

Summer of Fire

Dear Society Members and Friends,

For many of us, 2012 will always be the summer of fire. In addition to the nearly 200,000 acre Halstead Fire that seriously threatened Stanley, several large wildfires collectively created Idaho's worst fire season in over 100 years! Fortunately, the expertise and dedication of the Federal National Incident Management Organization (NIMO) team, charged with controlling the Halstead Fire, resulted in no fatalities or significant private property damage. After living with these folks for over six weeks, we recognize them as real heroes who saved our town and our homes from devastation.

In nature, wildfires often trigger rejuvenation. So too, the Halstead Fire has stimulated both broader recognition of a serious continuing threat to the Sawtooth NRA and renewed opportunity to address it. While in recent years the U.S. Forest Service and homeowners have made positive progress creating defensible space around many homes, much of the forest on public lands remains full of beetle killed trees, standing snags, and deadfall ripe for future ignition. Particularly on the Sawtooth Valley's west side, there is, as the NIMO team noted, a "rotten forest ready to burn".

Happily, our energetic new Sawtooth NRA Area Ranger, Joby Timm, has begun to assemble an expert Forest Service team and working group, including representatives from a cross-section

of stakeholder groups, to address this challenge. Early in group discussions, Joby emphasized two key points: (1) a desire for broad community input during development of any plan; and (2) a willingness to consider all possible actions to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires. The goal, as one discussion participant noted, is not to prevent all fires (that is impossible), but to implement a plan that limits exposure to fires we can live with. The Society strongly supports this initiative, which it has urged for some time, and is committed to a leadership role in it.

While the fires diverted many agency resources and consumed much energy, the Society managed significant progress on a number of important fronts. To mention a few:

- Our education/advocacy outreach effort saw the launch of our beautiful, new website and completion of four volunteer projects. Work here will accelerate in 2013 as we incorporate social networking, more collaborative volunteer groups and much broader media coverage into the effort.
- Discussions progressed with Forest Service officials on enhancing the Private Lands Administration Program by making it more efficient, user-friendly and transparent.
- Point Beach at Redfish Lake was officially named Orval Hansen

Point Beach in recognition of Orval's key role in creating the Sawtooth NRA and his many years of support for it.

- Important trail development and restoration work proceeded on the Pole Creek Off Highway Vehicle Project. This project, intended to serve as a model for designing specific motorized recreation trails in appropriate locales and rehabilitating and closing unauthorized "user created" trails throughout the Sawtooth NRA, is scheduled for 2013 completion.
- Grants totaling \$40,000 were approved for 10 new recreation-related projects throughout the area.
- Finally, the Sagebrush Soiree set new records for attendance, revenue and participant enthusiasm!

All this is possible, of course, only with the hard work of our wonderful Executive Director and Board and continued support from you, our members and friends. So as you approach your year-end charitable giving, we hope you will go to our website, www.sawtoothsociety.org and consider a special donation. We promise it will be put to good use!

Thank you for your support and the privilege of serving as your President.

Paul D. Hill



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The Sawtooth Society is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that was established in 1997 to protect the Sawtooth National recreation Area

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Bethine Church Awards Presented

The Sawtooth Society honored Andy Gunderson and the late Bonnie Hansen on Friday, Oct. 19, 2012 with the prestigious Sawtooth Society 2012 Bethine Church Award at a reception at the High Country Inn in Stanley. Gunderson and Hansen were nominated for their significant and long-term contributions to the Sawtooth NRA.

The Bethine Church Award is bestowed periodically when the Sawtooth Society believes it important to recognize particularly significant contributions to the Sawtooth NRA. Two awards may be given to honor individuals in both the private and public sector. This year, Bonnie Hansen received the award for her significant work in the private sector, and Andy Gunderson received the award for his dedication to service in the public sector.

The award is named for Bethine Church, the Sawtooth Society's founding president. The honor recognizes individuals for exemplary service toward the protection and betterment of the natural, historical and recreational qualities of the 756,000-acre Sawtooth National Recreation Area.

"This year we honor Bonnie Hanson in the private sector. She lived in the Sawtooth Valley and Challis areas and was very involved in the community as well as a mainstay of the Sawtooth Mountain Mamas," said Sawtooth Society Board President Paul Hill. "She was always welcoming of people and wanted everyone to be a part of everything". Hanson's husband, Cliff, accepted the award on Bonnie's behalf and said, "The award was something she would never ask for, but it's something she richly deserves."

