



# Turtle Tracks



Official Newsletter of the Maah Daah Hey Trail Association

Volume 21, Issue 1

## President's Message

### Hello to trail users:

Winter is slowly losing its hold on us, and some spring is in the air, as we prepare for another great season on the MDH Trail. A *Midwest Living* Magazine article "**Best in Show**" shows the number one Wellness Bike Trail in the Midwest as the **Maah Daah Hey Trail System**. Always thrilling to see recognition of the MDHT system.

First, we have to thank our new Life Members, **Richard and Lori Brierley**, our 41<sup>st</sup> if my count is correct. Also, **Chris Michel** from Texas has joined at the Post membership level. We also gained several Individual/Family memberships. Then a big **THANK YOU** to all our current members for continuing with the mission to **Promote and Maintain the Maah Daah Hey Trail system**. As you know, we are a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization and all membership donations are tax deductible.

This past fall, The **MDHTA** completed our 2020 **RTP grant** from the **ND Park and Recreation**, that was placing gravel surface on over 2.5 miles of trail in the Sully Creek Park area. We have received many good comments on these segments, with the question "When will more be surfaced???" So, this year we have been successful with **two** approved 2021 **Recreational Trail Program (RTP)** grants from the **ND State Park and Recreation Department**. The projects entail about 5 miles of trail surfacing split between the **Coal Creek Campground** area and finishing up around the **Sully Creek State Park**. This will provide trail users with an all-weather trail in these

areas. We will need a lot of volunteer help from all members to complete the 20% share of these RTP Grants. The MDHTA plans to host a workday, with lunch, on June 5<sup>th</sup> (**National Trails Day**) at Sully Creek State Park Campground if everything works out to do so. A second workday at Coal Creek Campground is being planned for later in the summer. Thanks again to all who volunteered last year to make our project a success, some 61 people showed up and surfaced just short of 1000 feet of trail. It looks like a very busy 2021 on the MDH!!

We received \$1500 in January from the **Roughrider Electric Roundup** committee to put towards these RTP projects, so Thank You to those folks also.

The MDHTA has a great supply of **MDH merchandize**, including medallions, water bottles, patches, caps, T-shirts, etc. Just go to **MDHTA.com**, click on **STORE**, and place your order. We have sold over 50 of the new MDH maps since they were reprinted in November of last year. They have gone all over North Dakota and to many out of state trail users.

**Jesse Hanson** is directing our 2021 **MDH Challenge**, so get your mileage accomplishments into him for your badges by the end of the year. See more in Trail Notes in Turtle Tracks. **Roger Ashley** is heading up the trail signage (some 8.5 miles to go) and trail counter programs with FS this year. So contact Roger if you would like to help with these tasks and see some of the trail you may not have seen yet. The area that needs signage is on the north end of the MDH.

At our last **Board meeting**, many items

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### Special point of interest:

- *In 2020 the most popular MDHT trailheads were: CCC, Magpie, Ice Caves, Sully Creek and Bennett.*

## Annual Meeting Scheduled for April 24, 2021—Eagles Club, Dickinson

The MDHTA annual meeting will be held Saturday, April 24, 2021 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, deep fried turkey, roast beef, mashed potatoes, gravy and vegetable, with a price of \$25 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 9 to Amy Tysver by texting (preferred) or calling 701-290-3397 or if no answer Curt Glasoe at 701-260-9459 or [curtglasoe@ndsupernet.com](mailto:curtglasoe@ndsupernet.com) to let us know to reserve your spot at the meeting. Let Amy or Curt know the number in your party attending.

### Annual Meeting Program

The guest speaker will be Amy McCann, Administrative Director of Design and Construction for the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library. Amy McCann will present a brief review of the project and answer questions you may have. Amy was born in Knoxville, Tennessee, spending her childhood exploring the mountains and waters of the Appalachian Range. She developed a love for the outdoors at an early age and has since pursued mountain biking, backpacking, rock climbing, hunting, and fishing as she has traveled for her career. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Recreation Management from Southern Illinois University in 2003. Amy has applied her education and training at a number of government and non-profit organizations, including extensive experience programming youth development and community outreach. She resides in

Medora, North Dakota, with her husband and two children.

As you may know by now the Forest Service at the direction of Congress, conveyed 93 acres near the Burning Hills Amphitheater near Medora to the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library Foundation. See additional information on the conveyance in Trail Notes found later in Turtle Tracks.

Trail reports from the organizations that support the Maah Daah Hey Trail System will be given. An election of three directors for the MDHTA Board will also be conducted.

