

May 26, 2007

Seventeen Swan Rangers hiked the Switchback Trail from the base of Jewel Basin Road to Alpine #7 Trail Saturday.

Eight were new to the Rangers and, while we spread out to get a little elbow room, everyone made it up all 79 switchbacks for some stunning views from the Malfunction Junction area on the ridge above the Camp Misery parking lot.

The Crusta family was looking to get familiar with hiking outside their norm in Glacier Park and Jewel Basin. Check out Mallory and Eileen Crusta's great web site at <http://www.rockymountainkidskorner.com> for lots of great photos and stories about camping, hiking, snowshoeing, gardening and other great things about outdoor life in Montana!

We saw a nice clump of coral mushroom and several clumps of striped coral root, which is a beautiful saprophyte that feeds on mychorizial fungi in the forest soil.

It was a gorgeous, sunny day and fun was had by all!

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.

Everyone is Welcome!

Hope to see you soon,

Keith

Keith Hammer photos:



Lunch stop above Camp Misery and high above the Flathead Valley.



Read about outdoor adventures of Mallory (left, 10) and Eileen (right, 9) on their web site at <http://www.rockymountainkidskorner.com>



Striped Coral Root.