



Turtle Tracks



Official Newsletter of the Maah Daah Hey Trail Association

Volume 21, Issue 3

President's Message

Hello to trail users:

There is a chill in the air which is welcome after the hot dry summer we had in MDH trail country. Many articles about the **Maah Daah Hey (MDH) Trail** have been published since our last Turtle Tracks. The **Backpacker Magazine** Sept-Oct 2021 "Unexpected Autumn Rainbows;" **IN Touch** Summer 2021 issue -Trail surfacing grant; **Dickinson Press** 7/28/2021 issue; and **AAALiving** Sept-Oct 2021 (3 top places to have fall fun) showcased the MDH trail. In addition, there is a new book out **50 Adventures in 50 States** by Kate Siber, which highlights the **MDH Trail**. Good deal to get some very positive press and recognition of the MDHT system.

First, we must **thank** our new Life Members, **Jo Marie and Ryan Kadrmas**, our 43rd to date. 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 summer, The **MDHTA** completed two **RTP grants** from the **ND Park and Recreation**, that was placing gravel surface on over 5.0 miles of trail in the **Sully Creek Park and Coal Creek areas**. These areas are really neat now to traverse in any type of weather. MDHTA must fund 20% of these grants and volunteer labor is a big part of that share. Special **THANKS** to the **Home on the Range** staff and kids that worked on our two volunteer days. **THANKS** to the 59 people that showed up on **National Trails Day** and surfaced 1100 feet of the Sully Creek area, and the 32 individuals that

surfaced 821 feet trail in the Coal Creek area on July 31, 2021. A special **THANKS** to **Josh Tysver** and **Western Sand and Gravel (Don, Susan, and Jason Mayer)** for the equipment and materials on the workdays. Also, **THANKS** to **TRMF, USDA-FS, and Billings County** for permitting the projects on their lands and ROWS.

The future looks bright due to pre-approval of two **2022 RTP grants** from the **ND State Park and Recreation Department**. These projects entail about 6 miles of trail surfacing split between the **Coal Creek Campground** area and the **Buffalo Gap area** just west of the MDH trail to Andrew's creek. The BGAP project is in the big Grasslands fire area, that occurred southwest of Medora earlier this year. 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 the grants. The MDHTA plans on hosting workdays next spring stay tuned.

At our last **Board meeting**, we elected new officers, and many new ideas are coming from them. One is the guided hikes on the MDH trail, updating our Facebook account, along with having a contract person doing books, etc. for us. More on these items in another segment of this **Turtle Tracks Newsletter**.

Hope you have your fall plans figured out for visiting the MDH trail to see the fall colors, no bugs, and also lower temps. We always welcome ideas to better the experience on the trail, so speak to a Board member or post your comments on our Facebook or MDHTA.com website.

Happy Trails.

Curtis W. Glasoe –
President - MDHTA

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Special point of interest:

- *There are 10-12 wood trail posts per mile on the MDHT.*

Forest Service Update

by Rob Schilling, Recreation Manager, Little Missouri National Grassland, USDA-Forest Service

I am excited to report that we had a very dynamic year and completed multiple projects on the Maah Daah Hey Trail.

Our first project this summer was a reroute of the Maah Daah Hey Trail near China Wall. The original section of the trail traversed an earthen mound dam constructed to hold back water for livestock. Unfortunately, the dam has breached resulting in destruction of the of the original trail. The Forest Service Trail crew and the Montana Conservation Corp worked together to construct a 1,400 foot reroute around the damaged section of trail.

In addition, we finalized construction of a 1,300 foot reroute near mile marker 125.5 on the Maah Daah Hey Trail. The original segment of trail had been overcome by numerous headwalls and active banks making travel arduous. The new reroute avoids the damaged sections of trail by relocating the trail closer to Cottonwood Creek. If you have a chance, I highly recommend exploring these new sections of trail.

To compliment these trail projects, this fall the Forest Service will be constructing a new trailhead and spur trail at the entrance to the Buffalo Gap Campground. This 200' X

100' trailhead will alleviate congestion within the campground and provide adequate parking space for all trail users. The trailhead will include a two-rail treated wooden perimeter fence, an information kiosk, and a vault toilet. Multiple user groups, participants of organized trail events, and overnight campers at Buffalo Gap Campground will benefit from the project.

Changes have also been made on how we manage campsites at the Buffalo Gap and CCC Campgrounds. Both campgrounds now accept reservations at selected campsites through Recreation.gov. Recreation.gov is a trip planning and reservation service portal for over 113,000 reservable sites across the country. This website provides all the tools, services, and information you will need to dream up your next adventure. To reserve a campsite, visit <https://www.recreation.gov/>.

