



# Volume 16, Issue 2

Official Newsletter of the Maah Daah Hey Trail Association



Turtle Tracks

## President's Message

It is really nice out in western North Dakota, as we speak, temperature is in the mid sixties, Yahoo, spring should be early this year, and with Daylight saving time in place it is time to start thinking about the outdoors and the **MAAH DAAH HEY** in particular.

The next big item for the MDHTA is the annual meeting at the Eagles in Dickinson, look for the schedule elsewhere in TT and remember the **APRIL 9<sup>th</sup>** date. The six new life members for the 2015 year will be recognized as our special guests. They are **Roger and Pat Ashley, Glenn and Jolene Baranko family, Tom and Sherri Dickson, Jesse Hanson and Lisa Kudelka, Medora Convention and Visitor's Bureau, and Chuck Peterson family**. Hope to see you there.

We are still planning this year's activities in coordination with the Forest Service. We have met with them twice in the last few months to try to get back where the trail maintenance was over 7 years ago. We still have a lot of coordinating to do to get a good trail maintenance program in place on the MDH system. We are optimistic that many remaining items can be worked out, and with all the different sources, we can put the maintenance effort into the trail that it deserves with everyone pitching in to help.

We are having the **annual National Trails Day** on June 4<sup>th</sup> at the Third Creek trailhead on the Deuce south of Medora, with the MDHTA hosting the lunch and providing the volunteers to help the FS meet the private partner share costs of this year's RTP grant. This RTP project is surfacing over three miles of the Deuce.

Nick Ybarra is also planning the next MDH 100 for August 6, and various other events are being planned as we speak on the MDH for this summer and fall. If anyone is interested to help with these events contact any Board member and let them know when you are available.

Be sure to check out page 7 of this newsletter for an email option for delivery of *Turtle Tracks*. This will help us put more money towards the trail.

The website is up and still evolving, but we have a lot of hits on it to date, look at it and give us feed back as to how it is doing for you and other trail users.

Last, I want to thank all the **Board members** for what they do behind the scenes for this organization, **They** deserve a big round of applause, **THANK YOU**, Guys.

### Happy Trails

Curtis W. Glasoe, President - MDHTA

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### Special points of interest:

- *Contrary to popular belief the MDHT is not flat*

# MAAH DAAH HEY TRAIL ASSOCIATION

## ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Eagles Club

31 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue East, Dickinson, ND

5:30 pm MST Social

6:30 pm MST Dinner (vegetarian meal available)

General Meeting with Board Meeting to follow.

Door prizes, Silent auction, Merchandise

All current MDHTA members and

anyone interested in joining the MDHTA are invited!

Come and check out the new MDHTA merchandise, trail updates from various groups and slideshow on the Maah Daah Hey Trail.

Dinner \$20/each at the door, contact Rod Mitzel at 701-690-9195 or

701-227-4543 or [rfmitzel@yahoo.com](mailto:rfmitzel@yahoo.com) with your reservation by

March 25, 2016.

## U.S Forest Service Trail Update

by Greg Morel, Trails Manager, U.S. Forest Service, Dakota Prairie Grasslands

Another field season is upon us and here at the U.S. Forest Service we hope to continue to build off of the progress made on the trail from the last couple years. Hopefully we have a spring that does not require us to take a step back. We plan to hire three seasonal trail crew employees for 2016 which will be the same as the previous year. Two individuals from last year's crew plan to return and we will be hiring one new seasonal. One of the seasonals will be coming on in April and staying later in the year. The application period has been the first week of February the last few years and we are always looking for hard working candidates, so be sure to let anyone interested know ahead of that time. Paula Jablonski, the Recreation and Trails Program Manager, took a new position in Washington State last June. The position she held here has been vacant since then. Rob Schilling, the Recreation Manager on the Little Missouri Grasslands, and myself have been picking up her duties while the Forest Service evaluates whether or not that position will be filled.

The Forest Service has adjusted their allocation models on how regions will receive funding. This change will result in the Dakota Prairie Grasslands (DPG) and the rest of Region

1 receiving significantly less funding in the future. These cuts will be implemented over the next two years. This is in addition to the reductions that have taken place over the last five years. The projected trails budget for 2018 will be a 60% reduction compared to 2011.

