

May 3, 2008

Ten Swan Rangers saw everything from trilliums to ticks while hiking the Echo Broken Leg Trail as far as Windy Point in Wolf Creek Canyon Saturday. It is indeed tick season, so check oneself over after hiking!

We saw a pair of goshawks near a nest used to fledge two young two summers ago but not used last summer. We are hopeful the nest will be used again this summer as it affords hikers a rare opportunity to view goshawks and their young.

The trail is mostly bare of snow up to Deer Creek, then there are intermittent stretches of snow still on the trail.

The Swan Rangers meet every Saturday at the Echo Lake Cafe for breakfast at 8:30, leaving at 9:30 for a partial day outing in the northern Swan Mountains and foothills. Those times will shift an hour earlier beginning May 17.

They carpool from the Swan River School parking lot next to the Cafe. Everyone is welcome!

Hope to see you soon,

Keith

Keith Hammer photos:



The Echo-Broken Leg Trail crosses Birch Creek soon after leaving the Jewel Basin road at the site of the old Echo Ranger Station.



Several trillium were spotted on the hike in and dozens were spotted on the return hike, making us think many had opened to the warm, sunny day.



Most of the group turned around after having lunch at Windy Point, which offers great views of Ferndale and Flathead Lake while looking down Wolf Creek Canyon.