsuits Continue to Reap Benefits for Fish and Wildlife!

We have had to file repeated lawsuits to get the Flathead National Forest to comply with its own Forest Plan standards limiting roads and motorized vehicles to protect fish and wildlife habitat. But the effects of those lawsuits, two of which had hearings before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals October 8, continue to have a positive influence on the Flathead.

The recent Firefighter Project along Hungry Horse Reservoir, for example, promises to bring that area into full compliance with Forest Plan standards by decommissioning roads, though not as quickly as envisioned by Forest Plan Amendment 19 in 1995. And the decision says American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds will be used in the area to implement road decommissioning promised in the 1999 Paint Emery Project before Firefighter Project logging begins.

Also, the Firefighter Project admits that a closed road with culverts and bridges left in place for snowmobiling is not to be considered decommissioned in terms of securing habitat for fish and wildlife. This is an issue we are litigating in the 2002 Moose Post-Fire Project, which left culverts in "decommissioned" roads for snowmobiles. After we won the case in the Ninth Circuit last January, the Flathead attempted to fix the problem with more paperwork rather than removing the culverts, so we sued again.

The point is, while the agencies may dig their heels in on a particular lawsuit, we continue to make gains on-the-ground through our persistence. While the promises made in the Firefighter Project decision are encouraging, we've filed an appeal to insure those promises become legally binding, nondiscretionary requirements.



Celebrating the Swan Range Photo Contest Results!

The community really pulled together for the Celebrating the Swan Range photography exhibit shown at the Bigfork Museum of Art and History August 25 through September 5! While the effort began last April and culminated with the exhibit, the photographs will continue to foster greater appreciation of the Swan Range far into the future!



"Timeless Travel"

© Diana Adkins 2007

Of the 72 digital photos entered in the contest in April and May, virtually all were donated for nonprofit educational use by Swan View Coalition and 48 were chosen by jury to be printed for the subsequent exhibit. A full-house opening reception August 25 kicked off sales of the exhibited photos and, by the close of the show, nearly half had sold to benefit the art of photography and Swan Range conservation!

Jury's Choice and People's Choice Awards were made for best photo in each of four categories in both the amateur and professional divisions. Amateur photographers winning awards were Diana Adkins, Lynne Brett, Caroline Riss, Lawrence Stolte, and Joel Vignere. Professional photographers winning awards were Dee Blank and Rick Sheremeta.

Other photographers that entered the contest were Edd Blackler, Stuart Cole, Laurie Darrow, Ralph DeLange, Ken Dvorak, Paul Erler, Mark Evanoff, Holland Gauthier, Dan Hartwell, Colleen Hathaway, Mike Healy, Robert Hermes, Evan Hogue, Spencer Jenko, Leslie Kuntz, Kara Love, Paulette Love, John McCabe, John Mercer, Steve Mitchell, Brian Parks, Charline Payne, Tom Payne, Mark Rice, Adelle Scholl, Linda Sole, Sarah Taylor, Brett Thuma, Jeb Vandenburg, Apryll Verboven, Joost Verboven, Susan Waldron, and Pam Willison.

Many area businesses contributed to the effort by donating prizes for the awards. Participating businesses included Bill Hunger Therapeutic Massage, Bonelli's Bistro, Burch's One Hour Photo Digital, Don Gee Woodworking, Echo Lake Café, El Topo Cantina, Electric Avenue Gifts, Great Northern Foods, INVITE, Kravingz Café and Bakery, Medicine Owl Massage, Montana Coffee Traders, Mountain Brook Studio, Mountain Valley Foods, River Street Diner and Pub, Rocky Mountain Outfitter, Rosa's Pizza, Saketome Sushi, Swan Valley Herbs, and Wheaton's Cycling and Fitness.



"On the Trail to Crater Lake" © Joel G. Vignere 2007

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

Swan View Coalition gives its heartfelt thanks to all of the folks and businesses that helped make the photo exhibit a successful exploration of the many ways the wonderful Swan Range enriches our daily lives. A special thanks goes to Marnie Forbis and the Bigfork Museum of Art and History for co-hosting the exhibit.

In case you missed the exhibit, the eight Jury Award winning photographs can be viewed in color by downloading Swan View Coalition's "Summer 2009" newsletter

from www.swanview.org. Accompanying this article (on page 4) are the two exceptional photographs granted People's Choice Awards by viewers of the exhibit without having previously won a Jury's Choice Award.

While a picture is indeed worth a thousand words, the kind words Edd Blackler submitted with his photograph nonetheless capture how many of us feel: "The Swan Range provides me with tremendous inner enrichment in all seasons."



"North Shore Flathead Panorama"

© Brett Thuma 2008

Annual Membership Meeting and Potluck Sunday, November 8, at 5pm!

Please join us for our Annual Membership Meeting and Potluck on November 8 at 5pm. It will be held at the home of Inger Lemke, 22 Swan View Road. A fitting location for our 25th annual meeting, don't you think?

We'll begin with a potluck dinner and social hour, then follow up with a short business meeting and election of our working committee officers. Current officers are Keith Hammer - Chair, Julie Bates - Secretary, and Carol Buchan - Treasurer.

