2016 - A YEAR OF GROWTH!

This year SIHA reached more than 28,500 people through our programs. In June we signed a 20-year permit to continue operations and programs at the Redfish Visitor Center through 2036. This spring we became the Interpretive Association for the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. We now operate six bookstores at ranger stations in eastern Idaho, keeping our amazing Outlet Manager, Laurii Gadwa, extra busy.

The 53 year old Redfish Center is getting a much needed facelift with grants received from the Idaho Heritage Trust, Central Idaho RAC, Sawtooth Society, and Forest Service. George Nedelea, dba Sawtooth Contracting, LLC, will repair the women’s bathroom, replace or refurbish the exterior doors, replace handrails, repoint entryway rock work, and replace deteriorated soffits and woodpecker damaged trim and fascia. Center Coordinator, Kelly Martin, secured a grant from the Sawtooth Society for a permanent display on Redfish Lake and the journey of Sockeye Salmon from the Pacific Ocean. A highlight of our summer was visits from several former residents. 84 year-old Charley Langer, Jr. lived here from 1936 – 1943, when his father, Charley Sr., was ranger at the ranger station. Charley Sr. was killed in 1943 when his plane crashed near Ruffneck Peak while searching for survivors of a WWII bomber crash. Charley Jr., regaled us with stories of life at the ranger station and the mischief he and his sister got into while living there. We were also visited by Robert Allan, grandson of Robert E. “Ed” Allan, ranger from 1924 – 1928. He donated newspaper clippings and Ed’s antique fiddle. Ranger Harold Wedley (1961-1967) also stopped by to share stories.

Thanks to our Board of Directors for its inspiring commitment to the Association. In September our Vice-President and long serving board member, Wes Wilks, announced his retirement. We want to thank Wes for all the work he has done over the past decade. Wes was the primary mover behind the Associations Redfish Lake Webcam. He will be missed!

We look forward to an even better year in 2017 and hope you will help by donating some time and/or funds to our efforts. Please visit our Web Site: 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 to continue our preservation, protection and education efforts in the Sawtooth/Salmon River Country.

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

HELP US Continue Our Programs in 2017

The Sawtooth Interpretive & Historical Association’s programs and events are compelling, educational and fun. Your donations and memberships help make them successful. Your funding supports: Redfish Visitor Center & Gallery, Stanley Museum, the Forum and Lecture Series, discovery stations, Junior Ranger and Wilderness Explorer programs, guided walks and boat tours, ice cream socials and Museum, the Forum and Lecture Series, discovery stations, Junior Ranger and them successful. Your funding supports: Redfish Visitor Center & Gallery, Stanley Museum, the Forum and Lecture Series, discovery stations, Junior Ranger and Wilderness Explorer programs, guided walks and boat tours, ice cream socials and Museum, the Forum and Lecture Series, discovery stations, Junior Ranger and protecting the future of the Sawtooth-Salmon River Country.

Please support SIHA and join us at our programs and events!

Erica Cole, Membership Chair

Connecting our past with our present – Tuff McGown and Amy Clegg

Last winter we received an offer we couldn’t refuse from Amy Clegg of Redfish Lake Lodge. Amy, a farm girl from Carey, has amazing artistic talent. She majored in art at Brigham Young University, and had applied for a grant to create a portrait from BTOS’ Office of Research and Creative Activities. Amy asked if SIHA would be interested in a painting to display in the Redfish Center or the Stanley Museum. “You bet!” we said, and sent her several historic photos to consider. “I was struck most by the photo of Arthur “Tuff” McGown. I loved the character of his face and hands, he and his story caught my interest and I knew I just had to paint his portrait!” she said. As she was creating the portrait, Amy realized, “I felt like I really came to know Tuff as I painted and read about him. I loved learning that he was a trapper, miner, millworker, game warden, and mechanic. In 1961, he and Edna founded the McGown Museum in the old school house in Custer. He loved to share his knowledge of Custer County and its history. Tuff and Edna inspired the founders of the Sawtooth Interpretive & Historical Association 44 years ago, and our mission: “Preserving the Past / Protecting the future”.

Amy was also inspired by the McGown’s commitment to loving, serving, and preserving the Sawtooth Country. “Just like them, I recognize the great blessing of living in this place – I understand why they never could leave. I feel honored to have been able to join them in preserving our area’s history. I hope that my portrait of Tuff will inspire others who come here to take the time to learn more about and appreciate the rich history of the people and places here Sawtooth country.”

We at SIHA feel blessed that Amy chose to honor us with her talent. Next spring we will display her painting at the Stanley Museum. Please come and admire it with us!

