

# Trailing of the Sheep Festival Celebrates 25th Anniversary

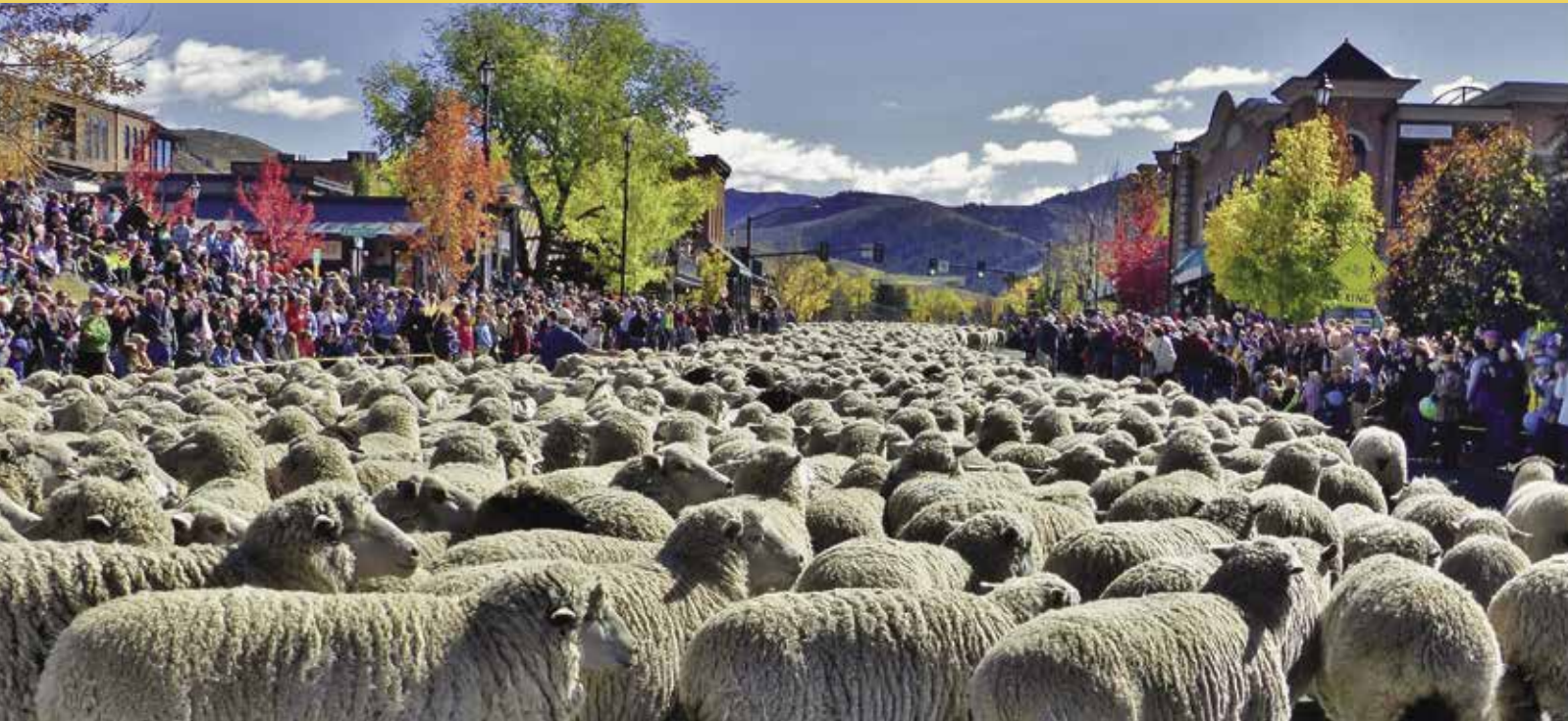


Photo: Carol Waller



By Hayden Seder

Twenty-five years ago in 1996, a small group interested in the history and culture of sheepherding in the Wood River Valley met for coffee and helped walk with the sheep through the Valley.

While the history of sheepherding in the area is long, the loss of farms and ranches and the growth of the West, and Idaho in particular, led to a need to preserve the rich stories, history, and heritage of sheepherding in Idaho. Thus, the Trailing of the Sheep Festival was born, a five-day event including multicultural performers, storytelling, culinary events and cooking classes, a Wool Festival, and Championship Sheepdog Trials, all culminating in the Big Sheep Parade when 1,500 sheep trail down Main Street in Ketchum. Given accolades by *National Geographic*, *msn.com*, *USA Today*, and more, the Trailing of the Sheep Festival is a unique opportunity to be immersed in the cultural heritage of our area. Taking place October 6-10, this year's Trailing of the Sheep Festival will have new and exciting events and an air of celebration as the event's 25th

anniversary takes place after last year's hiatus (though the sheep still trailed!).

"We are excited to be back," said Trailing of the Sheep Festival Executive Director Laura Musbach Drake. "Like so many, we were sad to take a hiatus last year, but we are feeling enthusiasm from patrons, volunteers, and Folk Life Fair vendors. We are hoping for a wonderful Festival – the best ever – and we are feeling great excitement from all of our audiences to participate and be a part of it this year."

## THE GOOD SHEPHERD MONUMENT

Currently in the works to be unveiled at this year's Festival is The Good Shepherd Monument, a sculpture by Danny D. Edwards of Danny Edwards Bronzes that will feature eight life-size bronze sheep, a shepherd, horse, and dog on the landscape strip at Roberta McKercher Park in Hailey. The sculpture will serve as a permanent legacy to the sheep industry, ranchers, herders, and their 150+ years of history in the Wood River Valley. "It is a unique gift from the Trailing of the Sheep Festival to the industry and to the Wood River Valley community and beyond," said Drake. "We think it is a wonderful tribute to the history and culture of our region that we celebrate through our Festival each year." Adjacent to the monument will be commemorative engraved pavers from monument donors.

In addition to some smaller changes to this year's Festival – another day added to the sheep dog trials and the



perspective of bloggers attending in partnership with the American Lamb Board – some of the biggest draws will be entertainment. Friday night's Sheep Tales Gathering at the Argyros – an annual event that features stories from the perspective of understanding history, culture, and stories of sheep herding and sheep ranching in Idaho and the West – will feature celebrated author and essayist Gretel Ehrlich sharing her stories of living on a ranch in rural Wyoming. There will also be a Special Performance Saturday night at the Argyros titled: Peruvian Ballet Folklorica to be performed by the Utah Hispanic Dance Alliance and Chaskis Peruvian Musicians. ♦

For more information on the Trailing of the Sheep Festival, visit [trailingofthesheep.org](http://trailingofthesheep.org).

**Trailing of the Sheep Festival**  
**OCTOBER 6-10, 2021**  
**SUN VALLEY • KETCHUM • HAILEY, IDAHO**  
**TRAILINGOFTHESHEEP.ORG**

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS