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Peninsula Wilderness Club Events

August 1991

Peninsula Wilderness Club meets on the second Monday of every month at 7:30 PM at the Kitsap Unitarian Fellowship Church on Perry Avenue in East Bremerton. The public is cordially invited.

Meeting August 12th

Michelle McClure will be speaking and showing slides of research she conducted on the penguins of Antarctica. Michelle (Wendy's daughter) was a field researcher from September 1990 to March 1991. The evening promises to be a fascinating one. Hope to see you there.

Upcoming PWC Events

Royal Basin Backpack

WEEKEND OF AUGUST 3RD - 4TH: Kevin Kilbridge will be going on a backpack trip to Royal Basin in the Olympics. The trail steadily gains 2400 foot of elevation in about 6 miles through old growth forests. The basin is a series of ice-carved terraces with beautiful Royal Lake in the lower meadows. PWC's interested in joining the hike should call Kevin at 871-2537.

Mt. Townsend via Little Quilcene Trail

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3RD: Join Doug Savage for a day hike to the 6280 foot summit of Mt. Townsend starting from the Little Quilcene trail. The trail, gaining over 2000 feet in about 3 1/2 miles, is steep in places. The view from the top makes the climb worthwhile. Call Doug at 698-9774.

Wildflower Identification

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10TH: Alpine wildflower identification will be discussed on a day hike up the Mt. Townsend Trail. The trail gains 2200 feet in 3.3 miles starting in dense forest and ending in a rock-garden saddle on the ridge. From the saddle there will be an optional rock scramble to the summit of Welch Peak. The trip is intended for PWC's not familiar with some of the most common wildflowers. If interested call Don Paulson at 692-5086.

Trip to Hood River

WEEKEND OF AUGUST 10TH - 11TH: Join Randy Niven for a trip to Hood River, Oregon. Possible activities include wind-surfing, biking, hiking, and if Timberline is still open, skiing and snowboarding (Mt. Hood is only 40 minutes away). This is a National Scenic Area and is a beautiful place to visit. If interested, call Randy at 377-4402 Ext 262.

Spruce Railroad Trail

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17TH: Join the PWC Amblers for a relaxing stroll down the historic Spruce Railroad trail along the shores of Lake Crescent. This will be an easy hike at an easy pace suitable for just about anyone. Frequent views of the lake and peaks beyond make this trip especially enjoyable. Call Helen Schwartz at 377-9822.

(PWC events continued)

Lake of the Angels (Putvin Trail)

AUGUST 16TH, 17TH & 18TH: John Knott will be backpacking into beautiful Lake of the Angels. PWC'rs wishing to join in should be ready for a STEEP trail requiring use of hands at one point (3300 foot gain in 3.8 miles). The scenery and wildflower displays are outstanding. Call John at 478-0476 if interested. See Bear Grass Delight Page 3.

Appleton Pass Backpack

WEEKEND OF AUGUST 24TH - 25TH: Joyce Kimmel is going on an overnight backpack to Appleton Pass starting from the Olympic Hot Springs. The trip in is about 7 miles long with an elevation gain of about 3000 feet. Meadows covered with avalanche lilies and a small lake are at the pass. Hardly a better place to watch an Olympic Sunset. Call Joyce at 876-1497 if interested.

Climb Mt. Walkinshaw

WEEKEND OF SEPTEMBER 7TH - 8TH: Dick Roemer is climbing 7378 foot Mount Walkinshaw in the Olympics. The approach will be from Royal Creek. PWC'rs with class 3 climbing skills are welcome. Call Dick at 297-2190 (Indianola) if interested.

PWC Amblers Hike

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH: Mark this day on your calendar for an easy day hike with the PWC Amblers. The specific trail to be hiked will be announced. Give Helen Schwartz a call at 377-9822 if an easy day hike sounds good to you.

Bogachiel Backpack

WEEKEND OF SEPTEMBER 21ST - 22ND: Doug Savage will be going on a overnight backpack trip to Flapjack Camp on the Bogachiel River. The trip will be 10.3 miles in with little elevation gain traveling through splendid virgin rain forest. If interested in joining, give Doug a call at 698-9774.

Berry Choke and Fanny Soak

WEEKEND OF SEPTEMBER 21ST - 22ND: If a 10 mile backpack isn't your cup of tea, how about camping at Soleduck Campground next to your car. Jim Drannan will day hike up to the Little Divide or Deer Lake area to "graze" on the abundant blueberries. The hike will end back at the hot springs to soak away the berry stains from your fingers and lips. Call Jim at 479-4171 if interested. Please leave a message if there is no answer.