To conclude, I want to thank you for your dedication to the Maah Daah Hey Trail. I am proud of our partnership, and the devoted volunteers who work countless hours to provided North Dakota with a world class recreation experience.

In the Footsteps of Theodore Roosevelt

by Mark Zimmerman, MDHTA 2nd Vice President, and Glee Mayer, MDHTA Secretary

In the spirit of Theodore Roosevelt's first arrival in the North Dakota badlands in September of 1883, 22 outdoor enthusiasts hiked a section of the Maah Daah Hey Trail as part of the inaugural guided hike series sponsored by the Maah Daah Hey Trail Association. Folks from Mott, Stanley, Minot, Mandan, Bismarck and Glendive, MT. took the challenge to hike along Andrews Creek from the west end of Medora to the trailhead at Sully Creek State Park. Hikers experienced the autumn colors and topography just as Roosevelt did over 125 years ago. The weather was picture perfect as they hiked a little over 5 miles and realized some 524 ft. elevation gain. Crossing the Little Missouri River did not pose much of a problem with low water levels in the river, but it was fun to end the hike in such a unique way. Hikers were treated to snacks provided by the MDHTA and hike leader and MDHTA board member Glee Mayer. MDHTA board members Amy Jo Vojacek and Mark Zimmerman also assisted with leading and serving as the "sweep" for the hike.

Hikers witnessed lasting effects of this spring's prairie fire—including the image of one of the Maah Daah Hey Trail guide posts that still stands! Positive comments on the hike included, "Great hike, can't wait for the next one!"



and "Thanks for leading the hike, enjoyed the trail."

The next guided hike is scheduled for November 6th—out and back hike to the Devils Pass. A couple hike options are available. Check out our Facebook page—[Maah Daah Hey Trail](#)—for updates and more information. The MDHTA welcomes your comments and

suggestions for guided hikes and other activities on the trail. Post comments on the Facebook page and check back.

Membership Recognition—Thank You!

Life Members:

Roger & Pat Ashley
Sandy Baertsch
Bahne, Kay, Charlie & Anna Bahnson
Gerard & Mary Kay Baker
Glenn & Jolene Baranko
Bruce & Roberta Bishop
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
*Ryan & Jo Marie Kadrmas
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
Loa Tober
Glenny Ulschak

Ryan and Amy Vojacek
Steve & Janet Wieser
Nick & Lindsey Ybarra
Mark Zimmerman

Post Marker:

Glee Mayer
Chris Michel
Jarrod & Michaela Schell
Denise Steinbach

Trail Boss:

Rachel Brag

Founding:

Kim & Joseph Callahan
Kevin & Sydney Caraballo
Paul Conrad
Brittney Denesha
Dickinson Convention & Visitors Bureau
Lucas Graf
Andrew Howick
*Jeremy Mahowald
*Amy McCann
Loren & Jennifer Morlock
*Matt Pekuri
Wendy Roberts
Eric Selle
Leonard Stanley
Robert C. Stein
Freida Tebelius
Leland Tong
Sarah Vogel

In Memoriam

Denton & Paulette Berntson
Kyle Brierley
Aileen Luethe
Morris Tarnavsky

* Denotes new member at this level since last
Turtle Tracks

Trail Notes

Kudos to Slope County Commissioners and Road Department – Improved Access to White Butte ND High Point.



one-mile section of road and trailhead parking for North Dakota's high point, White Butte. Prior to completion of this all-weather gravel road, visitors to White Butte had to walk an extra

two miles round trip to hike to the top of White Butte. The county also added a sign on US Highway 85 east of Amidon to turn south on 140th Avenue SW and a sign at the corner of 140th Avenue SW and 69th Street SW to turn west. Before the improvement it was difficult to find the way to White Butte even though you can see the butte for miles. On the day we hiked to the top of the butte there were 4 other hiking parties, all out of state, some "High Pointers," on the trail. For additional information on White Butte see Hiram Rogers book, *Trails of the North Dakota Badlands & Prairie*.

Operation Roundup awarded \$900 to MDHTA for installing a self-closing gate near Sully Creek State Park. The gate will replace a swinging gate in an area of the trail that receives a great deal of use. The Roughrider Electric Charitable Foundation, the sponsoring organization of Operation Roundup has awarded grants to MDHTA for various projects to improve the safety of the trail in 2010 and the years, 2013 through 2021. The next time you see a Roughrider Electric representative be sure to convey your thanks for their deep and continued support of the Maah Daah Hey Trail.

