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Storm damage north of Starkey,
spring 2023

Halfway and then some through 2023!!!

Hard to believe that we are more than HALFWAY through 2023!!! We have already held the majority of the 2023 trail events: Dog sled race, 50K, Wagon Train, June Bike event. We have one more FWRT sponsored event, OctoberTrek (first weekend in October), as well as one privately sponsored event, the Weiser River Trail Halloween I and II endurance ride.

A VOLUNTEER'S STORY

Shared by Pam Lakey, Director

Nine years ago I became involved with the Weiser River Trail. It started out I just went to the meetings with my friend, Pam Haynes. The more I found out the more I became interested in becoming more involved so it started out with sitting at an aide station for the 50K Run in April 2014. It was a nice way to meet new people and since I had recently retired from a thirty year teaching career, I needed to find things to take up my time. After the 50K run I was asked to help with the June bike event, a one day ride on the trail. At this point, I asked my sister, Karin, if she would like to join me at the aide station. She said yes and it all began. Since 2014 Karin and I have taken care of registration for the two bike events and the wagon train event. We have our routine of completing the registration at either Weiser or Council and afterwards heading to our favorite aide station location., just north of Starkey. We love being the first aide station that people see coming down the trail with the bike events. We set up a table with lots of snacks and water for the riders to replenish. Several years ago we heard that the runners like to have dill pickles at the aide station as they replenish electrolytes and are helpful in reducing leg cramps, so we started making sure we had at least two jars of dill pickles on the table. There was a group of retired military men that completed the bike events for a couple of years and they dubbed us "The Pickle Sisters," as they truly appreciated the fact we had pickles for them.

I have so enjoyed my time at the events, getting to meet new people and surrounded by people who like the trail as much as I do. I have been on the board of directors for the trail for the past eight years and hope to continue for many more. So if you are sitting around wondering what to do with your time contact

us about volunteering for one of our events. You can contact us at weiserrivertrail@gmail.com. You won't regret it.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Pam and Karin are natives of Council and literally grew up in a home next to the railroad tracks in Cambridge, along with their older brother, Larry, who is also a big trail supporter and helps every year with the wagon train. It is gratifying that while so many people move on from their roots, the Lakey family remains committed to staying and supporting the trail.

DIRECTOR ELECTIONS/ANNUAL MEETING

On May 13, the annual meeting for FWRT was held in Midvale at the VFW hall. Approximately 25 people attended the meeting and enjoyed a lunch of sandwiches, chips, drinks and dessert.

Several people shared their experiences on the trail and what the trail means to them. It was an honor to have Margaret Fuller there. Margaret is the author of the Weiser River Trail Guide, which includes current information about the trail and history of the trail. Pat Trainor, outgoing president, reviewed the activities on the trail as well as some improvements made.

This year, FWRT bid goodbye to directors Karin Lakey and Josh Stallings. We appreciate the hard work of both directors. Karin remains committed to supporting the trail and volunteers at virtually all events, working registration, the aid stations, setting up raffles and whatever other tasks are required. We very much appreciate our directors and volunteers and we encourage you to consider volunteering or perhaps even serving as a director.

This year we welcomed a new director, Kathy Rainwater, of Weiser. Kathy comes to us with a love for the trail and riding her horses on the trail.

After the yearly director elections, at the next regular meeting, we elect officers. Pat Trainor decided to step down as president after many years at the helm, taking a much needed break. Unfortunately, we are a small group and the only person able to step up to act as our president was Barb McGann, who will now serve a dual role as president/treasurer. Barb brings with her many years of experience on the board and is familiar with grants, enhancement projects and most of all, loves the trail.



Barb McGann, 2023 President

We have open director positions which can be filled by appointment as well as the yearly elections. If you are interested in serving as a director, please contact any of the current directors (see page one) and we will do our best to answer your questions.

MEMORIAL BENCHES

There is a new trend with the benches placed along the trail. It started out they were primarily memorial benches to honor people who have passed but now more and more people are ordering benches to enjoy while they can.

So far this year we have received orders for three new benches to be placed in various locations along the trail. Wayne and Margaret Fuller, both still very much enjoying the trail, had a bench placed at the trailhead in Weiser. Roger Stramel, previous citizen of Council, had a bench placed for his wife, Janice, who recently passed. Larry Frank, who previously served on the board of directors for the trail passed earlier this year, and his family ordered a bench for him to be placed at his favorite fishing hole. These will be great additions to the trail and a great way to remember someone.

If you would like more information on ordering a bench, please contact Pam Lakey at (208) 739-3366. When ordering a bench there is one time charge and that includes the handmade bench, a plaque with your words on it, installation and lifetime maintenance.



THE GIFT OF MEMBERSHIP

If you are starting to think about the perfect Christmas gift that gives all year long, perhaps giving a Weiser River Trail membership is the answer. The membership includes the newsletter, invitations to trail events and most

importantly knowing that your membership is helping to maintain and improve the trail for the future. If you would like to know more go to our web site for more information.

<https://weiserrivertrail.org/membership-%2F-donations>

JUNE BIKE EVENT 2023



A beautiful day in early June saw a splendid turnout for the 2023 bike event. Things got off to a bit of a rough start when there was a crash in the first few hundred yards, and while the rider was shaken enough to decide to abandon the ride, they were reported as with no major injuries. The event is managed by Pat Trainor and his wonderful crew of volunteers.