By Terry Clark
NEWS FROM OUR FOUR PROGRAM AREAS:

1. Stanley Museum & Ice House

The Stanley Museum hosted 3,677 visitors this year from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and 22 foreign countries! Visitors were greeted by first year Director, Jill Sisson, and Historic Specialist, Ken Hartz, who helped them appreciate the rugged lives of our predecessors here in the Sawtooth/Salmon river country.

We completed plumbing and electrical repairs and added lighting and a board walk to the interior of the building with grants and donations from the Marilyn Marquis family, the Central Idaho RAC, and the Sawtooth Society. We are working on displays of early Bull Trout. Our final program was by Idaho Public Television’s Outdoor Idaho producer, Bruce Reichert, who shared parts of his film “Idaho Headwaters” and told stories about Idaho’s rivers and streams.

The most popular events were programs on “Beaver ecology and management” with USFS biologist David Skinner; “Duper’s and Otters” with retired IDFG biologist Wayne Mejquist; and “Bull Trout life history and status” with IDFG Fisheries manager Greg Schoby. The lectures are presented every Friday night in July and August, at 5 PM at the Stanley Museum.

2. Redfish Center & Interpretive Programs

Redfish Center Life and equipment in the tool/woodshed adjacent to the Ice House; look for new displays in the spring. Displays were updated and added by Jill and Ken throughout the summer: A “Kid’s Only!” corner, historic mercantile stores of Stanley, Local place names, and communications in the valley before cell-phones and wi-fi. Our final program was by Idaho State Historical Society, Stewart’s granddaughter, Doris Stewart, accessions and catalogues 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 program - We record, archive, and share interviews with local pioneers, miners, cattlemen, outfitters, and mountainmen. More recently in senior healthcare franchising in Southwest Idaho. A member of the Sawtooth Society, Stewart’s passion is preserving the past. Her commitment to preserving the past has been recognized with the award of the Idaho Centennial trail 2002 and 2002-cid/2002.

3. 2016 Forum & Lecture Series

The ninth annual Sawtooth Forum & Lecture Series was a hit as always. This year our theme was Water in Idaho, and we explored how we make rivers meaner and use our water, how fish and wildlife species survive in them, and how to protect our precious fresh water resources. 602 people attended one or more of the nine programs, which covered topics on water policy in the west, the plight of pollinators, brown, Shoshone-Bannock tribal fisheries, water law and regulation, Salmon and Steelhead in the upper Salmon River, private ranch land conservation, Duper, Otters, and coho salmon.

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 mountainmen. More than 100 interviews have been recorded in various formats. With the help of the Sawtooth Mountain Mamas and the Idaho State Historical Society, Stewart had all of our interviews converted to digital format last year.

Stanley Walking Tours – We have produced quality 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. 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.

STEWART WILDER- Sawtooth Interpretive & Historic Association Vice President of the board

Stewart Wilder has served on the SIHA Board of Directors since 2013 and was elected Vice President in July. Stewart guides our historic preservation committee, and spearheads our efforts to get our extensive collection of oral history recordings converted to electronic files, and catalogued and transcribed, so we can make them available to scholars and residents interested in the history of the Sawtooth country. He also leads our efforts to record new oral histories. Stewart is a native of Cleveland, Ohio and a graduate of Indiana University with a BS in Geology. He first visited the Sawtooth country as a teenager in 1975 with relatives Martin and Marjorie Pollock who met each other here in 1924. Summer visits followed, and he met and courted Stanley resident Debbie Olsom, a daughter of Marie Olsom, founder of the Stanley Emergency Clinic. They’ve been married 24 years and have two sons, Nathaniel and Cameron. Sadly, Cameron died by suicide at 17 in 2013. Stewart and his late wife Colleen founded LiveWilder Foundation, for youth suicide prevention. Stewart serves as president, holds a seat on the Idaho Council on Suicide Prevention, and is president of the Idaho Suicide Prevention Coalition. Cam’s favorite place in the world was the Sawtooth Country. Stewart’s professional experience began in the mining industry in the US and Canada, and locally up the Yankee Fork. Since moving to Boise in 2002 Stewart has enjoyed new career opportunities in kindergarten substitute teaching, commercial real estate development, Executive Director and former Board member of Children’s Home Society of Idaho, and most recently in senior healthcare franchising in Southwest Idaho. A member of the Sawtooth Society, Stewart’s passion is preserving the past. Her commitment to preserving the past has been recognized with the award of the Idaho Centennial trail 2002 and 2002-cid/2002.

CALENERD OF EVENTS!!

WATCH FOR OUR SPRING e-LETTER WITH OUR 2017 CALENDER OF EVENTS!

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