

May 16, 2009

Twelve Swan Rangers hiked the Echo-Broken Leg Trail Saturday under sunny skies and amid lively conversation. This was a first Ranger outing for five, two of whom were visiting from the U.K.. A Swan Ranger embroidered patch will soon be "worn with pride" in the U.K.!

Big game is on the move as lower elevations green up and the first calypso orchid/fairy slipper bloom of the season was spotted. The Echo-Broken Leg Trail #544 remains a springtime favorite as its southern exposure provides early snow-melt and early wildflowers compared to other trails in the Swan Range.

Many thanks to Pam Willison for Saturday's report and photos while I was attending a wilderness conference!

The Swan Rangers meet every Saturday at the Echo Lake Cafe for **breakfast at 7:30, leaving at 8:30** for a partial day outing in the northern Swan Mountains and foothills.

They carpool from the Swan River School parking lot next to the Cafe.

Everyone is welcome!

Hope to see you soon,



Keith

Photos on following pages by Pam Willison:



A great day to be outdoors with a great group!



Calypso orchid, also known as fairy slipper.



A big game trail appears more heavily used than the hiking trail it crosses!



Echo-Broken Leg Trail offers a wonderful combination of warm south slopes, early wildflowers, great views of the lower Flathead Valley, and plenty of ticks in spring!