

August 15, 2009

Eight Swan Rangers hiked the Echo Broken Leg Trail Saturday into Wolf Creek Canyon. There are signs of fall in the air and woods!

The berries on the Devil's Club are now a bright red, most wildflowers are now going to seed, some leaves are turning yellow, and the appearance of one of our favorite saprophytes, Indian Pipe. Lacking chlorophyll, Indian Pipe survives on the nutrients of nearby trees, which are transferred from the roots of the trees through an intimate association with a soil fungi known as mycchorizal.

There's so much more going on in the woods than meets the eye!

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 Keith Hammer:



It stopped raining long enough for a hike!



Indian Pipe emerges from the forest floor.



Devil's Club along the banks of Deer Creek.



Dogbane: huge seed pods from such tiny flowers!



Approaching Windy Point in Wolf Creek Canyon.