

TRAIL NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF FRIENDS OF WEISER RIVER TRAIL

PUBLISHED TRIANNUALLY IN CAMBRIDGE, IDAHO
Summer 2021 ■ ISSUE 80



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Wagon Train 2021 photo by Pam Haynes

Geology along the Weiser River Trail from Midvale into the Weiser River Canyon (trail miles 33-21) by Steve Schaps

We begin in downtown Midvale at ~mile marker 32.5. The City of Midvale drilled the deepest well in the entire area to a depth of 990' below the water tower in the center of town.

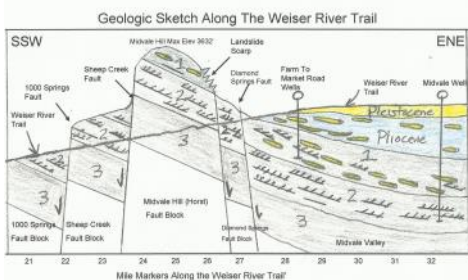
This well encountered Pleistocene age sands, gravels, and boulders down to a depth of 90 feet. These sediments are less than ~2 million years old and represent coarse erosional deposits on top of a regional unconformity associated with the beginning of the Pleistocene Era and the "Ice Ages".

From 90'-433' this well found blue claystone representing Pliocene age "Lake Idaho" deposits ~2-5 million years old. The climate was warmer and wetter during this time and a large

lake covered most of Southern Idaho and even some of Oregon at this time.

Below the Pliocene clays the deep well found the top of Middle Miocene Age (~15 million year old) Basalts. These basalts are known as the Weiser Basalts and consist of many different flows 10-30 feet thick. Many of the flows contain interbedded sands and shales representing river and lake deposits in between eruptions. Many of the basalts also contain fractures and vugs which provide potable water in several of the deeper water wells in the Midvale area. Wells on the sides of the Midvale Valley have penetrated the basalts at shallower depths (~72-190'). These basalts are found throughout the Weiser River Canyon.

The Weiser River Canyon is caused by the river cutting through a large fault block which forms Midvale Hill. This fault block is known as a Horst Block because it has faults cutting off of it on either side and is long and linear in map view. These faults are an extension of larger faults in the Paddock Valley to the SSE. The WRT crosses these faults at almost right angles and the faults often have perennial springs associated with them. At Mile Marker 27 the trail crosses the first big fault at Diamond Springs but the lush vegetation obscures most of the actual fault zone itself.



Slightly further downstream around Mile Marker 26 you can look uphill to the West and see a large landslide scarp face ~300 feet tall. This landslide broke off a large section of the basalt cliffs and was massive enough to block the Weiser River and form a large lake that stretched all the way back to the Shoepeg Road Trailhead at Mile Marker 36. This lake extended across the Midvale valley to an elevation of ~2,600 feet and would have been about 50-100 deep in the center. It lasted long enough to deposit clays and fine grained lake deposits throughout the Midvale Valley and helped create the rich top soil in the area. The lake existed in the Late Pleistocene long before Midvale was first settled so it is not known when the lake was breached and drained but it was probably a cataclysmic event. Long smooth gravel

benches representing outwash bar deposits from Lake Midvale sit up to 100' above the current river level between Mile Markers 23.5-24.5 on the opposite side of the river. Another smaller fault scarp exists near Mile Marker 28 but this rock-slide was probably not large enough to dam up the Weiser River.

Miles 26-24 are in the middle of the Midvale Hill Horst Fault Block and we emerge from the center of the fault block onto its SW flank at Sheep Creek at Mile 23.5 just opposite the mile long flat bench of gravel washed out of the Weiser River Canyon when the landslide dam was breached before the start of known history in this area.

The Sheep Creek Fault is well exposed on the NE side of Sheep Creek as a linear zone of heavily fractured and decomposed basalt which is discolored due to weathering and the passage of water through the fractures around the fault zone. It appears to have an offset of 300-500' vertically here, making it the largest fault on the WRT in this area.

At Mile Marker 21.7 the trail crosses the 1000 Springs Creek which is another fault zone flanking the Midvale Hill Horst Block. The Keith Baker Memorial Campsite is just below the trestle in this area and a great bike packing or horse/wagon campsite.

