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. Come share our great times!

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

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 Elsenhorn 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.

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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@discover sawtooth.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 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 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.

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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).
The eighth 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 early-morning bird walk at Stanley 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: "Snake & Scenery" with Zac Sedlmayr, and "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.

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, accession 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 mountainmen. More than 100 interviews have been recorded in various formats. Board Member Stewart Wilde 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.

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!). SHIA hosted an additional 7,001 avid learners at about 450 interpretive programs including Junior Ranger, Wilderness Explorer, Redfish Lake boat tours, discovery stations, Sawtooth Synopis 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 "Scenes & Scenery" events to highlight the gallery with free scenes 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.

Sawtooth Interpretive & Historical Association Board Member: TORI MADSEN

Tori Madsen, one of SHIA’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 “Scenes 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 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 SHIA “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.