



Turtle Tracks



Official Newsletter of the Maah Daah Hey Trail Association

Volume 20, Issue 1

President's Message

Hello to trail users:

Spring is upon us, it is 63 degrees as I write this, and some farmers are still combining the 2019 crop. Wow, what a year this has been, and now for the green up and use of the mighty MDH Trail. It is a little soggy as we speak but give it a few weeks and it should be good to go, no ticks yet, but I am sure "they" are waiting just like us to use the TRAIL.

I want to welcome and thank our new life members, **Heidi Heitkamp and Darwin Lange** of Mandan, ND. We had nine new life members in 2019 and now have 33 Life Members. I have the signs for our Life Member kiosk and will get them up as soon as temperatures stay above 50 degrees. Thank you all very much for those donations. Also, thank you to all the other members that have renewed their membership. If you are wondering if your membership is current, please review the date on your *Turtle Tracks* address label, which shows your renewal DATE or the email which your *Turtle Tracks* newsletter is attached to if you receive the letter electronically.

Some updates, we are working with the ND Park and Recreation on our **RTP grant** for 2020 to gravel surface a couple miles of trail in the Sully Creek State Park area. We are getting all the field wildlife, archeology, and engineering work done, so we can be working there this summer and also holding our **Trail Day volunteer** event there on June 6, 2020. More on that later. We are ordering two more benches for installation at Magpie and Coal Creek trailheads. We are getting close to having the benches at all the trailheads so you can

sit and rest on your trail adventure. **Bruce Bishop** is still directing our **MDH Challenge** so get your accomplishments into him for your badges. **Amy Tysver** is the new person that is helping with our books and treasurer duties, she is very organized and is working to get MDHTA there also. **Jesse Hanson** is heading up our **gate maintenance** program, so look to volunteer time when he gets this project off the ground, many gates are in disrepair and just need a little TLC. **Don Mayer** has sold many of the **used trail signs** from the Forest Service sign replacement contract; see the website for prices and which ones are left. **Roger Ashley** is heading up the **Trail signage and trail counter**, kiosk trail use signup sheet project with the FS. We were not successful for a Roundup REC grant in January but will keep trying, they have been very generous to the MDHTA over the years. We applied for an Eagles grant in February for help with the surfacing share on our RTP grant. We keep the maps sales going and have sent one to almost every state in the nation.

Roger Ashley, Jesse Hanson, and I had a good meeting with FS in February. We discussed many items with them on the MDHTA position on trail projects. Our main item was that we need the FS to agree for the MDHTA to do work with Grants and projects on Forest Service lands. It looks like we will get an agreement to do this, which will allow MDHTA to apply for grants, and programs that we feel we could handle within our group. Others items discussed were trail post signage from MP115 north to the TRNP, bench installation at Magpie and Coal Creek trailheads, work with trail counters and

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Special point of interest:

- *The Long X trail was one of the trails used to move cattle from the southern part of the country to the prairies of eastern Montana and western North Dakota in the 1880's.*

Annual Meeting Scheduled for April 25, 2020 – Eagles Club, Dickinson

The MDHTA annual meeting will be held Saturday, April 25, 2020 at the Eagles Club Dickinson. The Eagles Club in Dickinson is located at 31 1st 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 10** to Curt Glasoe at

curtglasoe@ndsupernet.com, phone 701-225-5796 or Roger Ashley rogerashley@ndsupernet.com, phone 701-300-3315.

Let Curt or Roger 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 one member to the board will be conducted.

Our featured speaker will be Ryan Buetow. Ryan has been living in Dickinson, ND since June of 2015. He was raised in

Minnesota surrounded by agriculture and the outdoors and attended NDSU for a bachelors degree in crop and weed science, a masters degree in plant sciences, and is currently working towards a PhD in Plant Sciences while working fulltime at the NDSU Dickinson REC as an Extension Cropping Systems Specialist. Ryan travelled to Peru with some friends in the fall of 2017 for some outdoor recreation. The highlight of the trip was a multi-day hike into the valleys of the Andes mountains to find the quiet ruins of Choquequirao. Ryan will share some history of the ruins, stories of the trip, and lessons learned on the trail.

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 2019 the Silent Auction brought in money that was used to help match grants MDHTA received to support trail events as well as to help sponsor National Trails Day.

MDHTA merchandise will be on sale at reduced prices along with a few remaining Forest Service signs.

We hope to see you at the MDHTA Annual Meeting!

Shortly after the first draft of *Turtle Tracks*, the first case of coronavirus (COVID-19) was detected in North Dakota. Recommendations are changing on a daily basis in response to changing conditions. The MDHTA Board suggests that members and guests register for the Annual Meeting by April 10. Be sure to provide a contact phone number or email address. Should circumstances arise that require us to cancel the meeting we will contact you directly.

