



Turtle Tracks



Official Newsletter of the Maah Daah Hey Trail Association

Volume 21, Issue 4

President's Message

Hello to trail users:

Winter is slow to come to the North Dakota Badlands this year, temperatures in the 40s, 50s and 60s so far. This makes late fall use on the MDH very possible, and it is great to see the trail area this time of year. The hunting seasons are winding down and everyone is getting ready for the Christmas season. The MDH trail is still in the news. **The Journal** newspaper up in Divide County published two articles about the MDH recently highlighting Devils Pass and Ice Cave areas-two of my favorites.

First, we have to thank **Curtis Alkire**, a new Life Member as our 42nd Life member. And **Glee Mayer**, and **Peggy and John Fiedler** became Trail Boss members. 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 is a great time to remember our friends and members with MDH merchandize. The MDHTA has a great supply of **MDH merchandize**, including MDH books, maps, medallions, water bottles, patches, caps, T-shirts, etc. Just go to MDHTA.com, click on **STORE**, and place your order. These items make great Christmas gifts, and we can get them in the mail quickly.

MDHTA has received many good comments on the newly surfaced areas from the completed **Recreational Trail Program (RTP)** grants at Sully Creek and Coal Creek this past summer. The projects are all complete now and the money paid to the contractor. In 2022,

RTP grants from the ND State Park and Recreation Department have been preapproved that entail about 6 miles of trail surfacing split between the **Coal Creek** area and continuing along the **MDH on the Buffalo Gap** trail to the West River Road west of Medora. 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 workdays at the various locations to provide some of the share. Thanks again to all who volunteered last year to make our RTP projects a success.

Guided hikes along the MDH trail, is a new item from the Board. Thanks to **Mark Zimmerman, Glee Mayer and Jesse Hanson** who started these guided hikes. These hikes were readily accepted and enjoyed by trail users. Watch for future guided hikes on the MDH.

MDH Trail use is continuing to increase, according to Kevin Kirke of the ND Park and Rec at Sully Creek Park. They counted over 800 for the last two weeks in June and over 1600 users monthly numbers for July to October, meaning over 7200 trail users in these 4.5 months this past summer.

Please mail your **MDHT Challenge** documentation to PO Box 156, Bismarck, ND 58502 to get your mileage patches for 2021.

Our Facebook and MDHTA.com websites are updated and available for you to post about the MDH trail. A good place to document your experiences along the Trail.

Our spring **Annual Meeting** is scheduled in Dickinson, **April 23, 2022**, at the **Eagles Club**. We are working on the program giving updates on trail happenings and planning efforts in the MDH area. A big **Thank You** to the **EAGLES club** in Dickinson, the MDHTA

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Special point of interest:

- *Devils Pass received its name long before the MDHT. As told by Albert Hlebchuk, a road traversed this pass that was a "devil" to cross due to the slick clays and silts. When a new gravel road was established in the 1980's the old road was abandoned. But the name stuck.*

Forest Service Update

by Devin Olson, Trails Manager, Little Missouri National Grassland, USDA-Forest Service

Hello everyone. I'm Devin, my wife Lindsay and my daughter Delaney joined me on the move to North Dakota! I was born and raised in Denver, CO and I have been working at Rocky Mountain National Park as a trail crew work leader for the past 5 years. Over my 13-year trails career I



have worked in both the federal sector and non-profit organizations. I was lucky enough to work in many different places including Montana, Utah, Arizona, Idaho, California, Alaska and Hawaii. I hope I will be bringing a wide range of experience and knowledge with me to the Dakota Prairie National Grasslands program. I also look forward to learning new skills and knowledge from all the staff in the Dakotas. I'm sure there will be lots for me to learn moving forward and I hope I will be a valuable asset to the Forest Service and trail users.

Beyond work we as a family much enjoy all types of outdoor recreation, BBQs, road trips and sports! I'm a big Denver Broncos fan, Colorado Avalanche and Denver University hockey/ lacrosse fan. I'm hoping to start watching NDSU football and hopefully attending a game this season. And trying to learn how to ice skate this winter as a family. I look forward to meeting you soon and getting started in my new role with the Forest Service.

Hikin' on the Edge

by Mark Zimmerman, MDHTA 2nd Vice President

An invigorating 4 “+” mile hike brought 29 orange clad (for hunter safety) hikers to the edge—the edge at Devils Pass! Hiking through the trail covered in quaking aspen leaves or traversing the trail along the high plateau on the way to Devils Pass, the Maah Daah Hey Trail Association’s second guided hike of the 2021 season, conducted on November 6th, was a great success.

The views across the rugged badlands are always awesome. Add the picture perfect weather, mostly clear deep blue skies, a welcome breeze and a temperature just right for exploring and it was truly a great day to be hiking this northern section of the Maah Daah Hey. Hikers from Bismarck, Minot, Stanley, Mott, Hensler, Devils Lake and Mandan enjoyed the challenge of hiking out to Devils Pass from the Magpie Trailhead, with 10 hardy souls completing an out and back hike for over 9 miles.

