I don't know about you, but these often-repetitious, work-from-home days have me feeling a bit like I’m in the movie, Ground Hog Day! Together, we’re sharing unprecedented time apart, navigating the summer uptick in Covid cases, and realizing significant and uncertain challenges lie ahead for our rural workforce, health, and overall well-being. Nearly 6 months into the coronavirus pandemic, we have been thinking about all of you - our neighbors, friends, partners, and youth – understanding everyone may be feeling exhausted and overwhelmed with uncertainty.

At SVS we’re leaning into new ideas, possibilities, and scenarios not considered prior to this global pandemic. We are exploring new ways to provide meaningful outdoor education for our youth, despite looming changes to the school year. We are trying out new ways to engage with our community to continue momentum with pollinators, rural economic health, and natural resource collaboration. And of course, looking for innovative ways to maintain our organization’s funding through it all. This all looks so different than years past, but with your help, we are working to build a future through this challenging time.

A particularly exciting project that took place this summer was our involvement in an assessment of housing in our rural community. Over several months, we spent time on Zoom (a virtual meeting platform) connecting with a research team assembled by The Research and Business Development Center (RBDC) as they assisted Lemhi County Economic Development and the Lemhi County Housing Committee to better understand the housing situation and needs of business owners, residents, permanent employees, and sea-
sonal employees in Lemhi County. You may have contributed your input as one of 337 survey responses! This report indicated that citizens of Lemhi County feel our community would benefit greatly from the development of new housing options. You can read the entire Housing Market and Needs Analysis Report here: https://www.salmonvalley.org/lemhi-county-housing-report.

We are of course so disappointed we can’t gather in person and share our successes with all of you at our Annual Harvest Celebration as normal this year. Although we’ve postponed our in-person event until 2021, this year’s “Rise up for Rural” online auction event will be just as important, if not more so, as we focus on sustaining outdoor education and natural resource skills development opportunities for our youth and making recreational connections to our public lands. We’ll also be donating 10% of what we raise to help kick-off a local Community Business and Emergency Fund. Stay tuned for more information in the month’s ahead. The auction will be October 1st-9th and oh boy... wait until you see what is in store! See the back page for more details!

Fortunately, one thing that won’t change is that we are still seeking nominations for our Annual David Krosting Sustainability Award. These are due September 10th. See our website to submit a nomination today.

Like you, the staff and board of SVS are focused on keeping each other and our neighbors safe and healthy. We continue our limited office hours (Monday and Wednesdays, 10 am to 3 pm) and practice frequent handwashing and covering of our smiles (because yes, we are still smiling!) by wearing masks in public places. It’s important to us that we do what we can to minimize the burden on our medical workers and community members who are already dealing with health issues outside of Covid. How are you coping? We would love to hear from you…on FB, Instagram and email. Until then, be well.

--Toni Ruth

**Raising Resiliency**

**An Update on our Raised Bed Program**

Back in May (and with your help!), we raised $2,500 to go towards our Raising Resiliency program. This helped us build garden beds in the yards of local residents and community providers who would benefit from having good food right out their backdoor. In the span of one week, SVS board members and volunteers poured energy, laughter, sweat and a whooole lotta soil, seeds and baby plants into this amazing project. The outcome?

Six vibrant (and beautiful!) raised beds for those who needed them the most during this pandemic. A big thank you to all who participated and supported the project and to our many local donations for helping us get these raised beds to our community: Dahle’s RediMix, Swift River Farm, Snake River Seed Cooperative, Lemhi Lumber, Hayden Ramey and Tawna Skinner. We are accepting nominations for 2021 and will continue to grow more gardens as long as funds allow.
“It’s the little things in life.” This phrase has popped up several times during the hectic field season, filled with changed schedules, thunderstorms, and rushing to get the work done in a short time frame before the plants dry out. This summer, our Natural Resources Staff have been busy monitoring conditions of our rangelands and forests. Projects have included surveying timber to assess quantities before a timber sale, recording riparian plants, and observing how vegetation is changing along the restored Hawley Creek channel.

While staring at plant after plant, the crew has noticed that even amidst the large expanse of the sagebrush ecosystem, the tiniest of things can catch your eye. Some of our favorites have popped up in between the sage: blue-eyed grass, elephant’s head, the occasional lost feather. This year, a piece of history caught our program manager Jenny’s eye: an Elko corner-notch point. This point is 2,000-4,000 years old and made of white chert, potentially traded from the Nevada area. It passed through many hands and many generations before arriving in the spot where it would sit for hundreds of years until it would be held once again.

This year looks different, as we have a smaller crew and have to limit the number of people riding together in a vehicle to reduce the chance of Covid spread. Yet, we still have our incredible public lands available to us to explore! These lands offer local natural resource jobs, an opportunity to explore, and the reminder to slow down and find the little things in life.

P.S. The elko notch is again hidden amongst the sagebrush. Reminder: if you find an artifact, leave it where you found it to preserve the archaeological conditions of historic sites, and also so another explorer can have the joy of seeing history hidden among the sage.

“Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can.”

—Arthur Ashe
Rise Up for Rural!
SVS Online Auction
Building a stronger community, together.

October 1st - 9th, 2020

Visit www.salmonvalley.org/auction for more info or simply follow us on Facebook or Instagram and mark your calendars for October 1st!

10% of proceeds go to kick off a local Community Business and Emergency Fund.

Together, we can cultivate a strong and resilient community, no matter what tomorrow brings.

Salmon, Idaho... we got your back.

Donate online at www.salmonvalley.org