Maintenance will again be the focus for the 2016 field season. We will be working on creating a maintenance plan with the Maah Daah Hey Trail Association (MDHTA) to help facilitate prioritizing both seasonal employee and volunteer work. The North Dakota Parks and Recreation (NDPR) is advancing the schedule for the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant which will result in us having two projects on the Maah Daah Hey this field season. The first will be a surfacing project over Hanley Plateau from one mile east of Toms Wash trailhead to Forest Road 767. The second RTP project includes surfacing and trail restoration. The surfacing will pick up at Forest Road 767 and continue south past Third Creek trailhead. The restoration work will rebuild approximately 17 miles of trail between Wannagan and

*(Continued on page 3)*

# Membership Recognition—Thank You!

## Life Members:

Roger & Pat Ashley

Glenn & Jolene Baranko

Tom & Sherri Dickson

Ken Eberts

Curt & Carol Glasoe

Jesse Hanson & Lisa Kudelka

Dale & Jennifer Heglund

Mark Liebig

Ron & Aileen Luethe

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

## Trail Boss:

Tim & Tammy Bohan

Stephen & Janet Wieser

## Founding:

Curtis Alkire

Bruce & Roberta Bishop

Kim Callahan

Darcy Sandstrom

Freida Tebelius

## Trails Update *(Continued from page 2)*

Elkhorn campgrounds.

The Forest Service submitted a new RTP application in January of this year for 2017 projects. This project will continue the surfacing to Burning Coal Vein campground and build a puncheon just north of the campground. This area along Second Creek has been in standing water and difficult to cross. The application will include surfacing and restoration work on the Buffalo Gap trail north to Wannagan campground. A little over two miles will be surfaced and the rest of the trail will be reconstructed with a mini-excavator. We will also purchase additional trail mowers with the grant funding.

National Trails Day will be on Saturday June 4<sup>th</sup> this year. The Forest Service and the MDHTA will be partnering again this year to put on a trail work day. This year we plan to move the project location to coincide with the Hanley Plateau surfacing near Third Creek trailhead. A 5% volunteer match is required for the RTP grants, which is why volunteer labor is so important. The match can come in the form of labor, equipment, or dollars. Volunteer labor has allowed us to make our limited trails budget go further by using the RTP funding for trail improvements that we will not be able to fund otherwise.

Last year NDPR was able to secure an easement on private land south of Sully Creek State Park and build a section of

trail between Sully Creek and the Bully Pulpit trailhead. This connection has allowed the Maah Daah Hey to be connected to the Maah Daah Hey Southern Extension, which has also been called Maah Daah Hey II and the Deuce. Now that the connection has been constructed we will be combining the trails into one trail. The Maah Daah Hey will now be 144.3 miles long and begin at Burning Coal Vein Campground and end at CCC Campground. This will require mile markers on the original section of trail be changed. We are planning to have that change coincide with the new trail map which will be out late spring or early summer of 2016. The Forest Service will apply for the new mileage to be designated as National Recreation Trail status like the original mileage. This will create one of the longest non-motorized, single-track, National Recreation Trails in the nation. There will be some growing pains with the change, but in the long term, adding the extension to the original trail will be a positive move for the trail system.

We at the Forest Service look forward to continually building our partnership with the MDHTA. Please contact me by phone (701-227-7854) or email ([gsmorel@fs.fed.us](mailto:gsmorel@fs.fed.us)) if you have any comments, questions, concerns, or updates about the trail. I am always looking for up to date information about the trail status and pictures from the Maah Daah Hey. I look forward to seeing many of you at the trails day event and throughout the summer on the trail.

# National Trails Day

## On the Maah Daah Trail at Third Creek

9:00 am MST – Saturday June 4, 2016

The Maah Daah Trails Association (MDHTA) and the USDA Forest Service will be hosting a celebration of National Trails Day on the MDHT (the DEUCE) south of Medora. It is a time for all of our members, friends, volunteers, outdoor enthusiasts, trail lovers, and those new to the outdoors to give back to trails and pay it forward by introducing someone new to the outdoors. Individuals and groups interested in participating in this year's program should contact Curt Glasoe President MDHTA at 701-260-9459 or email him at [curtglasoe@ndsupernet.com](mailto:curtglasoe@ndsupernet.com). This will help us to plan for enough food, drinks, tools, and trail prizes for all who attend. Attendees interested in participating should plan on meeting south of Medora at the trail head called Third Creek. Travel time from Medora, south on East River Road to Third Creek trailhead is about 30 minutes. The program begins at 9:00 am and concludes by 2:30 pm. Check our website for exact travel details at [www.mdhta.com](http://www.mdhta.com).

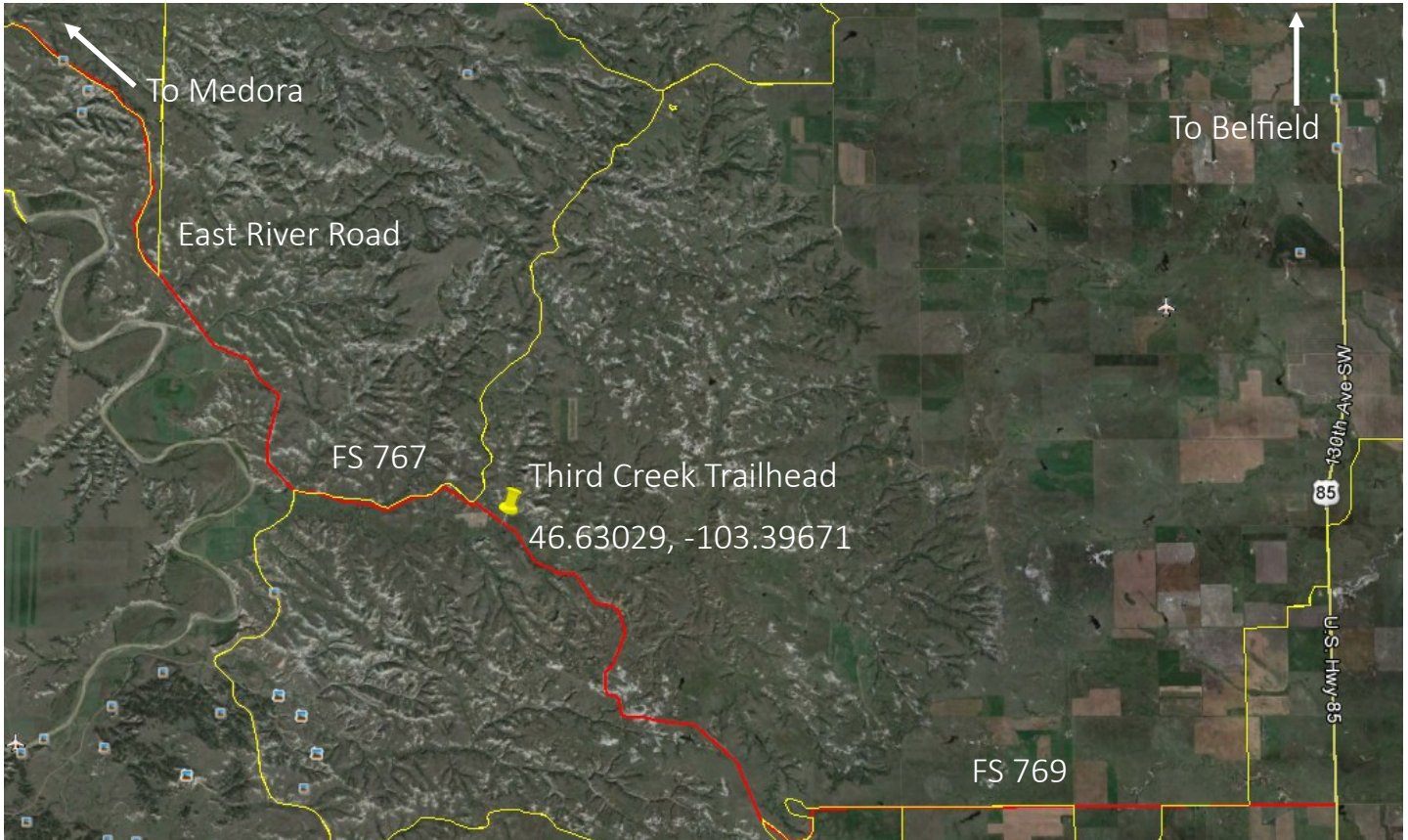
Participants will receive a free lunch, a T-Shirt and an opportunity to win trail merchandise provided by sponsors of National Trails Day.

AMERICAN HIKING SOCIETY'S  
NATIONAL TRAILS DAY®



This year's project will be surfacing parts of the MDHT near Third Creek Trailhead.

If you have GPS navigation the trailhead coordinates are on the map below. Driving directions **from Belfield**, I-94, exit 42. South on Hwy 85, 21.5 miles. Turn west (signed Grassland access) on FS 769 and go 12 miles to trailhead. **From Medora**, turn south on East River Road about 22 miles to FS 767. Go east 2 miles to intersection of FS 7691 and FS 769. Take FS 769 (right) to trailhead.



# Save The Maah Daah Hey Nonprofit Organization

I am Nick Ybarra, the creator and race director of the MDH100 mountain bike race, and the Second Vice President of the MDHTA. Since the inaugural MDH100 race, in August of 2012, I have spent a lot of time and effort improving the Maah Daah Hey Trail, for the enjoyment of my race participants, and the benefit of all Maah Daah Hey trail users. This trail, that we all love, is the kind of trail that will forever need annual maintenance. The last five years it has needed more trail work than usual, because of above average precipitation in western North Dakota. That extra precipitation caused devastating trail erosion and extreme vegetation overgrowth. Over the past four summers I have personally volunteered hundreds of hours to trail maintenance, organized over two thousand of other volunteers' hours on the trail, and spent thousands of dollars generated from the MDH100 race towards improving the condition of the trail. My intention for founding the Save The Maah Daah Hey nonprofit organization is to help the Forest Service maintain the trail on an annual basis.

## Vision Statement:

Make the world-famous Maah Daah Hey Trail the best that it can be for years and years to come.

## Purpose Statement:

Improve the condition and protect the future of the Maah Daah Hey trail by; organizing, educating, training and funding volunteers to do annual trail work, and empower passionate trail users to help make the Maah Daah Hey Trail even better every year, so that all trail users may have a more enjoyable experience on the Maah Daah Hey and it's connecting trails.

## Mission Statement:

Organize volunteers to improve the condition of the Maah Daah Hey Trail by; mowing both sides of the trail, weed whacking the vegetation on the trail bed, trimming back branches, and hand shoveling the dirt on the Maah Daah Hey and it's connecting trails every year.

I decided to officially establish The Save The Maah Daah Hey as a nonprofit organization simply to better fund the expensive volunteer trail work efforts I have been doing over the past four years. I have submitted the necessary forms, and I am expecting the process to be completed by May of this year. It is a big step for me, but I could not sit back and watch the world-famous, Maah Daah Hey single track trail



disappear. I love the trail too much to let that happen.

Since 2010, I saw my favorite trail going from epic, to great, to good, to not very good, to un-enjoyable, to completely un-findable and not ride-able in many places. A small group of volunteers, who refused to let the MDH go extinct, joined me and we asked the USDA Forest Service what we could do to help save the trail. Partnering with Dakota Cyclery bike shop in Medora, under the use of their volunteer agreement with the USDA Forest Service, the small group of self-funded individuals used the Forest Service's trail equipment to mow, weed whack, trim, and shovel the trail. The condition of the trail went from terrible to enjoyable, in about six weeks, allowing all trail users to have a more enjoyable experience on the Maah Daah Hey.



Due to the nature of the terrain of the badlands, the Maah Daah Hey Trail will forever require annual maintenance, whether it is from overgrowth or erosion. Nation wide the Forest Service is facing large budget cuts for trail maintenance, for this year and the immediate years to come. They are looking for partners to help them with



*(Continued on page 6)*

**Save the Maah Daah Hey** (Continued from page 5)

their trail maintenance needs. I want to help the Forest Service keep up the Maah Daah Hey Trail. But in order to continue my efforts I am in desperate need of the funds and volunteers necessary to support such a huge mission.

