



# Turtle Tracks



Official Newsletter of the Maah Daah Hey Trail Association

Volume 18, Issue 3

## President's Message

### Hello to Trail users:

Fall is upon us, it is starting out cool and with over 2 inches of rain on most of the trail over Labor Day weekend, the conditions along the trail could not be better. September and October are my favorite months to get on the MDH trail and enjoy the fall colors and change of season, especially since there are very few mosquitoes and ticks on the Trail, if any.

First, I would like to recognize our membership and especially our newest **Life members Ron and Sheila Hartl, and Bruce and Roberta Bishop.** Thanks for all the work you folks are doing with the Trail and especially on **National Trail Day** when 40+ people showed up and surfaced about 1200' of trail just north of Andrews's creek. A great day with your MDHTA supplying lunch (thanks to **Rod Mitzel**) and door prizes, and the FS supplying the gravel and T shirts for all volunteers. **Don and Jason Mayer** also deserve a big pat on the back for their donations of equipment and labor also.

This summer season we installed the benches provided by the **Diane Stoltz Family** and **REC Roundup** funds at the trailheads and Sully Overlook. Thanks to **Bruce Bishop** for ramrodding this project. We will be getting the last two planned benches on the Wannagon and mid way marker areas the last week in September. **Roger and Pat Ashley** have placed numerous turtle signs on the MDH posts from Mile Post 86 to 99.5 and kept up clearing along the way, and **Bruce Bishop** also has cleaned up the water caches for the trail users. We still will be placing location marker posts where the MDH trail crosses major roads along the route, and planning a Kiosk at Sully Creek

Campground to recognize all life members. Roger and I have answered many email requests for information and at least 2-3 phone calls a week from all over the US and Canada for info on the Trail.

The **MDH Challenge** handled by **Bruce Bishop** has been issuing patches, and reading interesting notes from the challengers, look at our website (**MDHTA.com**) and **Face book** page for details.

We have scheduled our fall meeting with the **Forest Service (FS)** on October 30, 2018 at Watford City, so if you have any items or ideas for the FS about the MDH trail, please contact myself or a Board member.

The MDH Trail merchandise is still going out the door with the MDH trail, LMNG maps, and Turtle signs the big items. Within the next six weeks the **New 2018 MDHT Map** will be available through the Store.

Rod Mitzel has forwarned us, he will not be our Treasurer following 2019. It is a big job and Rod has got it all organized for a new person to take over. So if anyone would like to step up and do this task, please let a Board member know.

Some sad news - **Aileen Luethe**, MDHTA first Treasurer and Life Member, passed away this spring. A memorial gathering of her family visited the MDH in July to celebrate her life and dedication to the MDH Trail. Ron and Aileen's names were placed on a post overlooking the Little Missouri River during the visit.

Enjoy the fall season and holler if any questions or ideas on improving the MDH trail system.

Happy Trails, Curtis W. Glasoe – President, MDHTA

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### Special point of interest:

- *There are more miles in the National Trails System than there are in the Federal Highway System*

# Bench Project Progress—Work Days on September 25 & 26

by Bruce Bishop, MDHTA, Director, Bench Project Manager

This past May the Maah Daah Hey Trail Association started placing benches at the trailheads along the trail. The



Photo credit Patricia Ashley

association placed benches along the MDH trail south of Medora at the Tom’s Wash, Plumely Draw, 3<sup>rd</sup> Creek, Bear Creek trailheads. In addition, the Association placed a bench, donated by the Diane Stoltz Family, high on a bluff overlooking the Little Missouri River and the Bully Pulpit Golf Course. The Association has two more benches, donated by the Stoltz Family, to be placed above the switch backs at Wannagan and at the midpoint of the MDH trail this fall. The scheduled work date for this part of the project is September 25 and 26. Members wishing to participate on one or both dates should contact Curt Glasoe at

[curtglasoe@ndsupernet.com](mailto:curtglasoe@ndsupernet.com) or phone 701-260-9459. Should weather or other unforeseen event occurs that causes a change of date only those that called ahead will be notified of the change.

As money becomes available to purchase additional benches the Association will place a bench at the other trailheads along the trail: Wannagan, Elkhorn, Magpie, Bennett, Bully Pulpit, CCC Campground, Coal Creek Campground, and the Burning Coal Vein Campground.

