

WILD TIMES

AUTUMN 2012 | **FREE**

A voice for conservation
in Canada's Columbia and
southern Rocky Mountains



wildsight

WILD NATURE TOURS

SERVING UP STUNNING SNOW & YUMMY SNACKS

They're just around the corner, those lustrous days of winter. Ever want to strap on snowshoes and experience the freedom of taking to the hills? Ever wish you had someone along who knew the best places, the area's natural history and when to break out the yummy biscotti?

Have no fear, Wild Nature Tours is here! With three snowshoe tours, delicious snacks and a flexible schedule, Wild Nature Tours is the best way to explore the snowscapes of Fernie this winter.

"Fernie is paradise for skiers, but sometimes you want a different sort of adventure," says Lee-Anne Walker, tour operator. "Snowshoe tours are affordable, enjoyable and easy. If you can walk, you can snowshoe.

"Wild Nature Tours take you into old growth forests where you can stand on snow deeper than a house and see rare ecosystems."

Walker is a professional guide and environmental educator. She's guided thousands of people into all sorts of

natural splendor, and she donated her tour company to Wildsight's Elk Valley branch last year. "I wanted to give other guides an opportunity and to help Wildsight connect visitors to this amazing valley," Walker says.

Walker is still at the helm, so traditions like gourmet biscotti remain. She makes sure every trip is an adventure for those who want to understand the mountains, wildlife and history of the Elk Valley.

Tours run through the winter until the grizzly bears come out of hibernation, usually in April. Days and times are flexible, based on a minimum numbers of guests. All prices include snowshoe rental, tax, hot drinks and homemade gourmet snacks.

WILD NATURE TOURS

WWW.WILDNATURETOURS.CA

891 2nd Avenue Fernie, BC V0B 1M0

Call 250.423.3322 | Cell 250.423.1682

Wild Nature Tours

TOUR 1 FAR Out Snowshoe Safari

Learn Fernie facts in amazing wintery wilderness. Depart from Fernie Alpine Resort and meander through a forest with gorgeous views and wildlife.
2 hours | \$50.00 per person

TOUR 2 Park Paradise Snowshoe Safari

Explore one of the snowiest wild places on earth, where powder meadows glisten like diamonds. Depart Mount Fernie Provincial Park.
3 hours | \$70.00 per person

TOUR 3 Sleeping Bear Snowshoe Safari

Spend a day in the Cedar Valley Old Growth Reserve at Island Lake Lodge discovering why grizzly bears choose this remote spot to slumber. Price also includes snow cat ride to the lodge and gourmet lunch.
6 Hours | \$140 per person



American Badger

TAXIDEA TAXUS

American badgers are among the largest member of the weasel family and are well adapted for their grassland home in the East Kootenay. They have long claws and short, strong legs that are specialized for digging after prey and securing protective dens. The badger is named for the distinct facial black “badges” on each cheek. Solitary by nature, badgers are active mostly at night, traveling a large geographic area in search of their favorite food - burrowing animals like ground squirrels and pocket gophers. Badgers help control rodent populations, eating two or three ground squirrels a day. They will also eat other foods such as turtle or bird eggs, carrion (dead animals), insects, birds and muskrats. American badgers were added to the endangered list in B.C. in 2000. Loss of suitable habitat for badgers has greatly affected the populations. Historically badgers were trapped for their fur or shot as nuisance animals. Ranchers feared livestock could step in their holes and break a leg. Flooding to create reservoirs like Lake Kooacanusa has destroyed valuable badger habitat. In addition, forest encroachment and in-growth is reducing grassland habitat in the Columbia Basin.

Wildsight is an active member of the Rocky Mountain Trench Society, working to restore native grasslands in the badger habitat of the Rocky Mountain Trench.

CAPTURE YOUR APPLES: HOW TO DO IT

Apple trees cast shade in many yards, but their fruit is often left to rot or munched by wildlife.

Apples are a nutritious, free food source. But how to preserve them - without it morphing into a two-week project?

Wildsight came up with a solution in Kimberley and Cranbrook: Apple Capture.

Jessica Windle, Food Sustainability Coordinator, explains:

“Apple Capture lets you borrow apple grinders, presses and dehydrators free of charge,” Windle says. “The equipment makes it easy to preserve apples as juice or dried fruit.”

