



Turtle Tracks

Official Newsletter of the Maah Daah Hey Trail Association



Volume 21, Issue 2

President's Message

Hello to trail users:

Spring has sprung and we are getting busy with outdoor activities. Lots of phone calls and questions about spring and summer trail vacations have been answered, the FS and other campgrounds are open with new rates this year, and the water is on in all camps. Please review the fire restrictions that are or may be in place due to the dry conditions along the MDH trail system.

First, I would like to thank all who participated in our annual meeting in Dickinson in late April, great turnout, good meal and very successful silent auction. Also three new and one old member (yours truly) were elected to our MDHTA Board of Directors at the meeting. Congrats to **Britany Barnett**, the youngest member of the group with a ton of trail experience from Arnegard, ND; then **Glee Mayer**, a retired teacher/Coach from Minot, ND, and last an old MDH trail board member on board for a second time, **Mark Zimmerman** of Bismarck.

Then we have two new **Life Members**, **Britany Barnett** and **Ryan and Amy Vojacek**, three new **Post members** in **Jarrold and Michaela Schell**, **Glee Mayer** and **Denise Steinbach**, and a new **Founding member** in **Lucas Graf**. Thanks much for the donations, it will be put to good use as our share of the surfacing grants issued to the MDHTA in 2021. Also **THANK YOU** to all our current members for your continued support of the MDHTA.

Our PayPal account is working very good and we have sold 61 **MDH Guide Books** and 49 **MDH trail maps** in 2021, look at our **MDHTA.com** website and get the MDH merchandize for you or your friends' use.

The **MDHTA** was successful in obtaining two 2021 **Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grants** from the **ND Parks and Recreation**, that is placing gravel surface on over 2.5 miles of trail west and south of the Sully Creek Park area, and the second grant is for surfacing north and south of Coal Creek camp. The MDHTA plans to host a workday on June 5th (**National Trails Day**) at Sully Creek State Park Campground for our volunteer share of the Sully Creek RTP project, more on that day later in the **TT**. A second workday at Coal Creek Campground is being planned for later in the summer. Hope to see **You** there on **June 5th!!**

Roger and Pat Ashley and others have completed the trail signage project some 8.5 miles. So a big thank you to our latest retiring Board Member and his wife for getting that project done. Also **THANK YOU** to **Roger and Pat Ashley** for editing and preparing this spring Turtle Tracks Newsletter.

At our last **Board meeting**, it was decided to place 2022 RTP applications in for surfacing the Buffalo Gap trail from Andrews Creek south to the MDH trail junction; and the Coal Creek area to complete the surfacing in that area. New trail construction projects will be delayed a year to get all the process for the National Environmental Policy Act, Right Of Ways, Memorandums Of Understanding, and ground locations figured out before applying for an RTP Grant.

I hope this finds you in good health and now is the time to plan a trip to the **MAAH DAAH HEY Trail** this summer and see the beautiful country for yourself.

Happy Trails.

