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SAWTOOTH SOCIETY
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Summer 2015

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Ed Cannady & Kay Davies Receive Bethine Church Awards

The Sawtooth Society's Bethine Church Award honors individuals who have made important contributions to the betterment of the Sawtooth National Recreation Area (NRA). 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, members and numerous supporters.

"The Sawtooth Society is proud to sponsor these awards and view them as a key part of our 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 to make it the special place that it is."

Volunteerism, stewardship, demonstrated leadership, direct on-the-ground efforts and an overall long-term commitment to the Sawtooth NRA are the criteria for award recognition.

"This award is fitting for people who do a great deal but are not necessarily in the spotlight often," said Sawtooth Society President Paul Hill. "Ed Cannady knows the backcountry of the Sawtooth NRA likely better than any 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 positive 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 where she quietly participates 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."

Thank you Ed and Kay for all you have done and continue to do in the Sawtooth NRA!

The President's Letter

At the end of July, I will step down as Society President after more than six years. Looking at what we've achieved together, it's been quite an adventure and, for me, a privilege to help lead these efforts! Today the Society is stronger, has broader reach and enjoys greater impact than ever, with a growing donor base, a dedicated Board and superb staff in Gary and Kelly. As I write my last President's letter, please permit me to share some future hopes for an organization I love and a place we've loved since we came out from Atlanta 35 years ago for our first run on the Salmon.

I hope Society work remains focused on the Sawtooth NRA and our four key areas: Conservation, Recreation, Education and Advocacy. Together these provide a strong mission and sound set of parameters within which to apply our growing but still limited energy and resources.

In concert with the Forest Service, non-profit groups and others, I hope we continue to secure conservation easements and related protections that preserve the area's unique natural qualities. While the majority of private lands in the NRA already are covered by easements, some key parcels remain inadequately protected and deserve attention. Near-term, the Wood River Land Trust's recent acquisition of lots along Valley Creek provides an outstanding opportunity for partnering to protect one of the Northwest's best salmon spawning habitats and help the public fully appreciate the key role these fish play in our environment.

Within the next five years, the number of recreational facilities and services we've sponsored through our Goat License Plate Program should exceed 200 and "on the ground" projects completed in our Austin Kraal Memorial Volunteer Program should top 100. Together I believe they've enhanced recreation experiences in the Sawtooth as much or more than any other non-profit efforts. They've also educated hundreds of volunteers about protecting the area and built strong partnerships among a wide-range of groups, working together to improve our trails, lakes, campgrounds and other facilities, accomplishing more than any one could alone. We should continue nurturing their growth until thousands more Goat Plates and volunteers are regularly contributing to hundreds more recreation projects.

Education comes in many forms that we should continue to promote. Conducting and sponsoring public forums on key issues, like recent wilderness and national monument proposals and the wildlands fire collaborative, as well as lectures and presentations on area wildlife, history and natural features, all develop a better-educated public. This in turn yields a growing cadre of individuals and groups committed to protecting the best of the Sawtooth for years to come.

Like education, Sawtooth advocacy takes multiple forms that deserve continued pursuit. Among them:

- Regularly working with Congress and senior Forest Service officials to emphasize the critical need for maintaining adequate funding for the NRA;
- Analyzing and responding to proposals and issues affecting the area's use and management such as the recent national monument proposal; and
- Expanding public understanding of appropriate private land usage, so as new property owners continue populating the area they appreciate the kind of development consistent with Sawtooth values and preservation of the unique sense of this place.

The Sawtooth is a special place, but it cannot remain so without consistent champions. To this end, it requires a strong non-profit dedicated exclusively to its welfare. The Society has been and, I hope with your continued support and direct engagement, will remain such a champion. The Society and the Sawtooth deserve no less.

Thank you for this opportunity to serve as your President!

Paul D. Hill
President, Sawtooth Society

The Volunteers Continue Their Good Works



The Austin Kraal Memorial Volunteer program, now in its third-year, is looking at another full and fun summer. With more groups than ever signed up to volunteer, the program is expanding both in frequency and variety of projects.

The Sawtooth Society is excited to welcome many groups like the Magic Valley Boys and Girls Club (Twin Falls) back to the Sawtooth NRA. The Boys and Girls Club have been traveling to Stanley twice per summer since the program's inception to participate in volunteer projects. It is because of the enthusiasm and goodwill of groups like them that the program has become so enjoyable and successful.

The Magic Valley Boys and Girls Club has already completed one project for the summer. The group of 15 – 18 year olds went out with Forest Service Range Manager

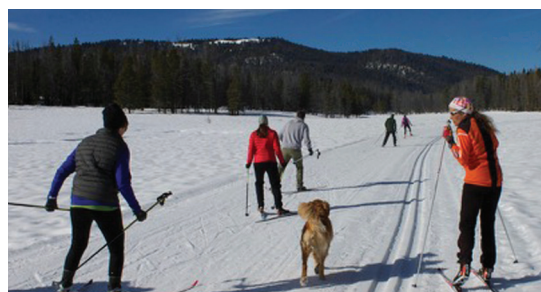
Robert Garcia to construct enclosure cages for vegetation monitoring. These cages are placed in areas that are commonly grazed and can help determine future range management practices.