MDHTA Moves Forward

by Jesse Hanson, MDHTA Treasurer

In November 2019, the MDHTA Board of Directors approved contracting on a part time basis with an accounting professional to provide oversight of the Association financials. The Association's finances have changed significantly over the years with grant management, membership revenue, sales, IRS reporting, donations etc. continuing to increase. The board voted to enter into a part time contract with Amy Tysver of Dickinson to provide monthly P+L reports, track expenditures, revenue, sales receipts, Paypal account management and a variety of IRS/ND Tax Dept. reporting along with a variety of other financial oversight tasks. Amy was raised on a cattle/ grain farm near Mott, ND. She

MDHTA occasionally receives reports of people and horses getting stuck along creeks in the badlands.

They have quite a time getting out of these boggy areas. The most recent was where a horse was stuck under and near Andrews Creek bridge west of Medora. The Billings County Rural Fire Department was called and with several people and heavy equipment they were able to save the horse. This is the second horse this summer that the Fire Department has come to the rescue, and its been one of the driest summers on record. The two horses were not on the MDH trail but on "short cuts" near the Andrews Creek crossing north of I-94, WE DON'T KNOW HOW TO SAY IT ANY Better **BUT STAY ON THE MDH TRAIL AND YOU WILL BE ALRIGHT**. The Forest Service identified two bad areas in Andrews Creek, the new trail crossing avoids these areas and is working great over the creek on the Buffalo Gap Trail. Quicksand and other sticky wet sites are in the Badlands and users need to stay on the trail. The only other bad crossing, the Knutson Creek crossing in the South Unit of TRNP, was fixed in 2016. Badland explorers need to understand there is danger off the trail.



Andrews Creek Crossing Improved in 2020. Last fall the Forest Service installed a prefabricated crossing consisting of square foot concrete blocks about 8 inches thick attached to a steel mesh. The blocks (pictured to the left) will sink into the mud providing a hard supportive surface that trail users can safely use to cross the creek. The Forest Service should be commended for this much needed improvement.

graduated from Dickinson State University with a bachelor's degree in Accounting with a concentration in management and finance. Amy worked for a Dickinson CPA for 17 years before moving into her current position as the office manager of Jay R's Autobody in Dickinson. Amy and her husband Josh have 2 children, Makayla (21) and Levi (17). Amy is averaging just a little over 5 hours per month assisting the Association manage our finances. The Board greatly appreciates Amy's assistance ensuring the organization financial records are timely and accurate.

Bucket List Ride

by Carl Anderson

The constant creak of the saddle, the methodic clip-clop of your horse's hooves on the trail, the wind, the loud clacking of the giant Dakota grasshoppers, the distant bellowing of a cow or calf, owls and yipping coyotes at night- those are the raw, timeless sounds that a lone horseback rider hears on the Maah Daah Hey Trail; the same sounds heard by Sitting Bull and the Lakota tribe, Teddy Roosevelt at his Elkhorn ranch, and countless unknown cowboys once the vast herds of cattle were first driven north from Texas. The Badlands didn't look like I expected heaven would, but it may be the closest I ever get.

I've traveled a lot in my 69 years- seen some jaw-dropping sights and been to places I'll never forget. One place I'd never been however, was the Badlands of North Dakota. When I travel, I typically do it by car- see as much as I can in a week or two- the highlights that everyone wants a look at. A trucker by trade, I have a natural desire to keep moving. A week lounging by a pool or on a beach sipping a drink is no vacation for me. Two years ago I bought a horse (I've been a rider all my life, with zero formal instruction however, and am very "at home" in the saddle) while on vacation in Northern California (I'm a New Hampshire native and have lived there all my life) and spent several days alone riding through the Shasta Trinity Wilderness. It was peaceful- and interesting- and it felt *good*. I could keep moving- I need that - but it's the pace that I found most appealing. I observed my surroundings "up close and personal".

Which brings me to my decision to cross "seeing the Badlands" off my bucket list. *The Badlands*. Sounds like a challenge, and I like a challenge. I started searching for horseback trails available in western North Dakota. The first thing that came up on Google was the Maah Daah Hey Trail, and the description sounded perfect. I sent an email to the Association asking for advice about riding the MDHT horseback. I was referred to past-president Don Mayer of Dickinson as the Association's equine expert. I emailed Don and got a quick response. I have to say, he couldn't have

been more helpful. From an intimate knowledge of the entire trail to having a small herd of his own trail horses and experience guiding others along the Maah Daah Hey, I dare say he knows the subject better than anyone. He never questioned my sanity at the proposal to travel the original 100 miles of the Trail alone, and offered to help me find a horse to lease- perhaps even one of his own.