Gunderson worked for many years at the Idaho Transportation Department tirelessly keeping roads clear. He also serves as the Sawtooth Valley Rural Fire District Fire Chief, where among his many achievements as a fire fighter, he has maintained adequate funding, as well as a high level of professionalism for the rural and remote fire department.

"I have lived here 30 years," said Gunderson. "This community has always been very good to me and this award is just one more thing that means I'm being appreciated for being around. I'm overwhelmed. There're a lot of people in town who wear many hats. The group of people at the ambulance and fire department make me look good. I share this award with all of them."

If you have individuals who should be considered for this award in 2013, please contact the Sawtooth Society.

A Brand New Sawtooth Society Website

One of the Sawtooth Society's key priorities for this year was to sharply ramp-up our communication efforts with the public, our members, and key stakeholder groups. A cornerstone to that effort is a new website that is comprehensive and a vibrant, current source for information about the Society and the Sawtooth NRA. Over the last six months we have worked with Steelhead Design Communications to develop and now launch the new site. We want to thank the team at Steelhead Design Communications for their tremendous support and creativity on this project.

If you have not yet seen it, please do so at www.sawtoothsociety.org. We think you will be "wowed", as the site is full of spectacular photos and video as well as information about the Society's wide-ranging activities. It is designed for our members and the public to learn more about the Sawtooth Society, the Sawtooth NRA and to encourage them to get involved.

Your suggestions and feedback are welcomed and encouraged. In that vein, we especially want to encourage you to go to the Blog section and post your "special memories" of your time in the Sawtooth NRA. If you have a memorable photo, along with a short caption or story, please share it.

We hope you will enjoy your perusal through the site and bookmark it to check it out often, as we will be frequently adding new and important information. And please don't forget to share it with your family and friends.

Announcing the Austin Kraal Memorial Volunteer Program – Volunteer and Make a Difference!

Austin Kraal had a deep passion for the Sawtooth Mountains and the peace and tranquility they provide. In his enduring honor, the Sawtooth Society is proud to sponsor a new volunteer program that will enable youth and adults to directly work to expand and improve their recreation opportunities and enhance their commitment to the Sawtooth NRA. This strategic partnership with the U.S. Forest Service, has been made possible by donations from his family, friends and others who would like to establish a legacy for Austin and see important work completed on-the-ground.

Whatever your age, skills or abilities, we could use your “elbow grease”. As agency funding and people power has continually eroded, many core projects

within the Sawtooth NRA are not being accomplished. The U.S. Forest Service has now completed an assessment of priority projects on which they need assistance. These projects range from river, lake and highway clean-ups, restoration of iconic fencing to protect fragile areas, elimination of non-wildlife friendly fencing, trail clean-up and



Join with us to preserve Austin Kraal's legacy of passion for the Sawtooth NRA.

maintenance, pulling invasive weeds, adopting back country trails or lakes, reseeding decommissioned roads and restoring riparian areas.

Additionally, to many, the Sawtooths are a special retreat with recuperative and restorative powers. A part of this new program will be to establish linkages with groups that work with troubled youths to get them on-the-ground and working to enhance both the area and themselves.

I hope you share our enthusiasm for this new program and we urge you to gather-up your friends and colleagues to volunteer. You will help honor the legacy of Austin Kraal and accomplish important enhancements to the area. Call 208-721-2909 to learn more about how you could help.

Redfish Lake Beach Renamed for Orval Hansen



Left to right: Sawtooth Society Director Jim Lyons, Orval and June Hansen, and Regional Forester Harv Forsgren during the naming ceremony.

On Saturday, July 28, 2012, Point Beach at Redfish Lake was renamed Orval Hansen Point Beach to honor former U.S. Congressman Orval Hansen for his commitment to create the Sawtooth NRA and his long-standing leadership on its behalf. The ceremony

honoring Orval was attended by the former Congressman, members of his family, friends and officials from the Forest Service and the Sawtooth Society.

In 1972, Hansen, former U.S. Congressman for Idaho's Second District, worked closely with U.S.

Senators Frank Church and Len Jordan, and Idaho's other Congressman, Jim McClure, in developing and introducing legislation that created the Sawtooth NRA. Together with Church and McClure, Hansen successfully shepherded the legislation through Congress, forestalling threatened intensive development of the area and protecting the bulk of its unique scenic and natural qualities in perpetuity.

