



the
WILDEST PLACE

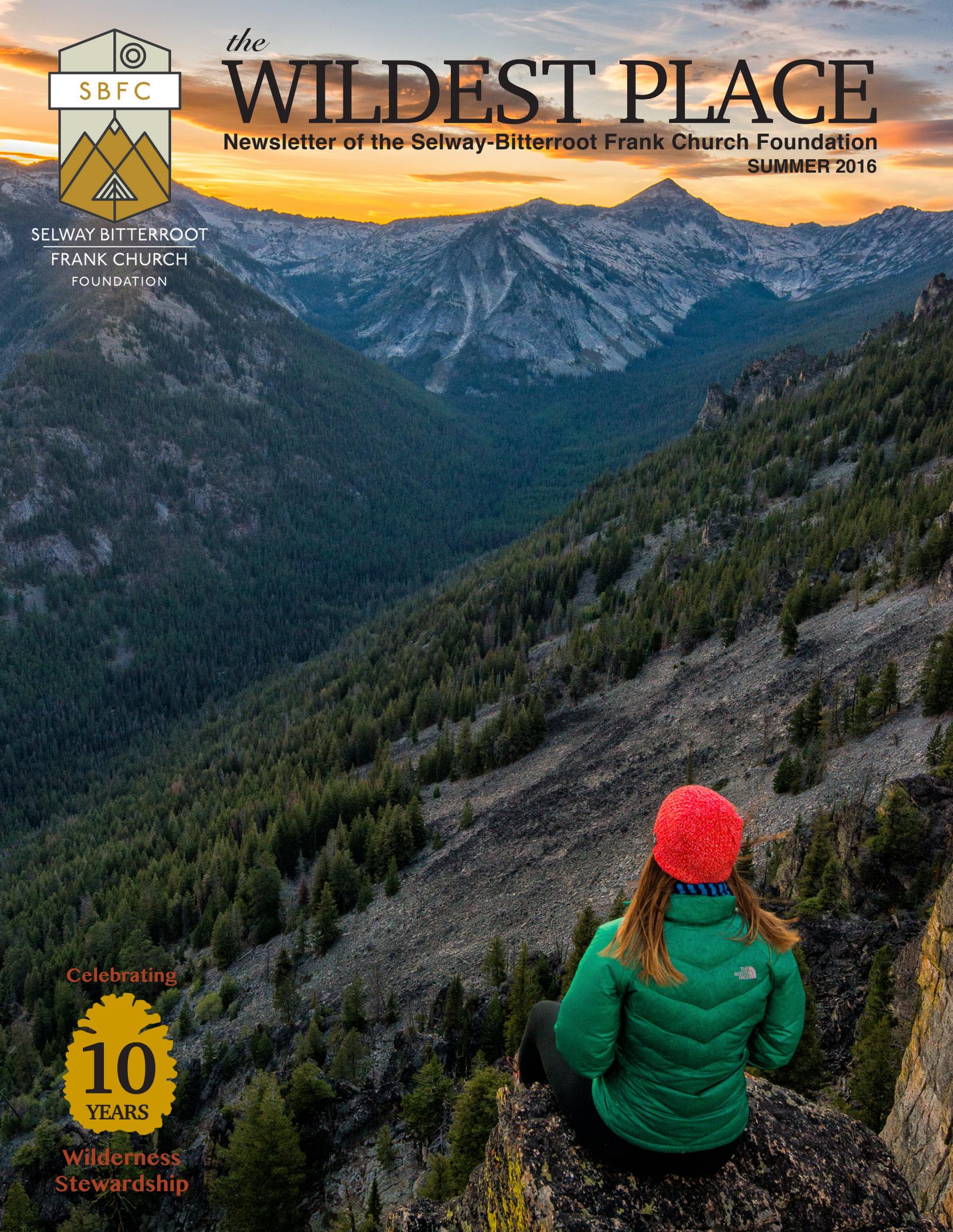
Newsletter of the Selway-Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation
SUMMER 2016

SELWAY BITTERROOT
FRANK CHURCH
FOUNDATION

Celebrating



Wilderness
Stewardship





SELWAY BITTERROOT
FRANK CHURCH
FOUNDATION

Summer 2016

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The Wildest Place is the membership newsletter of the Selway-Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation. With the support of members, local businesses, and generous grantors, the SBFC is committed to connecting citizens and communities to assist in the stewardship of the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness, and surrounding wildlands.

