

Swan View's News

Holidays 2010



Swan View Coalition
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"Nature and human nature on the same path."

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Giving Thanks and Remembering Conservation During the Holidays!

This issue is dedicated to cherishing the people who work to conserve our natural world, past and present. It begins on page 2 with a story of huge success in getting critical habitat for threatened bull trout designated this year and gives a well-deserved nod to Arlene Montgomery for her nearly 20 years of persistence in accomplishing the task!

The past year, however, has taken a heavy toll of people who touched us deeply with their efforts to keep our great outdoors wild. We pay tribute to their passing on pages 3 and 4.

Ben Long explores the common denominator of military service among a number of environmental heroes, including the Flathead's late Loren Kreck, on pages 5 and 6. Indeed, these veterans fought not only for their country overseas, but for the conservation of public lands here at home!

The theme of this newsletter was inspired, in part, by a comment from a subscriber to our Swan Ranger email postings. After reading our article about the late Rosalind Yanishevsky, she wrote "I know way

too little about the important people who work on the issues I believe in."

While a single newsletter can hardly do justice to all whom we wish to pay tribute to, it can give you a taste of some of their lives and contributions to conservation. You can learn more by signing up to receive

our weekly email postings or by viewing our articles on the Heritage page at www.swanrange.org.

A big Thank You to all who contributed to or attended our Nov 7 fundraising party at El Topo Cantina! We cleared nearly \$2,000, which put us much closer to meeting our Cinabar challenge grant of \$4,000.

Your contributions by November 30 will help insure we meet this matching grant. Donations later during the Holiday Season will help insure we meet our 2010 budget (page 7)!



Mountain ash at Strawberry Lake.
Keith Hammer Photo.

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND THANK YOU
FOR SUPPORTING OUR WORK!**

Keith

Critical Habitat for Bull Trout Designated After 18 years and 7 Lawsuits

Few stories of conservation victory can match the battle fought to get bull trout listed as a threatened species and its critical habitat designated for protection. It took 18 years and 7 lawsuits to get it done and now all things dependent on clean water in bull trout neighborhoods will benefit!

In 1992, Friends of the Wild Swan, Swan View Coalition and Alliance for the Wild Rockies petitioned to have bull trout protected under the Endangered Species Act and to have its critical habitat designated. While Fish and Wildlife in 1993 found listing as a threatened species may be warranted, it took four lawsuits and seven years to get it to actually do so!

Then the agency continued dragging its feet on designating critical habitat. The groups sued the Forest Service and won interim habitat protection through Inland Native Fish Habitat Management (INFISH) standards applied to 23 National forests and successfully sued FWS to keep it from simply producing bull trout in fish hatcheries rather than protecting their native habitat.

Meanwhile, FOWS and AWR pursued several lawsuits over FWS's lack of critical habitat designation. After a 2008 Department of Interior Inspector General report found Deputy Assistant Secretary Julie MacDonald had interfered with a science-based designation of bull trout critical habitat (and others), a more appropriate designation finally began to take form.

After several inadequate attempts and under continued legal pressure, FWS in

September, 2010, designated 20,000 miles of streams in Montana, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, and Nevada as critical habitat for bull trout, along with nearly 500,000 acres of inland lakes and reservoirs and 750 miles of ocean shoreline in Washington! This is a resounding victory for fish and clean water, provided citizens now monitor the agencies to insure they cause no "adverse modification" of that habitat, as prohibited by law.

The never-ending need for constant citizen oversight cannot be overemphasized, nor can we fail to acknowledge and support the hard work that makes conservation

victories possible. In the 18-year battle over bull trout, FOWS's Arlene Montgomery has remained at the center and been the go-to resource and fact-checker for the conservation attorneys.

Arlene became a member of FOWS in the late 1980's and her remarkable aptitude for applying law and science to conservation soon became apparent. She became Program Director

in 1994 and continues today.

Swan View Coalition and FOWS often coordinate work on conservation issues. We owe a debt of gratitude to Arlene and FOWS for shouldering the load for bull trout while Swan View pursued lawsuits and initiatives to conserve grizzly bear. The whole of our cooperative relationship is certainly greater than the sum of its parts!

We also want to thank our members that wrote comments in support of critical habitat for bull trout when asked in our 2010 Winter-Spring newsletter! It helped a lot!



Arlene Montgomery talks old-growth with Bigfork High students.

Keith Hammer Photo

Tributes to Members and Conservation Heroes



Steve Thompson Photo

Loren Kreck passed away March 26, 2010, at his home in Columbia Falls, at the age of 89. Loren and his wife Mary in 1970 filed a class-action lawsuit against the Columbia Falls Aluminum plant for fluoride emissions that were destroying the bones and teeth of wildlife, which spurred upgrades in the plant that also made it more competitive in failing aluminum markets later on. Loren was key in securing Jewel Basin as a hiking-only area and in securing Wilderness designation for the Great Bear Wilderness. He worked tirelessly to secure more Wilderness designations. Loren wrote "Nature is as close as we can come to a magical 'fountain of youth' . . . getting away from the noise and pollution of machines." (More on Loren, page 5).



