People describe SIHA’s programs as interesting, intriguing and fun. Lectures, discovery stations, Redfish Center displays and artists gallery, new Stanley Museum exhibits, ice cream socials, salmon and raptors and mountain goats and authors are just some of the events and programs we host throughout the summer and into the fall. All of this is possible because of contributions from our members and donors.

Our fall membership campaign helps us get ready for next year’s programs we host throughout the summer and into the fall. All of this is possible because of contributions from our members and donors.

Our fall membership campaign helps us get ready for next year’s programs we host throughout the summer and into the fall. All of this is possible because of contributions from our members and donors.

Our fall membership campaign helps us get ready for next year’s programs we host throughout the summer and into the fall. All of this is possible because of contributions from our members and donors.

Our fall membership campaign helps us get ready for next year’s programs we host throughout the summer and into the fall. All of this is possible because of contributions from our members and donors.

Our fall membership campaign helps us get ready for next year’s programs we host throughout the summer and into the fall. All of this is possible because of contributions from our members and donors.

Our fall membership campaign helps us get ready for next year’s programs we host throughout the summer and into the fall. All of this is possible because of contributions from our members and donors.

Redfish Lake Sockeye Salmon

Returns Are Up!

Not since 1955 have so many Sockeye Salmon, the lake’s namesake, returned to spawn in Redfish Lake. The run of 2014 is a bright spot in the return of Sockeye Salmon to the Salmon River Country. This year, 1,557 Sockeye returned: 660 had been naturally produced in Redfish Lake, and 1,097 were hatchery reared. Of these, 1,113 were then released back into the lake to spawn naturally. In addition, 1,000 hatchery-reared Sockeye were released into the Lake. Another 98 were released into Pettit Lake.

Sockeye Salmon (Oncorhynchus nerka) is an anadromous species of salmon - meaning that the fish migrate to the ocean as smolts and return to fresh water to spawn, and die. They are blue-tinged-silver in color while living in the ocean but during spawning turn red with green heads and a dark stripe on their sides. Males develop a hump on their back and the jaws and teeth become hooked during their move from salt to fresh water. The average adult weighs 2 to 6 pounds and is 16 to 26 inches long. Redfish Lake Sockeye is the southernmost North American Sockeye population. In the 1880s the lakes and streams in Sawtooth Valley teemed with “redfish”.

An estimated 25,000 to 35,000 Sockeye completed the 900-mile trek up the Columbia, Snake, and Salmon Rivers to return to Alturas, Pettit, Redfish, Stanley, and Yellowbelly lakes each year. The journey from the Pacific to Sawtooth Valley is an elevation gain of 6,500 ft., one of the highest and longest fish migrations in the world. Sunbeam dam temporarily blocked fish passage to the upper Salmon River from 1910 until it was breached 1934. Redfish Lake Sockeye Salmon were listed as Endangered in November 1991. For several years no fish returned to spawn in Redfish Lake, and in 1992 only one returned, the now infamous “Lonesome Larry”. Larry’s progeny became the stock for the multi-agency Sockeye Recovery Program. Redfish Lake Sockeye are NOT out of the woods, they are not yet fully recovered; but we all owe big thumbs up to Idaho Fish & Game, NOAA Fisheries, Sawtooth NF, and Shoshone-Bannock Tribal Fisheries.

Finally, to our partners and sponsors: Sawtooth National Recreation Area, Redfish Lake Lodge, Idaho Rocky Mountain Ranch, Sawtooth Society, Val A. Browning Foundation, Idaho Rivers United, Atlantic Philanthropies, National Environmental Education Foundation, Idaho Heritage Trust, Idaho State Historic Society, Sawtooth Mountain Mama’s, and all of you who volunteer your time and talent to take care of our facilities and staff our events - We owe our success to you! Don’t forget to visit us on Facebook, at our Web Site: www.DiscoverSawtooth.org, and to check out the Redfish Webcam - updated every 10 minutes all year long. We are a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization and need your support to continue our preservation, protection and education efforts in the Sawtooth-Salmon River Country. See you in 2015!