Comments included Jayne Greuel stating “November on the Maah Daah Hey- who would have thought? Great day, Great hike! Thank you everyone!” and Lisa Kudelka saying “A wonderful hike on a beautiful fall day. A great group”

A quote from Peggy Fiedler, hiker from Mott, perhaps sums it up best:

“This kind of service by the Association allows for hikers with various kinds of abilities and endurance capabilities to enjoy this remarkable trail. And those hikers? Just a great bunch of folks taking a break from everyday life and the world’s issues to enjoy fresh air in an unrivaled area of North Dakota.”

A big thank you to everyone for participating in the hike. Look for more hikes and information on hiking destinations along the Maah Daah Hey Trail on our Facebook page—Maah Daah Hey Trail.



Membership Recognition—Thank You!

Life Members:

* Curtis Alkire
Roger & Pat Ashley
Sandy Baertsch
Bahne, Kay, Charlie & Anna Bahnson
Gerard & Mary Kay Baker
Glenn & Jolene Baranko
Brittney Barnett & Daniel Dwyer
Bruce & Roberta Bishop
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
Jesse Hanson & Lisa Kudelka
Ron & Sheila Hartl
Dale & Jennifer Heglund
Heidi Heitkamp & Darwin Lange
William Hoeg
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:

Chris Michel
Jarrod & Michaela Schell
Denise Steinbach

Trail Boss:

*Peggy & John Fiedler
*Glee Mayer

Founding:

Kim & Joseph Callahan
Paul Conrad
Brittney Denesha
Dickinson Convention & Visitors Bureau
Lucas Graf
Andrew Howick
Jeremy Mahowald
Amy McCann
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

President's Message (Continued from page 1)

received a \$2000 donation from them to put towards our 2022 RTP projects

Here is to a great holiday season and hope this finds you out enjoying the **MAAH DAAH HEY Trail**.

Have a **Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!**

Happy Trails.

Curtis W. Glasoe – President - MDHTA

Looking for that Perfect Christmas Gift for the Maah Daah Hey Trail Fan on your Shopping List?

by Mark Zimmerman, MDHTA 2nd Vice President

Hiram Rogers, a geologist, avid hiker, trail runner and mountain biker has authored the second edition of a must have book and guide for all those interested in the Maah Daah Hey Trail. A perfect Christmas gift for the outdoor enthusiast that has just about everything they need for an adventure in the North Dakota badlands.

Titled *Trails of the North Dakota Badlands and Prairie*, Rogers has compiled a wealth of information on many trails across North Dakota—the trails of Theodore Roosevelt National Park, Little Missouri National Grasslands, North Country National Scenic Trail and the Sheyenne National Grasslands and other trails in state parks and other areas across the state. But most importantly over 75 pages are devoted to detailed information on the Maah Daah Hey Trail.

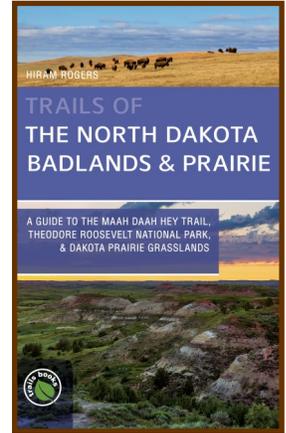
Rogers breaks up the guide into sections of the trail starting at Burning Coal Vein Campground and following the trail north to the CCC campground. Each section provides access information including GPS coordinates and driving directions, highlights along that section of the trail and additional information on available maps including the National Grasslands map for the Maah Daah Hey Trail as well as the USGS map for the area. His narrative for each section of the trail is great—I felt like I was on the trail listening to his description of where to go and what I will see. Great photos from along the trail really gets you excited

about being in the great outdoors of the western North Dakota badlands.

Great information is also provided on the Ice Caves, Long X and Cottonwood-Bennett Loops, and very informative tables on trip planning, water cache locations and a detailed table of mileage along the Maah Daah Hey Trail.

This is a valuable guide for those folks planning a day hike, a weekend horse ride and maybe even a mountain bike trek covering the entire 144 miles of the MDHT as well as the 30 miles of connecting trails. Whatever your choice of travel may be, this guidebook will be a wonderful addition to your resources for planning an adventure of the Maah Daah Hey Trail.

“*Trails of the North Dakota Badlands and Prairie*” by Hiram Rogers is published by Trails Books—an imprint of Bower House. It is available through the Store on MDHTA.COM for \$22.00 + tax (which helps MDHTA trail projects).



Home On the Range girls and boys helping on the Maah Daah Hey

by Jesse Hanson, MDHTA Treasurer

Each year on National Trails Day, the Maah Daah Hey Trail Association sponsors a volunteer work day on the trail. For nearly all of the past 20 years a consistent volunteer group we can count on at Trails Day is the Home on the Range youth residential home. Located near Beach, North Dakota, Home on the Range was established in 1949 as a residential working ranch for “at risk” youth ages 12 through 18. Home on the Range brings from 6 to 12 youth to each work day, all ready and willing to swing shovels, handle rakes, push wheelbarrows and any other trail work the Association has planned. Youth from Home on the Range have contributed thousands of volunteer hours on the Maah Daah Hey trail. Their contin-

uing contribution to sustaining the trail is greatly appreciated by the Association and trail users from across the country benefit from their hard work.



