



Turtle Tracks

Official Newsletter of the Maah Daah Hey Trail Association



Volume 15, Issue 3

President's Message

Hey, we are well into September already, and more news of the Maah Daah Hey (MDH) Trail is on the way. The website, MDHTA.com, is being updated and it should be out soon, or within the month, to show the MDH trail system. Thanks to **Don Mayer** and **Roger Ashley** for the help with this effort.

The new **MDH and The Deuce brochure** is out and looks very nice, we have distributed them to most of the points we feel people frequent, but if you have a need for your use or want some additional brochures to distribute, please contact me as I have some 2000 to spread around.

Next we have all eight **water caches** in place thanks to the **Ashleys, Bruce Bishop, Don Mayer, Rod Mitzel** and yours truly, we got them installed and the locations will be on the website. Evidence of use is already shown on the cabinets. Please do not use them as a trash collector. We want to **thank** the **Forest Service** for giving us permission to install these structures. Also see Rod's writeup for others that helped with the materials and donations to get them in place.

We have a lot of **merchandise** for your purchase and use, especially long sleeve T-shirts and fleeces, along with the normal caps, T-shirts, water bottles and back scratchers, that make very good Christmas or birthday gifts for our relatives and friends. We have them at very reasonable prices, so see me or a Board member for these items.

A great big **THANK YOU** goes to our newest **Life Members, Glenn and Jolene Baranko** family of Dickinson and **Tom and Sherri Dickson** family of Bismarck. In the last year, we have added other Life Members also, they include **Nick Ybarra** family of Watford City, **Dale Heglund** family of Bismarck, **Chuck Peterson** family of Dickinson and the **Medora Convention and Visitor Bureau**, another big **THANK YOU** goes out to those individuals also. We are working on getting all the recognition signs up on the self closing gates to show our appreciation for their Life Membership.

The MDH 100 was a huge success even if the temperature exceeded 100 degrees for the day, over 300 riders were entered and to get the rest of the story please read Nick's article later in this issue. Thanks to **Nick Ybarra and his crew** for putting on a great race and doing all the prep work to make it a success. A **Special thanks** goes to **Bruce Bishop** and **Roger Ashley** for supplying support to the riders during the race at the aid stations.

The Board is working on a list of items to discuss with the Forest Service this fall on next year's activities on the MDH trail system, with maintenance of the trail being the foremost item on the list. Other items on the list are horse facilities at the campgrounds, new trail map status, new projects, RTP coordination of private funding sources, bridge inspections,

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Special points of interest:

- *There are now 15 Life-Time Members of the MDHTA*
- *Trail from Sully Creek to Bully Pulpit is now in place*

Water Cache Box Update

by Rodney Mitzel

The final two water cache boxes have now been placed. There are now eight water cache boxes along the trail. The locations of all eight boxes are listed below as well as on the MDHTA Facebook page, and on the new MDHTA website.

Signage has been added to aid in finding the boxes out on the trail. A sign with a water drop on the turtle track is posted on a trail marker nearest the water cache box. A reminder on how to cache water properly is affixed to each box. When you store water in the cache box be sure you write your name and date on the container. Some donated water may be available in the boxes, however, trail users should not count

on it and should either cache water ahead of their activity or make arrangements with trail support service to be assured

A Special Thanks to: Roughrider Electric Coop's Roundup Grants for the purchase of the cache boxes; Dickinson Ready Mix for the concrete pads; National Forest Service and Greg Morel for the locations; and Directors Curt Glasoe, Roger Ashley, Bruce Bishop, Rodney Mitzel, past board member Randy Snyder, and past president Don Mayer.



