



Turtle Tracks



Official Newsletter of the Maah Daah Hey Trail Association

Volume 14, Issue 1

President's Message

Hi everyone,

Once again I'd like to thank you all for your support of this organization. For those of you who have let your membership lapse, I would encourage you to renew your membership.

In this newsletter you'll find information about our upcoming annual meeting, current projects, the Grand Opening event scheduled for the spring, along with detailed information about our different memberships. **Please read, sign, detach and return the Consent following page 4 in this newsletter by Friday, February 28, 2014.**

Note the article about becoming a board member. If

you are interested in becoming a board member, please read that article, and let us know that you would like to serve. We are also in need of volunteers for short-term projects, such as the Bismarck's Sports Show, installing water cache boxes or the Grand Opening event.

Keep in mind that we are always looking for articles, pictures, or videos to include in our newsletters, website, or on Facebook. I hope you can make time to attend the annual meeting, where these projects and others will be discussed in more detail.

Thank you again.

Don Mayer
MDHTA President

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Special points of interest:

- *Maah Daah Hey means "Has been and will be around for a long time," or "Grandfather."*
- *MDHT Grand Opening June 7-14, 2014*

U.S. Forest Service News

by Babete Anderson, Public Affairs Officer, Dakota Prairie Grasslands

The USDA Forest Service Dakota Prairie Grassland in partnership with the Maah Daah Hey Trail Association, North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department and the North Dakota Tourism are planning the Grand Opening of the Maah Daah Hey Trail System.

The ribbon cutting ceremony will be at Sully Creek State Park south of Medora on June 7, 2014. We are planning a few activities that day and throughout the week such as guided interpretive walks, BBQ, displays, hopefully a Governor Proclamation and concluding with the Flag Parade

on June 14 in Medora. We are inviting dignitaries including the Chief of the Forest Service, Regional Forester, Federal and State delegation, Tribal Chairman, Superintendent of the Theodore Roosevelt National Park, past and present members of the Maah Daah Trail Association and others to the ribbon cutting event.

If you are interested in volunteering please contact Babete Anderson at 701-989-7302.

Maah Daah Hey Trail Grand Opening Events

by Randy Snyder, MDHTA VP/Secretary

The MDHTA received a ND Tourism Dept. grant of \$2500 to help with the Grand Opening Celebration. All MDHTA lifetime members, MDHT founders, MDHTA members and past officers, and MDHT users are invited and encouraged to attend any of the planned events and activities. Events being planned for Saturday June 7th, include starting with a ribbon cutting and BBQ at Sully Creek

State Park. Over the course of the week there will be a Governor Proclamation, trail work projects, workshops, photo contest, perhaps some race events, and ending with the Medora Flag Day Parade. Watch the MDHTA webpage (<http://mdhta.com/>) and the MDHTA Facebook page for updates and information as it becomes available.

Thank you Roughrider Electric Charitable Foundation!

MDHTA extends a heart felt thank you to the Roughrider Electric Charitable Foundation for their generous support of the Water Cache Box Project. Roughrider has provided \$3,000 (\$500 in July 2013 and \$2500 in January 2014) to support the purchase of five water cache boxes. Potable water availability is limited along portions of the trail, water well developments are expensive and sometimes sourcing water can be a real challenge. Durable water cache boxes where trail users can stash water for extended

trail use was suggested a few years ago by MDHTA members.

Working with the Forest Service, MDHTA has identified eight locations for water cache boxes. Watch in future issues of this newsletter for location information. MDHTA continues to look for funding to purchase the remaining three boxes.

Membership Recognition—Thank You!

Life Members:

Ken Eberts
Stephen P. Fix
Curt & Carol Glasoe
Dale & Jennifer Heglund
Mark Liebig
Ron & Aileen Luethe
Don & Susan Mayer
Brian Selland
Dwight & Loa Tober
Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation
Glennys Ulschak

Mile Marker:

Charles & Sandra Peterson

Trail Boss:

Doug Bolken
Stephen & Janet Wieser
McKenzie County Tourism

Founding:

Curtis Alkire
Glen Bruhschwein
Dickinson Convention & Visitors Center
Dwight Lange & Heidi Heitkamp
The Printer Inc.
Robert Stein
Larry & Freida Tebelius

Volunteer Opportunity

by Don Mayer, MDHTA President

The MDHTA will be sharing a booth with the U.S. Forest Service at the Bismarck Tribune Sport Show. The show runs from February 21-23. Forest Service personnel will be staffing the booth and we need MDHTA members to assist. This is a chance

to share your experience on the trail with the public.

To sign up please email Bruce Bishop at bruce.bishop@hotmail.com.

Winter Trail Use

by Roger Ashley MDHTA Treasurer

Many trail users put away their hiking shoes with the first snow, but depending on weather, snow and ice conditions my wife and I find some of the best opportunities to visit the badlands are during winter.

With few trail users there is less opportunity to receive help so always notify someone about your plans since cell phone service can be sketchy. Dress in layers and be sure to carry water and a high energy snack.

