



# Turtle Tracks



Official Newsletter of the Maah Daah Hey Trail Association

Vol. 17, issue 2

## President's Message

Hello,

Hope this finds you all nice and ready for the outdoors, I have been turkey hunting and have only found a few ticks so far, so that is good. Thank goodness. Anyway, it is time to think about trails, preparing for the summer season, and what the plan is for the 2017 season.

Number one - Thanks to the **Diane Stoltz Family** for becoming our latest new **Life Member**. Congratulations, your donations will be put to good use to further the MDHTA mission of developing and maintaining the MDH trail system in Southwest North Dakota. **Everybody - Please renew** your membership, or better yet, **join** for the first time, to further the progress of the MDHTA.

Next, we had the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual MDHTA membership meeting Saturday evening, April 22, 2017, at the Eagles club in Dickinson, ND. We had over 45 people attend and our guest speaker who spoke on mountain lions was a big hit. The board members stayed the same. After the Annual Meeting the Board met and elected **Rod Mitzel** our new treasurer, taking over from Roger Ashley who served us very well for the last six years. **Thanks Roger**. Some other important dates are: National TrailsDay, which is June 3 this year; the MDH100 trail run is July 29; the MDH100 bike race is August 5; and the MDH150 is September 9-14th. [Experienceland.org](http://Experienceland.org) has additional information. There is also a horse endurance race scheduled in late

September. So mark your calendars to either volunteer to work at the races or participate in them.

Next, we want to thank the folks that handle the day to day efforts of the MDHTA, especially **Susan Mayer and Pat Ashley**, without their behind the scenes help, present and past, we would be in tough shape to get all the dealings done that it takes to run this Association. Thanks gals for all your work.

Also the MDHTA website is really working great, the orders have gone over 100 now, and the number keeps on growing. Check out the new MDHT Medallions and Patches for your purchase and use, they are pretty neat. We have a few MDH Trail Guide books (thanks to **Hiram Rogers** for his donation of 6 guides) and are working to restore our inventory of this item. A big thank you goes to **Roger Ashley** for all his work on the website. We are currently working to update the website.

We have met with the Forest Service and the new MOU is going to be signed sometime this spring, we do have the volunteer agreement in place along with the other forms we need to volunteer for work on the trail. They are still working on the new trail map along with planning other project efforts. Send your ideas to a board member, to further the mission of providing a great trail system for YOUR use in southwestern North Dakota in 2017 and the future.

Happy Trails,  
Curtis W. Glasoe, President - MDHTA

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### Special points of interest:

- *The Little Missouri River is North Dakota's only State Scenic River*
- *National Trails Day is coordinated nationally by the American Hiking Society*

