



**2019 Winter Newsletter**  
**Edited by Julie Odell, Chair**

## **People in Nature: Interactions on Mt Adams in a Warming Earth**

Friends of Mt. Adams Community Seminar

April 25, 2020, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Organizer: Alec Maule, Vice-Chair, FOMA Board

During climate change, what will happen to Mt Adams and those who depend on the mountain for their well-being, livelihood and lives? As the air continues to warm, by as much as 2° C this century, it is predicted that the amount of precipitation will increase or at least stay the same. On Mt. Adams and



(Photo courtesy of Darryl Lloyd)

other Cascade peaks, however, the precipitation will increasingly fall as rain, not snow. These changes in climate will result in many changes on Mt Adams including a significantly reduced snowpack below—and a much earlier snow melt above 5,000 feet of elevation. As a result, the snow will be gone earlier in the year leaving less snow-melt water to sustain the plants and animals downhill and downstream.

This Friends of Mt Adams Community Seminar will explore the impacts of these environmental changes on the biological communities that

depend upon the mountain. The keynote speaker will be noted scholar, biologist, and writer Dr. Robert

Michael Pyle: “From the Bridge of the Gods to the Brave New World: How Our Mountains Meet Change, and Go On.” For 35 years, Dr. Pyle has been a full-time writer, biologist, teacher, and speaker. He has published hundreds of articles, essays, peer-reviewed papers, stories, and poems. His twenty-two books include *Wintergreen*, *Where Bigfoot Walks*, *Chasing Monarchs*, *Walking the High Ridge*, and *Mariposa Road: The First Butterfly Big Year*. A life-long lepidopterist, Dr. Pyle is co-coordinator of the Northwest Butterfly Survey. For his work on behalf of butterfly studies and conservation, he received the John

Adams Comstock Award from the Lepidopterists' Society and a Distinguished Service Award from the Society for Conservation Biology. He is a Distinguished Alumnus of both the University of Washington and Yale University forestry schools, a Senior Fellow of the Spring Creek Project at Oregon State University, and one of seventeen Honorary Fellows of the Royal Entomological Society.

In addition to Dr. Pyle, the agenda includes speakers addressing how climate change will affect earth, wind & fire, fish, birds & mammals, and humans—all of whom rely on Mt Adams for emotional, economic and cultural sustenance. The Yakama Nation are stewards of half of the mountain and we have invited tribal members to participate.

**People in Nature: Interactions on Mt Adams in a Warming Earth** will be held on April 25, 2020 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at Columbia High School in White Salmon, WA. Admission fee will be \$20 at the door. **Lunch will be no-host and because time is limited: Please bring your own brown bag lunch.**

\*\*\*\*\*

## Research Grants: Call for Proposals

Are you conducting scholarly research on Washington's Mount Adams? Friends of Mount Adams, a 501©3 non-profit organization, invites you to submit a proposal for support of your research. We are seeking projects by researchers conducting scientific and social science research on Mount Adams. We provide financial support up to \$2,500. Your application must include a 1-2 page outline of your proposed research and a timeline.

Proposals can be submitted to: [order4j@yahoo.com](mailto:order4j@yahoo.com)

\*\*\*\*\*

### White Salmon River Monitoring Partnership Update

**Pat Arnold, Friends of White Salmon River**

Thanks mostly to FOMA members, we got off to a great start monitoring on the Upper White Salmon River Wild & Scenic segment. While some monitoring was completed, we lost momentum and it fizzled out. We could use a new board person who's interested in being the point person for monitoring efforts both on the Upper W&S and with the DNR natural resource areas. We'll try again next year!

## C. E. Rusk and Mount Adams Part I

© Darryl Lloyd, November 11, 2019

Excerpted from my book, 2018. *Ever Wild: A Lifetime on Mount Adams*  
Portland, OR: Cape Diem Books

Claude Ewing Rusk—known as “C.E.”—was the first non-Indian to explore the many faces of Mount Adams. He became a legend in his own time, especially after publication of his classic book, *Tales of a Western Mountaineer* in 1924. The book spans nearly a half a century and much of it is devoted to Mount Adams. Rusk’s loyalty to the mountain and the love story he wrote is perhaps unmatched in mountaineering literature. As young boys, Darvel and I were captivated by Rusk’s book, and to a certain extent we’ve followed in his footsteps and horse tracks. I compiled extensive biographical information and new photos, and wrote “A Portrait of C. E. Rusk” in a reprint of *Tales*.

Claude Rusk was only a small boy in 1874 when his family moved to the Columbia Hills of Klickitat County, where he could only fantasize about the “great white mountain” on the horizon. At the age of 14 in 1888, Claude Rusk rode horseback with his parents to within three miles of the “stupendous precipices and tortured icefalls” of Mount Adams’ east face. Rusk first climbed the mountain by the south side in 1889, and at 17 began teaching at a “little log schoolhouse” at the southern edge of Camas Prairie. Boarding at the pioneer home of Jane Myers, he was enthralled by the grandeur of Mount Adams rising two miles above the valley.