2020 Maah Daah Hey Challenge

by Bruce Bishop

In 2020, 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 25, 50, 100 and 150 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 2020, 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 Maah Daah Hey Challenge, in 2019, awarded patches to participants in one of four mileage categories. This family

friendly activity saw two 25 mile, four 50 mile, seven 100 mile and five 150 mile patches for a total of 17 patches awarded. Thanks to all who participated. Considering the late summer and fall rains we expect more to participate in 2020.



Membership Recognition—Thank You!

Life Members:

Roger & Pat Ashley
Gerard and Mary Kay Baker
Glenn & Jolene Baranko
Bruce & Roberta Bishop
Chad & Emily Mitzel Brackelsberg
Kyle & Bev Brierley
Tom & Sherri Dickson
Kenneth & Norma Eberts
Curt & Carol Glasoe
Greg and Michele Gunderson
*Heidi Heitkamp & Darwin Lange
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
Mark Zimmerman

Founding:

Richard Brierley
Kim Callahan
Paul Conrad
Dickinson Convention and Visitors Bureau
Andrew Howick
Hiram Rogers & Jean Gauger
Eric Selle
Robert Stein
Freida Tebelius
The Printers

In Memoriam

Denton & Paulette Berntson

* Denotes new member at this level since last
Turtle Tracks



Pasqueflowers.
Photo by Pat Ashley

Forest Service Update

by Will Horneman, Dakota Prairie Grasslands Lead Trail Technician

Greetings Turtle Tracks readers! A new season is upon us and I'm sure you are just as anxious to get out on the trail as I am. I am happy to report that the U.S. Forest Service has multiple projects planned this year to improve the Maah Daah Hey (MDH) Trail System. In this season's update, I'll touch on the upcoming projects involving the USFS, our partners, and our volunteers.

The Forest Service will hire a trail contractor this season to restore the Cottonwood Trail and perform excavation work on two reroutes at mile posts 125.5 and 128 of the Maah Daah Hey National Recreation Trail. Another contractor will be hired to install a low water crossing at Andrew's Creek on the Buffalo Gap Trail. These projects are funded through the Recreation Trails Program Grant in association with the Federal Highway Administration, North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department (NDPRD), and local volunteers. The Sunset Trail is anticipated to be officially opened by season's end. This trail will connect the MDH Trail just north of mile 143 to the Long X Trail at mile 5.20, which will create a two mile loop. CCC West Trailhead is our busiest as many folks utilize the MDH and Long X Trails to create an 11 mile loop. This smaller loop will provide a short hike or ride for those not ready to tackle the larger loop.

Our Dakota Prairie Grasslands Trails Crew is being assembled and has a long list of duties for the 2020 season. Highlighted Trails Crew projects include; trail maintenance & mowing, sign installations, and an additional two kiosks at the CCC East Trailhead. We will also implement a weed spraying program to tackle broadleaf vegetation growth on recently surfaced sections of trail. We ask that trail users report any heavy vegetation growth on surfaced sections of trail.

MDHTA Self Closing Gates Maintenance Project

by Jesse Hanson, MDHTA Treasurer

The Maah Daah Hey Trail has 98 self-closing gates spread across the 144 miles of trail. Most have been in place for 20+ years and are in need of maintenance. Gate spring adjustment to allow gates to close/open properly, leveling, checking support fence posts, replacing bottom gate stop posts, checking welds are some of the issues needing to be addressed on the gates and necessary repairs completed. The Association will be creating a repair/maintenance checklist and will be asking for volunteers to help with this needed trail maintenance item. For more information on this project and how you can help, contact Jesse Hanson at jehanson00@gmail.com or 701-390-2999.

The USFS will work with our partners on a couple different projects this season. We are putting our Participating Agreement to work again this year with another hitch scheduled with the Montana Conservation Corps (MCC). We are partnering with Theodore Roosevelt National Park to accomplish maintenance tasks on the MDH Trail within the South Unit. MCC will also perform trail maintenance on other sections of the MDH and Buffalo Gap Trails.

The USFS and NDPRD are continuing our partnership project; *Little Missouri National Grasslands Motorized Trail Map*. This map highlights off-highway vehicle (OHV) trails on both the Medora and McKenzie Ranger Districts on the Little Missouri National Grassland and is available for download free of charge through Avenza Maps. Paper copies will soon be available.

I want to thank everyone who volunteered their time and muscle to improve the Maah Daah Hey Trail System last year. We saw a 17% rise in volunteer hours from 2018. There will be many opportunities to volunteer again this season! Some of the projects for 2020 include; trail maintenance, signage, data collection, and gate / fence repair. Please contact your local association or myself directly to get set up.

