

April 30, 2011

Three Swan Rangers avoided the slush and went duck- and geese-watching on the Swan River Nature Trail just upstream of Bigfork. They spotted their first wildflower bloom of the spring, huddled up against cliff rock on a south-facing slope!

Snow water content above the Jewel Basin parking lot increased to 76" (6', 4") with our latest snow storm Friday, which dumped nearly six inches of snow along Foothill Road near Krause Basin!

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 the above times are our summer hours).

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

Bears are emerging from their dens, so be sure to carry bear spray.

Everyone is welcome!



Keith

Photos on following pages by Keith Hammer:



No slush, no rain, with flat trail and tall tales!



A rock-hugging arrowleaf balsamroot makes the bold move of blooming!



"Charlotte's Rest," the nicest privy in the west!



A pair of osprey on their nest, directly across from Charlotte's Rest!



*Pinus ponderosa*.



*Pinus conduitae*.