In making the announcement, Regional Forester, Harv Forsgren, noted, "It is quite fitting to honor Hansen by placing his name on the Redfish Lake beach he so loves. Were it not for the efforts of Orval and others like him, this place we call the Sawtooth National Recreation Area would be very different today, having lost much of its wild nature, pastoral character and pioneer heritage. We all owe a great debt of gratitude to him and his Congressional colleagues for helping keep this magnificent area open, wild and available to the public."

Paul Hill, President of the Sawtooth Society, observed, "Orval has been intimately involved in protecting the Sawtooth NRA since its creation in 1972, through his work as a founding Board member of the Sawtooth Society and his continuing service on the Society Board, even today. He has been, and remains, a true champion of this special place and the action today is a fitting recognition of his work on behalf of all Idaho's citizens."

Orval, commented, "The naming of Point Beach on Redfish Lake in my honor came as a total surprise to June and me. The presence of June and our seven children made it even more special. June had swims near that beach on most days during our summer visits to Stanley. It was also the place I began, and ended, my five-mile runs. It was noted appropriately, that we are observing the fortieth anniversary of the creation of the Sawtooth NRA, in which I played a part. We are told, 'success has a thousand fathers.' It was a privilege for me to be among them."

Orval added, "The four lawmakers who were responsible for the passage of the legislation were present for the dedication at Redfish Lake in September, 1972. Although I was honored by the naming of the beach, most of the credit belongs to my associates in that endeavor. The initial inspiration came from Frank Church who worked tirelessly over the years to develop a proposal that would attract broad support. Len Jordan understood the needs of resource users whose support was key to Senate passage. Jim McClure's exceptional legislative skills were essential to House action on the bill. I helped to initiate House consideration by introducing the bill that ultimately passed both houses and was signed into law by the president. Others in the Congress and the administration, particularly the Forest Service, helped to assure the funding needed to acquire scenic easements and to otherwise successfully launch the Sawtooth NRA.

Important Partnership Continues with Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation

Many long-time members of the Sawtooth Society already know that few of the projects we fund in the Sawtooth NRA would be possible without the strategic work done by the Sawtooth Society years ago to be the administrator of the proceeds from the purchase and renewal of the State of Idaho's Goat License Plate Program.

This program, initiated in 2000, is managed under a joint Memorandum of Understanding with the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, which come under periodic review. On December 16th, the Sawtooth Society

and Idaho Parks and Recreation entered into a new agreement that will enable us to continue to fund the many good projects that benefit the recreational enjoyment of residents and visitors to the Sawtooth NRA.

If you already have a Goat Plate, we appreciate your contribution to this fund. Please buy another! If you don't have one what are you waiting for? They are the best looking license plates on the road! If you know about projects that might enhance the recreation in the Sawtooth NRA, please contact the Society.



Stanley school kids celebrate their new playground funded in part by a grant from the Sawtooth Society.

Policy Advocacy on Behalf of the Sawtooth NRA Continues

The Society takes its roll as the non-profit advocate for the Sawtooth NRA seriously and our ongoing effort to protect and enhance the area is considered our core work. An important element of this advocacy is to maintain ongoing relationships with key decision-makers, particularly at the national level, and informing them about issues important to the Sawtooth NRA. Recently, the Society briefed the Idaho Congressional delegation and staff, as well as agency leadership, including the Chief of the Forest Service, and key Congressional committee staff on its priority issues.

These issues include:

- Restoration of the Land and Water Conservation Funds for the purchase of the Rodeo Grounds Conservation Easement. These funds were re-appropriated to fund fire fighting last summer.
- Mitigating the effects of gravel mining on highly visible state-owned lands along Highway 75.
- Encouraging the funding and building of the Stanley to Redfish Lake Trail.
- Minimizing the risk of another catastrophic fire.
- Naming of the Orval Hansen Point Beach and thanking agency personnel.
- Promoting enhanced private lands management.

For additional information about our policy work please go to the Sawtooth Society website at www.sawtoothsociety.org

Two New Partnerships and a Win/Win for All

Many Idahoans, and Idaho visitors, are awestruck by the beauty and recreation the Sawtooth NRA offers. As a non-profit committed to enhancing everyone's Sawtooth experience, the Sawtooth Society offers memberships, programs and volunteer opportunities, while also encouraging networking partnerships.