As always, please do not hesitate to call or email with any questions or trail condition updates.

Will Horneman
DPG Lead Trails Technician
701-227-7854
william.horneman@usda.gov



Photo by Roger Ashley

Turtle Logo Signs on Trail Markers

The last two years MDHTA work groups hung Turtle logo signs from mile post 86 to 115. This year we want to hang signs from mile post 115 to the south boundary of of the North Unit of Theodore Roosevelt National Park which is at 133.5. This is a great family day outing. We'd like to start in May or early June. If you are interested in participating contact Roger Ashley at rogerashley@ndsupernet.com or 701-300-3315.



Photo by Pat Ashley

Trail Notes

Trail conditions can change without notice overnight as they did last fall. We have received several questions on the Maah Daah Hey Trail closure between mile posts 67 and 73. The reason why the trail is closed is the land beneath the trail collapsed near mile 69.5 during the unusually wet fall leaving a 15-20 foot drop off. (See photo.) Inattentive trail users could easily fall into the gully and if not injured, at least have a difficult time getting out of the hole and back up

onto the trail.

The Forest Service currently has plans for a temporary reroute this spring as soon as conditions permit with a permanent reroute to be done later. A photo showing a proposed bypass of the gully can be seen on the next page. Trail users should always be aware that the Maah Daah Hey

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Photo by Will Horneman



Photo by Will Horneman.
Red line shows proposed temporary reroute.

so caution is advised when out on the trail.

USFS Announces LMNG Volunteer Project List

Will Horneman, DPG Lead Trails Technician and Rob Schilling, LMNG Recreation Manager announced several projects that volunteers can assist the Forest Service. MDHTA has committed to helping on some of the projects. Other projects

would be ideal for youth, recreational, civic and church groups. The list is posted on the MDHTA website at MDHTA.com

President's Message (Continued from page 1)

trailhead/campground sign-in clipboards, gate maintenance project, checklist from FS for new volunteer groups and list of volunteer projects, MDHTA comment on CCC Campground re-design, feasibility of tree planting volunteer event at campgrounds and trailheads, and to maintain communication with MDHTA on Summit and MDH trail closure bypass, form a Trail User advisory board, update our current FS Memorandum of Understanding if needed, and make recommendations for future RTP projects with the FS.

We received the new **2020 North Dakota Travel Guide** and the MDH trail is mentioned on 21 pages out of 132, down a few pages from last year but still a pretty high number for people to look at for an outdoor adventure. Also, the MDH is featured on page 33 of **BIKE** magazine this month. I still get about 4-5 calls a week, people are now scheduling their summer/fall MDH trips. They want information of some sort on the MDH Trail, the horse people

would sure like a horse guide for trail rides and more overnights along the trail with food. Many have questions on the MDH trail closure on FS ground due to a slump, see the photos of the slump later. We tell them the Grasslands are all open for riding cross country and to find a way around the closure is all right on National Grasslands.

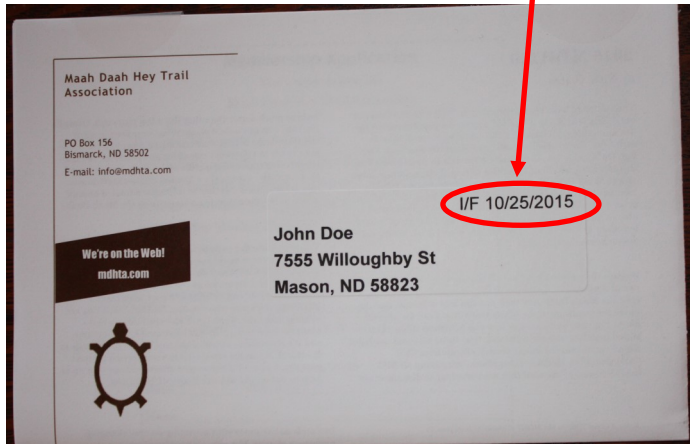
Another big **THANK YOU** has to go to **Roger and Pat Ashley** for editing and getting the *Turtle Tracks* Newsletter out this time and many years previously, Way to go Roger and Pat...

So here is to a good **SPRING** season, it is a great time to be on the MDH. On your trip, be sure and check for ticks and bring plenty of water. Again any questions please holler at me or any Board member. Hope to see you all at the **MDHTA Annual Meeting** in Dickinson at the Eagles Club on **April 25, 2020**, till then, Happy Trails.

Curtis W. Glasoe – President - MDHTA

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 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.

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

We're on the Web!
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—Brent McCluskey
Treasurer—Jesse Hanson
Nathaniel Bishop

Dates to Remember

April 25, 2020	MDHTA Annual Meeting, Eagles Club, Dickinson
June 6, 2020	Trails Day!

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.

Find us on 