Curtis W. Glasoe –
President - MDHTA

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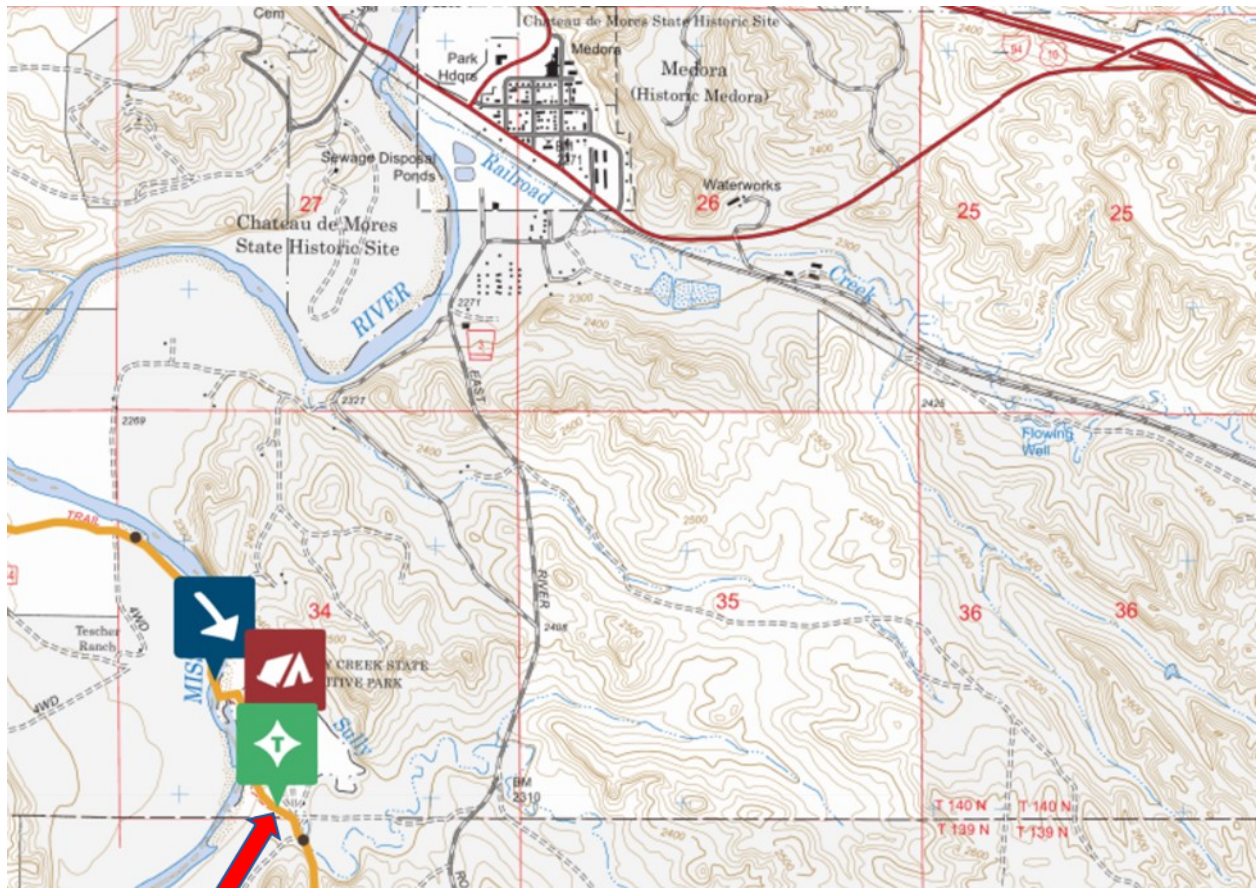
Special point of interest:

- *The Lakota called the Badlands Makhóšiča, literally bad land, while the early French trappers called them les mauvaises terres à traverser, the Badlands to cross.*

Trails Day on the MDHT—June 5, 2021

This is the 22nd year that the Maah Daah Hey Trail Association (MDHTA) and the USDA Forest Service will be hosting a celebration of National Trails Day on the Maah Daah Hey Trail System. This year's project will be the continuation of surfacing on the Maah Daah Hey Trail south of Sully Creek State Park. Participants will help with surfacing approximately 1,100 feet (this is part of the Sully Creek RTP 2.5 mile 2021 project) in an area where users have created casual trails that have eroded, creating problems of braiding and degradation of the area. Surfacing the trail in these areas encourages users to stay on the trail especially after rain events when un-surfaced trails are muddy and slick. Also surfacing requires less annual maintenance such as mowing and repairing gullies. It is time for all 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, equipment, and trail prizes for all who attend. Attendees interested in participating should plan on meeting at Sully Creek State Park south of Medora. Directions from Medora, intersection of Pacific Avenue and East River Road: Turn south on East River Road cross railroad tracks past AmericInn for about 1.9 miles, then turn right on 36th Street and travel about 0.2 miles to Sully Park. See map below. Travel time from Medora is about 5 minutes. The event begins at 9 am and concludes by 3 pm MDT. Ticks can be an issue this time of the year so bring your repellent, dress appropriately for conditions, and bring your work gloves. Check our website for any changes in any details at www.mdhta.com or follow us on Facebook. Participants will receive a **free lunch** and an opportunity to win trail merchandise provided by MDHTA.