In September of 1890, Rusk as a 17-year-old took his mother (Josie) and 12-year old sister (Leah) on a horseback journey around

Mount Adams. Following old Indian trails most of the way, the three Rusks rode north from Glenwood, leaving their “hack” (horse-drawn carriage or wagon) at the end of a small road along the upper Klickitat Canyon. From there they continued up the long wooded Cunningham ridge trail to camp at Avalanche Valley. Leaving their horses and gear, they hiked across rugged terrain to the snout of Klickitat Glacier—source of the largest stream on the mountain, the “Big Muddy.”

The secluded Avalanche Valley was named by C. E. Rusk when thundering ice avalanches broke the stillness of the night. The next day the Rusk party climbed above timberline and set foot on what was later called “Rusk Glacier.” They continued with a sick horse below the terminus of the Wilson Glacier and into the Muddy Fork lava flow on the north side below Red Butte. While descending into more friendly terrain, two shepherders with their bands told them where to find Indian encampments. They surprised a “small cavalcade” of Indians on the trail. One spoke perfect English and appeared to be well-educated. Rusk described the camps as picturesque scenes of animation and bright colors. He said the women devoted their time to picking and drying huckleberries, while the men hunted, horse-raced and gambled.

Re-ascending and continuing westward on their 1890 journey around the mountain, the Rusks had trouble following the trail. It was an Indian trail that had been infrequently

used. The main Indian routes on the northwest side had traversed lower on the mountain toward the huckleberry fields. The Rusks would let their horses graze while scouting for the trail. While the women waited, Claude rambled higher to a moraine where he discovered glistening ice at the base of a great glacier. It was Adams Glacier, largest on the mountain.

Their next camp was in the parkland belt on the western side, where they had an excellent view of the west face “capped by the triple summit.” For Rusk, it was “probably the least interesting side of the great peak,” but “well-worth a visit” because of its “three considerable glaciers, a remarkable icefall and fine precipices.” After crossing their last jagged lava flow on the south side, they entered the “wonderful Bird Creek Meadows” and found the trail that “bore down the long slope to Camas Prairie.” They still had a long ride to retrieve their hack.

Rusk wrote in *Tales* about two “firsts” accomplished on their 1890 journey. Josie and Leah were the first “white womankind” to make the complete circuit of the mountain. He also claimed to be the first person to see all of the mountain’s glaciers “and to know them as glaciers.” As a teenager and teacher, Rusk had entered the realm of real exploration and discovery.

Part II of C.E. Rusk’s adventures will be featured in our Spring 2020 newsletter.



(Photo courtesy of Darryl Lloyd collection)

## **Backcountry Campsite Monitoring in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest**

**Dean Myerson, FOMA Board**

During 2018, the Gifford Pinchot National Forest carried out a program to find and survey backcountry campsites used by backpackers under its Wilderness Character Monitoring responsibility. The GPNF has been doing this every five years since 1990 and has stacks of binders on the wall with past results. This year statistics were gathered on 1,764 campsites, from heavily used to abandoned.



While past efforts were performed on paper, the Forest Service now uses satellite-enabled tablets. Rangers and volunteers can log in, connect to a satellite and then fill in a form with statistics covering such issues as size of the campsite, whether trees have been damaged or cut down, and how much vegetation coverage there is. After filling in all data fields and taking some photos, the tablet will calculate the GPS location of the site and collect the data immediately by satellite.



As a part of the Wilderness Stewards program for volunteers, I participated in a couple of trips onto Mt Adams to collect data. On the first trip I joined three rangers led by Lauren Marsh. We hiked up the Divide Camp trail and set up camp next to the Lewis River, which at that altitude was no bigger than a medium-sized creek. That afternoon, amongst the peak bloom of fields of lupine, we got a training on how to measure and monitor a campsite.

The next day we split up into groups of two. Ranger Marsh and myself crossed Adams Creek on thin logs and then headed up towards High Camp cross country. The project wanted to find all backcountry camps, even those no longer used and far from popular trails. I found one well below the Pacific Crest Trail near Adams Creek that was barely discernable, and I rated it as long abandoned and almost reclaimed by nature. The PCT had once crossed the area lower down, but had been washed out and moved uphill, thus leaving this site isolated.



A month later, I stopped by the ranger station in Trout Lake to gather up a tablet and a radio and headed up the Riley Creek trail to monitor sites near the PCT and up at Crystal Lake. Rangers and volunteers spent the summer searching for sites and collecting the data so that we can see how usage of our National Forest and wilderness areas is changing over the years.

For more information about Friends of Mt. Adams or to make a donation, see our website at [mtadamsfriends.org](http://mtadamsfriends.org). Our current Board members are: *Julie Odell, Chair; Alec Maule, Vice-Chair; Jurgen Hess, Conservation Chair; Paul Moyer, Secretary; Dean Myerson, Treasurer; Darvel Lloyd, Darryl Lloyd, and Bill Weiler*. Our next board meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 4, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. in the Skyline Hospital meeting room. All are welcome!