Help us preserve the Sawtooth-Salmon River Valley today!

The Sawtooth Interpretive and Historical Association (SIHA) is a proud partner of the Sawtooth National Forest. We provide a variety of programs catered specifically to you! Whether you need help planning your vacation, identifying the Sawtooth critters, or learning the vast history of the area, we have you covered.

The 2018 Fall Membership Campaign helps us prepare for the 2019 summer season. We ask that you renew your membership with us, become a new member, or donate to help us continue our vision of “preserving the past, protecting the future.” Any membership or donation to the Sawtooth Interpretive and 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.

Stay up-to-date with the Sawtooth Association’s programs, events, and more by joining our e-news contact list! Please send your contact information to Sarah Cawley, Executive Director, at scawley@discoversawtooth.org.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is the time of year when summer is past and winter is on the doorstep. The air, the clear skies, the colors and fauna preparing for restful winter and a new birth of spring awaits. SIHA works in a similar manner, with the closing of operations from another successful season, buttoning up the museum and Redfish Center and now planning for the next summer of activities to advance our mission ‘to protect and advance the natural and cultural history of Idaho’s Sawtooth – Salmon River country through preservation and education.’

Gary Gadwa and I want to thank each of you and our amazing staff and naturalists for a banner year to advance our mission and to our board of directors who are engaged and volunteer their time to support our staff throughout the year. SIHA has undergone some significant changes in our board organization this past year which involves a plan to move Gary Gadwa into an active and supportive role with the Association. To this end, it is my pleasure to serve as President, Terry Clark (former Executive Director) as Vice-President, Liesl Schernthanner relieving Paul Hill as Treasurer (Paul remains on our board) and Gary Gadwa taking the Past President position to continue supporting the organization. Gary and Laurii Gadwa have given years of service to SIHA and without their efforts SIHA would not exist as it stands today. Gary served as President for 12 years and tireless volunteering to foster what SIHA has become is so very appreciated. We thank Gary and Laurii!

Gary and I want our members to know that SIHA is financially sound and many of our current efforts are focused on board development, fundraising and execution of advancing our programs to improve the experience we hope our members, volunteers, staff and public take away from each visit to the Sawtooth country. We cannot do this without your involvement, educating others about our mission, volunteering and your thoughtful financial support.

Our relationship with the Forest Service is critical to meet our mission and our mission improves theirs as the interpretive branch they can no longer support at the level they have in the past. It is the living history of the stories and lived experiences in this valley that brings the Sawtooth country to life. SIHA operates on your generous donations and grant income. We hope you will consider a donation to kick off our 2019 season. Your contributions from $1-$10,000 or to your personal ability beyond will help us meet our objectives. We thank you for your support and please know that your contributions, memberships, and volunteering will preserve the treasures of the Sawtooth-Salmon River country for years to come and help families return and enjoy this Idaho Jewel.

Sincerely, Stewart Wilder and Gary Gadwa
– The Sawtooth Interpretive and Historical Association.

“Best of all he loved the fall, the leaves yellow on the cottonwoods, leaves floating on the trout streams, and above the hills the high blue windless skies.”
– Ernest Hemingway

PLEASE SUPPORT US at the highest level you can, or beyond if possible. Our Membership Levels will be changing in 2019, so show your support today!

Left to right: Liesl, Gary, and Stewart
NEWS FROM OUR FOUR PROGRAM AREAS:

1. Stanley Museum and Renovations

Were you one of the 4,323 people that we saw this year? If so, you probably met our Museum Docent Aimee Rollins and our Historic Specialist Liz Crowther, or maybe even both of them! Thank you all for coming to see us! Hearing your stories of Stanley is always a highlight of our summer.

Aimee and Liz gave the “Living Room” of the Museum a face-lift this year. By moving around exhibits and bringing new artifacts to light, the ladies were able to engage many new visitors, and some recurring visitors, in the local history.

The Sawtooth Association is still focusing on big enhancements at the museum. We are half way to our financial goal thanks to many individuals, The Sawtooth Society, Idaho Heritage Trust, and the Idaho Community Foundation who have all provided assistance towards the office/garage restoration project and the reconstruction of the historic Clerk’s Cabin. The office was built in 1929 and currently needs subfloor bracing, roof repairs, a new foundation, log maintenance and chinking. The Clerk’s Cabin will be reconstructed by Boise State University, Conservation Department and will serve as housing for four of our summer interns. SIHA has scheduled this work to start in the spring, and we can use your help! By becoming a part of Sawtooth History with our Brick Project, you can help us get closer to our goal of $87,000.00!* *See insert for more details.