# #NATIONALTRAILS DAY®

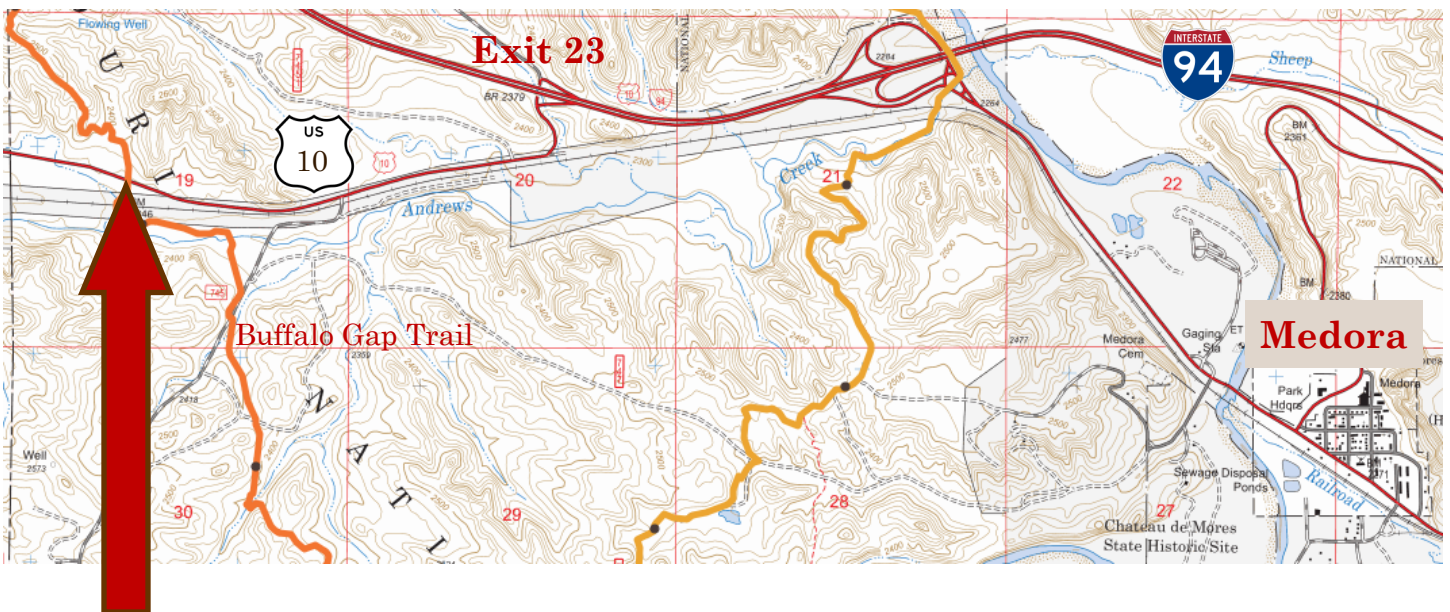
## National Trails Day on the MDHT – June 3, 2017

The Maah Daah Trails Association (MDHTA) and the USDA Forest Service will be hosting a celebration of National Trails Day on the Buffalo Gap Trail east of Medora. Buffalo Gap Trail is part of the Maah Daah Hey Trail System and provides a by-pass of TRNP South Unit. Participants will help with surfacing approximately 2 miles. Participants will load power wheel barrows by hand and then will help level and pack gravel into place on the trail. Surfacing is important for reducing erosion and providing a useable surface during and shortly after rain events. 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. 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 west of Medora at the intersection of Highway 10 and Buffalo Gap Trail. Directions from Medora are: West of Medora on I-94 to Exit 23 (West River Road). South and then west on Highway 10 about 2.2 miles to the intersection of Highway 10 and Buffalo Gap Trail. Park on the north side of Highway 10. Travel time from Medora, 15 minutes. The event begins at 9:00 am and concludes by 3 pm. Check our website for exact travel details at [www.mdhta.com](http://www.mdhta.com) or follow us on Facebook.

Participants will receive a free lunch, a t-shirt and an opportunity to win trail merchandise provided by the US Forest Service and MDHTA.

# #FINDYOURTRAIL



**Meet Here**

**GPS 46.925636N 103.601928W**

# 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 & Visitors Bureau  
Rodney & Carolyn Mitzel  
John R. Olson  
Charles & Sandra Peterson  
Brian Selland  
Diane Stolz Family  
Dwight & Loa Tober  
Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation  
Glennys Ulschak  
Nick & Lindsey Ybarra

## Mile Marker:

Tawna Boyko  
Denton Zube

## Trail Boss:

Tim & Tammy Bohn  
Carol Carter  
Heidi Heitkamp & Dwain Lange  
McKenzie County Tourism  
Stephen & Janet Wieser

## Founding:

Curtis Alkire  
Bruce & Roberta Bishop  
Kim Callahan  
Dickinson Convention & Visitors Bureau  
Andrew Howick  
Eric Selle  
Freida Tebelius  
Mark Zimmerman



Wild Bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*)



Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea angustifolia*)



Prairie Coneflower (*Ratibida columnifera*)



# U. S. Forest Service Trail Update—Spring 2017

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

As the 2017 field season arrives we at the Forest Service have been scrambling to put a trail crew together while also putting out our largest amount of contracted projects in recent years. We have been very successful in grant applications in the last year from Recreational Trails Program (RTP) and the ND Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF). These efforts have resulted in an influx of funds for trail improvements and maintenance on the Maah Daah Hey. This also means that we will be having a very busy 2017.