Gary Gadwa, President; Terry Clark, Executive Director
NEWS FROM OUR FOUR PROGRAM AREAS:

1. Stanley Museum & Ice House

The Stanley Museum hosted 3,392 visitors this year from 49 states and 20 countries. They were greeted by museum docent, Ken Hartz, and Historic Specialist, Caitlin Long. The museum got a facelift with the painting of all the trim to historically correct white - thank you VOLUNTEERS! Many displays were updated by Caitlin. We unveiled new historic displays depicting the history of the Valley Creek Ranger Station and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) - so instrumental in the development of Sawtooth and Challis National Forest infrastructure in the 1930's. The displays were made possible by a grant from the Idaho State Historical Society. We once again hosted the annual Salmon Festival in partnership with Idaho Rivers United. Structural repairs were finished this spring with grants from the Central Idaho RAC, Idaho Heritage Trust and the Sawtooth Society. Phase 2 will be completed this spring of 2015 by Sawtooth Valley Builders. Our next interpretive project is to develop displays of early Forest Service equipment in the tool/woodshed adjacent to the ice house. Stay tuned!

2. Redfish Center & Interpretive Programs

The Association successfully operated the Redfish Visitor Center, aka the Redfish Center, for a fourth year in 2014. We opened on June 13th and operated seven days/week through September 14th. The Center staff added new displays and conducted guided programs; we had six energetic Naturalists on staff and served 10,508 visitors at the center. SIHA hosted an additional 8,348 avid learners at 487 interpretive programs including Junior Ranger, Redfish Lake boat tours, discovery stations, Sawtooth Symposium on the front porch, evening campfire programs and nature walks. We added well-received talks at Galena Overlook this past summer. The Redfish Center supplemented its regular offerings with special evening programs featuring local trail guide author Margaret Fuller and photographer Ed Cannady. Board member Tori Madsen did an excellent job managing the gallery and adding four "Scenes & Scenery" events to highlight the gallery with free scones and mimosas. The gallery features mountain and natural history themed art from Idaho artists, including the Idaho Plein Air Painters.

3. 2014 Forum & Lecture Series

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act we themed the seventh annual Sawtooth Forum and Lecture Series around all things Wilderness. 805 people attended one or more of the nine programs. Programs covered topics such as the history of the Wilderness Act, the future of wilderness in Idaho, wilderness aviation, wilderness rangers, birds of prey, wild salmon, mountain goats, and wilderness fire. The most popular events were programs on "Birds of Prey" with Greg Kaltenecker and Bill Heinrich, "Salmon" with Bert Bowler and the movie DamNation, and the "Lives of Wilderness Rangers" with Katy Nelson and John Rember. The lectures are presented every Friday night in July and August; one at 5 PM at the Stanley Museum and one at 8 PM at the Redfish Center.

4. Promoting & Preserving Local History

The Association continues to promote preservation of local history. Our growing oral history collection and collection of photographic history are among our finest assets. Volunteer Doris Stewart, accessions and catalogs our historic artifacts. We utilize grants to archive, preserve and make these treasures more available for use and enjoyment of scholars, our members and visitors. Current projects include:

Oral History Project - We record, archive, and share interviews with local pioneers, miners, cattlemen, outfitters and guides, climbers and mountaineers. More than 100 interviews have been recorded in various formats. Board Member Stewart Wilder leads this project.

Stanley Walking Tours - The Association has produced quality free brochures for self-guided tours of downtown Stanley and conducts guided tours for large groups on request.

Doc Day Cabin Stabilization - The Doc Day Cabin in the Stanley Basin is a National Register of Historic Places property owned by us. Future plans include auto tours and interpretive signs focusing on early mining history, and stabilizing the cabin itself.

Shaw Cabin Restoration - in partnership with the City of Stanley and the Sawtooth Society the Association has restored this historic cabin located in the Stanley Pioneer Park. We have received a grant to produce an interpretive sign for the cabin in 2015.