



# Turtle Tracks



Official Newsletter of the Maah Daah Hey Trail Association

Volume 19, Issue 1

## President's Message

### Hello to Trail users:

Winter has arrived with subzero temperatures and it hasn't been too bad yet. The snow birds have left for warmer locales and we do not have too much snow on the ground, but it is early.

First I would like to recognize our membership and especially our newest **Life members - William Hoeg, Steve and Jan Wieser, and Mike and Chandra Langseth.** A big **THANK YOU** to our new members and all who renew their memberships, it is you folks that make the organization run and accomplish what we do as an organization. Please check the date on the *Turtle Tracks* mailing label/email for your membership renewal anniversary.

This late summer season we installed the last bench provided by the **Diane Stoltz Family** and **REC Roundup** funds at the Wannagon overlook. **Roger and Pat Ashley** continue to place numerous turtle signs on the MDH posts and kept up clearing along the way, and **Bruce Bishop** continues to clean up the water caches for the trail users. We have answered many email requests for information and fill at least one order a week for MDHTA items. The big item is the new 2018 version of the MDH Trail map along with MDH trail T-shirts and caps.

Another note the *Men's Journal* Adventure magazine lists the 7 top Epic, secret mountain bike trails in America, guess what the **Maah Daah Hey trail** was listed number one of the seven.

Our very successful **MDH Challenge**, handled by **Bruce Bishop**, will be continued this year, see related article for details.

The fall meeting with the **Forest Service** (FS) in October was a great success, we will be able to work with them on grants, and many projects this next year. The MDH trail 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary is in 2019, and will be celebrated at Sully Creek the first Saturday in June. June 1 to be exact. Stay tuned for schedules related to this grand event. The MDHTA will be working on location posts, signing, gate maintenance and some other items to be determined by this spring.

**Rod Mitzel** was successful with our Roundup grant application and we will be putting two more benches at trailheads this summer. Thanks, Rod. In addition, he will not be our Treasurer following 2019. Please let a Board member know if you or you know someone who is interested in this important job.

If you have any items or ideas for the FS or the MDHTA about improving the MDH trail, please contact me or a Board member. We will be holding our Annual Meeting in Dickinson on April 27, so put it on your calendar.

Enjoy the winter season and holler if any questions about the MDH trail system.

Happy Trails, Curtis W. Glasoe – President - MDHTA

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### Special point of interest:

- Dale Haglund, Jason Hageness and Brad Davis of the Badlanders Bicycle Club were the first bikers to complete the entire MDHT (CCC to Sully Creek) September 25-28, 1998.

## Annual Meeting Scheduled for April 27, 2019 – Eagles Club, Dickinson

The MDHTA annual meeting will be held Saturday, April 27, 2019 at the Eagles Club Dickinson. The Eagles Club in Dickinson is located at 31 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue East. The social will begin at 5 pm MT, dinner at 6 pm MT followed by the meeting.

The menu includes a salad bar, roast beef, roasted turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy and vegetable, with a price of \$20 per plate, price includes tax and tip.

There will be a cash bar, silent auction and door prizes.

Please bring an item for the silent auction. **Please RSVP by Friday, April 12** to Rod Mitzel at [rfmitzel@yahoo.com](mailto:rfmitzel@yahoo.com) or call 701-227-4543 or 701-690-9195. Or you can contact Curt Glasoe at [curtglasoe@ndsupernet.com](mailto:curtglasoe@ndsupernet.com), phone 701-225-5796. Let Rod or Curt know the number in your party attending.

### Annual Meeting Program

Trail reports from the organizations that support the Maah Daah Hey Trail System will be given. An

election of two members to the board will be conducted. In addition to these reports we will have a special presentation from “the batman.” Dr. Paul Barnhart, Dickinson State University, Assistant Professor of Biology, Department of Natural Sciences will present a program on Discovering Bats in the Badlands.

### Silent Auction

A silent auction will be held during the Annual Meeting. This is a fun way to support MDHTA activities held during the year. Support and fun can be found in bringing a small item as well as purchasing. In 2018 the Silent Auction brought in \$488 that was used to help match grants MDHTA received to support trail events as well as to help sponsor National Trails Day.

We hope to see you at the MDHTA Annual Meeting!

## 2019 Maah Daah Hey Challenge

by Bruce Bishop, MDHTA Secretary

In 2019, the Maah Daah Hey Trail Association (MDHTA) in an effort to encourage hikers, bikers and horse riders to discover, use and enjoy the Maah Daah Hey Trail is offering a 150, 100, 50, and 25 mile trail challenge.