### Silent Auction

A silent auction will be held during the Annual Meeting. This is a fun way to support MDHTA activities during the year. Support and fun can be found in bringing a small item as well as purchasing. In 2019 (the 2020 Annual Meeting was canceled due to the Covid pandemic) 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!

### P.S.

Please put June 5, 2021 on your calendar for a workday to match volunteer time with our 2021 RTP grant to surface more of the Maah Daah Hey Trail. It will be at Sully Creek State Campground south of Medora, more to come as we develop the schedule.

Hope to See you there.

## Little Snow, Lots of Cold, Poco Rio Frio

by Amy Vojacek

The Badlands Race Series, organized by L.A.N.D., held their annual Poco Rio Frio race on February 6th. Due to a lack of snow, runners, hikers and regular mountain bikers were allowed on the race course usually reserved for snowshoes, cross country skis and fat tire bikes. Perfect! I love trail running.

There was one small catch that morning. The wind chill was -38°F. There were some that started logging their miles early but I played it safe and let the sun warm the air to a balmy -15°F before I set out around the course.

Starting at the CCC campground, racers could do 2-, 4- or 11-mile loops out on the Maah Daah Hey and Long X trail. The 4-mile loop included an ankle rolling, rocky creek bed stretch. Do as many miles as you want, anytime, or like a

few diehards, all day.

Racers were greeted back at the camp fire with a medal and pizza that was of course frozen. You just push it on a skewer and hold it over the fire for the perfect frigid weather snack. We compared frozen eyelashes, eyebrows and beards (well, not me of course) while joking about how crazy we all are. We are after all, outdoor recreation enthusiasts who will enjoy North Dakota even at her worst.



# Membership Recognition—Thank You!

## Life Members:

Roger & Pat Ashley  
Sandy Baertsch  
Gerard & Mary Kay Baker  
Glenn & Jolene Baranko  
Bruce & Roberta Bishop  
Bahne, Kay, Charlie & Anna Bahnson  
Chad & Emily Mitzel Brackelsberg  
Bev Brierley  
\*Richard & Lori Brierley  
Doug & Kathryn Burgum  
Adam & Barbra Curtis  
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  
Dr. Tim & Amy Juelson  
Christa Kron  
Mike & Chandra Langseth  
Mark Liebig  
Ron Luethe  
Don & Susan Mayer  
Medora Convention & Visitors Bureau  
Rodney & Carolyn Mitzel  
John R. Olson  
Mike Parke  
Charles & Sandra Peterson  
Hiram Rogers & Jean Gaugler  
Brian Selland  
Diane Stoltz Family  
Vonne Tarnavsky  
Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation  
Dwight & Loa Tober

Glenny Ulschak  
Steve & Janet Wieser  
Nick & Lindsey Ybarra  
Mark Zimmerman

## Post Marker:

Jeanne & Ron Avey  
Art & Linda Glasoe  
\*Chris Michel

## Trail Boss:

Rachel Berg  
Kelly McGrew

## Founding:

Jessica Booke  
Kim Callahan  
Kevin & Sydney Caraballo  
Paul Conrad  
Brittney Denesha  
Dickinson Convention & Visitors Bureau  
Andrew Howick  
John & Kerry Grant  
Todd Lamotte  
Loren & Jennifer Morlock  
Andrew & Bridget Rice  
\*Wendy Roberts  
Eric Selle  
Leonard Stanley  
Robert C. Stein  
Freida Tebelius  
Leland Tong  
The Printers

## In Memoriam

Denton & Paulette Berntson  
Kyle Brierley  
Aileen Luethé  
Morris Tarnavsky

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

# Trail Notes

## Trails Day – June 5 – Hold the Date!

Trails Day 2021 will be headquartered at the Sully Creek State Park south of Medora on Saturday, June 5. Please hold this date on your calendar. A time schedule will be sent out later as we approach this date. During the day, volunteers will be surfacing the trail with gravel south of the State Park to repair wear and erosion of the trail's tread. A lunch will be served. In 2020 it was estimated that between 4,000 and 6,000 used the trail between Bully Pulpit and Sully Creek from April through October. The labor volunteers provide will be used as part of the match required by the RTP project coordinated by MDHTA. Many hands make light work!