In an effort to get more volunteers involved with trail work. I am organizing some Maah Daah Hey Trail Work Weekends. Please put them on your calendars! July 22-24 and July 29-31 are the tentative dates for the first two of these types of weekends. The idea is to invite people who love the Maah Daah Hey to come and camp at the various campgrounds on the trail for an entire weekend. On Friday night trained leaders at each campground will meet and organize the volunteers into groups and give them jobs according to the current trail conditions and the volunteer's ability and skill level. On Saturday the volunteers will do as much trail work as possible and then meet back at the campground. They may camp again on Saturday night, and then choose to do more trail work on Sunday or enjoy the sections of the trail that



they improved the day before. Camp. Work. Enjoy.

I am also currently communicating with IMBA's new Midwest and Pacific Northwest Regional Director, Michelle Barker, about joining IMBA's Chapter Program. This would allow Save The Maah Daah Hey to be partners with IMBA and help fund our trail work efforts. IMBA is also a great resource for training volunteers to do trail maintenance and would be a vital key to the success of the Trail Work Weekends.

A short video of the Save The Maah Daah Hey's volunteer efforts can be seen at [www.experienceLAND.org](http://www.experienceLAND.org). There is also a volunteer form on the website that people can sign up to join



our volunteer efforts on the trail. You can also purchase some really cool #SAVEtheMDH merchandise including: hats, tank tops, tee shirts, and hoodies that were designed by Tyler Huber in Bismarck, ND. One hundred percent of all purchases and donations go straight to #SAVEtheMDH, and as soon as we are officially a nonprofit organization your donations will be tax deductible. Spread the word and join the movement to save the world's greatest trail, the Maah Daah Hey!



## Membership Application

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

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

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

PLEASE PRINT

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

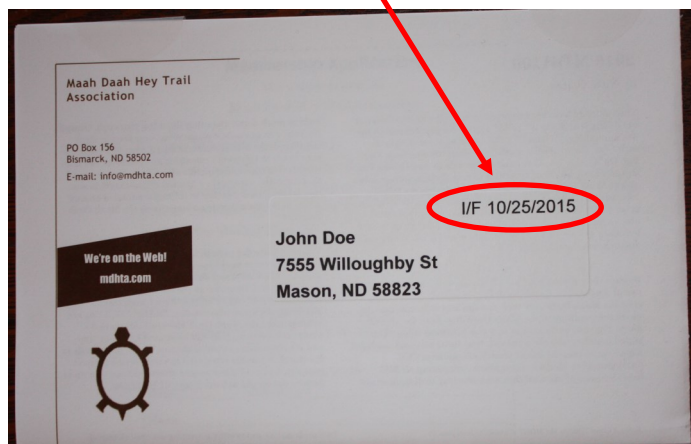
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

## Membership Renewal – It May be Time!

“When do I renew my membership?” All memberships are one year in length except the three year Individual/Family Memberships and Life Memberships. To determine when your membership is up for renewal check the upper right corner of the mailing label on your newsletter.



Your current membership level (I/F = Individual or Family; F = Founding; T = Trail Boss; M = Mile Marker; G = Gatekeeper; and Life) as well as your membership expiration date is given. If your membership has expired please complete the membership application form found in this newsletter or go to [mdhta.com/membership](http://mdhta.com/membership) to complete the requested information. Include a check made out to MDHTA or if you wish to use a credit card go to [mdhta.com/membership](http://mdhta.com/membership).

### Moving? Changing your Email address?

Don't forget to contact us with your new postal address or email address. Stay connected.

**Thanks to all those that have renewed to date!**

## Electronic delivery option

Our dues have remained unchanged for many years while printing and postage costs have risen. In an effort to put more of your dues toward

improving the trail we are emailing *Turtle Tracks* to those who notify me at [rogerashley@ndsupernet.com](mailto:rogerashley@ndsupernet.com).

## Maah Daah Hey Trail Association

PO Box 156  
Bismarck, ND 58502

E-mail: [info@mdhta.com](mailto:info@mdhta.com)

**We're on the Web!**  
**[mdhta.com](http://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

March 25	RSVP deadline for Annual Meeting
April 9	MDHTA Annual Meeting
June 4	National Trails Day—Third Creek Trailhead
July 22-24	MDHT Work Weekend
July 29-31	MDHT Work Weekend
August 6	Maah Daah Hey 100 ( <a href="http://experienceland.org">experienceland.org</a> )
August 20	Maah Daah Hey Trail Run (formerly Medora Foundation Badland Trail Run)