Anyone who hikes, bikes or rides horse 25, 50, 100 or 150 miles on the Maah Daah Hey Trail (MDHT) or on any of its affiliated trails (Buffalo Gap, Long X, Wolf, Aspen, Bennett, Cottonwood, and/or Summit) during calendar year 2019, in aggregate or all at once, will be eligible for a patch. More information about the challenge and a challenge log is available for download at <http://mdhta.com> or the Maah Daah Hey Trail Facebook page

We encourage participants in the challenge to post their pictures and their stories to the Facebook page or send them to the MDHTA so they can be posted to the MDHTA website.

The first Maah Daah Hey Challenge, in 2018, awarded patches to participants in one of four mileage categories. This family friendly activity saw one 25 mile, fourteen 50 mile, four 100 mile and three 150 mile patches for a total of 22 patches awarded. Considering this was the first time the Challenge was offered the MDHTA believes more trail users will be participating in 2019.



# 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  
\*William Hoeg  
Jesse Hanson & Lisa Kudelka  
Dale & Jennifer Heglund  
Christa Kron  
\*Mike & Chandra Langseth  
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  
\*Steve & Janet Wieser  
Nick & Lindsey Ybarra

## Trail Boss:

Chuck Picard

## Founding:

Kim Callahan  
Paul Conrad  
Bryan Lange  
Steve Maul  
Patrick McBride  
Hiram Rogers & Jean Gauger  
Robert Stein  
Freida Tebelius  
Mark Zimmerman

## In Memoriam

Denton & Paulette Berntson

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



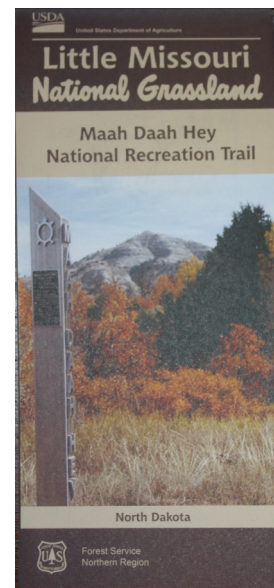
Lisa Kudelka and Pat Ashley—Turtle sign  
hanging party, October 2018  
Photo credit Curt Glasoe

# 2018 Maah Daah Hey National Recreation Trail Map Available

MDHTA began selling the new MDH National Recreation Trail Map published by the US Forest Service in December. This map replaces the 2000 version which only included the trail north of Sully Creek State Park. The new map scale is twice as large as the 2000 map and includes the entire 144 miles of the Maah Daah Hey along with connector trails. A comparison summary of the difference between the 2000 and the 2018 MDHT maps is given below. The

price of the new map is \$14 and is available from the US Forest Service Office in Dickinson and from the [MDHTA.com](http://MDHTA.com) Store. The Little Missouri National Grasslands Map published in 2013 is still a good map to use with the 2018 MDH Trail Map as that map shows Forest Service and County roads into the badlands. The old 2000 MDHT Trail Map is available at [MDHTA.com](http://MDHTA.com) for half price.

	2000 MDHT Map	2018 MDH National Rec Trail Map
Scale	1:126720	1:63360
MDHT Miles Shown	96	144
Mile Posts Shown	Every 5 miles	Every Mile
Trailhead Locations	No	Yes
Water Cache Box Locations	No	Yes
Points of Interest	No	Yes
Trail Elevation Profile	Yes	Yes
Elevation Isolines (contour lines)	No	Yes
Organized Campgrounds	Yes	Yes
Management	Yes	Yes
Buffalo Gap Trail	No	Yes
Bennett Trail	No	Yes
Cottonwood Trail	No	Yes
Ice Cave Trail	No	Yes
Juniper Spur	No	Yes
Summit Trail	Yes	No



## MDHTA Awarded Roundup Grant

MDHTA, through the leadership and efforts of Rod Mitzel, was able to secure a \$1211 grant from Roughrider Electric Charitable Foundation to assist with the purchase of two benches. One bench will be placed at the Elkhorn Trailhead and one will be placed at the Magpie Trailhead. MDHTA extends a Big Thank You to the Roughrider Electric Charitable Foundation for their generosity in helping make the Maah Daah Hey Trail a memorable experience. MDHTA also encourages membership to send a thank you to the Foundation.



