

May 15, 2010

Four Swan Rangers hiked a loop up the Peterson Creek Road, bushwhacking down Patterson Creek, and returning by an old road to the cars. This afforded the Rangers close-up attention to details as they picked their way through old growth forest left along the creek when neighboring forests were clear-cut in the 1960s.

The Rangers saw their first blooms of calypso orchids, Indian paintbrush, and wild strawberry for the season. They also saw lots of woodpecker trees, some still standing and some fallen to the ground.

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:



Picking a way down-country.



One of the rewards of hiking off-trail along Patterson Creek.



Plenty of moss and conks in the moist old growth forest.



And plenty of snags for woodpecker habitat!



Those unique beauties of undisturbed forests - calypso orchids.



Indian paintbrush beginning to bloom!