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Bear Creek overlook above the Bear Creek drainage

The Selway-Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

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From the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Summer is here and our tenth season of wilderness stewardship has begun. We have an outstanding team of seven Wilderness professionals, eleven Wilderness interns and a lengthy list of volunteers. Our staff and interns hail from several different states plus we are excited to have a 12-week intern from Slovakia, who is eager to learn and apply traditional Wilderness skills! SBFC staff and interns will spend the 2016 season working in the SBW and FCRONR Wilderness in the Bitterroot, Nez Perce-Clearwater, Salmon-Challis and Payette National Forests. Many thanks to our dedicated Forest Service partners for their support, commitment, and collaboration.



Our staff and interns completed two full weeks of extensive training in May and June and received Wilderness First Responder and B Faller crosscut saw certifications. They also received hands-on wilderness skills training from Larry Cooper, the Binninger family, Connie Saylor-Johnson and Gayle Renshaw. Adam Washabek and Mark Smith from the Bitterroot NF conducted the crosscut saw training and certifications and Shawn Kashmitter, with the Nez Perce Tribe, provided an invasive weeds training.

We were very fortunate to have Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness legends Jim Renshaw and Penny Keck talk to interns and staff about wilderness history and lore. The Lochsa Historical Ranger Station was again headquarters for training and housing. Many thanks to Connie Saylor-Johnson and the Nez Perce-Clearwater Forest for this great location.

We have ten outstanding wilderness volunteer projects this season and there are still a few openings to be filled. For more information and to sign up for projects go to: www.selwaybitterroot.org/volunteer-now.

I want to extend a grateful thanks to Lisa Gerloff, Dale Williams and Clare O'Connell for their vision and commitment to SBFC as board members extraordinaire. They have stepped off the board, but will not be going far. Clare will continue to serve as the St. Mary's Peak Lookout Volunteer Coordinator.

Mark your calendars and save the date for the Telluride Mountain Film Festival – October 27, Egyptian Theater – Boise, ID. Please join us for an evening of fun, fantastic flicks, and fabulous raffle items. Also watch your email inbox for several fall events we have planned for Boise and Missoula.

Thanks to you and your generous support – here's to a successful and memorable season!

Sally Ferguson
Executive Director

Board Members Pass the Baton

How do you say thank you to three board members who have contributed a combined quarter of a century of dedicated service to our Board of Directors and the SBFC mission? How do we thank Lisa Gerloff who served as our chairperson for eleven years? How do we thank Dale Williams who served as our treasurer for nine years? How do we thank Clare O'Connell who led us in our first comprehensive planning effort? It's simple. We continue to work together to build upon the successes of these three individuals. We will continue to connect citizens and communities to stewardship opportunities in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness and surrounding wildlands. We will continue to maintain Wilderness integrity through boots on the ground work, education and partnerships! We will continue to do the good work they have done and build on the foundation that they have set in place. To Lisa, Dale and Clare, thank you for your service.

Ed Krumpe - Board Chairman

The Binninger Family - SBFC's Fab Four

An interview with SBFC volunteer Jon Binninger



Interview by Sue Webster

SBFC sees over 100 volunteers each season who devote a week or more of their vacation time to work with us in the backcountry. Jon Binninger started volunteering for the SBFC in 2007, his daughter then a toddler, his son still a glimmer, and his own childhood memories fueling his passion for Wilderness. Nine years later Jon's enthusiasm for being in the backcountry is shared by his wife Hannah, daughter Flora (11) and son Clem (8) who all volunteer for the SBFC. Each summer, in addition to Jon and his mules providing SBFC pack support, the entire family volunteers for an SBFC trip into the Frank. The Binnings, Flora and Clem too, train our interns and staff on mule packing techniques, handling the stock, etc. I spoke with Jon about his experiences with the SBFC and what keeps him coming back for more.....

What is your involvement with the SBFC?

"I've done several different things with the Foundation – mostly packing though. I usually do 2-3 pack trips per year. I try each summer to do a volunteer trip where the whole family goes – cutting trail, etc."

Where did you learn to do what you do?

"My dad had pack horses so we learned as little kids. Little kids gettin' thrown up on top of a pack horse with the packs on the horses and us on top of the packs, clinging to the ropes. We looked like a herd of camels going across the Lochsa and up into the mountains.