This project was not only important to the overall health of the area, but was also very educational for the kids. At the end of the weekend, the group walked away with a better understanding of range management on public lands and a desire to continue to enjoy the great outdoors.

The Boys and Girls Club is just one of many groups this summer. For some groups, like the Wood River Valley YMCA, this will be their first time volunteering for the program. The YMCA will work with the Nature Conservancy to repair a rotting fence around a marsh in the Crooked Creek area and help protect this fragile ecosystem.

For those people who are not associated with a particular group but still want to volunteer, there are plenty of projects on which you can lend a hand. While the program has already completed two days working to clear trails of downed wood, these outings happen frequently throughout the summer and are the perfect opportunity for individuals to get out and give back to the Sawtooth NRA.

For those interested in signing up for an Austin Kraal Memorial Volunteer project, visit the website at www.sawtoothsociety.org/volunteer for the list of exciting and important work. We are always looking for more volunteers to come out to the Sawtooth NRA, enjoy the incredible surroundings and give a little back to the area we all love so much.



us backcountry wanderers. Along with the Elephant's Perch, the Sawtooth Society hosted a slideshow by Ed Cannady. An accomplished photographer, Cannady narrated an impressive array of beautiful photos, all taken deep in the Sawtooth NRA. Through his many stories of his nearly 40 years working in the SNRA, Cannady inspired the full house to get out and explore this summer.

people from the Wood River Valley, Boise, and primarily Stanley attended to learn some new skate skiing tips. By the end of the day, Kapala had improved the skate skiing technique of half of Stanley!

The end of February marked the first annual Winterfest 40 fat bike race in Stanley. The race, hosted by the Sawtooth Society, was a great success with nearly 40 bikers traveling to the Stanley to participate. This was the first ever fat bike race in the Sawtooth NRA and participants loved the opportunity to both get some exercise and take in the vast views of the Sawtooths.

As winter turned to spring, the Sawtooth Society provided some inspiration for all of

Education and Fun

This past winter and spring were full of varied activities hosted by the Sawtooth Society. A number of fun events brought scores of people together.

Skiers from Stanley, the Wood River Valley, and Boise gathered at the Park Creek Ski Area, just west of Stanley, in February for the 2nd annual Sawtooth Ski Clinic. Ketchum VAMPS instructor EJ Harpham taught the morning beginner session and proved her expertise by working with the 15 different skill levels of the participants and creating an incredible lesson.

Sun Valley Ski Education Foundation director and teaching icon Rick Kapala taught the afternoon session. Like in the morning, the afternoon session drew an impressive crowd. 16

THE SAGEBRUSH SOIREE IS FAST APPROACHING "BOOTS AND BLING"

The Society will host its annual gala dinner and fundraiser on Saturday, August 1, at Wes Wills' scenic Fisher Creek Ranch.

If you have attended in recent years you can personally attest to it being a tremendously fun evening. Once again, you can look forward to an elegant gourmet dinner, incredible views of the Salmon River and beyond to the Sawtooths, an opportunity to make new friends and reacquaint with former colleagues and neighbors. It is the perfect opportunity to invite others to learn about the Society's efforts in protecting, preserving and enhancing the Sawtooth NRA.

Over 75 unique gifts will be auctioned, in both a silent and live auction, with all proceeds going to support the core work of the Society and the protection of the Sawtooth NRA. Here are some examples of the variety of items in this year's auction:

1. Original paintings of the Sawtooth NRA, Silver Creek, Sockeye salmon and stately trees; and many stunning photographs by regional artists.
2. A museum quality bronze mountain goat sculpture.
3. Idaho Bounty, Gourmet Dutch oven and Wild Game diners by fine area chefs.
4. Fabulous vacations in Corsica, France, Hawaii and on the Oregon coast.
5. Both family-based and romantic get-aways at Redfish Lake Lodge and the Idaho Rocky Mountain Ranch.
6. Rafting and fishing experiences on the Middle Fork, Main Salmon and Bruneau Rivers.
7. Varied and highly unique recreational opportunities.
8. An unlimited Sun Valley adult ski pass.
9. An epic evening with local legends – Kimpton, Kovalicky and Sevy.
10. Fine wines and a bourbon tasting with the Van Winkle family.
11. An interior design and hardware package by Rocky Mountain Hardware and Jennifer Hoey.
12. Even an antique Wurlitzer Juke Box filled with wonderful 45 "oldies" from the 1950's and 1960's.

Thank you, Wes for hosting the Soiree at your picturesque ranch and a huge thank you to all those who have donated auction items and in-kind support to make this year's Soiree a successful and FUN event! If you cannot attend, but would like to receive the final gift list to place an absentee bid please let us know.

As one of last year's attendees so aptly stated, "This is the best fundraiser in Idaho and I would not miss it for the world". Well stated and as the date is quickly approaching and space is limited, please call now to get your tickets 208.721.2909. If you have some "Boots and Bling" dust it off, if not we look forward to seeing you there anyway!