The Association would like to thank the US Forest Service for their help locating where the benches should be placed.

## Recognition of Life Members

by Rodney Mitzel, MDHTA Director

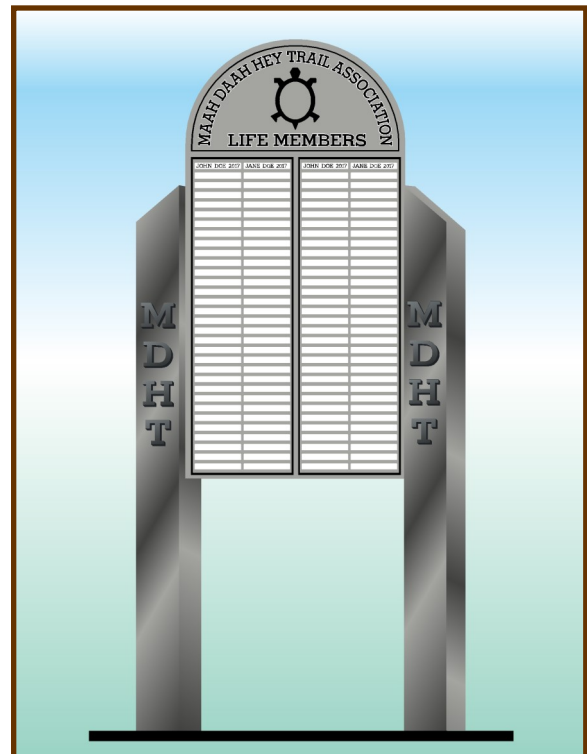
The MDHTA Board of Directors is developing a Kiosk at Sully Creek Trail Head to recognize Life Members.

Life Members had been receiving a special incentive – a customized commemorative plaque on the trails gates or mile marker posts along the trail.

The US Forest Service notified MDHTA of the “prohibition against, as determined by Agency Policy, placing plaques and signs on Forest Service structures (gated, fence posts) on the Dakota Prairie National Grassland’s portion of the Maah Daah Hey Trail.” These plaques have since been removed by the Forest Service and returned to MDHTA.

All membership levels of sponsorship are vital to the continuance of the organization and is critical to the health of the trail. Current and previous events and projects include: Web Site, Informational Guides, Annual Trails Day, Annual Meeting, Water Cache Boxes, Benches, Bridge (puncheon) building and maintenance, volunteering for Forest Service Projects, and numerous other events and projects.

The new kiosk is under development and the current concept can be seen at right. The kiosk will be placed near the entrance of the Sully Creek Campground for the public to view.



# Membership Recognition—Thank You!

## Life Members:

Roger & Pat Ashley  
Glenn & Jolene Baranko  
\*Bruce & Roberta Bishop  
Chad & Emily Mitzel Brackelsberg  
Tom & Sherri Dickson  
Kenneth & Norma Eberts  
Curt & Carol Glasoe  
\*Ron & Sheila Hartl  
Jesse Hanson & Lisa Kudelka  
Dale & Jennifer Heglund  
Christa Kron  
Mark Liebig  
Ron & Aileen Luethe  
Don & Susan Mayer  
Medora Convention & Visitors Bureau  
Rodney & Carolyn Mitzel  
John R. Olson  
Mike Parke  
Charles & Sandra Peterson  
Brian Selland  
Diane Stoltz Family  
Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation  
Dwight & Loa Tober  
Glennys Ulschak  
Nick & Lindsey Ybarra

## Trail Boss:

Chuck Picard  
Stephen & Janet Wieser

## Founding:

Kim Callahan  
Paul Conrad  
Matthew Hays  
Andrew Howick  
Bryan Lange  
Steve Maul  
Patrick McBride  
Hiram Rogers & Jean Gauger  
Eric Selle  
Robert Stein  
Freida Tebelius  
Mark Zimmerman