How did you hear about the SBFC?

When I was in college at U of I the ICL opened an office in Moscow. I became friends with John McCarthy who was working at ICL in Moscow at the time and involved with SBFC as a volunteer. John connected me with the group.

You and your family do some of the trainings for our staff and interns?

Jim Renshaw used to do all the pack training, he's so good with packing and all that. Any time I'm around him I learn a lot. Jim's starting to phase out of it and I'm replacing him. I try to get the interns and staff to the point that they're safe and aware and know how to act around the stock in a way that's productive and not dangerous. Just knowing how the animals move and think can either make a good day better or a good day bad.

And Flora and Clem?

They talk about how to lead and handle the animals. More of the horsemanship side of things.

We're so appreciative for what you do on the trails, but off the trails you contribute as well.

Yes we have a coffee roasting business – Landgrove Coffee. We have a blend that we sell as a benefit coffee for the SBFC called Cross Trails. Cross Trails is a little dot on the map up off the Salmon River near Shepp Ranch. We donate \$1 per pound to the SBFC. It's a neat story that we can tell as we sell the coffee. (Landgrove coffee is served and sold at the Fogglifter in McCall.) You can purchase our coffee via our website at www.landgrove.com.

What would you say to someone interested in volunteering with the SBFC?

Unplug whatever you've got plugged in, get out of town and go do some work in the back country. It's the best thing you'll ever do for yourself, for everybody else too!



Hannah, Clem, Flora & Jon

Jerry Cebula Secret Donor

By Sarah Walker

Jerry Cebula, from Lenore, Idaho, was a lifelong angler, hunter, birder, naturalist and community volunteer. SBFC added an unexpected new interest to his life, broadened his firm horizons and inspired him to help—which he did, always on his own terms.



Jerry's first experience in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness was a backpack to Wind Lakes in 2009. This took some persuasion, but he dusted off his old Camptrails frame pack and obliged. When he stood on Grave Peak he couldn't get over that wildlands extended as far as he could see in every direction, most of it designated Wilderness. He had backpacked before when he lived in Colorado, but said the Wilderness areas were smaller, the land more divided up. He had a background in Wildlife Biology and he clicked on the expanse of the continuous habitat he was seeing.

The next year I signed on to cook for the Dan Ridge volunteer trail project, a job requiring feeding 15-20 people for 8 days with a camp move mid-project. Jerry declared that I was in over my head and announced that he would come along to help set up the kitchen and sous-chef the first couple of meals, then hike out. But when he met the volunteers, interns, staff and the Binninger family packers and began to recognize the dedication, connection, caring, and hard work of every member of that group, he became intrigued and impressed.

Jerry helped cook again in 2012 at the Siah Lake volunteer project, again for just the first couple of days. He hiked into base camp with Flora and Clem Binninger, ages 7 and 4, who led the way at a brisk pace. Jerry fondly

pointed out that they were height-advantaged and got all the huckleberries. At camp he saw more familiar faces. We were all sorry to see him leave but Jerry wasn't one to hang out—likely some sly trout was calling him to one of his favorite solitary haunts.

Jerry came to all the Lewiston/Clarkston Fundraisers—surprising, because noisy crowds weren't his thing, but he found local outdoorspeople he knew, as well as new friends he'd made on the volunteer projects. He began to encourage members of the Canyon Birders to attend.

In 2013 he decided the event needed more action in the donations department. So he instigated the "secret donor challenge" – he donated \$1,000 to challenge the room to match it during the evening. It worked great and he repeated this support each year. Jerry wanted to remain anonymous so we kept his secret as best we could.

Jerry died May 4, 2016 in Lewiston, from leukemia.

As we work away at the miles of trail-clearing and long list of wilderness management tasks and gather each year together at our fundraisers, Jerry's own caring and connections will be missed. Perhaps a new "secret donor" will emerge.



ADVENTURES

And the winner is.....

Robert Saldin has won this summer's trip for two on the Salmon River. Robert is an SBFC member and back country volunteer. We can't wait to see the pics Robert! Have a terrific time. Thanks again to ROW Adventures for donating this magical trip.



Stay Connected
with us ALL YEAR!

