

## Men of Worth to Appear in Condon

By Scott Milner  
2 Valleys Stage Director

2 Valleys Stage will present the Men of Worth in concert 3:00 p.m. Sunday, March 10 at Swan Valley School in Condon. The concert by the affable Celtic folk duo is the fourth in our 2 Valleys Stage set of six concerts in 2012-13 produced by the Alpine Artisans' performing arts series.

In 1986, Scotsman Donnie Macdonald and Irishman James Keigher came together to perform

Irish and Scottish folk music, combining traditional and contemporary styles. The name "Men of Worth" was chosen from the title of a folk song written by the Scottish singer/songwriter Archie Fisher.

Together Men of Worth blend their voices with harmony and support their collection of songs with their varied selection of instruments. They have a very simple approach to their presentation, and in keeping with tradition, remain true to the music

and story. Their show is a unique combination of humor, exciting tunes, and soulful, heartfelt ballads.

Men of Worth are an international act, and have earned much respect and success in over two decades of touring. Performing concerts, festivals, and having recorded eleven albums, Men of Worth continue the very tradition from which they evolved.

James grew up in Ireland, County Mayo, near Dublin, speaking English. Donnie hails from a small village on the Isle of Lewis just off the northwest coast of Scotland, where he spoke nothing but Gaelic until age 10 when he began attending a regional school where classes were taught in English.

James arrived in Los Angeles in 1980; Donnie a few years later. Both were in their early twenties. Anyone who has heard their lovely recording, "The Sands of Vatersay," will note the bittersweet emotions that come with emigration. Both men stay in touch with their home roots, even after twenty-six years of playing professionally in the U.S.

In 1986 the two broke out of playing dance music in bar bands in Los Angeles in order to perform traditional folk music in a listener's setting. "We decided to play an empty room on Tuesday nights and see if we could fill it. We did," says Donnie.

These two performers complement one another in various ways, balancing each other with equal skill and sincerity. Donnie gives more of a hard-wire line on traditional instrumental melodies, such as jigs and reels and their contemporary variations.

James provides more of an interest in ballads, both traditional and recent, and somewhat more of an interest in Americana. James renders ballads with his warm baritone voice.

Donnie leads most instrumental melodies with banjo or octave mandolin, while James often accompanies with subtle guitar parts or bodhran. Both men profess an influence of American and Canadian country stars such as Hank Williams, Merle Haggard and Gordon Lightfoot.

In phone conversations both men mentioned the importance of their respective mothers in their musical lives. James continues to draw on her vivid memories of long ago for inspiration, while Donnie has set to music several Gaelic poems composed by his mother in the 1960's.

One of these is entitled, in English, "Buttermaking." It is a kind of a work song jig that makes the old world chore come alive.

Men of Worth's approach to song selection is guided by their sensitivity to what works best for them and what feels right.

Mainly, they like to perform songs that give them something to talk about, something they have experienced, or somewhere they have been.

Their whole manner of performing aims at relating an idea to the audience and creating a feeling of spontaneity. Don't expect a joke that starts, "Have you heard the one about..." Yet tasteful, family-friendly humor will almost certainly be abundant at Swan Valley School Sunday, March 10 from 3 to 5 pm.

Admission for the concert is \$14 adults / \$12 seniors, under 18 free with adult. 2 Valleys Stage encourages families to attend.

The low-ticket prices and school outreach are made possible by donations by local businesses and individuals. While they are with us, the artists enjoy the wonderful hospitality offered by volunteers in the area.

Men of Worth will continue their residency in the Seeley Swan with visits to our local schools on Monday and Tuesday. The school outreach schedule may be found online at [www.aplineartisans.org/informances](http://www.aplineartisans.org/informances), and the public is invited to attend after checking in with the school office.

The 2 Valleys Stage programs are further supported by grants from the Seeley Lake Community Foundation, the Montana Arts Council, and the Western States Art Federation. The local schools also support the program with a once-per-year fee.

## Mid-Winter Carnivore Studies

By Andi Bourne  
Pathfinder

Employees of the US Forest Service (USFS) and Northwest Connections have been conducting mid-winter carnivore tracking and bait station surveys. This monitoring is a component of the Southwestern Crown of the Continent Collaborative (SWCC) projects. The intent of the monitoring is to establish a baseline for the present species and to assess any change in population dynamics following restoration work.



A wolverine visits a bait station in the Southwest Crown. On the tree is the bait with gun brushes below to collect hair samples and sign with site ID. Photo provided by Adam Lieberg.

The Southwest Crown of the Continent is a designated landscape within the National Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration (CFLR) Program. The purpose of the CFLR program is to encourage collaborative, science-based ecosystem restoration on designated forest landscapes.

The Southwest Crown of the Continent forms the southern boundary of the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex and includes the lower elevation forests and communities of the Blackfoot, Clearwater and Swan River valleys. It crosses three Ranger Districts on three National Forests and many multi-jurisdictional boundaries.