Location Name	GPS Coordinates	
3 rd Creek	46.62999, 103.36639	From parking area go east (south bound) along the MDH trail about 70 feet.
Tom's Wash	46.66651, 103.47745	From parking area go northwest along MDH trail about 300 feet.
Bear Creek	46.72897, 103.52134	From trail head sign go northwest along connector trail to intersection with MDHT about 1,000 feet.
Plumely Draw	46.81587, 103.5090	From parking area go southeast on MDHT about 500 feet.
Elkhorn -Wannagen	47.15638,103.64976	This box is not located near a trail head but is located north of Forest Service (FS) Road 722 about 200 feet. From the intersection of FS Road 725 and 722 travel west about 2.2 miles or from intersection of Belle Lake Road (FS 708) and FS 722 travel east 2.4 miles.
Beicegel Creek Road	47.41338,103.37808	From Grassy Butte on Hwy 85 travel north ½ mile to Beicegel Road then west 6.1 miles to Beicegel Creek Road then south ¼ mile. Box is located approximately 100 feet west of road along MDHT.
Long X	47.54553, 103.32201	Follow FS 825 west from intersection of Hwy 85 and FS 825 to end of road approximately 5.5 miles.
Magpie Road	47.29698, 103.57405	From Magpie campground entrance follow FS 712 west approximately 7 miles. Road runs parallel to MDHT between mile markers 50 & 51.

Fall – A Great Time to Appreciate the MDHT

by Roger Ashley

Many people travel to the Northeast and Midwest States as well as Canada to see the glorious fall colors of the leaves as trees prepare for winter. In the badlands on the Northern Great Plains fall colors can be found in the trees and shrubs lining the Little Missouri River and up the coulees. This show by Vermont standards may be small and short lived as wind often takes the leaves off the trees shortly after they change color.

The golden yellow of Green Ash tree's leaves gradually turning to a dark reddish brown before they fall along with the yellow leaves of Aspen (yes there are Aspen trees along the MDHT especially around beaver ponds north of Beicegel Road), Cottonwood, and Chokecherry are

contrasted to the dark green of Rocky Mountain Junipers. But the fall color changes in native grass and forbs can be just as interesting and extensively longer compared to the show of fall color in trees. Invasive species such as smooth brome grass are drab brown and uninteresting but when one comes upon a native range site that hasn't been disturbed or damaged by overuse or development as can still be found in the Little Missouri National Grasslands along the Maah Daah Hey Trail, the show can dazzle the mind. The diverse species of grasses and forbs provides a multi-color and texture unique in western North Dakota. Developing an appreciation for this gift from nature will require some effort on our part by getting out of the car and

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Membership Recognition—Thank You!

Life Members:

*Glenn & Jolene Baranko

*Tom & Sherri Dickson

Ken Eberts

Curt & Carol Glasoe

Dale & Jennifer Heglund

Mark Liebig

Ron & Aileen Lueth

Don & Susan Mayer

Medora Convention and Visitors Bureau

Charles & Sandra Peterson

Brian Selland

Dwight & Loa Tober

Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation

Glennys Ulschak

Nick & Lindsey Ybarra

* **New Life Members!**

Trail Boss:

Stephen & Janet Wieser

Founding:

Curtis Alkire

Bruce & Roberta Bishop

Dickinson Convention & Visitors Center

Kelly Krohn

ND Department of Commerce/Tourism

Darcy Sandstrom

Kevin Stankiewicz

Robert C. Stein

Larry & Freida Tebelius

Knutson Creek Subsurface Puncheon Update

by Roger Ashley

Last year at this time it was reported all that was left of the structure that was nearly complete to mitigate a serious problem to MDHT Trail users crossing Knutson Creek was washed away in mid-August 2014 following day long 7.5 inch rainfall. All that remained of the structure was some hardware and a stringer. According to Grant Geis, District Ranger, South Unit Theodore Roosevelt National Park, the new crossing is under construction and will likely be completed by the time this is-

sue of Turtle Tracks finds its way into your mail box. This crossing will be much improved when the structure is completed. Trail users should contact the Visitor Center of TRNP at Medora or check the MDHTA Facebook page for the latest on the completion of the Puncheon. MDHTA is very appreciative of the NPS for their effort and completion of this improvement on the Maah Daah Hey Trail.

President's Message *(Continued from page 1)*

additional trail rides, etc. If any member has an item to discuss please get them to a Board member or myself for consideration. Remember no idea is a bad idea.

One last item, the **trail connection** between **Bully Pulpit trailhead and the Sully Creek Campground** is now in place, with tread, location marker posts, and six self closing gates. It is a great addition to the Deuce going south out of Sully. Really neat views of the Little Missouri River and the Golf course plus one can now just start at Sully Creek Trailhead for both the MDH and the Deuce for your trail adventure. A **BIG THANK YOU** to **Jesse Hanson** and the

ND State Park and Recreation department for completing this trail.