Meet Here
GPS 46.88974N, 103.5378W

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
*Brittney Barnett
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
*Ryan and Amy Vojacek

Steve & Janet Wieser
Nick & Lindsey Ybarra
Mark Zimmerman

Post Marker:

Jeanne & Ron Avey
Art & Linda Glasoe
*Glee Mayer
Chris Michel
*Jarrod & Michaela Schell
*Denise Steinbach

Trail Boss:

Rachel Brag
Kelly McGrew

Founding:

Jessica Booke
Kim & Joseph Callahan
Kevin & Sydney Caraballo
Paul Conrad
Brittney Denesha
Dickinson Convention & Visitors Bureau
*Lucas Graf
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 Luethe
Morris Tarnavsky

* Denotes new member at this level since last
Turtle Tracks

Meet the New MDHTA Directors

Britney is a North Dakota native, growing up in Valley City. After graduating from Concordia College she served with Americorps and the Montana Conservation Corps (MCC), spending her first summer entirely in the Bob Marshall Wilderness. It's here where her passion for the outdoors truly came to life. She completed a variety of trail projects, lived in a tent for over 100 days straight and relied on mules for postal service. Eventually, she became the Youth Program Coordinator with MCC for several years. During this time she supervised many trail projects that were completed by Montana youth and organized community volunteer trail projects.

Nowadays she farms alongside her husband in western North Dakota. In her free time she volunteers whenever she can, serves on several boards and is currently trying to master the art of kombucha brewing and cheesecake baking! Britney is passionate about public lands, enjoys hiking, backpacking and spending time with her two dogs, Razi and Syver.



My name is Glee Mayer and I have lived in North Dakota my entire life, with the exception of a 2-year teaching stint in the Badlands of SD in Wall.

I graduated from NDSU, and taught Physical Education and coached at Minot High for 38 years. My husband Joe and I still reside in Minot.

I have always loved the outdoors, and I especially enjoy hiking, kayaking, and mountain biking.

Since retirement I have had the opportunity to enjoy these activities even more and in 2020, I hiked the entire Maah Daah Hey Trail. After completing the MDH I wanted to become involved in the maintenance and continuation of this amazing trail. My husband and I own a country home just south of Richardton, ND so I am in close proximity to the trail throughout the year.

I am excited to be part of the MDH Trail Association board and I look forward to promoting this trail and providing people the opportunity to hike this beautiful area.

Mark Zimmerman, Bismarck, has been a long time Maah Daah Hey Trail user and advocate—having hiked and biked most sections of the trail and camped at most of the established campsites and even a few backcountry campsites in the North Dakota badlands. Mark is the former Director of North Dakota Parks and Recreation and is a promoter and volunteer for a number of outdoor organizations and a long time volunteer with the Boy Scouts of America. Mark looks forward to serving the members of the MDHTA and all those who experience a legendary adventure on the Maah Daah Hey Trail.



Turtle Logo Sign Project Completed!