## In Memoriam

\*Denton & Paulette Berntson

\* Denotes new member at this level since last  
*Turtle Tracks*



Photo credit Patricia Ashley

# U.S. Forest Service Trails Update – Field season 2018

by Will Horneman, Trails Crew Lead, US Forest Service, Dakota Prairie Grasslands

The 2018 field season was productive on the Dakota Prairie Grasslands. Drought conditions improved compared to 2017, as a result, Forest Service crew members were able to spend less time fighting wildfires and more time on the trail. The Dakota Prairie Grasslands trails crew consisted of four members this year including an internship member through the Student Conservation Association. Crew members performed trail maintenance, signage, and construction and repair of trail and trail features. Larger trail projects completed by the Forest Service crew included puncheon construction on the Grand River National Grassland and the Storm reroute, a 2,970 foot section of Maah Daah Hey located north of Beicegel Creek Road. This reroute was created to mitigate a portion of the trail destroyed by a landslide. The Forest Service has now initiated the process of hiring our 2019 crew. Open positions will be displayed on USAJOBS.gov from September 10 through October 10, 2018. The Forest Service also completed the Buffalo Gap Trail restoration project this year. This project was partially funded through RTP funds and restored the Buffalo Gap Trail as well as sections of the Maah Daah Hey Trail.

Our partners and volunteers contributed greatly again this

season. The Montana Conservation Corps was recruited this season to perform trail maintenance. This crew of five performed tread repair, brushing, and mowing on the southern 45 miles of the Maah Daah Hey Trail. Our local volunteers performed trail maintenance, improvement projects, and participated in events. Over 100 miles of trail were mowed this year on the Dakota Prairie Grasslands by our volunteers from multiple associations. Other highlighted volunteer projects included installing benches, maintenance and signage, and trail surfacing.

Please remember, don't hesitate to contact the Forest Service to discuss trail conditions, project ideas, and request information. **As a final note, the 2018 Maah Daah Hey National Recreation Trail Map is available for purchase.** I recommend making the investment on this map as it is the newest version and contains the updated mileage of the Maah Daah Hey Trail. This map is available through the National Forest Map Store online, at your local Forest Service Office or shortly on the MDHTA.COM web store.

Will Horneman  
701-227-7854  
whorneman@fs.fed.us

## Turtle Sign Hanging Party

By Roger Ashley, MDHTA Director

October 2, 2018 is the 50th Anniversary of the National Trails System Act. In recognition of that Act and since the turtle brands on many of the trail posts are nearly weathered off, two turtle sign hanging parties will be held, one on Tuesday, October 2 and the other on Saturday, October 6. We will set out on the trail about 10 am and complete the day's activity by 4 pm. The US Forest Service will provide signs, screws, and the use of a power driver. Reflective turtle signs need to be placed on the trail posts from Mile Post 99.5 north to Mile Post 144. There are about 12 posts per mile with a sign applied on two sides of each post. We don't expect to complete this project this year but will make a dent in the remaining signs that need to be replaced. If you are interested in participating and knowing where we will be meeting along the trail please contact Roger Ashley at 701-300-3315 or email at [rogerashley@ndsupernet.com](mailto:rogerashley@ndsupernet.com). In case of poor weather we will reschedule. Only those registering ahead of time will be called.



Photo credit Patricia Ashley

# Maah Daah Hey 100 Results

by Beverly Brierley, Director, MDHTA

This year, racing director Nick Ybarra did not disappoint. It was a new and exciting year of records for the Maah Daah Hey 100 Mountain Bike Race on August 4th, 2018. We had over 450 mountain bike riders from 20 different states. Ages ranged from 6 years to 60+. We had a new course MDH100 record set by the legendary, 57 year old from Downey, CA, Tinker Juarez, at 8:53:19. Kelly Magelky, 39 year old, Dickinson native, and previous course record holder for several years, came in just a few minutes behind at a very respectable 9:20:09. In third, Luke Nelson, 44, from Ramsey, MN, took 3rd to finish off the podium. Ian Easton, 38, of Larson's Cyclery in Bismarck, crushed a new course record of 4:18:16 in the 50 Mile Race.

Twenty percent of the racers this year were female. From those ladies, 45 year old, Amy Horst of Thousand Oaks, CA took 1st place in the MDH100, with a time of 12:03:13. Our own Sarah Elmer, 29, of Larson's Cyclery in Bismarck took 1st in the MDH50 at 5:23:45.

Other records set this year was our youngest rider, Maddux Brierley, age 6 of Dickinson to finish the 13 mile race. We also had our first ever "Maah Daah Hey Mad Man" complete the 106 mile TRAIL RUN just one week before hopping on his mountain bike to complete the 100 mile mountain bike race!



