



# September 2012 Newsletter



A delicate Gentian – photo by Tim Horan

## September Program

You are invited to a free public presentation on **Thursday, September 6 at 7:00 pm**, at **the Montana Wild Center** next to the MT Wildlife Rehab Center at Spring Meadow Lake (turn north at the light across from Kessler School).

## Exploring and uncovering the beauty of Montana's “Chinese Wall”



Chinese Wall in the Bob Marshall Wilderness,  
aerial photo by MaryAlice Chester

This summer **JoAnne Thun** and **Todd Samson** guided five adventurous Helena Outdoor Club members on a week-long back-packing trip from Benchmark Camp-ground west of Augusta to the Chinese Wall in the Bob Marshall Wilderness. Camping in various locations, they ended up hiking a



grand total of **75 miles**, relentlessly searching for an unbeaten path through this iconic Montana wilderness.

Come listen to JoAnne and Todd as they take you on an unusual pictorial journey that will include GPS mapping.

## Day Trips

All trips are weather-dependent and subject to last minute cancellation.

**Show & Go Monday hikes:** join Barb on short hikes in the Helena area. Meet at 9:00 am in the parking lot next to Ben Franklin on Euclid. We're usually back by mid-afternoon. Call Barb (443-1159) or read about each trip via the HOC Yahoo e-group.

**Show & Go Tuesday evening hikes:** Meet at 5:30 pm in the parking lot across from the L&C Library. Hike on Mt. Helena or Ascension trails. Call JoAnne (449-7971) for details.

**Show & Go Tuesday evening paddling:** If you would like to join this relaxed group of flat water kayakers or want more information, call Susan Nimick (443-5980) or email her: [snimick@mt.net](mailto:snimick@mt.net).

**Saturday, September 8, all day: Missouri River flatwater kayak trip with JoAnne.** This fee-based Helena College-UM is for anyone who wants to experience paddling on the Missouri. Call Christy (447-6945) to register and rent a boat if needed.

**Monday, September 10, 5:30-7:30 pm: beginner kayak and paddle basics class at Spring Meadow Lake with JoAnne.** This popular hands-on class is fee-based through Helena College-UM. Call Christy (447-6945) to register and rent a boat if you don't have one.

**Sunday, September 16: day hike from MacDonald Pass to Ten Mile Creek on the Rimini Road.** This intermediate hike, about 10 miles long, follows the CD trail going South. We'll provide a car shuttle. Leaving at 9:00 am. Call Helen (461-6741) for details. (Note: Helen had knee replacement surgery at the end of May and is already back leading hikes! Thank you, Helen, and congratulations on a great recovery & healing!)

**Monday, September 17, 5:30-7:30 pm: safety & rescue class at Spring Meadow Lake with JoAnne.** This fee-based Helena College-UM class is for recreational kayakers. Call Christy at Helena College-UM (447-6945) to register and rent a boat if you don't have one.

**Saturday, September 29: moonlight kayak trip on the Missouri between Midcannon to Prewitt Creek.** This will be JoAnne's last water outing of the season so

let's celebrate with a trip filled with magic! Watch the moonlight dance on the canyon walls and listen to the sound of beavers splashing their tails in the water. We will try to have a bonfire party at Prewitt Creek campground afterwards. She will provide wine, cheese and smores. **Bring a headlamp.** Meeting at 7:00 pm. Call JoAnne (449-7971) for details, a meeting place and to register.

## Weekend trips:

**NOTE:** weekend events are open to the public but we reserve the right to give priority to current members of the Helena Outdoor Club. If you want to invite a friend who is not a member we'll put them on the waiting list until the registration deadline when we'll let them know if there is still room. Or ask them to become a HOC member to secure their spot.

**Saturday-Monday, September 1-3 (Labor Day weekend): kayak trip on the Stillwater & Yellowstone rivers.** You'll enjoy the whitewater of the Stillwater and the rolling waves of the Yellowstone. For intermediate boaters. Car camp in the Columbus campground. Call JoAnne (449-7971) for details.

**Saturday-Sunday, Sept. 22-23: car camping at Cave Mountain Campground, west of Choteau.** Celebrate the Fall Equinox with us at this large, peaceful campground where we're been before and love! We'll take a couple of day hikes, one to pristine Our Lake and the other to another beautiful spot nearby. We'll have lots of hiking options! Call MaryAlice (495-8787) or Helen (461-6741) for camping & hiking details.

**Let us know where you'd like to go! We're always looking for (co-)leaders who will take the rest of us on adventures to new places!**

## Community Events

**September:** 2012 Montana Wilderness Association Walks in the Helena area (including Granite Butte Lookout restoration) and around the state continue. Check the booklet or [www.wildmontana.org](http://www.wildmontana.org)

**September 10-15:** Continental Divide Trail work project near West Yellowstone. Contact Shannon Freix, 406-781-0627 or [sfreix@wildmontana.org](mailto:sfreix@wildmontana.org) by Sept. 5.

**Friday, September 21:** Celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Scapegoat Wilderness Area. Events at Hooper Park in Lincoln, 5-9 pm. Chili dinner, music & dancing. Camping is available at Hooper Park or the Aspen Grove Forest Service camp east of town.  
[www.wildmontana.org](http://www.wildmontana.org)

**Stay in touch through our Yahoo group:**  
**Reminders, additional and last-minute trips will be posted on our YAHOO group,** a network of over 100 local outdoorsy folks and potential trip companions. You can find us here:  
[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/hoc\\_members/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/hoc_members/).

**If you aren't already on this list and want to know how to sign up,** email [monique@mandali.com](mailto:monique@mandali.com) and she'll send you instructions. It's FREE to members and a super way for everyone to post their own outings *and* find out about other people's trip ideas all year long!

**THE HELENA OUTDOOR CLUB** is for everyone, regardless of age. Our outdoor activities vary with the seasons and include hiking, backpacking, canoeing and kayaking, bicycling, snow shoeing, XC and downhill skiing. Most activities are free. Members organize and guide trips for the casual recreationist. No experience necessary. We also offer free public presentations on adventure travel in Montana and around the world.

**Yearly memberships are only \$10/family.** Mail your check to PO Box 135, Helena, MT 59624.

[www.helenaoutdoorclub.org](http://www.helenaoutdoorclub.org)

**A club for non-motorized recreation since 1972**

### **Steering Committee:**

Trip Coordinator	Jo Anne Thun	449-7971
Trip Co-Coordinator	Helen Fee & others	461-6741
Weekend Event Coordinators	Jan Horan & others	442-1619
Memberships & Treasurer	MaryAlice Chester	495-8787
Database & Newsletter	Monique Mandali	495-9206
YAHOO Group Moderator	Monique Mandali	495-9206
Website	Monique Mandali	495-9206

And many other dedicated volunteers! Thank you!



Monique and Jan in a magical flower meadow during a backpacking trip to Windy Pass Cabin – photo by Jeanne Powell.

**Enjoy the last few weeks of summer!**