All are invited to attend but only members that have paid minimum

dues of at least \$25 in the past year are allowed to vote in elections and other Coalition business.

Swan View Road turns west from Lower Valley Road about one mile north of Lower Valley's intersection with Highway 82/208 (the Somers Cutoff Road). When you get a wonderful view of the Swan Range similar to that in Brett Thuma's panorama, above, you'll know you're getting close to Swan View Road!

If you need more detailed directions, you can phone Inger at 857-2307.

Cinnabar Foundation Will Again Match Your Donation!

Your donation to Swan View Coalition will automatically be doubled, thanks to the Cinnabar Foundation! Cinnabar has again this year issued us a \$4,000 Challenge Grant as an incentive for you to give generously this Fall and Holiday Season.

Cinnabar Foundation has helped support our work for over fifteen years, even during the toughest of times. So please take advantage of this opportunity to "team up" with Cinnabar!

The Cinnabar Foundation grew out of Len and Sandy Sargent's love for the public lands surrounding their

ranch in Cinnabar Basin near Yellowstone National Park. Today, their conservation ethic and legacy reaches every corner of Montana through the work of grass-roots groups like Swan View Coalition.

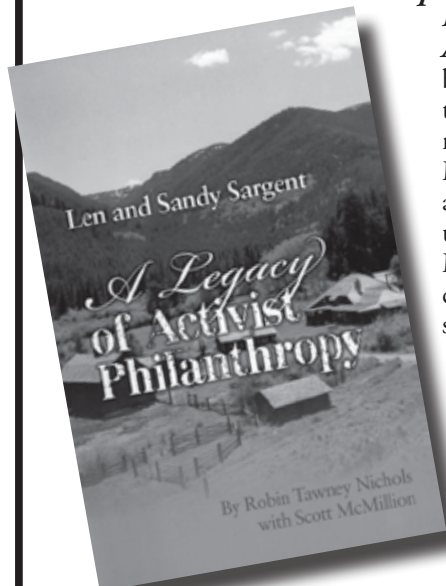
If you'd like to learn more about the passion the Sargents brought to their conservation efforts - and the legacy they left through careful forethought - you'll want to read "Len and Sandy Sargent: A Legacy of Activist Philanthropy."

Details for ordering the book are given below and proceeds go to the Cinnabar Foundation.

NOW AVAILABLE

The Cinnabar Foundation is pleased to announce the publication of
Len and Sandy Sargent: A Legacy of

Activist Philanthropy. A fascinating biography of the Sargents, who founded the Cinnabar Foundation. This book reviews the groundwork that enabled Montana's conservation ethic to flourish, as it tells the story of two people who unflinchingly gave of their time to keep Montana an uncommon place. Author Robin Tawney Nichols, with a contribution from Scott McMillion, captured both the essence and the spirit of this exceptional couple.



Published by the University of Montana Press
Mountain Press Publishing Company, 1301 South Third West, Missoula, MT
59801 Copies are available for **\$9.95** each by calling **1-800-234-5308**
or via e-mail at **info@mtnpres.com**.

Please include \$4.00 for postage and handling.

All proceeds from the sale of the book go to the Cinnabar Foundation.
Books available for resale at a discounted rate, contact
Mountain Press for more information.

Make a Donation Today!

Swan View Coalition relies in large part on member donations to fund its work protecting habitat for fish, wildlife and people. Please give what you can, when you can!



Make a donation today and we'll send you a beautifully embroidered Swan Ranger patch to sew or hang on your backpack, cap or jacket! This 2.5" by 3.5" patch is a great way to show you help restore quiet habitat for fish, wildlife and people! Here's how:

1. Send a check to Swan View Coalition at 3165 Foothill Road, Kalispell, MT 59901 and indicate whether you want a "sew-on" or "hang-loop" patch.

2. Use your credit card securely on-line at www.swanview.org or www.swanrange.org by clicking on the Donate Now button!



Groundspring/Network for Good securely handles your credit card transaction for us and informs us immediately via email of your donation and whether you've asked for one of our free gifts. If you have other info you want to get to us, simply email it to keith@swanview.org or mail it to the address above.



If there is pink on your mailing label, it means you haven't donated in nearly a year or more. Please make a donation so we can keep sending you our newsletter and continue our work!

- ☐ Here's \$25 to cover my minimum dues, newsletters, alerts, and Swan Ranger Reports.
- ☐ Here's \$50 to help restore a bit of peace and quiet to America's public lands.
- ☐ Here's \$100 to help keep forest roads from ending up in America's bull trout streams.
- ☐ Here's \$_____ to help secure grizzly, lynx and wolverine habitat for future generations.
- ☐ Here's \$_____ for _____ Gift Memberships at a minimum of \$25 each. I've included each recipient's name, mailing address, email address, and my greeting on separate paper.
- ☐ As a gift of appreciation for my donation, please send me ☐ the Swan/Flathead history booklet "The Lineage of Chief Aeneas: A History of People and Place" and/or ☐ a Swan Ranger patch (circle "hang-loop" or "sew-on").
- ☐ Save paper! Email my newsletters to _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

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