



Sawtooth

INTERPRETIVE
& HISTORICAL

Association

Leo Zimmer

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2023

People must feel that the natural world is important **and** valuable
and beautiful **and** wonderful **and** an amazement **and** a pleasure.

~ Sir David Attenborough

A warm hello to all our SIHA Friends and Supporters!

As we wrap up another stellar summer season, we hope you had the opportunity to visit the Sawtooth Country and experience SIHA's programming. Our leadership is not just focused on operations, education, and board development; but also on strengthening committee work to support our staff and naturalist team. SIHA's dedicated board takes a personal approach to volunteering and mentoring our summer staff to grow our mission: ***To protect and advance the natural and cultural history of Idaho's Sawtooth – Salmon River Country through preservation and education.***

If you hiked in the Sawtooths this summer, you may have been greeted at a trailhead by our friendly naturalists to help guide your experience. Thanks to grant funding, SIHA was able to upgrade our trailhead portal stations with branding intended to pull visitors in. When you see our tent at a trailhead next year, please say hello and ask our crew about how they are educating people to recreate responsibly. Every connection we make helps preserve and protect the Sawtooth and White Cloud ranges.

This past season, we can report that SIHA had an exceptional year and made connections with a global visitor base. There are also some exciting projects on our horizon. A shout-out to Susan Kim, our newest Board member, for stepping into the lead on our Oral History project and hitting the ground running. Be watching for access to our oral history archives! Speaking of excitement, in the coming months we hope to publicly announce a project that will become a centerpiece for the Sawtooth Country, highlighting its importance **and** value **and** beauty **and** building wonder **and** amazement **and** pleasure for years to come!

Our mission is only successful with funding from you, our wonderful supporters, through memberships, sales, and donations. We hope you will consider SIHA in your end-of-year giving plans so we can continue to bring our value back to you and many others.

Stewart Wilder
Board President

Lin Gray
Executive Director



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Naturalists: Heath Bagley, Hali Bedenharn,
Joseph Meihak, Fiona Neely
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FOLLOW US!



SIHA - Team Highlight

Liesl Schernthanner Board Treasurer

Liesl Schernthanner joined the SIHA board in 2016. She has served on the Executive Committee as treasurer since 2018. Born and raised in the Wood River Valley, she left Idaho on a skiing scholarship to University of Alaska—Anchorage and studied economics and anthropology. Following college, she worked in applied human-environmental research in Alaska, California, Nevada, and North Carolina before taking a sabbatical to work in Antarctica. She never went back to her “real job,” returning to Antarctica for 21 seasons. She came home to the Sawtooth Valley a decade ago and now lives in Obsidian with her husband, Michael, and their dog, Wilkins.

Interest in local history and stories led her to attend SIHA's Sawtooth Forum & Lecture Series and she eventually joined the board of directors. Liesl's work ethic and knowledge of historic preservation have made her an asset to SIHA. She oversees SIHA's annual budget, is quick to provide administrative and operational support, and volunteers her time to many of SIHA's programs including clean-up days, Museum work days, and special events. She believes in the importance of community institutions providing resources for both locals and visitors; and building collective responsibility for the community and the land.

Liesl loves SIHA for its commitment to sharing the history of the Sawtooth-Salmon River Country. She has enjoyed helping develop History Day and bringing people to the Museum to engage with local heritage. There are always more stories to tell, and she says, “SIHA is in a good place to grow the knowledge of historical and cultural perspectives of the valley, connecting the people who come here with each other, previous inhabitants, and our natural world.” Liesl also serves as board president of the Antarctic Society, and you can find her friendly face behind the desk at the Stanley Community Library.



M. Powell



HOW ARE OUR DONORS MAKING A DIFFERENCE?

We all know how special the Sawtooths are, and thanks to you we get to watch our summer crew fall in love with the SNRA, too!

Here are excerpts from our naturalists:

Hali wrote:

As an avid solo hiker, I have gained a newfound appreciation for group hiking after my day hike to Thompson Peak. Sharing such an accomplishment with others is unmatched. On our trek down, two of us encountered a juvenile black bear walking near the trail. With our combined efforts of making ourselves look large and loud, we successfully scared off the young bear. As my adventure to the peak has taught me, do not underestimate yourself, travel with partners, and embrace new experiences.