Access to trail heads can be limited by winter road conditions but we have found the parking lot at Cottonwood Campground in Theodore Roosevelt

National Park a good jumping off point for our winter expeditions. Crossing the Little Missouri after sufficient ice has formed makes for easy access to the MDHT. As with any river crossing care is required. Visiting with a Park Ranger may provide an idea of current conditions.

My wife and I enjoyed excellent skiing conditions in the badlands in early January. Insulated boots, snowshoes, and/or cross-country skis allow you to get outside after the snow flies. Take time to enjoy a North Dakota winter.

Membership Application

Yes! I want to join the
Maah Daah Hey Trail Association

- \$25 Individual/Family Member
- \$70 Individual/Family Member for 3 years
- \$75 Founding Member Cap or Tshirt S M L XL
- \$200 Trail Boss Member - S M L XL
- \$500 Mile Marker Member
- \$750 Gatekeeper Member
- \$1000 Life Member

*Make checks payable to:
MDHTA, P. O., Box 156, Bismarck, ND 58502*

PLEASE PRINT

Date: _____ Email: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Membership and Renewal Options

Please check your mailing label for your membership level (I/F, F, T, M, G, Life) and expiration date. If your membership has expired or about to expire please complete the membership form and return it along with your check to MDHTA.

- ◆ \$25 Individual/Family Member ANNUAL
- ◆ \$70 Individual/Family Member 3 YRS
- ◆ \$75 Founding Membership ANNUAL
(choose a cap or T shirt)
- ◆ \$200 Trail Boss Membership ANNUAL
(denim shirt with MDHTA Trail Boss imprint)
- ◆ \$500 Mile Marker Membership ANNUAL
(Plaque with your name on a trail mile marker post)
- ◆ \$750 Gatekeeper Membership ANNUAL
(Plaque with your name on a trail gate)
- ◆ \$1000 Life Member LIFETIME
(Mile marker and gate plaques)

In addition all Memberships from Trail Boss through Life Members will receive special acknowledgment in every newsletter and on the MDHT website.

Trail Events

The Maah Daah Hey Trail Association has become aware of two upcoming events this year that take place on the Trail. The Badlands 50/50 is an ultra-marathon (a run longer than a traditional marathon of 26.2 miles). The two events will be a 50 mile run and a 50k (31 mile) run on Saturday, August 2. Both will start at Wannagan Campground and go north half their respective distance and then return to finish at Wannagan. The event is open to walkers as well. Further details can be found on the event website at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/badlands-5050-tickets-6642565091> or through <http://eagle-endurance.com/>.

The other event is an adventure race planned for October 2014, and will be put on by END

MDHTA Annual Meeting—April 12

The Maah Daah Hey Trail Association Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, April 12, 2014, at the Eagles Club, 31 1st Avenue East, Dickinson, North Dakota. The social will begin at 5pm MST, dinner at 6pm followed by the meeting.

The menu includes roast beef, deep fried turkey, potatoes, vegetables, roll and dessert. Cost is \$15 per person including tax and gratuity. There will

Serving as a MDHTA Board Member

The Maah Daah Hey Trail Association has five board members. The organization tries to have each user group represented on the board whenever possible. You must be a current paid member to be on the board.

Board members are elected by the general membership at the annual meeting, and serve either a two or three year term. The board then elects the president, secretary, and treasurer. The board usually meets five or six times a year, generally rotating between meeting at Dickinson and Bis-

(Extreme North Dakota) Racing. This event will involve teams that will bike, trek and paddle, relying on compass and map to find the route. The route will include at least 50 miles of biking on the Maah Daah Hey Trail. Details can be found on the event website: <http://endracing.com/end-ar>. Those of you on Facebook, go to their FB page for updates: <https://www.facebook.com/events/273393496116285/>

These are two exciting new events to involve the MDHTA to either participate in or perhaps volunteer for (check their website for contact information re volunteering).

be a cash bar, silent auction and door prizes.

Please bring an item for the silent auction.

Please RSVP for the meal to Don Mayer at westernsg@hotmail.com or call 701-290-5434.

We hope to see you there!

marck. Otherwise communication is done via email and phones.

Board members are not paid, these are strictly volunteer positions, so a passion to serve, and give something back is a must!

Contact Don Mayer at westernsg@hotmail.com or 701-290-5434 if you are interested.

**Maah Daah Hey Trail
Association**

PO Box 156
Bismarck, ND 58502

E-mail: info@mdhta.com

We're on the Web!
mdhta.com



**MAAH DAAH HEY TRAIL ASSOCIATION
Officers and Board of Directors**

President—Don Mayer
VP/Secretary—Randy Snyder
Treasurer—Roger Ashley
Director—Bruce Bishop
Director—Rod Mitzel

The Maah Daah Hey Trail Association is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing and maintaining a linear, non-motorized, sustainable, recreational trail system in southwest North Dakota, through voluntary and public involvement, and in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service.

Dates to Remember

February 21-23, 2014	Bismarck Tribune Sport Show, Bismarck Civic Center
April 12, 2014	MDHTA Annual Meeting, Dickinson Eagles
June 7-14, 2014	MDHTA Grand Opening Celebration
August 2, 2014	Badlands 50/50
October 2014	Extreme North Dakota Adventure Race (END-AR)