Mt. Adams Climb July 13-14

By Don Paulson

Thirteen PWC'rs led by Doug Savage headed south for a climb of Mount Adams, the state's second highest volcano. Most of the group spent Friday night at a campground near Trout Lake. A lightning storm that night made us wonder what the weather would be like for our climb. We started the climb with the mountain in full view, but with low clouds moving in from the northwest.

The road was snow free to the trail head at Cold Springs Campground (5500 ft.). The snow above timberline provided good footing, making the trip to our 8200 foot base camp quite easy.

Bear Grass Delight

By Wendy McClure

Monday, July 8, my daughter, Michelle, and I headed up the Putvin Trail off the Hamma Hamma, one of my very favorite hikes. Perfect weather guaranteed a great hike but I wasn't prepared for the spectacular show of bear grass. A small thick patch was just a hint of what was waiting for us.

Above the head wall were acres and acres of blooming bear grass at it's peak - thick stands of tall stems covered with the cream colored flowers. I had never seen such an overwhelming display. Pollen clung to our arms, legs, packs and clothes as we hiked across the slopes.

It was so impressive I had to bring Barbara up to see it on Thursday. She was very impressed and said the field of bear grass she had seen several years ago couldn't begin to compare with this. We wondered, then, if the rest of the Olympics had the same dense displays. Tunnel Creek Ridge for example (anyone?)

We continued up the trail and on the last steep stretch before the Lake of the Angels we saw a big bear ahead of us. I mean he was REALLY BIG! We hooted and hollered. Barb whistled. We sang. I clapped by hands. He turned to look at us, lifted a paw, perhaps getting a whiff of us (which, after sweating uphill for four hours wasn't hard to do) and took off running.

We ate lunch at the lake with many backward glances over our shoulders. As we started down the trail we saw ten goats on a slope of Mt. Stone.

I hope others were out there to see this bear grass. I know it's a day I'll always remember.

Note: When Barb and I got back to Poulsbo we found six fire trucks and an ambulance at my house. The family car's engine had exploded in flame and did a rather spectacular meltdown in our garage. Truly, this is a day I'll always remember.

Editor Note:

Bear Grass (*Xerophyllum tenax*) is not a grass. It is a striking plant that cannot be mistaken, for it is the only member of the lily family in our area that is evergreen, its tall tuft of stiff grass-like leaves resembling a small-scale Pampas Grass. Indians dried and bleached the leaves in great quantities for use in weaving hats, capes, and baskets. Bears do eat the softer leaf-bases in early spring and elk are fond of the flower clusters and stems. In many parts of its range, the flowers appear only once or twice in a 10-year period.

Meteor



Shower

Perseids Peak on August 12th/13th

Hundreds of fast moving and colorful meteors will shoot across the moonless sky on the night of August 12th/13th, when the annual Perseid Meteor Shower reaches its peak. Expect to see 50 or more meteors per hour in the prime observing hours after midnight.

Mt. Adams Climb (continued)

A strong wind made pitching the tents a challenge. We all added rocks to existing rock wall windbreaks. The low clouds continued to stream by below us dissipating to the southeast. The cold temperature and wind chill forced most of the group into their tents once the sun left our camp site. A few of us huddled behind a rock wind break swapping stories as Steve Cobb played sweet ballads on his harmonica.

By morning the wind had died down and the clouds were gone. Brian Miller was up at 4 AM for a early climb to the summit, since he had to return for a graveyard shift in the Shipyard later that night. The rest of us, except for one person who was feeling ill, headed for the top at 6:30 AM. The snow was frozen hard most of the way to the summit. Near the top we met Brian on his way down from a successful climb.

The view from the summit was impressive. To the south we could see Mt. Hood and Jefferson. Mt. St. Helen's was to the west and Mt. Rainier to the north. Jay Dee later told me that he was waiving to me from Whitman Crest on Mt. Rainier, but I couldn't quite see him.

The glissade back to base camp was the best. We rocketed down one well developed glissade chute for about 2700 feet of elevation loss. The rest of the day was spent breaking camp and packing out.

Editor Note: Special thanks to Doug Savage for doing such a fine job in organizing and leading this trip. Doug put a great deal of effort into this trip including holding a planning meeting and providing checklists and maps.

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