Maddux Brierley, youngest rider to finish the 13-mile MDH race.

Photo credit Beverly Brierley

There's something for everyone at the one and only Maah Daah Hey 100. Whether you want to race or volunteer, you won't want to miss out on August 3rd, 2019. You can find more information or sign up now at <http://www.experienceland.org/>



Nick Ybarra (left), MDH 100 Mountain Bike Race Organizer, congratulates Tinker Juarez, Downey, CA, for his course record run.

Photo credit Beverly Brierley

# MDH Challenge Update

by Bruce Bishop, Director

We've been processing requests for the MDH Challenge patches. The requests have been from hikers and bikers who have used the trail. It is interesting to see where the people who use our trail come from. So far, we've had requests from eastern and western North Dakota, Montana, Colorado and Utah. In addition, the comments the users gave on the requests were interesting, entertaining and informative. The comments include "Great trail even if it was a little muddy! Will return and ride again during dryer season," "Ledge on the trail has a lot of loose rocks in 1 area," "Bison, rattlesnake, cat tracks, hot," "How do people bike," "Thank God for some trail magic," "Ouch," and "Great trail." Please keep the requests for the patches and the comments coming.

Individuals wanting to participate can download a form from the News tab on MDHTA.com.



## Trail Notes

The Sept-Oct edition of AAALIVING magazine, vol 40, number 5, page 36, includes a 10 Must DO LIST that no one should miss in North Dakota. The Maah Daah Hey Trail is listed as number 3 after 1) Wind Canyon in TRNP South Unit and 2) International Peace Garden. MDHTA provided a photo for this publication. The article will appear at [AAA.COM/LIVING](http://AAA.COM/LIVING)

Fastest Known Time (FKT) to do an unsupported run over the entire Maah Daah Hey Trail from Burning Coal Vein Trailhead to CCC Trailhead is 1 day, 23 hours, 34 minutes, and 17 seconds set by Ben Love, Minot, ND September 5 – 7, 2018. This included about a 4 ½ hour rest/sleep at Wannagan Campground and a 15 minute catnap near Mile Post 131. With rest periods he averaged a little over 3 miles per hour. Ben earned his MDHTA 150 patch! See Ben's log of his unsupported run at <https://fastestknowntime.com/fkt/ben-love-maah-daah-hey-trail-nd-2018-09-07>.

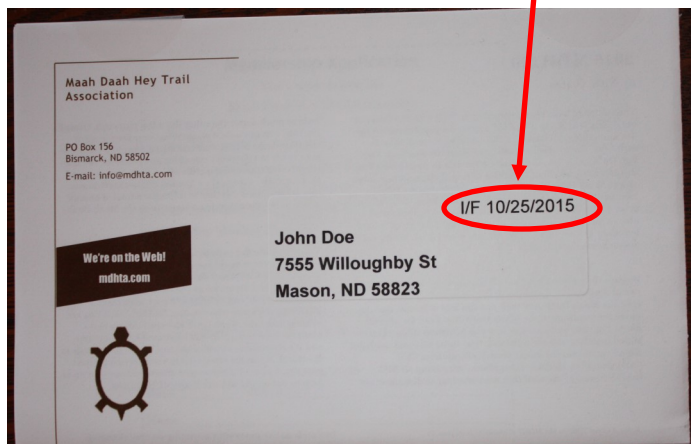


Photo credit Patricia Ashley

A new trail guide by Hiram Rogers is expected to be available in 2020. Hiram will be visiting the MDHT in the spring and summer of 2019 to revise his popular and now out of print book, *The Maah Daah Hey Trail, Theodore Roosevelt National Park, and the Dakota Prairie Grasslands*.

# 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; 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—Bev Brierley  
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

September 22, 2018	MDH 150 ( <a href="http://experienceland.org">experienceland.org</a> )
September 25 & 26, 2018	Complete 2018 Bench Project (see article on p. 2)
October 2 & 6, 2018	Turtle Sign Hanging Party (see article on p. 4)
October 30, 2018	MDHTA Board Meeting with US FS
April, 2019	MDHTA Annual Meeting
June 1, 2019	National Trails Day

Find us on 