



P.O. Box 75 - Stanley, Idaho 83278



HELP US Continue Our Great Programs in 2016 - Join the Sawtooth Association, Invite a Friend!

People describe SIHA's programs as interesting, intriguing and fun. Lectures, discovery stations, Redfish Center displays and art 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 made possible by the contributions of our members and donors.

Our fall membership campaign helps us be ready for next year's programs. So please renew your membership, make a donation or become a new SIHA member to help us continue to offer our wonderful programs and accomplish our preservation efforts. Any membership or donation to the Sawtooth Interpretive & Historical Association is tax deductible not only as a

regular charitable donation, but for Idaho resident's it is also deductible as an Idaho State Educational Tax Credit.

Be sure to give us your e-mail to receive a springtime calendar of events and special e-news about our opening dates for the Redfish Center and Gallery, the Stanley Museum and 2016 presenters for the Forum and Lecture Series held in July and August. Send your contact info to tclark@discoversawtooth.org.

Please support us at the highest level you can and join us for all of our summer time events. Come share our great times!

By Erica Cole, Membership Chair



2015 - PROGRESS ON MANY FRONTS

In June, the **Idaho Heritage Trust**, the **Idaho State Historical Society** and the **Idaho Humanities Council** honored SIHA with the *Sister Alfreda Elenshon Award*. This is the state's highest award for museums, historical societies, or interpretive associations. The award came with a much needed \$10,000 award.

We also completed the *Shaw cabin restoration and interpretation project* in June. This project started when the **Shaw Homestead Preservation Association** rescued this historic cabin in the 90's. Thanks to **Zella Cutler Shaw** and **David Shaw** for sharing family history, photos and financial support; to restoration contractor **Randy Townsend**; and to project leader **Hi McComish**. The interpretive sign, designed by **Quigley Map Studio**, was funded by the **Idaho State Historical Society**. The **City of Stanley**, the **Sawtooth Society**, and other donors provided funds. Visit the cabin at Stanley Pioneer Park and learn about this amazing pioneer family.

The historic Valley Creek Ranger Station's (AKA Stanley Museum) facelift was also completed this summer with log restoration and repainting to

match the original 1934 appearance! This project was funded by grants from the **Central Idaho RAC**, the **Idaho Heritage Trust** and the **Sawtooth Society**, and accomplished by **Sawtooth Valley Builders**.

We want to thank our active and dedicated Board of Directors for its inspiring commitment to the Association. 2015 saw the retirement of two long-term board members: **Joe Gallagher** from Boise and **Janet Kellam** from Ketchum. We also added two new board members **Erica Cole** and **Ellen Libertine**, both from Stanley. Heartfelt thanks to Joe and Janet for all your hard work!

We hope you will help us in 2016 by donating time and/or dollars to SIHA. Visit our website: www.DiscoverSawtooth.org, our Redfish Web Cam, and our Facebook page. The Association is a tax exempt, 501(c)(3), organization and we do need your support in order to continue our preservation, protection and education efforts in the Sawtooth/Salmon River Country.

By Gary Gadwa, President; and Terry Clark, Executive Director

Redfish Lake Sockeye Salmon Faced Challenges in 2015

2015 was a near disaster for sockeye salmon, and a disappointment for wild chinook and steelhead. Wild fish of all three local species experienced declines, compared to recent years. Some hatchery chinook were available for anglers, but in lower numbers. Despite the abundance of excellent quality habitat in local rivers and lakes, downriver survival rates continue to be far too low to insure long-term recovery of salmon populations. Low flows and hot temperatures in the lower Snake and Columbia reservoirs were especially damaging.

Spring and summer Chinook returns, the mainstay of traditional local fisheries, were down. Above the Pahsimeroi, only 435 adult chinooks were caught and kept this year, plus 285 "jacks" (immature three year olds). Each adult salmon caught and kept this year required 35 hours of fishing per fish.

The Sockeye salmon of Redfish Lake had a nearly total disaster in 2015, due to hot water downriver. Water temperatures were very high in the slack water of the reservoirs behind the eight downriver dams between Idaho



and the Pacific Ocean. Close to 90% of adult sockeye headed for Idaho died before reaching the state and only about 50 fish made it to Stanley Basin. This is very disappointing, especially after the 1,579 fish that returned in 2014. If these effects of our warming climate continue, our sockeye face a bleak future.

The final count for Sawtooth NRA steelhead is not yet complete, but numbers for next spring's fishing season are expected to be lower. As of September 30, only 61,000 have entered Idaho, compared to a 10-year average of 76,000.

Idaho salmon and steelhead cannot be recovered by actions in Idaho alone; downriver impacts are still severe and limiting. For those who care about our fish and wildlife, it is important to engage in improving effective recovery efforts now, and to make your voices heard.

By Tom Stuart, SIHA life member and board member of Idaho Rivers United (www.idahorivers.org), and Save Our Wild Salmon (www.wildsalmon.org).



NEWS FROM OUR FOUR PROGRAM AREAS:

1. Stanley Museum & Ice House



The Stanley Museum hosted 4,528 visitors this year from all 50 states and the District of Columbia, and from 18 foreign countries making 2015 our busiest summer ever; 1,136 more than 2014! Visitors were greeted by fifth year Docent, **Ken Hartz**, and Historic Specialist, **Thia Lincoln** who helped them appreciate the rugged lives of our predecessors here in the Sawtooth/Salmon River Country.