As of this writing we currently have a trail crew of three hired for the summer, including one returner who was able to start early in the year. We also have the potential for two additional seasonals which will build the crew to five. This will be our largest crew since 2012. We will also be having a trail intern from the Student Conservation Association. This intern will be with us most of the summer and will be



helping the trail program while learning the different aspects of working in the trails program. One portion of our OHF grant will be to have a Montana Conservation Corps (MCC) trail crew come to the Little Missouri Grassland to assist with trail maintenance on the MDH. This MCC crew will have two separate hitches, one at the end of June and one in the middle of July, with each hitch having 6-7 individuals. The June hitch will focus on any dirt work that is needed and the July hitch will help assist with the mowing on the trail. We also anticipate continued support from volunteers assisting with trail maintenance. A number of volunteers have already been working on various maintenance projects this year, including the MDHTA completing repair work on the Magpie bridge. Between all of these assets there will be more hours spent maintaining the MDH this year than we have had in a long time.

We also have a number of grant projects that will be completed in 2017. We have two separate surfacing projects taking place. One will be surfacing a little under 5 miles around the Third Creek trailhead area. Another will be surfacing the remaining three miles down to Burning Coal

Vein campground as well as two miles of the Buffalo Gap trail near I-94. There is also a contract awarded to complete 17 miles of restoration work between Wannagan Campground and Elkhorn Campground. We will also be having an additional restoration contract late in the year to restore all of the Buffalo Gap trail. All of these contracts as well as the MCC crew have been made possible by the grant funds we are receiving. We would like to thank the ND Parks and Recreation Department for their support in making these grants possible.

In addition to those large projects there will be other improvement going on this summer. The ND DOT will be completing their interstate project west of Medora to Sentinel Butte. Included in this project is a new underpass for the Buffalo Gap trail. The new underpass will be located right next to the existing underpass and will allow for better access under the interstate by equestrian trail users. We will also be constructing a puncheon or boardwalk along Second Creek near the Burning Coal Vein campground. This area has been inundated with water ever since a spring opened up a few years back. The puncheon will greatly improve the access across the wet area.

Overall it is shaping up to be an extremely busy yet productive summer of maintenance and improvements on the Maah Daah Hey trail system. 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 need updates about the trail. We are also interested in any specific problem area that we can address. So please send locations and possible pictures of any issues you come across while out on the trail.



# Highlights from the 2017 Annual Meeting

by Bruce Bishop

New Life Members, Rodney and Carol Mitzel and the Diane Stolz Family .



President Curt Glasoe (r) thanking Rodney and Carolyn (not pictured) Mitzel for their Life Membership

President Curt Glasoe highlighted the work along the trail that the Association accomplished this past year.

- Repair Magpie Bridge
- Tree trimming along the trail
- Work on a kiosk for the life members at Sully Creek State Park
- Promoting the trail at the State Capital during the Legislative session
- Maintaining the water cache boxes
- Nick and his crew doing trail maintenance
- Resurfacing the MDHT from 3<sup>rd</sup> Creek north

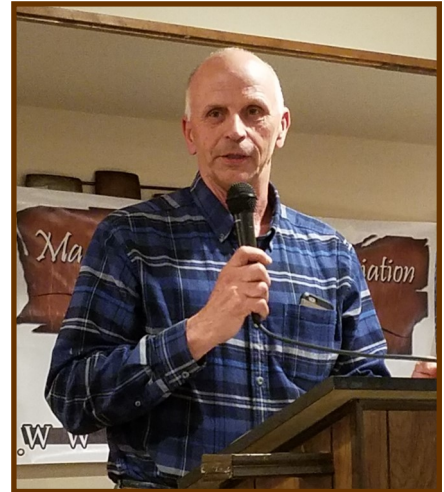


Curt Glasoe recognizing Leonard Hibel of Roughrider Electric for support of MDHTA projects