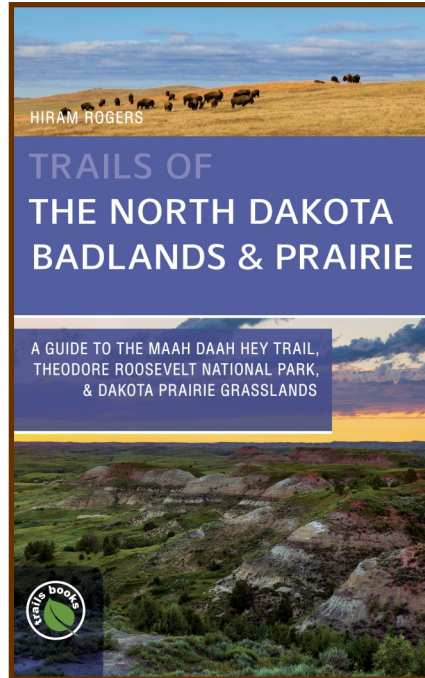


## TR Presidential Library and the MDHT

Congress instructed the Secretary of Agriculture acting through the Chief of the Forest Service under Title XVIII - Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library Conveyance Act of 2020 to convey 93 acres of land to the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library Foundation. A portion of the trail runs through the southwest corner of that property. Terms or Conditions of the conveyance include an easement for the Maah Daah Hey National Recreation Trail and US Forest Service Road #7371 which is retained by the United States. This means the Forest Service will still have access to maintain the trail through the property used by thousands of people every year. The topography near the trail along with the design of the building may reduce the visual impact that the library site will have.

## Trails of the North Dakota Badlands & Prairie – New Trail Guide 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition

The old trail guide authored by **Hiram Rogers**, a Life member of MDHTA, has been out of print for a number of years. Curt scoured the country for copies but finally ran out of reasonably priced books for MDHTA to sell. The book appeared to become a collector's item based on the price people were asking. In addition to attending the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Maah Daah Hey Trail, Hiram was hiking the trail and working on the revised edition to include the



added 48 miles of MDHT and expanding the coverage of Ice Caves and Cottonwood-Bennett – Maah Daah Hey loop. MDHTA ordered copies of *Trails of North Dakota Badlands & Prairie A Guide to the Maah Daah Hey Trail Theodore Roosevelt National Park, & Dakota Prairie Grasslands* that are now available for purchase at the Store on MDHTA.COM or come to the Annual Meeting on April 24.

## Update on Bench Project

The last two benches at trailheads will be placed at Bennett and CCC later this spring. The project began with a suggestion by **Bruce Bishop**, former director of MDHTA, to place benches at trailheads so people could change their shoes, rest, or have a place to wait for a ride. The project



Coal Creek Trailhead Bench

began in earnest with the placement of the first benches at Third Creek and Toms Wash. When the last two benches are placed there will be a total of 11 benches along the MDH Trail.

## 2021 RTP Grants

The MDHTA received notice that proposed resurfacing projects near Sully Creek and Coal Creek were approved for construction recently. These grants administered by the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department provide significant support to accomplish the goal of repairing gullies in the trail and reducing impact from increased use. The combined estimated cost of both projects is \$145,000 with

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MDHTA expected to pick up \$29,000 of this total. Much of the cost to MDHTA will be from the volunteer labor provided during workdays scheduled for this summer. Volunteers have been the backbone of the organization and continue to demonstrate the desire to provide a world class experience for trail users.

### Trail Registers

Self-registration at trailheads help identify high use areas to target maintenance and other management practices in addition to providing information to support grant applications. This past year we found about only one in twenty trail users signed in at the trail registers. The next time you use a trail please sign in. Individual names are not collected at Forest Service registers and as long as you are not the only one living in town you can't be identified. If you are interested, the four most popular trailheads according to 2020 trailhead registration were CCC, Magpie, Ice Caves, and Sully Creek.

### 2021 Trail Challenge

The Maah Daah Hey Trail Association is challenging trail users to participate in the 2021 Trail Challenge. Anyone who

hikes, bikes or rides a horse 25, 50, 100 or 150 miles on the Maah Daah Hey Trail or on any of its affiliated trails (Buffalo Gap, Long X, Wolf, Aspen Bennett, Cottonwood, and/or Summit) during the calendar year 2021 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/2021-trail-challenge>. We encourage participants to post their pictures and their stories to the Facebook page or send them to the MDHTA so they can be posted in the MDHTA website.