You can book the equipment online and pick it up in Cranbrook at Gerick Cycle and Sports and in Kimberley in the Allotment Garden shed. All equipment

comes with clear instructions for use.

“We’re asking you to book online because we want to make the program sustainable and efficient,” Windle says. “Besides, people are responsible. This is a resource for everyone in the community. All we ask is that the equipment is returned clean and at the time it is expected back.”

Windle says Wildsight researched and purchased the best quality equipment. “I’ll be out at farmer’s markets and fall fairs this year, demonstrating the equipment.”

Once you’ve had fresh-squeezed apple juice, you’ll never go back.

Learn more at Apple Capture at www.Wildsight.ca/Apples.

Register to borrow the equipment at Wildsight.ca/Apples/Registration.

I love our hot new wood stove!



By Helen Sander, Wildsight Kim-Cran

I’m not usually the type to enthuse about ‘stuff.’ but, oh, I love our new wood stove! Do I dare admit I’ve more than once had an urge to envelope it in a loving hug, resisting only because of the risk of third degree burns?

When we first moved into our home in Kimberley, (after heating with wood for most of my adult life) I delighted that a flick of a switch would ignite a natural gas-fed fire. So easy! But being energy conscious, we tried to minimize our use of natural gas.

The gas-heated main floor stayed at a tolerable temperature (for those wearing a couple of layers of woollies,) but darn if we were going to turn on the electric

baseboards in the upstairs bedrooms! Going to bed on those -20 C nights was a dash under the comforter.

Then mold started to sprout on our windowsills. We knew things had to change.

An energy audit, better windows, air sealing, insulating and a heat recovery ventilator later, we revisited our home’s heat source. And back to wood it was.

Now we’re warm. When I come home from work I throw some wood on the fire, plop down in front of the stove and watch the flames.

The stove has a secondary burner and the lowest emissions ratings we could find, because we care about air quality. We get our wood as soon as the snow melts so it has time to dry out properly.

I dream about an even greener house which warms itself from the sun with only a small wood stove for chilly nights. Someday. But right now I’m in love with our honkin’ big, efficient, wood stove.



Flathead Feast brings artists, scientists and conservationists together

Nearly 100 people gathered at the Canada-U.S. border in the Flathead River Valley for the 'Flathead Feast' on August 20. They included artists, biologists and conservationists, there to celebrate the Flathead River Valley and call for its permanent protection.

The Flathead River has dual citizenship: beginning in southern British Columbia, it flows south across the U.S. border into Montana. Efforts to add the B.C. Flathead Valley to the adjacent to the Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park—a World Heritage Site and two UNESCO Biosphere Reserves—have been ongoing for decades.

The Flathead Feast was the culmination of 10 days of activities in the B.C. Flathead, including a 'Bioblitz', an artist retreat and workshop, and a celebration of a 2011 legislated ban on mining and energy development in the B.C. Flathead.

People gathered on each side of the defunct border crossing, sharing conversations and food. There were curries on one side and organic yak burgers on the other.

Wildsight and other conservation organizations are calling for a National Park in the southeastern one-third of the

B.C. Flathead, to fill in the missing piece of the Waterton-Glacier World Heritage Site. They also urge the B.C. government to agree to a Wildlife Management Area in the rest of the Flathead and adjoining habitat, to preserve a vital link in a wildlife corridor stretching from Glacier National Park to Canada's Rocky Mountain parks.

For 10 days, scientists and artists visited the Flathead, each documenting in their own way the biodiversity and beauty of the area. Scientists from the Royal BC Museum, Parks Canada and the American Bird Conservancy participated in the Bioblitz, a survey whose findings will be released later this year. Artists from across the East Kootenay joined wildlife and landscape painter Dwayne Harty for workshops and 'en plein air' painting sessions, and will contribute to an upcoming art exhibition.

Conservation organizations working to protect the Flathead permanently are Wildsight, Sierra Club BC, the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, Headwaters Montana, the National Parks Conservation Association and the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative.

WILD EVENTS: WHAT, WHERE & WHEN?

Mountains: The Sacred and the Profane
September 25 • 7:30 pm
Capitol Theatre • Nelson

Award-winning photojournalists Pat Morrow and his wife, Baiba, reflect on three decades of high adventure.

Creston Valley:

Arctic Ecosystems
Time and Location TBA

An exploration of wild places in the Canadian north with ecologist Ryan Durand.