Brian wrote:

Defining the SNRA with a single phrase is akin to triangulating the source of a thunderclap while hiking in a canyon. Idyllic and pastoral are oversimplifications. Magnificent or breathtaking feel worn, mundane, incapable of capturing the true essence of this place. I keep coming back to restorative. It's impossible to smell sagebrush, willow, or damp pine in the still morning air and think that it's not meant to be an elixir for your soul.



Planning for 2024:

The Forest Service is working on rerouting the Redfish Road and creating a new parking lot for the North Shore Day Use Area and the Visitor Center! Because of this, we'll be opening the Redfish Visitor Center & Gallery later than usual in June. We'll be sending the summer crew to other locations before we open, to continue serving our public land users. You'll be able to find us at trail heads, the Stanley Museum, and the Stanley Ranger Station.



OUR 2023 IMPACT

We've had another year packed with educational programs, events, and activities.

9 Summer Crew members make all of these numbers possible!

4,471 People explored the Stanley Museum and learned about our local history.

10,881 Visitors served at the Redfish Visitor Center & Gallery.

162 Junior and Master Rangers were sworn in to enjoy and respect this special place.

308 Sawtooth Summer Series attendees at 6 programs deepening our understanding of the SNRA.

204 Evening Program attendees at 23 programs on 11 different subjects.

2,054 Connections made with visitors in the field, on trails, in campgrounds, and at Discovery Stations.

336 Free programs conducted including Ranger Talks, Junior Ranger programs, Patio Talks and Guided Walks, with over 1,200 attendees.

17 Local and regional artists work displayed in the Redfish Gallery.

200+ Celebrants attended Smokey Bear's Birthday.

77 Trailhead portals held at the busiest SNRA trailheads, educating over 5,000 public land users!

600+ Salmon Festival attendees learning about Idaho's wild salmon and steelhead.

116 Visitors attended History Day and tried their hand at roping, candle making, gold panning, and more!

300 Students from the Wood River Valley attended custom programs designed and delivered by SIHA Naturalists.

62 Volunteers helped with 2 collaborative cleanup efforts.

Congratulations

to the winners of SIHA's 8th Annual Photo Contest!

PEOPLE IN NATURE



"What Could Be Better Than This" Vanessa Kingharlos

WILDLIFE

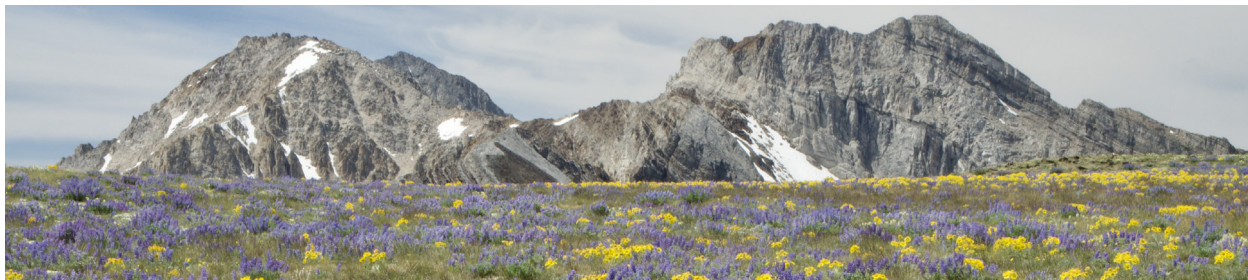


"Butterfly" Angelyna Sentirmay

SCENERY



"Sawtooth Storm" Jim Stark



Steve Botti

A special thank you to all our 2023 supporters!

The Sawtooth Interpretive & Historical Association is honored to receive funding and in-kind contributions from individuals, foundations, and businesses who support our mission. We extend our sincerest thanks to our past and present members, donors, and volunteers.

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Ed Waldapfel for his
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We strive to be accurate with our acknowledgements. If you notice an error or omission please contact Lin Gray, lgray@discoversawtooth.org.

Give back to the Sawtooths with an end of year donation to SIHA!

We are your boots on the ground.

When you give to SIHA you are supporting information sharing, daily Junior Ranger programs, teaching people how to recreate responsibly, special events like the Salmon

Festival and History Day, the preservation of local history, campground roving, discovery stations, ranger talks, custom education programs for summer camps and schools, evening programs, and guest speakers.



All for the benefit of the Sawtooth National Recreation Area!

www.DiscoverSawtooth.org • PO Box 75 - Stanley, Idaho 83278 • 208.721.5658