The rest of the geology going downstream to the Presley Trailhead is mostly cemented sandstones, shales, volcanic ash, and basalts of the Payette Formation. These mostly form hillsides and grassy knolls so are not as well exposed as the rocks in the Weiser River Canyon.

None of the large basement involved faults in the Midvale/Weiser Area are seismically active and they are not earthquake risks. They do not cut the sedimentary veneer of Pleistocene deposits so are much older and have been inactive for more than a million years.

If you would like to learn more about your own individual well or local wells you can use the GIS Search engine on the Idaho Department of Water Resources website, go to the website then click on "Wells" then click on "Find a Well" and zoom the map to your location www.idwr.idaho.gov.

50K Run April 2021 *By Beth Ahrend*

On April 24, 2021, This year's 50k was a return to racing for many people! With Covid hitting the US and things beginning to shut down in March of 2020 the race had to be cancelled as it was not safe. The country went into a lockdown well into February of 2021. As a vaccine became available and the number of people being infected began to decline USAT had officially put together rules that could give us all a "safe return to racing" With the safe return to racing set up we still had to pay close attention to our numbers and spacing people as best we could. Runners had to wear masks at the start/finish areas and as they ran through aid stations; No one could rummage through the food at the tables, everything had to be prepackaged and only handled by volunteers with gloves on and no loitering around the aid stations, get your food and get moving!! These obstacles presented were a mild inconvenience for runners but

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they were so excited to run they didn't care, they were rearing to get out and go! The relay had to be abandoned to help keep the number of people at the aid stations down to a minimum-



The morning started out cool with clouds looming overhead, there were threats of thunder and lightning- which could possibly pause the race for up to an hour. 66 people toed the start line, sent off in waves of 10-15 people to help keep them spaced out per our guidelines. Once the runners were off and running, I stopped by the first aid station and was greeted by a great aid station set up and awesome volunteers. The middle of the pack runners were just making their way there smiling and waving. There was a buzz in the air this year of such excitement and gratitude. I hung out and watched and cheered on a few runners before making my way to Cambridge. Without relay runners this year, I was way ahead of where I usually am as I make my way to set up the finish in Midvale. Cambridge was just getting set up- the aid station volunteers there are race directors themselves and had been able to put on a race in September so they had all the new precautions in place and ready to rock when runners started to come in. I caught a glimpse of the first two runners coming through the aid station- in and out and back on the trail. The temps were perfect for running especially for the front

runners and I could see that today was possibly going to be a fast foot race. I made my way to the finish area in Midvale where the timer was setting up his equipment – we got the awards set out, finish line arch up and waited patiently, but not long. The first runner came in at 3 hours and 3 minutes setting a new course record! Daniel Button of Eagle Idaho crushed the old course record by 8 minutes. I was surprised to hear he was a little disappointed as he wanted a sub 3 hour time. He was so close and I was delighted to see the old course record from 2015 broken! There was about a half an hour gap between him and the next runner but they all started rolling in. The 4th runner across the finish line was our first woman and another new Course record! Danielle Marquette of Nampa Idaho was crowned with the new womens course record breaking the previous record by 10 minutes finishing at 3 hours and 49 minutes. There were only 3 runners that dropped out of the race for various reasons, which I consider to be very successful! Some of the mid to end of packers had to deal with a little weather but the thunder and lightning held off and there was a recurrent theme of gratitude throughout the course and the day. The race this year was very special as it marked a return to some normalcy and it kick started our Idaho Trail Ultra Series schedule- The Weiser River 50k is usually the third race in the series- It felt like a celebration!

2021 Wagon Train Success

By Pam Haynes

After canceling the 2020 wagon train event, this year's event was met with gratifying enthusiasm and participation. By March, entries started trickling in and by the time we were ready to rock and roll on Friday, May 28, we had half a dozen wagons, about 30 riders and a whole bunch of anticipa-

tion!!! This year's event again rolled north, starting in Weiser on Friday, May 28, and finishing in Council on Monday, May 31. Preceded by heavy rain a week prior, the weather could not have been more cooperative the entire four days.