David Tasgal Photo

Rosalind Yanishevsky passed away June 6, 2010, at the age of 61. She cofounded the nonprofit Resources Limited in Polebridge in the 1980's and, while living there off-the-grid, led a charge that resulted in a rewrite of the Flathead Forest Plan's old-growth forest management. With a doctorate in microbiology and a yen for wildlife biology, Ros took a position with National Audubon mapping remaining old-growth in the Pacific Northwest. She wrote a compendium of the natural history of birds of Colorado for its Division of Wildlife, then returned to Massachusetts to care for her ailing mother. She remained there with partner David Tasgal, taught, studied, and now lies in a hand-dug grave in northwest Massachusetts.



Wild Wind Music Photo

Walkin' Jim Stoltz passed away September 3, 2010, at the age of 57. Jim dedicated his life to the conservation of America's wildlands and moved us through his music and stories about life along the wilderness trail. Jim's 27,000 miles of awareness-raising hikes included a trip all the way around the Bob Marshall Wilderness and along the Swan Range. He performed his "Forever Wild" multimedia show numerous times in the Flathead as fund-raisers for local conservation groups. The Environmental Protection Agency honored Jim with its "Outstanding Achievement Award" for his advocacy of nature and wilderness across America. He was an outspoken advocate for the protection of all of America's remaining public roadless lands.

More Tributes to Members and Conservation Heroes



Family Photo

George Turner passed away September 20, 2010, at the age of 61. A rancher and sawmill owner along Foothill Road, George was often at odds with the Forest Service over its reluctance to remove logging roads after logging. In 1985, George insisted the FS remove its abandoned road up Olsen Creek, which was George's drinking water supply. When the FS failed to act, George removed the road with his own dozer. For this he received Montana Wilderness Association's Art Sedlack award for a bold act in defense of wildlands. As a member of the FS-convened Noisy Face Recreation Task Force, George helped set limits on ATVs in the Krause Basin and Peters Ridge areas, where they also trespassed illegally on his private property.



Family Photo

Barbara Bennetts passed away September 30, 2010, at the age of 68. A lifelong lover of the great outdoors, Barbara once skied across the Bob Marshall Wilderness from Spotted Bear to Ovando, hiked much of the Swan Crest, and once lived in that wonderful sod-roofed cabin on the banks of the Swan River at Kearney Rapids. She was a champion for women's rights, the environment, Native American interests, and the under-served. Barbara died in the company of her two daughters, on the couch of her modest home in Elmo, facing Chief Cliff. She is buried at Natural Cemeteries south of Swan Lake where she continues to nourish life through recycling, nestled between her beloved Bob Marshall and Mission Mountain Wilderness areas.



Family Photo

Kerrie Byrne passed away October 18, 2010, at her home in Whitefish at age 58, with husband Steve Thompson at her side. Kerrie developed her deep love for nature and animals both wild and domestic at an early age. She taught third and fourth graders in Whitefish for most of her career and was key in developing a dog park there. Besides rescuing and fostering several dogs, Kerrie was active in gardening, farmers' markets, Farmhands, and numerous wildlife conservation groups. Kerrie was buried on a lodgepole pine litter on private property overlooking the North Fork and Glacier National Park, a few feet from where she married Steve, covered with pine boughs and seven feet of good earth.

Love Wilderness? Thank a Veteran! *Some of Environmental Movement's Greatest Heroes* *Were Also Heroes of World War II*

By Ben Long

Tom Brokaw coined the phrase "The Greatest Generation" to describe the veterans who helped win World War II and went on to reshape America into an industrial superpower. World War II was the deadliest war in modern human history - 60 million people killed between 1939-1945, as the globe was swept into total war. When the bloodshed was over and American veterans came home, many saw the public lands of their country with new eyes. Its wild beauty comforted them even as they recognized its vulnerability, and it wasn't long before some became staunch defenders of wilderness.

In Montana, I think of my late friend Loren Kreck, who was an energetic kid growing up in Los Angeles when he signed up for military service. He flew Corsair fighter planes off aircraft carriers in the South Pacific. After the war, Loren and his wife, Mary, settled in Montana, where they opened a dentistry office, raised a couple of boys and roamed the woods and waters by canoe, hiking boots and cross-country skis. Loren played pond hockey into his 80s, regularly schooling opponents half his age, like me.