We completed phase 2 of the museum restoration project with log and siding restoration, sealing of logs, plumbing and electrical repairs, and shoring up of the foundation. This was made possible by grants from the **Central Idaho RAC**, **Idaho Heritage Trust** and the **Sawtooth Society**. Our next interpretive project is to develop displays of early Forest Service life and equipment in the tool/woodshed adjacent to the ice house; we have finished all the structural work and are now designing the displays. We received donations of historic tools from retired Valley Creek Ranger Station employee, **Bill James**. We hope to have the displays in place by the 2017 season.

Several displays were updated by Thia, who also completely revamped the museum scavenger hunt that is so popular with the kids. We will change out two of the large displays in the main exhibit room for the 2016 season. See you next summer!

2. Redfish Center & Interpretive Programs



The Association successfully operated the Redfish Visitor Center, aka the **Redfish Center**, for a fifth year in 2015. We opened on June 12th and operated seven days/week through September 13th. The Center staff added new displays and conducted guided programs. Our new program coordinator, **Kelly Martin**, led our six energetic Naturalists and served **11,441 visitors** at the center this year (a new high)! SIHA hosted an additional **7,001 avid learners** at about **450 interpretive programs** including Junior Ranger, Wilderness Explorer, Redfish Lake boat tours, discovery stations, Sawtooth Synopsis on the front porch, evening campfire programs, nature journaling, and guided walks. We continued our

well-received talks at Galena Overlook as well. 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 “Scones & 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**, and is becoming a well-known stop for art lovers in central Idaho.

3. 2015 Forum & Lecture Series



The **eightth annual Sawtooth Forum & Lecture Series** was a hit as always. This year we added Saturday fieldtrips with several presenters: **Carter Niemeyer** demonstrated wolf howling, **Ryan Anderson** guided us on an early-morning bird walk at Valley Creek, three former Idaho lookouts demonstrated how to use an Osborne Fire Finder, and **Frank Lundberg** helped us to master snake handling. Sixty-one people attended these Saturday events.

591 people attended one or more of the eight programs. Programs covered topics such

as sustainable grazing, Idaho snakes and frogs, Sawtooth valley pronghorn, stories from Idaho fire lookouts, wolf recovery in Idaho, Sawtooth valley birding, Snake River chinook salmon, and a real treat: SA President and former Stanley game warden, **Gary Gadwa**, and our current game warden, **Zac Sedlmayr**, presented “Game Wardens Then and Now”.

The most popular events were programs on “Idaho Wolf Recovery” with **Carter Niemeyer**, “Snake River Chinook Salmon” with **Russ Thurow**, and the “Idaho Snakes and Frogs” with **Frank Lundberg** and **Scott Smith**. The lectures are presented every Friday night in July and August at 5 PM at the Stanley Museum.

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

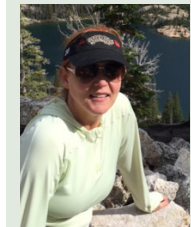
mountaineers. More than 100 interviews have been recorded in various formats. Board Member **Stewart Wilder** leads this project. With the help of the **Sawtooth Mountain Mamas** and the **Idaho State Historical Society**, Stewart had all of our interviews converted to digital format this year.

Stanley Walking Tours – We have produced free brochures for self-guided tours of downtown Stanley. We offer guided tours for large groups on request. The brochure has been updated for 2016.

Doc Day Cabin stabilization – The Doc Day Cabin in the Stanley Basin is a National Register of Historic Places property owned by SA. 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 and interpreted this historic cabin located in the Stanley Pioneer Park.

Sawtooth Interpretive & Historical Association Board Member: TORI MADSEN



Tori Madsen, one of SIHA's younger board members, has been managing the Artists Gallery at the Redfish Center since 2013. You may have seen her arranging artwork on the walls or hosting one of our monthly

“Scones and Scenery” artist events at the center. Tori is the one with the big smile offering up her home-made scones and plying visitors with mimosas. Tori truly knows how to have fun, but she also works very hard recruiting artists and transporting their work to the gallery. Tori has nurtured a rewarding partnership with the **Plein Air Painters of Idaho** to allow these local artists to showcase their talents. She is always on the lookout for new talent!

Tori, and her husband **Peter**, built their home above Buckhorn at the north end of Sawtooth Valley about 13 years ago. This energetic couple and their children: **Michael**, 16 and **Amelia**, 13 make their primary home in the Wood River Valley, but spend as much time as possible enjoying the Sawtooths. You will often find them boating on Redfish Lake; running in (and usually winning their respective age groups) the Redfish Lake Lodge Memorial Run; hiking; snow-mobiling or skiing in the winter months; and entertaining their friends with Tori's amazing gourmet cooking skills at their cabin, which these activity junkies have named “Lollygag”.

When not helping SIHA “Preserve the Sawtooth country and bring more education and appreciation to people about the Sawtooths,” Tori works as a home organizer, and owns a food business, although parenting is her full time job. She volunteers in her kid's classrooms and helps with PTA events. She is an active member at Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Hailey and has served on Vestry as Junior Warden and also volunteers regularly at the church thrift store. She is also on the social committee at the Valley Club in Hailey.

WATCH FOR OUR SPRING e-LETTER
WITH OUR 2016
CALENDAR OF EVENTS!

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www.DiscoverSawtooth.org
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