2. Redfish Center and Interpretive Programs

The Redfish Center and Gallery was open all summer long and saw a remarkable 12,881 visitors! Our new Lead Naturalist, Katie Gray, led the strong team of Naturalists through the 2018 season. We had the pleasure of educating 9,731 folks with our programs including our guided walks, discovery stations, patio talks, evening programs and much more! This year we also worked with 158 kids and adults in becoming Junior Rangers and Wilderness Explorers!

Additionally, our Gallery held a variety of new artwork this year, including Art Selin (Jewelry), Andy Sewell (Painter), Nancy Whitehead (Photographer), and Paul Exline (Photographer). Bernie Hartz and Kay Davies dedicated their time to ensuring the Gallery was run to its full potential.

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3. Forum and Lecture Series

Our Forum and Lecture Series focused on the incredible Dark Sky Reserve that we have right here in Stanley! We had speakers such as Tim Frazier, who taught us the constellations of the summer skies, and Janie Venkamp, who hushed the crowd with her silent flying owls. What was your favorite presentation? We would also like to thank the Redfish Lake Lodge for supporting this program and supplying our speakers with meals.

Along with our renovations at the Museum, we are continuing to add to our historical archives and Oral History collections. Among the many interviews we gathered this year, we also spoke with Harold Wadley. He is a Korean War and Vietnam Vet, who worked as a Ranger at the Valley Creek Ranger Station on the Challis National Forest for almost a decade starting in 1960. He can be thanked for the current location of Highway 21, as the original plans had it cutting through many ranchers’ properties. He continues to live in Idaho, and still enjoys using our public lands. We strive to add to our Oral History collections, and our donors like the Sawtooth Mountain Mamas and Idaho State Historical Society help bring us closer to transcribing our collections in 2019.

Our Stanley Walking Tours and Stanley Basin Auto Tours are always available upon request. If you want to spend a day with SIHA, ask about our History Days! In the morning, we dive into the rugged history of the town as we walk around and listen to the stories of days gone by. After a lunch break we drive through the Stanley Basin to learn about the old mining days. These events are once a month from June through October, so be sure to schedule your tour next season! Photos provided by: Gary Gadwa, Katie Gray, Lexi Grove, Ken Hartz, Kim Oswald, Aimee Rollins, Edwin Waldapfel.

4. Promoting and Preserving Local History

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Board Member Highlight

Gary W. Gadwa

Gary Gadwa is a dedicated member of the Sawtooth Association Board. Gary earned a degree in electrical engineering, then spent 4 years in the Coast Guard. He returned to school at the University of Idaho and earned a BS in Wildlife and Fisheries and a Masters in Wildlife Management, then did his research on the Artificial Transplanting of Wood Ducks in Northern Idaho. After graduating he worked a short time for the Forest Service before joining the Department of Fish & Game as a Range Conservator in Jerome. After moving to Stanley to be the Conservation Officer in 1979, Gary decided that he would never leave the Valley again. During his time in Stanley he served as co-commander of Search & Rescue, was an EMT and a Firefighter. He has served on the Clinic Board for well over 20 years. When he retired in 2005 he attended a board meeting of the Sawtooth Interpretive and Historical Association and came out as President, a position he continued to hold until 2018. During that time, he has led the Association through many changes, growths, and complications. He is also the “go-to” man for any historical questions in the valley. Gary has led our Stanley Walking Tour on many occasions and is passionate about the history of the Valley. The Association has dedicated the Stanley Museum Media Room to him, and is now considering the Gary Gadwa Media Room. His dedication to the Association and to the Sawtooth-Salmon River Valley is unprecedented and incredibly appreciated. Thank you for your time as President, Gary, and we look forward to our continued work with you.

Photos provided by: Gary Gadwa, Katie Gray, Lexi Grove, Ken Hartz, Kim Oswald, Aimee Rollins, Edwin Waldapfel.

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

Watch for our Spring E-Letter with our 2019 Calendar Of Events!