Photo Credit Curt Glasoe



# Update on Meetings with the US Forest Service

by Roger Ashley

The US Forest Service is provided space in Turtle Tracks for articles on US Forest Service activities related to the Maah Daah Hey Trail System and the Little Missouri National Grasslands. Due to the partial Federal Government Shutdown the US Forest Service was not able to provide its usual article. However Curt Glasoe and Roger Ashley, MDHTA members have provided a summary of a meeting held at the McKenzie Range District Office in October and the field meeting in November.

General Trail Gate and bridge maintenance as well trail surfacing was discussed extensively during the October meeting. The trail north of Sully Creek has now been in place for 20 years with limited maintenance and increasing use. Increasing use is requiring more surfacing and weather as well as usage is taking its toll on the gates and bridges. MDHTA will be helping with these projects in the coming years.

Buffalo Gap Currently equestrian use of the Buffalo Gap facilities isn't allowed thus limiting use of the Buffalo Gap Trail. The current area that is used for parking for the trail head now has a dump station for trailers and motor homes. Also a casual trail has developed from the parking area through the septic field. The real trail head, further to the west, doesn't have parking. Parking is the main problem as well as the possibility in damaging existing infrastructure. During the visit to the Buffalo Gap Campground Will Horneman and Rob Schilling with the US Forest Service

and Curt Glasoe and Roger Ashley with MDHTA looked at a potential solution. Moving the trail head to the east near the turn off from the county/FS road when developed will provide ample space for parking and folks with horses will be able to use this trailhead.

Medora Trailhead A few years ago MDHTA proposed a trailhead near the west Medora exit, Exit 27 as some trail users were already accessing the trail at this point. A Trailhead off of I-94 west Medora Exit will not happen due to safety concerns by the North Dakota Department of Transportation. Other sites in the area are being sought.

A trailhead near the site where MDHTA held the 2018 Trails Day event appears to be acceptable for a day use area with some improvements. The Forest Service will need to move the approach about 75 yards to the north of the current approach as well as providing a parking area to make it workable. In terms of developing a campground here a concern was expressed by Curt about the 20 trains/day that pass nearby.

Grants The Forest Service is interested in applying for RTP and other grants. MDHTA asked about getting an agreement put together with the Forest Service to help apply for grants for the trail. We feel a more detailed agreement, more than the MOU, is necessary from the Forest Service when we apply for grants. This currently is being reviewed by the Forest Service.

## Trail Notes

# MDHTA Celebrating 20 years

Volunteering on the MDHT: Each year several groups organize maintenance activities on the Maah Daah Hey Trail. If you are interested in participating in giving back by helping on the trail, contact one of the organizations below.

- Back Country Horsemen of North Dakota, Phone 701-391-5183, email: [dakota2478@msn.com](mailto:dakota2478@msn.com)
- Maah Daah Hey Trail Association, Phone 701-300-3315, email: [hello@mdhta.com](mailto:hello@mdhta.com) or [rogerashley@ndsupernet.com](mailto:rogerashley@ndsupernet.com)
- Save the MDH, Phone 701-570-9138 , email: [nick@experienceland.org](mailto:nick@experienceland.org)
- US Forest Service, Will Horneman Phone 701-227-7854, email [william.horneman@usda.gov](mailto:william.horneman@usda.gov)

North Dakota Highpoint: Though White Butte isn't on the MDHT it is about 6.5 miles south of Amidon.

The Highpointers Club and Highpointers Foundation worked with the owners of White Butte to develop a permanent (99 years) accessible easement to the summit. New signs were made and installed to alleviate confusion over an adjacent property where it had been posted with no trespassing signs. A new iron ranger is in place to accept donations. More information about access to White Butte can be found on the [Highpointers.org](http://Highpointers.org) website and on [Summitpost.org/white-butte/151926](http://Summitpost.org/white-butte/151926).

Trails Day: Trails Day will be held on Saturday, June 1, 2019 at Sully Creek State Park. Rather than the traditional work day, we will be celebrating 20 years of the Maah Daah Hey Trail Association. The next issue of *Turtle Tracks* will have more details. Save the date!