After shuttling the rigs to Council, returning via school bus courtesy of the Weiser school district, riders and wagons trickled out and hit the (not too) dusty trail for "primitive camp." Primitive camp is located about 3 miles north of the Presley trailhead and while not the perfect flat groomed camping site, thanks to Mike Beavers it was mowed and thanks to Dan Haynes, it was free of noxious weeds. The only glitch was our Port-A-Potties had not been delivered in advance, but after a few frantic phone calls, that was sorted and the potties arrived by dusk.

Following breakfast the next morning, riders and wagons headed for the next camp site in Midvale. The Midvale Park makes a great venue, the only real drawback being it is right on the edge of highway 95 and traffic is always heavy on Memorial Day weekend. The stop in Midvale is always heavily attended by non wagon train participants, and this year was no exception, with 80 or so people showing up for the raffle and catered (Mann Creek Store) dinner.

On Sunday, the wagons and riders were once again on the move and this time trailed 20 miles to the old town site of Goodrich, far from the madding crowds and traffic. On Monday, the now tired but still enthusiastic group tackled the final stretch to Council, where their trucks and trailers awaited.

An event such as the wagon train takes a village to manage, and I am SO grateful that so many people are willing to step up and help.

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Financially we were in the black this year, in huge part due to the fact that we are “self-catering,” thanks to Alan Stoneman and his partner, Polly, and to Bob Bunch and his helpers. Instead of paying a caterer (except for Saturday night), the only cost to the event is the actual cost of the food and supplies, with all labor being donated. We had a wonderful raffle this year, supported by donations from Pam Lakey, the community of New Meadows, Lynn Stoneman (who donated the grand raffle prize of a brand new saddle!), Ron Hundahl, Elsa Freeman, Carrie Pedreira and Shelly Hendrikse.

Special thanks to the community of Midvale for allowing us access to the showers at the community pool, Mike Beavers for ensuring the Weiser trail-head and primitive camp were mowed, to Dan Haynes for ensuring the noxious weeds were under control, to Guy Amidon for rolling the trail and ensuring it was clear for the wagons, and to Elsa Freeman who not only donated to the raffle but who donated the “swag bags.” Thank you to Pam Lakey for not only donating several raffle items but for coordinating purchase of the ever popular T-shirts, and to Karin Lakey and Pam Lakey for handling check-in duties on Friday morning and raffle ticket sales Saturday. Thank you to Bob Bunch and Alan Stoneman who not only provided five meals, they patiently loaded and unloaded the hay wagon and sag wagon with a LOT of often very heavy gear. They also arranged for horse water at each camp site.

Also sincere thanks to all the board members who were able to participate, if only by attending dinner and enthusiastically purchasing raffle tickets and contributing to the cause.

Thank you of course most of all to the PARTICIPANTS, whose unflinching enthusiasm and good humor are very much appreciated!

The 2021 wagon train was dedicated to former wagonmaster and board member, Terry Bonner, who passed away in 2019. Terry’s widow, Kay, was a welcome presence in Midvale and she expressed her thanks to all.

Also present at the Midvale dinner was former wagon master Dan Dickerson who, along with Terry Bonner

and Alan and Lynn Stoneman’s father, started the wagon train about 20 years ago. In those days they had to literally not only haul the port-a-potties, they hauled plywood to place over the trestles, which were not planked, so the horses could safely cross them. From that inaugural event, the wagon train has grown every year, with riders this year coming from not only Idaho but Washington, Oregon and Wyoming.

We thank you all for your support and we are already looking forward to the 2022 event!!!

Memorial Benches

By Pam Lakey

For many years people honored family and friends by purchasing a Memorial Bench to be placed along the trail, but now there is a new trend. About a year ago, a trail member asked about purchasing a bench for he and his wife’s memorial BUT they are both still alive. He stated that they wanted to have the bench in the place they want, a chance to visit and enjoy it while they can. So they did just that and ordered a Living Memorial Bench. They report they love visiting their bench often. They certainly started something as soon other people were purchasing Living Memorial Benches and as of right now there are three more to be installed along the trail. All benches are not only enjoyed by family and friends, they can be enjoyed by all trail users!

The benches are handmade with great care, then personalized plaques are installed. They are built to withstand the test of time and weather. There are benches that have been on the trail for more than fifteen years and they are still looking great.