The sun and weather eroded many of the turtle logo brands burned into marker posts which have been guiding trail users for more than 20 years. Also, some of the posts have rotted off or have been pushed over by wildlife or cows trying to satisfy an intense itch. The US Forest Service began applying turtle logo signs on the posts about four years ago but ran out of time to complete marking the entire length of the Maah Daah Hey Trail. MDHTA stepped in to assist in completing the project. The US FS provided the signs, screws and drivers while MDHTA provided volunteer labor. MDHTA had completed all but 8 ½ miles of the more difficult part of the trail to access by last fall. On Saturday, April 17, five MDHTA members, Tom Tudor, Greg Nohner, Lucas Graf, Pat and Roger Ashley, met at the Bennett trailhead to hike three miles to the MDHT where they broke into two groups, one group hanging signs going north and the other group heading south. The group heading south “ran out of steam” so they were a half mile short of making their goal for the day while the north bound group ran out of signs. Fortunately, the north bound group did not begin hanging signs until they had hiked an additional half mile up the MDHT. Lucas Graf said they had just enough signs to make

it to where the last sign hanging party ended before they turned around. The two groups met back at the junction of Bennett and MDHT, the south bound group having extra signs they hadn’t placed that day were utilized to sign the half mile of trail north of the junction. How lucky! That left 4 ½ miles of trail.

Roger and Pat Ashley return to place the last signs from MP 121 to MP 125.5 on April 25. All of the standing posts along the MDHT now have the Turtle logo sign. Rotting and leaning posts that need attention have been reported to the US FS and over time they will be replaced or reset.

The following MDHTA members also volunteered their time in completing this project: Lisa Kudelka, Curt Glasoe, Mark Zimmerman, and Glee Mayer. With the recent fires some posts and signs may need to be replaced along the trail. Also, the same conditions that weathered the MDHT markers have also weathered the markers along Buffalo Gap, Bennett, Cottonwood, Aspen, Ice Caves and Wolf Trails. Mark Zimmerman, a new board member, will be heading up future sign projects.



Lucas Graf, Tom Tudor, Pat Ashley and Greg Nohner, Bennett Trail Head

Trail Repair

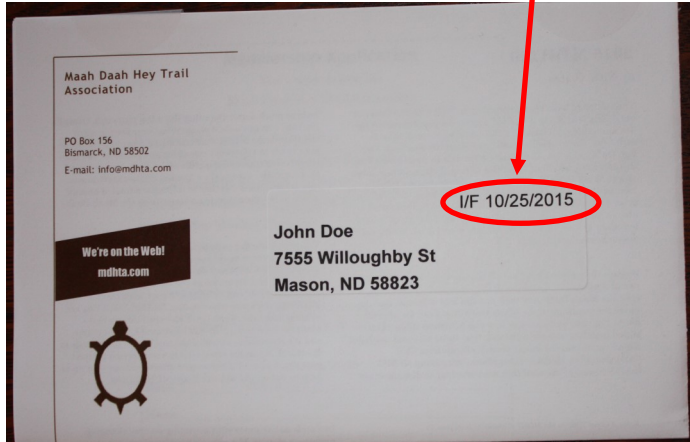
The same conditions that created the North Dakota badlands are continually at work. Even in dry weather there is always some place along the MDHT where freezing and thawing conditions can cause rockfalls, landslides and sink holes. In March a recent rockfall which blocked the trail and a landslide which erased about 50 feet of trail tread north of MP 20 was discovered and reported to the US FS. Forest Service seasonal crews are not available this time of the year to open and repair the trail. Curt Glasoe along with

Roger and Pat Ashley cleared the rockfall and cut new tread through the damaged area. Some of the rocks were a good size so they did what Archimedes is credited with saying, "Give me a place to stand, a lever long enough and a fulcrum, and I can move the Earth." The lever used in this case a six-foot, 15 pound iron bar made quick work of the rockfall. Trail tread was cut with a Pulaski and shovel and a few smaller encroaching slumps were moved with a blade on an ATV.



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—Amy Vojacek
2nd Vice President—Mark Zimmerman
Secretary—Glee Mayer
Treasurer—Jesse Hanson
Britney Barnett—At Large

Dates to Remember

June 5, 2021	Trails Day at Sully Creek, 9 am MT
TBA	Work Day at Coal Creek

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 