I spent the winter and spring making plans, reading, talking with Don occasionally. By August I was ready and boarded a flight to Dickinson. Don and his wife Susan met me at the airport on a day that had been 106 degrees. The following morning I tried out one of his horses and dun colored 15 year old gelding Roscoe seemed to fit the bill. Don, his buddy Rod Mitzel and I did a short 6 mile leg of the MDHT the next morning and all went well. After that, I rode alone, about 20 miles a day, from campground to campground, following the well-marked trail over the most varied (and sometimes challenging) terrain you could ever encounter. Don met me at each campground with supplies, and we went over the details of the next day's ride before he went home for the night. Thanks to him, I knew what to expect ahead each day- steep switchback climbs, wide open prairie, creek bottoms and draws, and with the good fortune to have perfect 60-80 degree days from Medora to the CCC at the northern terminus, the riding couldn't have been more pleasant. Along the way, other trail users (except for one group of a dozen mountain bikers) were almost non-existent, providing me with the complete solitude I was after.

Roscoe never took a false step for a hundred challenging miles. He never was startled by wild horses, range cattle, coyotes, countless deer or the two occasions that we jumped bull elk. It seemed surreal at the time- and it seems surreal looking back, but the solitude and raw beauty of the Badlands and the Maah Daah Hey Trail cannot be overstated. It is the "West" in it's truest form. I thank the MDHT Assoc. and it's dedicated volunteers like Don and Rod for this true American treasure.



Photo by Rodney Mitzel

Curt Glasoe Recognized

During the Coal Creek RTP volunteer day on July 31, Curt Glasoe was surprised and honored for all that he does for trails and more specifically the Maah Daah Hey Trail. Curt, with the support of his family, is a driving force for trails in western North Dakota and has been even before the Maah Daah Hey Trail came into being. In fact, you could say he is a father of the Maah Daah Hey Trail. Curt recognizes the importance of involving people and organizations in developing recreational opportunities. He has found common ground with ranchers, county commissioners, state and Federal agencies as well as non-governmental organizations to help people develop one of the recognized National Recreation Trails. Curt's extensive knowledge of building community and political support for trails as well as the experience in location and construction of trails through the badlands has made him a recognized and sought after expert and asset to communities across western North Dakota. To use a phrase Curt uses often, this recognition is for all that you do! Keep up the good work!

Trails Day and Work Day 2021

National Trails Day, observed on the Maah Daah Hey on June 5, and a Work Day on July 31 brought a total of 91 volunteers together to surface 1921 feet of trail in the Sully Creek and Coal Creek areas. This was done in support of the Recreational Trail Program grants MDHTA received. See the President's message on page 1 for more details. Enjoy the pictures, see if you can find yourself pictured.

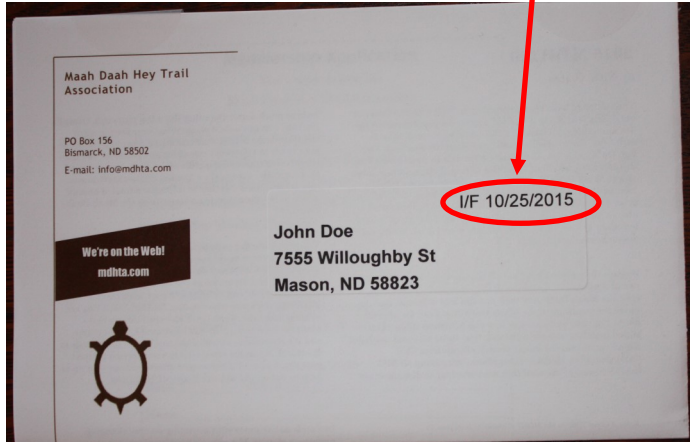


Russ Walsh (right) presents Curt Glasoe a stainless steel Maah Daah Hey post with the names of the first Forest Service trail construction crew, supervisor, specialists and trail coordinator. Guess who the trail coordinator was.



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

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

November 6, 2021	Guided Hike to Devils Pass—contact Mark Zimmerman markzimmerman38@outlook.com
April 23, 2022	MDHTA Annual Meeting, Eagles Club, Dickinson
June 4, 2022	Trails Day
TBA	Work Day at Coal Creek

Find us on 