- REC grants and RTP grants

Short presentations were given by Terri Thiel, Dickinson CVB;

Nick Ybarra, MDHTA board member and Save the MDHT; Greg Morel, US FS Trail Manager, DPGL; Wendy Ross, Superintendent of TRNP; and Jesse Hanson, Acting Director ND Parks and Rec gave short presentations on their activities related to the trail.



Jesse Hanson, ND Parks and Recreation

Bruce Bishop, Bismarck was reelected to the board of

directors for a 2-year term.

Angie Mikkelson from Back Country Horsemen of North Dakota gave a presentation on the horse endurance ride held last summer and plans for this upcoming summer.

Randy Johnson, graduate student, SDSU gave an excellent presentation on mountain lions in the ND Badlands.

The silent auction brought in \$541 for the trail!



Angie Mikkelson, Back Country Horsemen of North Dakota



# Magpie Bridge Repair Completed April 10, 2017

by Curt Glasoe

A repair that we began last August (see Bridge Repair on Magpie Creek, Page 3, Volume 16, Issue 4, Fall 2016) and had every intension of completing last fall before winter set in was finally completed in April. We, the four of us, Don and Jason Mayer along with Rod Mitzel and Curt Glasoe traveled to the Magpie bridge site with a riding skid steer and 3-4 yards of riprap. The washout on the bridge since last fall had grown by about 3 times the area since we placed the abutment posts last September. Don expertly directed the 5<sup>th</sup> wheel trailer of riprap to a spot about 150' from the bridge. The



foundation area under the bridge abutment was in good shape. Loading of the rock from the tilted trailer was handled by Rod and Jason on the

skid steer with Don and Curt aligning the riprap so it would interlock in the abutment fill. The rock was placed in layers up to the bottom of the cap elevation. A few rocks had to be removed from the streambed below the bridge to finish the job. Then about 5 buckets of fill gravel was placed over the rock, and finally a couple loads of adjacent topsoil (from the new water bars) were packed in place.

In addition, four water bars were placed in the existing MDHT, west to the top of the ridge, to take care of a severely eroded trail bed. This should help with getting the extra water from rain storms off the trail in the future. More work is needed in this area to solve the long term problem of water erosion on the trail.

This volunteer work did have some side benefits. Lunch on the scenic rock bottom of the drainage just below the bridge and knowing that the repair work done will keep the bridge in place saving an expensive bridge replacement.



## 2017 SAVE THE MAAH DAAH HEY (STMDH) Trail Goals and Work Dates

by Nick Ybarra

Our goal for 2017 is to keep the trail 1) Findable 2) Useable and 3) Enjoyable for ALL trail users. We will accomplish those goals by mowing both sides of the entire 150 miles of non-Wilderness trail from CCC Campground Trailhead to Burning Coal Vein Trailhead, and the many miles of connecting trails, like Buffalo Gap, Cottonwood, Bennett, and Long X. We do not just mow the sides, but we also weed whack the vegetation in the trail bed, that the mowers cannot get to, with string trimmers. We will properly prune overgrown branches back with handsaws and pruners. We will also do dirt work to improve the eroded, trenched and slumped sections of the trail with shovels, McLeods, pulaskies, and other hand tools.

Depending on who you are, that either sounds like fun or hard work. Believe it or not, it is BOTH, and the MDH Trail needs it! Without a doubt in my mind, this kind of volunteer work helped SAVE the MDH, literally, from extinction. Save The Maah Daah Hey (STMDH) is proud to be a small part of the large community, like the USFS & MDHTA, that help make the Maah Daah Hey Trail what it is today. We will be continuing our trail work efforts this summer. Please join us out on the trail if you can!