If you would like to purchase a bench whether Living Memorial or Memorial, please email Pam at angeleyes731_013@yahoo.com or call her at (541) 889-6627. (see photo on back page!)

2021 Election Results and Officers

By Pam Lakey and Pam Haynes

There were two seats open on the board of directors this year. Pam

Lakey and Pam Haynes, who were currently serving on the board, placed their names on the ballots for re-election. Ballots were mailed out and in addition to the paper ballots, a new online voting system was set up for members to vote at their convenience online. At the annual meeting in May, votes were counted and confirmed and the two Pams were re-elected for another term. The board now consists of Pat Trainor, Ron Hundahl, Pam Haynes, Barb McGann, Pam Lakey, Elsa Freeman, Karin Lakey, Alan Stoneman, Mike Beavers and Josh Stallings.

At the June meeting the board of directors held election of officers for the 2021-2022 year. The results were Pat Trainor President, Ron Hundahl Vice President, Pam Haynes Secretary and Barb McGann Treasurer.

The board looks forward to a great year and wish to thank the members for their continued support for what we do to keep the Weiser River Trail up and running for walkers, runners, bicyclists, and horseback riders to enjoy.

Director elections are required by our by-laws and are held once a year. This year we embraced new technology and took the election on-line for members who have E-mail (about 80+% of our membership). This dramatically reduced the mailing cost and time involved to mail paper ballots, not to mention the ease of counting the ballots. We appreciate all who took the time to vote, whether on-line or by returning a paper ballot.

We encourage ALL who have an interest in supporting the trail by serving as a director. We are proud of our record as an all volunteer board. We meet either in person or via conference call on a monthly basis, and we can always use an infusion of new and enthusiastic directors. If you are interested in becoming a director in the future, please feel free to reach out to any of the current directors (listed on page one) for more information.

Fund Raising Opportunities!

Idaho Gives 2021 By Barb McGann

Once again, Friends of Weiser River joined other nonprofits in Idaho to participate in the ninth annual Idaho Gives day as an effort to broaden our donor base. Idaho Gives is a method of donating online to multiple nonprofits and charities in Idaho. People from all over Idaho and all over the world went online on May 1st to the 8th to browse over 800 nonprofits; search for them by name or category; and give to one or ten or as many charities as they like. Idaho Gives generated over 3 million dollars for Idaho nonprofits in 2021.

Our donations were slightly down this year. We had solid match donors and your dollars were matched 100%! Our online donations came to \$7900, and with matching added over \$15800 to our fundraising totals! Not bad for a one day online campaign!

We will of course participate in the May 2022 Idaho Gives, so if you are looking for ways to make a difference and help maintain public access to recreational trails, this would be an excellent way to do it. Please contact Barb McGann, 208-286-7279 or mcgsolutions@inbox.com if you want to participate as a matching donor. And please remember us next year when May rolls around!

2021 Boise Open By Barb McGann

The Boise Open has been our biggest fundraiser for the past 18 years. Like many things, it shut down in 2020 and they did not do the non-profit tickets sales. However, in 2021 it is back in a slightly different form. This year, they are not allowing "bulk" ticket sales. In the past you were able to send your money to FWRT and then we pooled them and bought thousands of dollars in tickets at a time. This year, they want to sell individual tickets. And it is all online! So we can't come around in person like Shirley did and get you to write a check. Dang! So, for 2021, we would like to appeal to every member. The tournament is August 19-22, 2021. Each days ticket not only gets you admission to the golf, but they are also having nightly concerts! Thursday is Old Dominion. Friday is REO Speedwagon. Saturday is sold out!! Sunday is Juniors Day and is only \$10. The 4-day passes are sold out already. Please go online at www.albertsonsboiseopen.com and sign up for as many tickets as you can! When you hit "Buy Now" on each day, it will allow you to select the charity and of course, we are on the list!

Would any of you like to help with contacting members or businesses along the trail? While you can't just take their money, you could

help them log on and purchase tickets. The efforts on fundraising for the Boise Open start in June or July and goes into August. Please contact Barb McGann at 208-602-2534 or barb@mycpabarb.com if you are interested in helping or spearheading this effort!

STILL MORE OPPORTUNITIES!