READ

project blogs written by the SBFC interns. After each hitch, the interns post project reports, thoughts, observations from their latest wilderness experience. Sometimes funny, always informative, and occasionally thought-provoking, the interns do an excellent job of sharing their wilderness experience through the use of words and photos. To access the blogs go to: www.selwaybitterroot.org



GET THE PICTURE

see beautiful landscape photos from our projects. Sign up for Instagram feeds: [selwaybitterroot](https://www.instagram.com/selwaybitterroot)



BE INFORMED

about upcoming events, projects, raffles and much more by "friending" us on Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/selwaybitterroot>



STRAIGHT TO YOUR INBOX

sign up to get emails that have hotlinks to volunteer opportunities, event ticketing, and much more. Send an email to: info@selwaybitterroot.org - Subject line "Sign me Up!"



Welcome 2016 Wilderness Ranger and Wilderness Steward Interns

This year the SBFC received over 50 applications from across the nation for the Wilderness Ranger Intern position. We are proud to bring on eleven new interns who are learning new skills, forging new territory, and creating their own personal definition for stewarding our nation's dedicated Wilderness areas. We are honored to have such a fine group of men and women who are passionate about the work we do and the wilderness conservation work they will do moving forward.

Wilderness Ranger Interns

Alex "AJ" Baeseman

Hometown: Germantown, WI
Education: University of Wisconsin-Madison, graduated this May. Bachelor's Degrees in Biology and Conservation.
Interests and experience: Worked as a Wilderness Steward Intern for the Bob Marshall Foundation, in 2015.



Calle Ries

Hometown: Phoenix, AZ
Education: Northern Arizona University, degree seeking; Bachelors of Science in Biology, Undergraduate Certificate in International Forestry and Conservation.
Interests and experience: Completed a two-day seminar for FS Youth Group Leader Wilderness Training and has experience with horses.



Claire Voris

Hometown: Barrington, IL
Education: University of Montana, MFA in Creative Writing, expected date of completion is Spring 2017. Washington University, St. Louis, Bachelor of Arts Degree, May 2011 Major: Anthropology; Minors: Spanish and Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.
Interests and experience: Washington University Varsity Softball, Pitcher and 3rd Base, 2007-2011. Thru-hiked the Appalachian Trail, May - Oct 2013.



Danielle "Dani" Jones

Hometown: Newark, OH
Education: Ohio State University, Columbus, degree seeking, Bachelors of Science in Forestry, Fisheries, and Wildlife with a specialization in Wildlife Science. Anticipated graduation: Spring 2017. Interests and experience: Worked in a wildlife center in high school, taking care of resident animals, glove-training birds of prey, and assisting with educational programs.



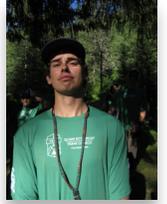
Danilo "Mickey" Figueroa

Hometown: Missoula, MT - Lives in Dillon
Education: University of Montana Western, degree seeking, Environmental Interpretation and General Studies, currently will be specializing as a Biological Naturalist. Alderleaf Wilderness College Monroe, WA Sep. 2011 - May 2012, Alderleaf Wilderness Certification Program. Served in the US military from 2005-2008. Interests and experience: Military veteran, natural history, native flora & fauna and ecology coursework. Certified Interpretive Guide by the National Association for Interpretation, 2015.



Jacob "Jake" Candeub

Hometown: Lives in Missoula
Education: University of Montana, Bachelor of Arts Degree, Parks, Tourism & Recreation Management Candidate, May 2016.
Interests and experience: Worked as an after school counselor for elementary school children. Backpacker, long-distance and solo hiker including the John Muir Trail and Yosemite NP trails.



Kelsey Johansen

Hometown: Lives in Bozeman
Education: Montana State University, Bozeman, Bachelor of Science, Fish and Wildlife Ecology and Management, expected graduation December 2016.
Interests and experience: Work Study at Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks. Past Montana Conservation Corps member and a Habitat for Humanity volunteer.



Mark Vandlik

Hometown: Lives in Missoula
Education: University of Montana, currently seeking M.S. in Forestry. Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology; Minor in German 2008-2012. Interests and experience: Fly Fishing and fly tying; Cold Water Conservation and carpentry.



Wilderness Steward Interns

Bob Myers

Hometown: Van Meter, IA
Interests and experience: Bob was with the Iowa Air National Guard 20+ years and teaches Tracking, Nature and Wilderness Survival. He has a passion for prairie restoration, botany and invasives.
Bob was a 2015 volunteer with Connie Saylor-Johnson's s IDAWA volunteer group in the SBW.



