

June 16, 2012

Fifteen Swan Rangers hiked to Strawberry Lake Saturday, under overcast skies that turned mostly blue and sunny. The air was cool - just right for hiking and sawing all the dead-fall out of the trail!

The trail is clear of snow to the lake, then disappears under a hefty remaining snow pack. Strawberry Lake is free of ice, but a hiker told us Wildcat Lake remains totally froze over!

This hike is a return to earlier spring with wood violets, trillium, glacier lilies, and other flowers still blooming. A little more thawing is in order before Alpine 7 and other high elevation trails bare off!

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.

When hiking in bear country, remember to carry bear spray and avoid the 3-D's: dawn, dusk, and darkness.

Everyone is welcome!



Keith

Photos on following pages by Keith Hammer:



Rangers test the load limit on the bridge over Krause Creek!



Something sprouting; likely striped coral root!



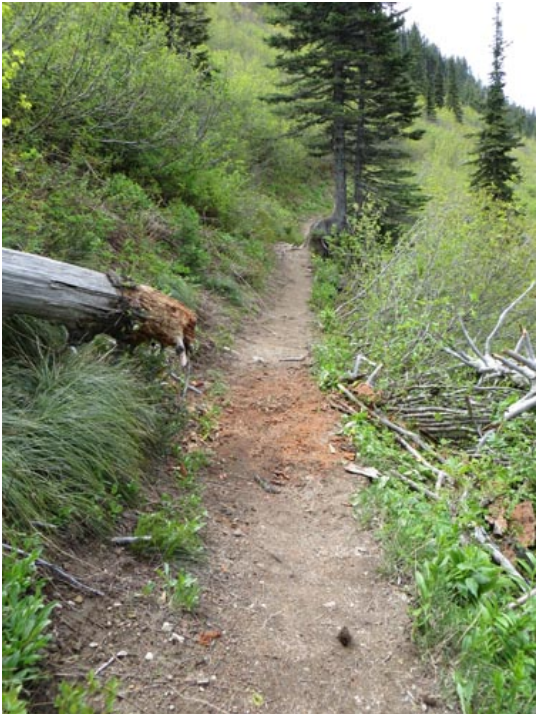
A clump of trillium aside false hellebore.



Why is no one laying down on the beach?



Where are those "Swan Rangers in Service?"



Never far away!