### Logo Sign Project

Only 8 ½ miles of logo signs need to be placed on marker posts between MP 121 and 129 ½. Mark Zimmerman and Glee Mayer are raring to go as well as Pat and Roger Ashley. This is a nice day hike though camping at Bennett is close by. This may be the most challenging part of the trail in terms of distance from road to where we can start attaching signs but it can be a great family outing. If the weather cooperates we would like to hang April 17 and 18. If you are interested in helping with this project contact Roger Ashley at 701-300-3315 (call or text) or email [rogerashley@ndsupernet.com](mailto:rogerashley@ndsupernet.com).

Trailhead Name: <i>Bear Creek</i>						2021
Date	City, State	# People	Start Destination	End Destination	Foot/Bike/Horse	Comments
<i>4/16</i>	<i>Bismarck, ND</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>Bear Creek</i>	<i>Madora</i>	<i>Foot</i>	<i>Beautiful Day!</i>
<i>4/16</i>	<i>Billings, MT</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Bear Creek</i>	<i>Burning Coal Ven</i>	<i>Bike</i>	<i>Great Ride</i>

### President's Message (Continued from page 1)

were discussed, but most importantly we noted we will be short three board members after our Annual Meeting. **ATTENTION:** We need to have members that are interested in a larger role with the MDHTA to step up and volunteer to be a **Board Member**. Please contact any Board member with your name or suggestions to fill these vacancies.

Our spring **Annual Meeting** is scheduled in Dickinson, **April 24, 2021**, at the **Eagles Club**. We will be having a representative of the **TR National Library** giving an update on that project and how it will affect the MDH trail. More on the meeting in this issue.

**THANK YOU** to **Roger and Pat Ashley** for editing and preparing this Turtle Tracks Newsletter.

Hope spring is on the way and that I will see you at our annual meeting, workdays, and out enjoying the **MAAH DAAH HEY Trail** later this year.

Curtis W. Glasoe – President - MDHTA



Life Member Kiosk

# Report Trail Maintenance Needs

Since the trail runs through and on top of some of the most unstable soils found in western North Dakota there will be occasional slumps, collapses, and other failures in the trail. The Forest Service tries to keep the trail passable and in excellent shape for all users but finding these problems before trail users do is an impossible task. Rather than grousing about why a problem isn't fixed, probably because it hasn't been reported, trail users can go to MDHTA.COM, click on the "Contact" tab, and then click on the red printed text, "trail upkeep form." A direct link to this form is <http://mdhta.com/trail-upkeep/>. Using this form reports trail

problems directly to the Forest Service and MDHTA. Please keep in mind you will need to provide as accurate a note as to where the problem is and the problem encountered as possible. If you have GPS coordinates, that's ideal but a Mile Post number nearest the problem will suffice. The user can also attach a photo (a picture is worth a 1,000 words) of the problem area. A written description of the problem will help. Be sure to include your name and email address in the spaces provided in case there are any questions. If you want to include your phone number put that in the space where you describe the problem.

## Trail Upkeep

We care about the condition of our trail. If you ever run into problems or a spot in need of repair, fill out the form below and we will make sure things get fixed.

INCLUDE GPS COORDINATES OR NEAREST MILE MARKER, AND A PICTURE IF POSSIBLE.

NAME  E-MAIL

Please write a detailed description of the issue you encountered

GPS COORDINATES  N  W

MILE MARKER

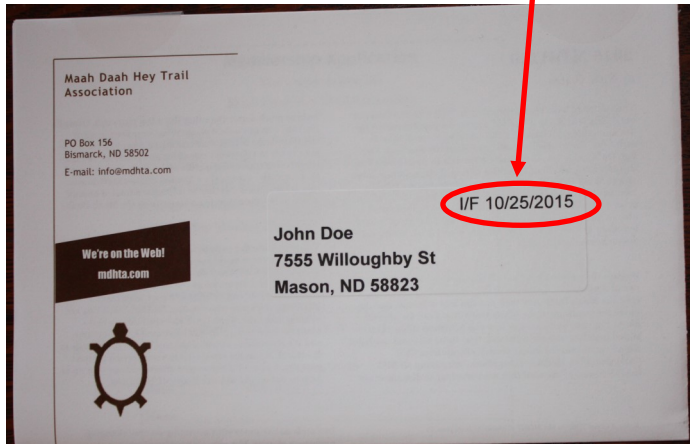
ATTACH IMAGE  No file chosen

### Some Trail Maintenance Opportunities



# 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  
Secretary—Brent McCluskey  
Treasurer—Jesse Hanson  
Nathaniel Bishop  
Amy Vojacek

Dates to Remember

March 15, 2021	<i>Trails of North Dakota Badlands &amp; Prairies</i> release date
April 24, 2021	MDHTA annual meeting
June 5, 2021	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 