By Pam Haynes

Did you know that you can support the Friends of the Weiser River Trail every time you make a purchase on Amazon? FWRT is an Amazon Smile participant. For more information on how to make your purchases count, log into your Amazon account and search for the Smile program!!!

We also participate in the Fred Meyer Community Rewards program as well as the Ridley's Advantage Club program. For more information, check out their respective web sites!

Between the three programs, we currently generate approximately \$75 per quarter. EVERY DONATION COUNTS!



AUGUST 19 - 22, 2021 | HILLCREST COUNTRY CLUB

Along The Weiser River Trail



Weiser Trail Bike Ride Highlights Economic Benefits to Local Communities

by Paul Poorman

June 5 brought cool weather and a healthy headwind to the 65 riders participating in the spring cycling event sponsored by Friends of the Weiser River Trail. While we always hope to break the rules about cycling always being uphill and against the wind, in this case, only the always-riding-uphill rule was broken (well almost). The riders were shuttled up to the north end of the trail near New Meadows and then rode (mostly) downhill to either Council or Cambridge. Thick forest and the soothing sounds of running river water brought smiles to all of the bikers. While the scenic "rainbow" bridge has now been replaced with a modern concrete structure, no-one was disappointed that the detour around the construction has finally been lifted. Just below Stark-ey, the group had to travel on the Fruitvale-Glendale road where the Lortz trestle was washed out in the spring of 2019. Hopefully a new span will fill the void between bridge abutments in 2021 and make the trail complete again. Tired riders rolled into Council and were treated to a sumptuous custom lunch of sandwiches, chips, fruit, and cookies. After lunch, the Cambridge riders headed on through the unroaded section of trail to Goodrich and then popped out of the wilderness at Mill Road north of town. Along the way, the sights and aromas of Mules-Ear and many other flowers filled the air. Overall the ride went very well and many folks who were unfamiliar with this corner of Idaho had a favorable impression and went home satisfied.

Behind the scenes a lot happened to make the event successful, and a big part of that was the local businesses who support the Weiser River Trail and the volunteers who keep it running. Every spring the north section of the trail has to be cleared of rocks, debris, and downed trees. The trail hires Guy Amidon, a Cambridge construction contractor to do the work, and he always does a fantastic job getting things ready for the spring

events. As soon as things warm up in the spring, the weeds start their journey toward the sun, and the trail's weed specialist, Dan Haynes, is there to arrest them. Dan is the trail's sole employee and over the years he has made huge inroads in the noxious weed problem. Of the 132 wheels (for you math whizzes sensing a multiplication error, there were two trikes in the group) rolling along the old P&IN Right of Way, not one lost its air due to puncture vine goatheads - a major milestone! Other local businesses that benefited from the ride were Shy Simon's, lunch provider, Big Sky Sportswear - T-Shirts, RoundUp coffee house in Cambridge, local restaurants, motels, grocery stores, and campgrounds. Combined with the trail's other organized events, and trail-users who ride/cycle/walk/run/ski the trail, the benefits to the local economy run into the tens of thousands of dollars.

Of course, all successful happenings with the trail take a plethora of volunteers to pull them off. Pat Trainor, Trail president, organized the ride. Craig Kjar set up registration. Pam Lakey and Karin Lakey handled registrations and one of the rest stops. Pam also set up the rider insurance. Kathy Hughes and Steve Schmoeger were at Goodrich to restock the downstream riders. Alan and Polly Stoneman loaded bikes at Council and Ron Hundahl drove the shuttle vehicle. Elsa Freeman and Lane Williams checked riders in at Cambridge. Mike Riddle rode as trail mechanic and also swept the stragglers in. Walt Sholl managed the ATV sweep and emergency rider evacuation. Lisa & Mark Schneider, with Ron Hundahl's help, pulled off the lunch at the Council RV park. Thanks to all of the volunteers and trail board members who made the 2021 spring bike ride a success. If you're interested in riding this fall in the two-day October-Trek this fall, register early at <https://www.bikereg.com/october-trek> and plan on having a fun two days on the Weiser River Trail. Otherwise wait until June 2022 for the next organized ride on the upper trail.

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!

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State / Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

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



Memorial Bench Along The Trail

TRAIL NEWS

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