



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STANLEY, IDAHO—The Sawtooth Society's Bethine Church Award honors individuals who have made important contributions to the betterment of the Sawtooth National Recreation Area. This award is bestowed on a periodic basis when the Society believes it is important to recognize particularly significant contributions to the Sawtooth National Recreation Area.

Bethine Church, the Society's founding President passed away in December of 2013. She played a major role in helping to make the Sawtooth NRA what it is today, and it was a role she took very seriously well into her later years. It is very important and appropriate to be able to connect her legacy with others who have also given much to benefit this area and each one of us.

This year, the Sawtooth Society honored Ed Cannady for his public sector contributions and Kay Davies for her private sector work on Thursday, June 18, with the prestigious Sawtooth Society Bethine Church Award at a reception at the High Country Inn in Stanley. In attendance were past Bethine Church Award recipients as well as members of the Stanley community, Sawtooth Society board members, Society members and supporters.

"The Sawtooth Society is proud to sponsor these awards and view them as a key part of our core work each year," said Executive Director Gary O'Malley. "What better way is there for us to support our mission to preserve, protect and enhance the Sawtooth NRA than to acknowledge and express our gratitude to those who have worked tirelessly to do the same and make it the special place it is."

Volunteerism, stewardship, on-the-ground efforts and an overall long-term commitment to the Sawtooth NRA is the basis of criteria for award recognition.

"This award is fitting for people who do a great deal but are not in the spotlight often," said Sawtooth Society President Paul Hill. "Ed Cannady likely knows the backcountry of the Sawtooth NRA better than other individual and has devoted countless hours protecting, promoting it and helping people understand it."

"Bethine Church was one of my heroes," Cannady said. "Her husband Frank is also one of my all time heroes. I've been fortunate to work in an amazing place with amazing people. This place probably saved my life and if I can do anything to help other people have the same experience then I have been a success and that is my hope."

Kay Davies is extremely active in the Mountain Mamas and the Sawtooth Interpretive and Historical Association to name a few organizations she quietly participates in as a leader and active member and gives generously of her time and many talents.

"Kay's wonderful contributions and her positive attitude help make this community the place that it is," said Hill. "She is a great leader. She never turns down anyone for any need. She exemplifies what this award is all about."

The Sawtooth Society, formed in 1997, is the only non-profit group dedicated exclusively to serving as an advocate for the Sawtooth National Recreation Area, preserving open space in the Sawtooth National Recreation Area and enhancing its recreation facilities and services. The Sawtooth Society has funded over 160 recreational-related projects throughout the Sawtooth National Recreation Area.

The Sawtooth Society's annual fundraiser, the Sagebrush Soiree, will take place, on Saturday, Aug. 1, at Fisher Creek Ranch. This year's theme "Boots and Bling" will be an evening of rustic elegance including cocktails and dinner. In addition, the Soiree will feature live bluegrass music along with the gala's silent and live auctions with items ranging from getaways to Provence, France and Corsica, Spain to incredible river trips and featured artwork by known artists.

For tickets and information, contact the Sawtooth Society Executive Director Gary O'Malley at 208-721-2909 or email gary@sawtoothsociety.org.

Photo Caption:

From left to right: Sawtooth Society President Paul Hill, Bethine Church Award winner Kay Davies, Bethine Church Award winner Ed Cannady and Sawtooth Society Executive Director Gary O'Malley celebrate exemplary service for preserving, protecting and enhancing the Sawtooth Recreation National Area at the Bethine Church Award Ceremony at the High Country Inn in Stanley, Idaho.

Photo Caption:

Kay Davies and Ed Cannady receive the Bethine Church Award bestowed by the Sawtooth Society for their exemplary work for preserving, protecting and enhancing the Sawtooth Recreation National Area.