Brian Roach

Hometown: A Boston native who now lives in Oakland, CA
Interests and experience: Securities and financial management. Brian volunteered on the Salmon-Challis National Forest, with FS wilderness manager Geoff Fast in 2014 in the Big Horn Crags.



Juraj Sovcik

Hometown: Zvolenska Slatina, Slovakia
Interests and experience: Past member of the Youth Conservation Corps. Trailwork experience repairing hunting paths and forest roads. Campsite monitoring and inventory experience while working in Norway. Interests and experience: Rock climbing, backpacking and mountaineering.



STEPPING LIGHT: BITTERROOT VALLEY STUDENTS LEARN WILDERNESS ETHICS FROM RANGERS



Bitterroot National Forest Wilderness Ranger Adam Washebek talks to a group of Corvallis sixth graders about everything wilderness.

Portions Reprinted from the Ravalli Republic – Perry Backus

Kneeling down under the canopy of the Ponderosa pine, Adam Washebek smiles at the sixth grade faces staring back at him. “When you think about the wilderness, what comes to mind?”, asks the Bitterroot National Forest Wilderness Ranger. “You never know what’s going to happen when you’re there,” comes the first answer. “That’s certainly true,” Washebek replies. “You could get lost out there,” says another Corvallis sixth-grader. Washebek smiles. “You sure can,” he answers.

In late May, Washebek and the Bitterroot National Forest’s three other Wilderness Rangers along with SBFC Staff members Stephanie Wright and Eric Schweitzer took groups of sixth-graders on a walk through the woods to offer insights on wilderness ethics and leave no trace camping. ***“Part of the SBFC charter is wilderness and public land education. Each year the SBFC helps with this Wilderness Skills Training Program for elementary school students. These students learn age-appropriate wilderness skills, such as “Leave No Trace”, and receive information that can translate to lifelong appreciation of wilderness,” says SBFC Executive Director, Sally Ferguson.***

The students learned how to filter water so it was safe to drink and to do their dishes at least 200 feet from the nearest source of water. They found out how to select a campsite and the best way to travel through the woods without leaving a trail behind. The students stop at 14 stations scattered along the area’s nature trail to learn a little bit about the origins of wilderness, why it’s important and some of the ways they can visit without leaving a trace of themselves behind. For many, it’s the first time they’ve ever really given much thought to the expansive wilderness that is right next door.

Most of the stops along the trail provide the youngsters with ideas on what they can do to keep the wilderness areas wild for the generations to follow. At one point along the trail, Washebek stops to pick up a board filled with plastic bottles, steel cans, and orange and banana peels. All of it was found by rangers inside the wilderness. “My job is a Wilderness Ranger,” he said. “Much of the time, I end up being a wilderness janitor. Pack it in, pack it out is one of the most simple wilderness ethics that people can use.” Unfortunately, many don’t. Finding trash along a wilderness trail or vista or a top a mountain peak takes away from the experience that most people venturing into a wilderness seek. Even throwing down a banana or an orange peel can ruin it for someone else. Washebek said it takes about two years for those peelings to break down.

The Wilderness Skills Trail event has been a harbinger of spring and a good sign that school’s end is near for another year. That means the opportunity to explore the wild country surrounding the valley floor is just around the corner.

“We want to create an awareness for these students that this is their public land,” Washebek said. “It’s not mine. It’s not the Forest Service’s. It belongs to everyone.”

Where Are They Now?

This is the third installment of interviews collected from our past interns. Dee Pettit, retired SBFC Board Member, spent several months contacting and corresponding with the SBFC interns who have graduated from college and started their careers. Dee's objective was to learn what the interns are doing now and if the SBFC internship was a significant factor in their career path.



East Rosebud Lake, with the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness, MT

Charlie Smillie – Wilderness Ranger Intern - 2011

After Charlie's internship in 2011, Charlie wrapped up school at U of M's College of Forestry and Conservation, and rejoined the SBFC as a Crew Leader out of Powell Ranger Station. A full six months of backcountry work, mentoring a new crop of interns, and learning more about wilderness, trail work, and outdoor leadership helped Charlie in his transition from college into the next phase of his life.

