The Sawtooth Association has a big project ahead of us that we need your help with. As anyone who has visited the museum lately may have noticed, our office and apartment building, built in 1929, needs repair. We need to put a new foundation under the building, add subfloor bracing, repair the roof, repair and reseal the exterior logs, and replace the log chinking. Also, a non-historic addition, added in the 1980’s must be removed or rebuilt for the restoration work to proceed. What we propose is to remove the addition, and its kitchen and bathroom, and replace it with a new building designed to look like, on the exact location, a building that was on the site from the 1940’s to the 1960’s. This building was the clerk’s apartment and housed the Stanley Ranger District Clerk when the site was part of the Valley Creek Ranger Station. The replicated building will be used to house up to four of our summer interns. The building will be located behind the ice house/toolshed building.

The exterior of the new building will have the same historic and rustic feel of the other buildings at the museum, but the interior will be comfortable, modern, and sanitary for Association staff.

The estimated cost of all this is $70,000, a lot of money for a small non-profit. Please help by purchasing paving stones for $100 each. Your stone will be inscribed as you wish. The stones will be used on site in pathways between the buildings. Send in the attached order form, or go to www.discoversawtooth.org to purchase your paver today! Donations will also be happily accepted. Thank you for your continued support of the Sawtooth Association!

Please support our new project at the Stanley Museum!
NEWS FROM OUR FOUR PROGRAM AREAS:

1. Stanley Museum and Toolshed

Visitors were greeted by our new Museum Docent, Kenny Werth, and our Historic Specialist, Caroline Wickes. The Stanley Museum welcomed 3,879 visitors this year. Kenny and Caroline updated displays and created new displays throughout the summer to give our visitors some new insights into local history. We now have an updated climbing display, with some new artifacts donated by local retired climbers and guide Kirk Bachman. Other new artifacts include a Maytag gas powered Washting Machine originally from the Jason Vaughn residence in Lower Stanley and some unusual toys found in the old Wamump Trading Post donated by Jon Christianson. We were also able to interpret the farm implement displays thanks to Kenny and Gary Gadwa. The Sawtooth Society and Central Idaho RAC also funded the new historical Museum sign that stand at our entrance, hopefully you saw it as you drove by. We are continuing our work on the toolshed/woodshed display project. This building is attached to our Ice House. Visitors will be able to look back in time at the tools and equipment that the Forest Service used, when it operated the museum site at the Valley Creek Ranger Station from 1908 until 1972. Donations for this project came from retired Valley Creek Ranger Station employee, Bill James, the Forest Service History Museum in Country Homes, Washington, Gary Gadwa, and from the Sawtooth NRA.

2. Redfish Center and Interpretive Programs

The Redfish Center and Gallery opened its doors on June 9, 2017, and saw a staggering 19,974 visitors. That’s a new record for our new Lead Naturalist, Nytasha Allbritton, led the tour of Naturalists through the 2017 season and helped in educating over 8,000 visitors through our daily programs. Programs included our guided walks, discovery stations, patio talks, evening programs and much more! This year we also worked with 184 kids and adults in becoming Junior Rangers and Wildlife Explorers! Additionally our Gallery and our new permanent display in the observation room attracted visitors. The Redfish Gallery organized by board member Tori Madsen included photographs, paintings, wooden bowls, bronze art and jewelry. Our new permanent display, designed by Evelyn Phillips and funding provided by the Sawtooth Society, tells the story of Redfish Lake, featuring the sockeye salmon, the geology of the Sawtooths, and so much more.

The Redfish Center also welcomed Rob Hart, wilderness photographer, Margaret Fuller, local author and avid hiker, Ed Cannady, wilderness photographer, and John Hughes, Custer County Waterways Deputy, who enthralled evening program visitors. We would also like to thank George Nedalea from Sawtooth Contracting LLC for completing structural improvements this past fall and spring, funding provided in part by Idaho Heritage Trust, Sawtooth Society, the U.S. Forest Service, and Central Idaho RAC.

3. 2017 Forum & Lecture Series

This year our Forum and Lecture Series (FLS) featured on the Finns, Fishes, and Features that make the Sawtooth-Salmon River country so amazing. We held eight programs at the Stanley Museum, where 155 people came to hear our speakers. Some of our lectures covered topics such as Bats of Idaho with Bill Doering and Rita Nixon, the eclipse with Paul Cox, and Fishes of Idaho with Dave Carmelama. These lectures are presented every Friday night starting in July and running through August. We would also like to thank the Redfish Lake Lodge for supporting this program and supplying our speakers with meals.

Do you have any ideas for next season?
We would love to hear them! Send your thoughts to info@discoversawtooth.org.

4. Promoting & Preserving Local History

Our growing collection of photographs, oral histories, and artifacts is quite astounding! Thank you donors. We were especially pleased to interview Joseph Bocozzo a Civilian Conservation Corps member at Redfish Camp in the late 1930’s. He shared stories and memories of his time here as a 17 year old from New York City while his kids and grandkids sat nearby absorbing the family history. We continue to add to our Oral History collections and our donors like the Sawtooth Mountain Mamas help bring us closer to transcribing our collections. We were also able to sponsor a History Days tour to some folks in town thanks to Kenny Werth and Gary Gadwa for leading the talks. This is a new program the SA is holding where we spend time walking the streets of Stanley and then we take a drive through the Stanley Basin on our Auto Tour. Look out for an email next year for more information and dates for this program!

Photos provided by: Erica Cole, Gary Gadwa, Liesl Schernthanner, and Ed Waldape.

Staff Highlight
Laurii Gadwa

The behind the scenes work of SHIA has always been a mystery to many people. How do we operate the outlets, map sales, the book orders? Laurii Gadwa has worked with SHIA for a total of 19 years. She joined the Association in 1998, when it was known as the Sawtooth Interpretive Association. Laurii then started the Stanley Museum at the Valley Creek Ranger Station, where she hired our first intern to create the Museum displays. Laurii stepped away in 1987 to manage the Redwood Motel, but rejoined us in 2005 as our Outlet Manager. She has dedicated countless hours to the Association in order to ensure that all outlets are well stocked, operations are running smoothly, and staff are well trained. Not only is Laurii our Outlet Manager, but she is also the wife of SHIA President, Gary Gadwa, and the mother of two children. She has also dedicated time to fostering many children here in Idaho, and being a phenomenal friend to all those in need.

Laurii has many years in Idaho and is a graduate from the University of Idaho with a Bachelor’s of Arts in Theater Arts, Child Development, and Psychology. She has lived in Stanley for 28 years, and quickly became a large part of the community here. Her husband, Gary, was the Game Warden in the Sawtooth’s for a very long time, where she learned the ways of not only the back country, but the town as well. Laurii has served on the Stanley City Council for 11 years, is the President of the Sawtooth Mountain Maniacs, was on the Challis School Board for 13 years, and in her free time enjoys quilting, baking cookies, and reading any kind of book. Laurii’s dedication to Stanley and the Sawtooth-Salmon River Country is astounding. She will do whatever it takes to make this a safe, educational, and fun place to live, work, and visit.

WATCH FOR OUR SPRING E-LETTER WITH OUR 2018 CALENDAR OF EVENTS!

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!