DONATION OPPORTUNITIES!

by Barb McGann

You now have multiple ways to help the trail! We so appreciate the generosity of our members and we keep trying to find new and

EASY ways for you to donate to the trail. Every dollar you donate allows us to keep the beautiful 86 mile trail open, do necessary maintenance like re-planking the trestles (yes, the trestles are now 20+ years old and needing replacing/repairing), and to find new and exciting events on the trail so you can come use it!

Here are the current funding opportunities:

AmazonSmiles. The AmazonSmiles program has been discontinued as of spring 2023. We appreciate all your support over the years and hope you will continue to support our other programs!!!



Ridley's. This is a BIG one for us. Pattie Heldt signed us up more than 10 years ago.

They have a points program, and all you need to do is the next time you are in a Ridley's store, tell the cashier that you want to donate your points to Friends. You would be amazed at how many points we get from people shopping in their favorite grocery store. To date, Ridley's has paid us over \$89000 in the 10+ years. Please consider us if you shop at Ridley's!!



Fred Meyer. If you don't shop at Ridley's but you do shop at Fred Meyer, they have the same

program...Fred Meyer Community Rewards. If you have a rewards card, you can tell the cashier that you want to give your points to us, or you can go online, create an account and at the bottom of the home page, you will see Fred Meyer Community Awards. Click that and follow the steps. We are listed as Friends of **THE** Weiser River Trail, Inc in their listings.



Idaho Gives. This year we again raised over \$7000 with a 100% match from a generous sponsor. Thank you for your support!!!



AUGUST 24 - 27, 2023 | HILLCREST COUNTRY CLUB

Tickets are now on sale (on-line only) for the 2023 Albertson's Boise Open. Link from our web page <https://tinyurl.com/mrrrnz2h>.

You can also make individual contributions that are project directed (right now for example we are looking to fund extension of the water line at the Weiser trailhead and install corrals).

Another way to support the trail is to donate directly to the Idaho Community Foundation. For more information, visit their web site at <https://tinyurl.com/4pft7fbp>

2023 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

10/07/2023 - 10/08/2023 October Trek, sponsored by the FWRT Board of Directors. For more information, <https://www.bikereg.com/october-trek>

10/28/2023 - 10/29/2023: Weiser River Trail Halloween I and II Endurance Ride <https://weiserrivertrail.org/enduranceride>



A SQUIRRELY SITUATION

The Northern Idaho Ground Squirrel has been listed as an

endangered species. Habitat has been identified along the trail from mile post 80.5 to 85.5. As such, we cannot spray herbicides on this stretch of trail, we will have to maintain this five mile stretch by hand. This will be brutal, backbreaking work and we are looking for volunteers who would be willing to help us with this massive project. Please contact President Barb McGann if you are interested in adopting a stretch of this trail at 208-602-2534 or E-mail weiserrivertrail@gmail.com



Long time trail supporter Bob Bunch and his new bride, Lisa, working in the chuck wagon at the wagon train event.

NOTE TO THE MEMBERSHIP

As we move more and faster into the digital age, we strive to keep up with real time information to our membership. While we absolutely will continue to honor your preference for a paper newsletter, if you have an E-mail and have no objection to receiving occasional E-mails from us, we would greatly appreciate you sending us that information and we will update our database. You can E-mail weiserrivertrail@gmail.com with your E-mail address and state your preference to continue to receive a paper newsletter or switch to digital. **WE WILL NEVER SHARE YOUR INFORMATION.**

Another way of supporting the trail at renewal time is to up your membership level, or even consider joining at the \$1000 lifetime level. For more information, see the application form in the newsletter or the web site at <https://weiserrivertrail.org/membership-%2F-donations>

WEISER TRAILHEAD IMPROVEMENTS

In May of this year, we were able to finish some long-awaited improvements to the Weiser trailhead. The old uneven field was replaced by a compacted gravel base, expanding the parking, especially for horse trailers. We also removed the old barbed wire fence. Future plans call for extending the water line and adding two frost free spigots as well as adding four horse pens.



WIFI AT THE WYE

At long last we have a physical address for the Wye. Once we install boosters, we will have Wi-Fi at the Wye and for a small upcharge, campers can access it!!! Check with the camp host for more information.



The address is 3604 Highway 95, New Meadows, 83654. For campground reservations, call 208-347-3604.

REPORTING TRAIL DAMAGE

Obviously we cannot be everywhere at once and we depend on you, the trail users, to be our eyes and ears. Please report trail blockage/damage/issues on our Facebook page, by calling President Barb at 208-286-7279 or E-mail weiserrivertrail@gmail.com



Become a Member

The Weiser River Trail is owned and managed by the Friends of the Weiser River Trail, a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation. The mission of FWRT is to preserve the integrity of the rail corridor, manage it as a public trail, and conserve the natural habitats along its length. FWRT is a self-funding membership organization that depends heavily upon funds raised through membership dues, grants, and fund-raising efforts to cover ongoing maintenance and operational costs.

We welcome your support!

- o \$15 Basic Member
- o \$25 Trail Blazer
- o \$50 Pioneer
- o \$100 & Up Bridge Builder
- o \$1000 Life Member

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State / Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

I prefer to receive my newsletter via (check one): E-mail snail mail

Please Send your contribution and
membership information to:

Friends of Weiser River Trail
9201 Grandmason
Eagle, ID 83616

If you would like to help work on the trail or serve on a committee, please call the number listed below. Your help would be greatly appreciated!

If you would like more
information about
the Weiser River Trail,
visit us on the web at:
www.weiserrivertrail.org
And for membership information
Call: (208) 602-2534

FRIENDS OF THE WEISER RIVER TRAIL

9201 Grandmason Place

Eagle, ID 83616

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TRAIL NEWS