"CFLR is the model for land management on federal land," says Seeley Lake Ranger District Wildlife Biologist Scott Tomson. This model includes an emphasis on collaboration and partnership for funding with federal, state and non-profit organizations.

The SWCC consists of the USFS, the Wilderness Society, and several non-profits including Blackfoot Challenge, Swan Ecosystem Center, Clearwater Resource Council, and Northwest Connections as well as many others.

The objectives for the SWCC monitoring program include establishing a baseline of species presence and monitor changes 10,

15, and 20 years after treatments have been conducted.

"We want to develop a repeatable, systematic approach to detecting animals," says Tomson.

The mid-winter carnivore research was funded last year through CFLR funds and matching funds with partners. There are three focal species researchers are most interested in: fisher, wolverine and lynx. Fishers are listed as a sensitive species in Region 1 with the USFS. Wolverines are in the process of being listed and lynx are federally listed on the endangered species list. Data is also being collected on mountain lion, martin, and wolves but that data is not the focus.

Animals are being surveyed with two different methods. First, trained field crews are conducting track surveys. They follow any tracks found within a pre-identified five by five mile grid with the intent to cover a minimum of 10 kilometers of roads and/or trails within the grid. They collect scat or hair along the tracks for genetic testing and identification.

Another method that just started this year is bait stations. Animals are actively attracted into an area with the hindquarter of a deer or elk wired to the trunk of a tree. Gun bore cleaners are placed in the tree trunk to collect hair samples.

Activated cameras are also at some of the bait stations. There are two bait stations within the same five by five mile grid cell in high quality habitat. The hindquarters are obtained through a collection permit with the state.

There are some major advantages of the bait stations.

"They attract more than one species and they have been able to capture behavioral footage of rare species including lynx and wolverine," says Tomson.

The mid-winter carnivore surveys are not the only monitoring work being done within the SWCC. Sandy Mack, Liaison Officer for the Southwestern Crown of the Continent CFLR, explains there are currently 25 monitoring projects that fall under four categories: aquatics, socio-economic, vegetation including hazardous fuels mitigation and soils, and wildlife.

Mack emphasizes the focus on multi-party monitoring. "The value of multi-party monitoring is working and learning together and doing adaptive management to do the best work on the ground," says Mack.

Not only are experts of different organizations coming together in the field, the non-profit

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Birthday  
Lucille 'Lucy' Johnson



March 1,  
2013  
"I'm still kicking,  
just not as high!"

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organizations are also providing matching funds for the monitoring projects. "This increases the USFS capacity and reaches partners' goals as well," says Mack. "It is a mutual benefit to get work done on the ground."

Partnership agreements in the SWCC monitoring program include these organizations: Blackfoot Challenge, Clearwater Resource Council, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Ecosystem Management Research Institute, Northwest Connections,

Swan Ecosystem Center, University of Montana, University of Montana Biological Station and Wildlands CPR.

"Monitoring is part of the projects as much as the implementation," says Tomson. "The data establishes a baseline for species and allows us to look at trends of species over time. This helps us know how we are doing."

## Trained and Equipped

## Search and Rescue Stands Ready

By Andi Bourne  
Pathfinder

The Seeley-Swan Search and Rescue (Search and Rescue) has never had to perform a cold-water rescue, but they are trained and ready. Last Sunday, March 3, rescuers suited up in their Ice Commander suits and went for a swim at the inlet of Salmon Lake.

"Not everyone needs to get in the water for the cold-water rescue," says Search and Rescue Chief, Gerry Connell. "There is always something for people to do."

Connell recommends people wear a life jacket when they are out on the ice. If someone were to fall through the ice, that individual should hold onto the edge of the ice and pull their shoulders and arms out of the water.

"Then remain calm and conserve your energy," says Connell. The

Search and Rescue response time would be between 20 to 30 minutes depending on the victim's location.

Search and Rescue provides many services to the Valley in addition to cold-water rescue. "We have the gear and train to haul out injured hikers, find snowmobilers and 4-wheelers, and perform a swift-water rescue," says Connell.

Search and Rescue is always looking for more volunteers. There are no pre-requisites to join except for a willingness to be a team member and participate in training and go when the need arises.

"It is a 24/7 deal," says Connell.

Search and Rescue members meet the third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the old Plum Creek Office, north of Seeley Lake on Hwy 83. For more information contact Gerry Connell at 210-1150.

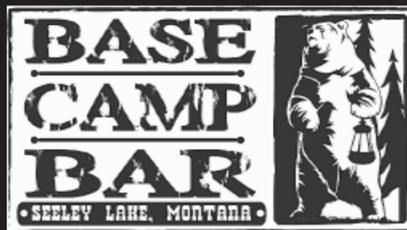
Joe Miller taking up the slack in the rope while Jodie Miller and Pat Caffrey pull the victim and rescuer out of the water. Photo by Nathan Bourne.



Jon Haufler plays the victim while Angie Williams comes to the rescue. Photo by Nathan Bourne.



James Keigher and Donnie Macdonald to perform at Swan Valley School on March 10 as a part of the 2 Valleys Stage Concert Series. Photo provided.



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