

April 24, 2010

Seven Swan Rangers hiked the Echo-Broken Leg Trail Saturday as far as Wolf Creek and were treated to a 15-minute snow squall at the beginning of their return. It otherwise only rained lightly several times and was quite nice and sunny at times as well.

True to its reputation, the Echo-Broken Leg Trail provides a tour of some of the area's earliest spring wildflowers as it traverses southerly slopes at lower elevations. Also true to its reputation and southerly aspect, the trail provided the Rangers with a few ticks!

It's a good time of year to take your hiking clothes off at your doorstep or put them straight into the washing machine in order to avoid having ticks abandon them in your house or find their way into your scalp or skin!

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. **(Note: our "summer" breakfast and departure times above are an hour earlier than our "winter hours," and will continue May 1 - Nov 1!)**

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:



Deer Creek (and Birch Creek) are swollen a bit with spring flow, but running clear.



Which is true:

- a) Ash from Iceland's Eyjafjallajokull volcano delays the Rangers' return flight.
- b) A snow squall hastens the Rangers' return to a sunny Flathead Valley.



Glacier lily.



Trillium.



A wood violet blooms near a still-unfolding wild strawberry.



Oregon grape.