Local Colours at the Tivoli
Early December • Downtown Creston
The photography of Creston artists on the big screen in downtown Creston.

Creston Valley Bird Festival
May 10-11, 2013

An event showcasing the incredible diversity of bird life at the Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area.

Elk Valley:

Elk River Watershed Planning and Governance • Best Western Fernie
October 3 • 8:30 am - noon
Continued dialogue with Elk River watershed stakeholders and residents about the value and role of grassroots initiated watershed planning and governance. Info/Register: Lee-Anne@ElkRiverAlliance.ca or (250) 423-3322

Kimberley/Cranbrook:

One Planet Film Series
January 7, 2012 • 7:30 pm
Admission by donation. Start time 7:30 pm at Centre 64 in Kimberley and the COTR Lecture Theatre in Cranbrook.

Riding Bikes With the Dutch & With My Own Two Wheels
Cranbrook | Oct 27 • Kimberley | Oct 5

Mad City Chickens
Cranbrook | Oct 25 • Kimberley | Oct 26

The Economics of Happiness
Cranbrook | Nov 22 • Kimberley | Nov 30

Surviving Progress
Cranbrook | Jan 31 • Kimberley | Feb 1

Wildsight's Free Food Preservation Workshops in Kimberley
Register by calling 250.427.7115, ext 3752 or e-mail Kimberley@COTR.bc.ca.

If We Can, You Can (Canning)
Sep 25 • 7 pm • McKim School

Pickling & Fermenting
Oct 2 • 7 pm • McKim School

Apple Fest
Oct 9 • 7 pm • McKim School

Banff Mountain Film Fest World Tour
January 5, 2013 • 7:30 pm • \$25
Key City Theatre, Cranbrook
Call 250.426.7006 for tickets. Proceeds to Wildsight's local education projects.

WE ARE WILDSIGHT.

We support fresh air and clean water. We work for wild creatures and wild places in B.C.'s Columbia and southern Rocky Mountain ranges—a global ecological treasure that's unlike anywhere else on the planet. We promote ideas and create initiatives that maintain healthy ecosystems to benefit those who live now and the generations to come.



Wildsight Gifts

Give the best, support the cause

A portion of the cost of each item here goes to Wildsight, to support initiatives such as Education in the Wild, the Flathead campaign and Jumbo Wild.

Order online: www.Wildsight.ca

Order by phone: 250.427.9235

1 Denman Island Flathead Wild Organic Fair Trade Chocolate Bars
Grizzly Bear Mint
Mountain Goat Dark
1 for \$3 | 10 for \$25 | Case (24) for \$60

Purcell Organics Tea Exclusive blends for Wildsight!
2 Kootenay Sunshine
Mint, fireweed, fennel leaf, sunflower petals. Crisp and minty: A happy splash of sunshine in your cup. \$11

3 Wild Columbia Harvest
Raspberry leaf, rosehips, apple. Nurturing and homey: A comforting blend to sweeten your day. \$11

4 Polestar Wild BC Calendars
For those who love the wild and time management that works and looks beautiful. \$17.95

5 The Purcell Suite: Upholding the Wild
All proceeds go to Jumbo Wild!
Fascinating essays and poems. Contributors include Pat Morrow, Luanne Armstrong, Dave Quinn and Conrad Cain. Makes an excellent gift for the nature lover you know and love. \$25



PEOPLE ARE THE HEART OF WILDSIGHT PLEASE JOIN US - FOR THE WILD

Yes, I would like to join Wildsight.

- \$20 Individual Membership
- \$25 Family Membership

Please register me as a member of this Wildsight branch:

- Kimberley/Cranbrook
- Creston Valley
- No branch affiliation
- Invermere
- Elk Valley
- Golden

Yes, I would like to make a donation to Wildsight.

- \$20
- \$30
- \$40
- \$50
- Other: _____

Yes, I would like to give a Gift Membership to:

Recipient's Name: _____

Recipient's Address: _____

Recipient's Phone: _____ Recipient's E-mail: _____

Your Personal Message:

Payment Information: Visa M/C Amex Cheque

Credit Card Number: _____ Expiry: _____

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Clip and mail in - or give us a call! Wildsight: 2-495 Wallinger Avenue, Kimberley, BC V1A 1Z6 - Phone 250.427.9325

Wildsight is a non-profit charitable organization. 134892496 RR0001. All donations greater than \$20 are tax deductible.