Loren was among the founders of the Montana Wilderness Association, helped preserve the Scapegoat and Great Bear Wilderness Areas, and fought polluters in his beloved Flathead Valley. He and his wife led the charge to stop a smelter from polluting Glacier National Park and prevented an effluent-spewing pulp mill from being

built upstream from the spectacularly clean Flathead Lake. Of course, his more shortsighted neighbors targeted Kreck, passing around bumper stickers saying "To Heck with Kreck."

Loren was my friend and a true hero, but he was not the only veteran who courageously fought to save the West's wild lands. I also think of David Brower, who was a lieutenant in the Army's 10th Mountain Division, winning the Bronze Star in Italy. He turned the Sierra Club into a national political powerhouse, helped save the Grand Canyon from being flood-

ed by a proposed dam, and won enough other conservation victories to fill books.

Then there's Michael Frome, now 90 and still writing, who was a Navy navigator during the war's Pacific Theater. He went on to become a crusading journalist,

(continued on next page)



Loren Kreck. Copyright 2009 by James Conner.

educator and lifelong defender of our national parks and wilderness.

Bud Moore is another fighter for wild places. He grew up a homesteader's child in western Montana, and as a Marine he led troops in some of the more notorious battles of the South Pacific. At home, he worked for the Forest Service as a voice for wilderness preservation and smarter fire management.

Tom Bell of Lander, Wyo., was a ranch hand who became a gunner on bombing raids over Germany until a chunk of enemy flak tore one eye out. He went on to found the nonprofit Wyoming Outdoor Council and the environmental publication High Country News. Both have become robust Western institutions that are celebrating their 40th birthdays this year.

Kurt Vonnegut was a prisoner of war in Dresden, Germany, when the United States firebombed the city. He famously turned that experience into the novel *Slaughterhouse-Five*, and continued to write passionately (and often hilariously) about environmental themes. He followed Western public-land issues closely well into his elderly years in New York City.

None of these warriors were the least bit warlike after they got home. They didn't parade their valor, but often spoke for peace as fervently as they defended the environment. These veterans shared the sensibili-

ties that helped shape postwar America: They loved America deeply, both the people and the stunning landscape itself; they witnessed ungodly evil and massive destruction by industrial nations run amok; they knew that when Americans worked together toward a common goal, they were a mighty force. Most of all, they had guts and were not afraid of a fight.

In an era when patriotism is sometimes a refuge for blowhards, it's good to remember that the truest patriots are often the quiet ones. Loren Kreck flew an American flag over his property - in the backyard, where strangers were unlikely to notice it. What mattered to him was that he could see it, flapping over the still-sparkling waters of the Flathead River and waving toward the pristine splendor of the Great Bear Wilderness Area.

Our nation is now saying thanks and goodbye to the Greatest Generation, as their span on Earth draws to a close. May we never see another horror like World War II, but may all Americans continue to learn from the example of these true, land-loving patriots.

Ben Long is a contributor to Writers on the Range, a service of High Country News (hcn.org), where this article first appeared. He is a writer and conservationist in Kalispell, Montana and this article is reprinted with his kind permission.



Keith Hammer explores with a young Swan Ranger. *Paulette Love Photo.*

Investing in Our Youth

Paying tribute to our conservation heroes reminds us to spend time with today's youth; to afford them opportunities similar to those that inspired us and got us hooked on the great outdoors. Time spent outdoors with young people provides them the chance to connect with nature, learn essential skills, and value face-time with other people.

Take a kid for a hike today!

How to Make a Donation and Help us Meet Cinnabar's Challenge!

Swan View Coalition relies in largest part on member donations to fund its work protecting habitat for fish, wildlife and people.

Your donation by November 30 will help insure we meet a challenge/matching grant from Cinnabar Foundation! If we finish raising \$4,000, we get a \$4,000 grant!

If you can't donate now, your donations later in the holiday season are still needed to help insure we meet our budget for 2010. **Your support is absolutely essential to our work!**

1. Send a check to Swan View Coalition at 3165 Foothill Road, Kalispell, MT 59901.

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



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 embroidered patch (circle "hang-loop" or "sew-on").

☐ Save paper! Email my newsletters to _____

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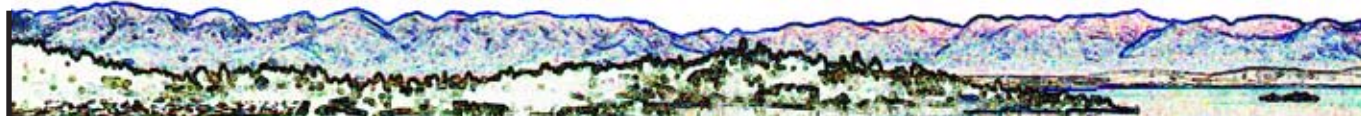
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