On the recommendation of SBFC colleagues, in 2013 Charlie left Montana to spend a season with Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards, a boots-on-the-ground effort in the same spirit as SBFC. There, he experienced a new landscape, culture, and found that the community of people with passion for wild places was alive and well in the southeast. As a crew leader, wilderness ranger, and eventually field supervisor, Charlie's time with SAWS brought further clarity and opportunity for growth. The path of professional wilderness stewardship that began as a SBFC intern continued to lead to more opportunities to help people connect and protect wild places.

After three years exploring Tennessee, Georgia, and North Carolina, Charlie was blessed to have an opportunity to return to his hometown, Billings, to become the Eastern Montana Field Director for the Montana Wilderness

Association. While he doesn't spend as many days on trails as he once did, he does get to work with bright, committed people every day to advocate for and protect the Prairie Wildlands that first drew his eyes to the horizon. To learn more about the places Charlie's working to protect with MWA, visit wildmontana.org, or feel free to reach out to him directly at csmillie@wildmontana.org.



Lena Creek is up on the Hi-Line near Glasgow, MT

Mark Your Calendars

August 19-21 all day
ICT Celebration Stanley, ID
Elk Creek Campground

It's all about the Idaho Centennial Trail. Group hike along Marsh Creek from the Lola Creek Campground. Presentations about the Idaho Centennial Trail, clearing & maintenance projects, plus firsthand accounts from hikers. Two ICT runners, who will have run about 650 miles of the trail by then, will roll in from the trail on Saturday night and do a campfire Q&A about their experiences thus far.

August 27 all day
Sawtooth Salmon Fest - Stanley, ID
Stanley Museum

SBFC will be on hand to explain the mission and projects of the SBFC.

Sept 20 7:00 pm
Outdoor Reading Series - Boise, ID
Rediscovered Book Shop

Author of "Notes from the Cockpit: A Mountain Pilot's Perspective", Dick Williams will share a few of the many riveting, warm, and hysterical stories of his experiences in the Idaho backcountry. Just when you think you've heard it all, there's more....it's not possible to make this stuff up.

Sept 26 5:00-8:00 pm
Member/Volunteer Appreciation Night - Missoula, MT
Montgomery Distillery

Join us for an evening celebrating and thanking all of SBFC's members, volunteers, interns, and field leaders. Limited FREE drink tickets will be provided for those first to arrive! Hear about our summer wilderness stewardship accomplishments. Plus.... from noon-8pm, a dollar from every drink sold will be donated to SBFC.

October 18 7:00 pm
Outdoor Reading Series - Boise, ID
Rediscovered Book Shop

Author of "Merciless Eden", Doug Tims will delve into the details of his book set on the Salmon River in a place called Campbell's Ferry.

October 27 6:00 pm
Telluride Mountain Film Festival - Boise, ID
Egyptian Theater

Join the SBFC and the ICL for the annual Telluride Mountain Film Festival packed with engaging films covering topics of adventure, mountaineering, remarkable personalities and important environment and social issues. Raffle items and plenty of beverages!



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2015-2016 Annual Sponsors



PROTECT AND PRESERVE THE LEGACY OF WILDERNESS

From \$30 to a legacy gift, all contributions make a tangible difference towards the work we do.

FIELD WORK

Each summer we organize, transport, educate, feed, and manage crews and citizen volunteers for trail maintenance, wilderness monitoring, weed mitigation, cabin stewardship, and lookout hosting.

DEVELOP FUTURE LEADERS

Our internship program is a training ground for college students who will pursue careers that have a positive and lasting impact on wilderness and land conservation.

WILDERNESS AND PUBLIC LAND EDUCATION

Each year, with the Bitterroot National Forest, we host a Wilderness Skills Training Program for elementary school students. These students learn age-appropriate wilderness skills, such as "Leave No Trace", and receive information that can translate to a lifelong appreciation of wilderness.

PLEASE INDICATE YOUR MEMBERSHIP LEVEL

\$30 \$60 \$120 \$240 \$600 \$_____

SBFC Legacy – Financial bequests and personal property.
Please Contact: Sally Ferguson, Executive Director
sferguson@selwaybitterroot.org

Send gift with this form to:
SBFC Foundation – PO BOX 1886 Boise, ID 83701

Monthly and one-time payment options are available on our website: selwaybitterroot.org/take-action/



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