Our work weekends are as intense or as entry level as you want them to be. We have jobs that just about everybody can do, like pruning branches. And jobs that almost nobody can do like our gray haired president, Phil Helfrich, who will personally push a 300-pound brush mower longer and farther

than anyone else on the team. His record is over 100 miles and over 100 hours in less than one month!

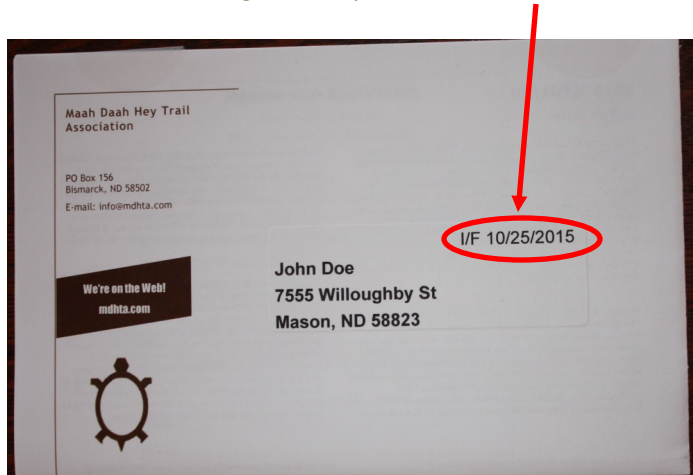
A typical STMDH Work Weekend starts on a Friday evening and we meet at the designated campground. Remember to check the SAVE THE MDH Facebook page to make sure locations haven't changed due to weather or trail conditions. At sunset we will make a plan of attack for the weekend. Then you can hang out around the campfire or go straight to bed to rest up for the big day(s) ahead. Sunrise it is off to the races! We get on the trail as early as possible to take advantage of the cooler morning hours. Volunteers will be divided according to their experience and willingness to do the tasks at hand. Work, work, work. Everyone is responsible for bringing his or her own food and water! We may have some food and drinks to share with everyone for dinner, but plan on bringing enough of your own supplies to last you the weekend. We will gather around the campfire at sunset to discuss what was accomplished that day and make a game plan for the next day. Sunday, work starts at sunrise and doesn't stop until the work is done... or you have to call it quits and go home. And that's what it takes to SAVE the MDH, one inch at a time, year after year.

Work weekends will be held every weekend beginning June 23 continuing through the August 25 weekend.

Find more information on work weekends and the SAVE THE MAAH DAAH HEY Facebook page or [www.SAVEtheMDH.com](http://www.SAVEtheMDH.com)

# 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!**

## Membership Application

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

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Individual/Family Member - turtle pin   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Post Marker Member - wood sign on post or for home |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$70 Individual/Family Member for 3 years - turtle pin   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 Life Member - turtle sign & name on kiosk         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 Founding Member <input type="checkbox"/> Cap or <input type="checkbox"/> T-shirt S M L XL |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$200 Trail Boss Member - Denim shirt S M L XL   |   |

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

PLEASE PRINT

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

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

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

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

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Email newsletter: Yes  No

**Maah Daah Hey Trail  
Association**

PO Box 156  
Bismarck, ND 58502  
E-mail: [hello@mdhta.com](mailto:hello@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—Roger Ashley  
Second Vice President—Nick Ybarra  
Secretary—Bruce Bishop  
Treasurer—Rodney 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**

June 3	National Trails Day, Buffalo Gap Trail at Hwy 10 ( <a href="http://mdhta.com">mdhta.com</a> )
July 29	Maah Daah Hey Trail Run ( <a href="http://experienceland.org">experienceland.org</a> )
August 1-2	ND Trails Conference, Lake Metigoshe State Park
August 5	Maah Daah Hey 100 MTB Race ( <a href="http://experienceland.org">experienceland.org</a> )
September 9	Maah Daah Hey 150 (1 day race) ( <a href="http://experienceland.org">experienceland.org</a> )

Find us on 