As we grow our advocacy for the area together with our direct programs to protect and enhance it – including the Austin Kraal Memorial Volunteer Program – we are on the lookout for providers of quality products that tie to the area. We are delighted to announce that we have found two!

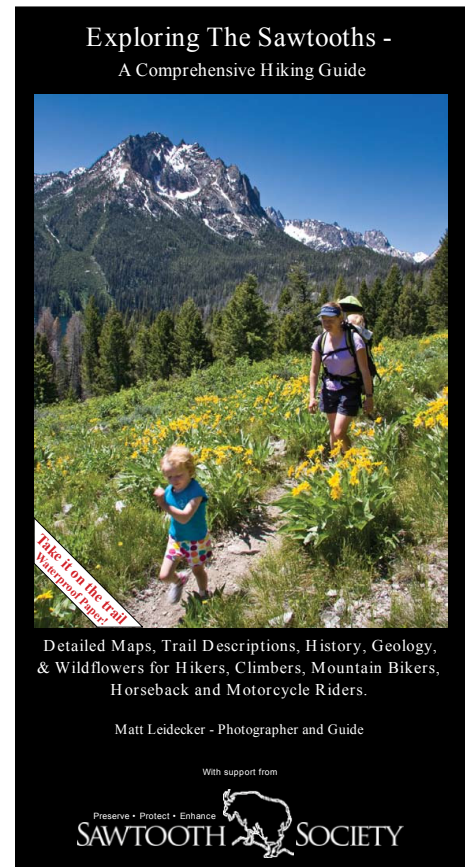
James Bourret Fine Art Photography, based in Ketchum, is launching a series of limited edition Sawtooth NRA images commemorating the 40th anniversary of the Sawtooth NRA. The prints are available in two sizes, and a donation will be made from the sale of each print to help fund the Sawtooth Society. There are 10 prints and each will be limited to 250. Each is individually signed and numbered and contain the Society's goat watermark in the lower left corner. They are available at James Bourret Fine Art Photography website or by stopping by his gallery in Ketchum. Buy one, buy three, or collect them all, each is unique and represents a different facet of this special area.



Each photo in this limited edition fine art series is spectacular! Our appreciation goes out to James Bourret for his generous support of the Society!

We are equally excited about our new partnership with Matt Leidecker, the author of a number of hiking and river guidebooks for Idaho. Matt's new work, "Exploring the Sawtooths – A Comprehensive Guide", is an exciting guidebook covering the entire Sawtooth range and has the detail and accuracy he is known for in his other books, including the "Sun Valley Guide". Matt has generously provided background about the Society in his book and encouraged readers to become members. Additionally, he is donating a portion of the sales of his book to the Society. This new guide can be purchased at many Idaho bookstores, or by going to the Matt Leidecker Photography website at www.mattlphoto.com.

Please support this team who are helping to preserve, protect and



Matt Leidecker's new book, "Exploring the Sawtooths – A Comprehensive Guide" is widely available and a great addition to enhance your enjoyment of the Sawtooths.

enhance the beautiful Sawtooth NRA. Thanks both to James Bourret Fine Art Photography and Mountain Images for the limited edition series, and to Matt Leidecker and Idaho River Publications for their support to the Society in "Exploring the Sawtooths"!

Sagebrush Soiree 2013

Perhaps you have driven by the picturesque Busterback Ranch and longed to see it first hand. Well here is your chance! The 2013 Sagebrush Soiree will be held at Elizabeth and Tom Tierney's lovely Busterback Ranch on Saturday, July 27th. Add this important date to your 2013 calendar now!

Apart from being the primary fundraiser for the Sawtooth Society, this tremendously fun evening, with an elegant dinner and incredible views, is an opportunity to make new friends, reacquaint with former colleagues and neighbors, and the perfect place to invite others to learn about the Society's efforts in protecting, preserving and enhancing the Sawtooth NRA. If you would like to discuss donating an auction item please contact the Society at 208.721.2909.



The 2012 Soiree was quite the party!



Don't miss the fun in 2013!



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the important ongoing work
of the Sawtooth Society.
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"Give a Gift"!**



One of the cherished and sought after auction items for the 2012 Sagebrush Soiree was the "Evening with Bethine Church". Here Bethine Church and Roland MacNichol enjoy a peaceful, though smoky moment, overlooking the Salmon River at Orval and June Hansen's home.