Have a great fall season and remember this is the best time to visit the MDH trail system, in my opinion.

Till next time, **Happy Trails**

Curtis W. Glasoe, President - MDHTA



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.

2015 MDH100

by Nick Ybarra

The badlands have been referred to as "hell with the fires put out." This year many of the 355 registered participants of the 4th annual Maah Daah Hey 100 would agree with that description. The weather for the 2016 MDH100 was very, very hot. On August 1st participants were able to choose from four distances; 25, 50, 75 or 100 miles to race their mountain bikes on the Maah Daah Trail. With some thermometers on bike mounted GPS units recording temperatures as hot as 107 degrees Fahrenheit, not everyone who started the races were able to finish. All of the race distances had a finishing rate of less than 40% this year. Many riders were forced to drop out due to heat related issues.

Despite the extreme heat the MDH100 event accomplished two of it's biggest annual goals; help mountain bikers experience the Maah Daah Hey trail in a fun and safe way, and improve the condition of the Maah Daah Hey Trail for all trail users. For the third summer in a row MDH100 volunteers joined together to mow, weed-eat, trim branches, and use hand tools to maintain the entire stretch of trail from CCC Campground to Medora. Their efforts are paying off BIG time! Sections of the trail that were starting to disappear are

looking much better than they did a few years ago. Overall the trail was in the best shape it has ever been in since the start of the MDH100. It's amazing what 600 volunteer man hours in two weeks can do for an overgrown 100 mile single track trail in the middle of nowhere. Yes, you read that correctly, once again a handful of passionate mountain bikers joined together to volunteer a total of around 600 hours of maintaining and improving the Maah Daah Hey trail.

Volunteers are the engine that keeps the MDH100 going. This event is made possible only by the help of trail workers, aid station and checkpoint workers, shuttle vehicle drivers, and many, many others. If you have ever volunteered on race day or helped to trail work for the MDH100, you know who you are, THANK YOU! You are helping make the Maah Daah Hey trail live up to it's name, as something that will be around for a long time, and it's reputation, as one of the best single track trails in the world. If you are interested in volunteering for next year's race or trail maintenance efforts you can sign up to help us out on our website, www.MDH100.com.

Fall—A Great Time on the MDHT (Continued from page 2)

hiking, biking or riding a horse on the MDHT.

Grass species particularly colorful this time of the year include Little Blue Stem, Big Blue Stem, Indian Rice Grass and Prairie Sandreed. Little Blue Stem with their short (about 2 feet) upright stems and leaves turn from a dark purple to red to a dark brown color. As seed matures the top of the stem appears to be fluffy pinkish white giving an appearance of a paint brush but then the seed gradually disperses giving the stem a pointed appearance. Little Blue Stem grows in random patches and can easily be seen from a distance. Big Blue Stem, about 5 to 7 feet tall, is found in more moist sites. The seed head on this grass is distinctive as its shape is like that of a turkey foot. The stem is purplish in late summer and early fall with the entire plant turning reddish brown later. Indian Rice Grass with its branching seed head first turns a bright yellow and then as the fall season progresses it turns to a bronze. Prairie Sandreed turns a golden yellow in late fall into winter.

These are just a few of the diverse species found in the

badlands native grass sites providing an ever changing panorama of color. Not only pleasingly to view but also an important food source and cover for wildlife as well as forage for cattle. The health of grasslands is tied to grazing whether done by wildlife or cattle.



Moving?

Are you moving or have you moved recently? If so be sure you contact MDHTA with your new address so Turtle Tracks can follow you no matter where you go. Send notice of your new address to MDHTA, PO Box 156, Bismarck, ND, 58502 or to Roger Ashley at rogerashley.ndsupernet.com.

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—Curt Glasoe

Vice President—Rod Mitzel

Second Vice President—Nick Ybarra

Secretary—Bruce Bishop

Treasurer—Roger Ashley

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

June 4

National Trails Day

August 6

Maah Daah Hey 100
(experienceland.org)