# Winter Expeditions on the Maah Daah Hey

by Roger Ashley, MDHTA VP

Many trail users visit the North Dakota badlands from April through November leaving late fall, winter and early spring to the whims of the weather. Once in a while Mother Nature will lay down a thick layer of snow covering the landscape sufficiently so cross-country skis or snowshoes can be used on the trail. Cabin fever sets in making one wish for the warm summer days for hiking the trail. This winter we haven't had adequate snow to ski the trail to date. After receiving two to five inches of snow in December, temperatures moderated enough to partially melt the snow we had into a mass of packed snow and ice on the trail. (Bare tread and short grass along the trail provides an ideal micro climate for the accumulation of packed snow and ice.)

If you are like me and cabin fever overcomes your sense to stay warm you will even brave slipping around on an icy trail. A few weeks ago, on December 30 to be more specific, my hiking partner and I were out on the trail south of Bully Pulpit Trailhead east of the East River Road enjoying the nice weather – warm temperature and no wind! On sections of the trail that were exposed to the sun the trail was free of snow and ice but in the

sheltered sections of the trail ice and packed snow were present. We gingerly navigated around the ice on and along the trail so our rate of travel was much reduced compared to our normal pace. On one of our slower sections of the trail a hiker from Bismarck

caught up to us. He had started his trail adventure from Sully Creek. If you are familiar with the trail between Sully Creek and Bully Pulpit there are sections of the trail that are sheltered on a slope. He was using microspikes and poles to navigate the trail.

My hiking partner had been after me to pick some up to use when it is icy around our place. I was familiar with the coiled style traction cleats but thought they were a bit under engineered for hiking and that crampons were over kill for the conditions we generally see in the badlands. Since then I bought a pair of microspikes and haven't slipped on an icy trail. They are light weight, about 13 ounces, and durable. There are several manufacturers with various prices but I think you get what you pay for. Now

anytime we head out to the trail and there is a chance of packed snow and ice on the trail I throw my microspikes along with appropriate layers of clothing into my pack.



Porcupine with his/her "microspikes" south of Plumely Draw trailhead, January 2019.

Photo credit Patricia Ashley

## 2019 Events on the MDHT

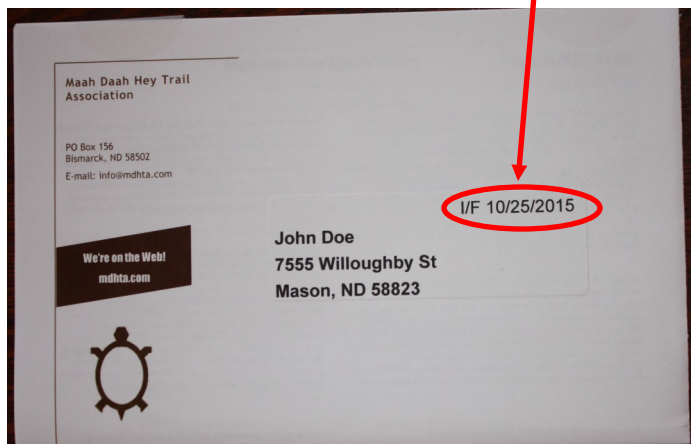
by Bev Brierley, MDHTA Director

With the sub-zero temps in the air, it's hard to believe that Spring and Summer are just around the corner. There are several events planned by Experience LAND coming up on the Maah Daah Hey Trail you won't want to miss! If you're brave, join in the festivities on February 9th. There is something for the whole family. Everything from fat tire biking, to snow shoeing and even cross-country skiing. This event is happening at the CCC Campground.

Experience LAND has opened registration for all events in the 2019 season. The Badlands Gravel Battle is set for May, and the Bull Moose Mud Run in June. There is also the Trail Run in July, as well as the world renowned Maah Daah Hey 100 the first weekend in August. These two weekends boast a distance for every level and promise to be an unforgettable and legendary time.

# 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

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Feb. 9, 2019   | Poco Rio Frio Badlands Race<br><a href="http://experienceland.org">experienceland.org</a>   |
| April 12, 2019 | <b>Deadline to RSVP for MDHTA Annual Meeting</b>  |
| April 27, 2019 | <b>MDHTA Annual Meeting. Eagles Club, Dickinson</b>   |
| May 11, 2019   | <b>Turtle Sign Hanging Party</b><br><b>Contact Roger Ashley</b><br><a href="mailto:rogerashley@ndsupernet.com">rogerashley@ndsupernet.com</a> |
| June 1, 2019   | <b>National Trails Day. MDHTA 20th Anniversary, Sully Creek State Park</b>  |
| August 3, 2019 | MDH100 <a href="http://experienceland.org">experienceland.org</a>   |

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