Photo by Pat Ashley

Trail Notes

In the last issue (Vol 21, Issue 3, page 2) of Turtle Tracks Mark Zimmerman and Glee Mayer led a September hike from Andrews Creek to Sully Creek State Park via the MDHT. Unfortunately we ran out of room in that issue for the photos of the group and we wish to include a couple of pictures taken of that hike. If you attended find yourself, if not look closely you might find a neighbor or friend.



Photo by Glee Mayer



Photo by Glee Mayer

RTP THANKS

Curt Glasoe, President of MDHTA met with Senator John Hoven on November 9 to thank him for supporting the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) and asked him to keep supporting trails in ND. Senator Hoven still remembers when the MDHTA was recognized with a recreation award while he was Governor. He still has the turtle pin Curt gave him.



REPORT TRAIL MAINTENANCE ISSUES

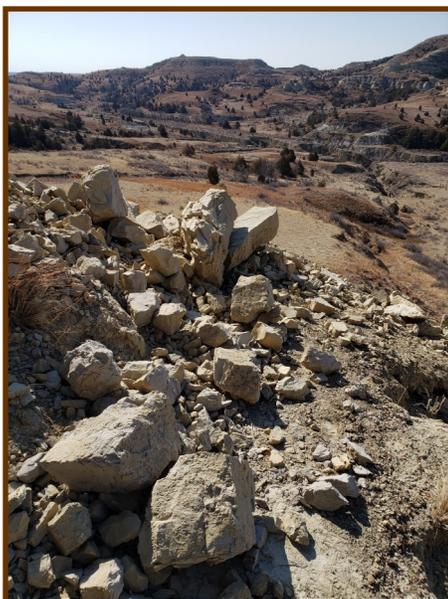


Photo by Pat Ashley

Trail users can help the Forest Service by reporting trail maintenance problems through the MDHTA.COM website. The form can be found under the "Contact" tab. At the end of the second sentence you will find the "trail upkeep form" in red. Click on this link and it will take you directly to the form. You will

need to leave your name and email address. A space is provided where you can describe the problem. GPS coordinates are helpful so if you have a GPS device or your smart phone has a GPS app you should be able to complete that portion of the form though GPS is not required. You will need to note where the problem is located, for example between Mile Post 55 and 56. Also you can attach a photo of the problem. When you press the "Submit" button the information will be sent to MDHTA as well as the US Forest Service.



Photo by Roger Ashley

Trail Statistics

by Roger Ashley

The Maah Daah Hey Trail and connecting trails continue to be a popular attraction in the North Dakota Badlands. At first glance you could easily believe that there was a decrease in use from 2020 since trail registers reported 356 fewer sign-ins for 2021. However, three registers were missing at the end of the season. Last year a trail counter operated by MDHTA just south of the Sully Creek State Park recorded 6,091 trail events at that location or about 22 times more than those individuals who registered at the trailhead located within the State Park. This year the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department operated a counter on the trail inside Sully Creek State Park. A fence and cattle guard keeps livestock out of the State Park though wildlife could affect counts if counts are not analyzed and erroneous data not removed. Those interested in knowing more about how trail counters work and the pitfalls of counter data can refer to the fall issue of Turtle Tracks Vol 20, Issue 3, page 6, found on MDHTA.COM This year the count within the park was 7,200 or a 1,109 (about 15%) increase in counts over last year's counts. When compared for the season to the register at Sully, the counter registered 15 times more than the number who signed the trail register. The last half of June trail counts were about 19 times the number who signed the trail register. As years of data are accumulated, we will probably be more certain of trail use though usage is probably greater than what trail registers are indicating.

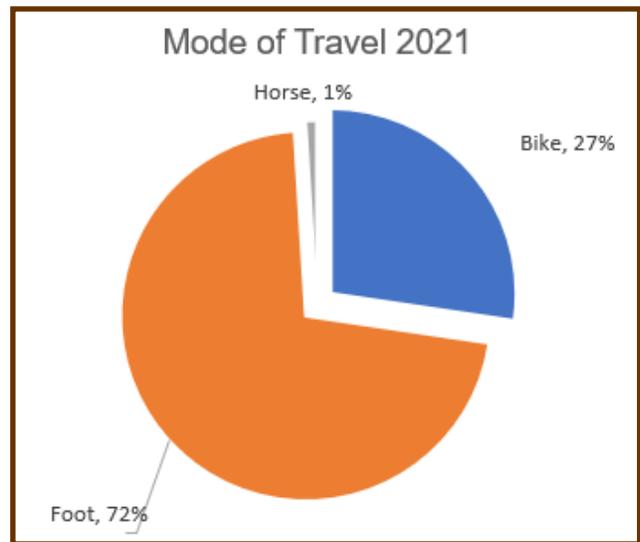
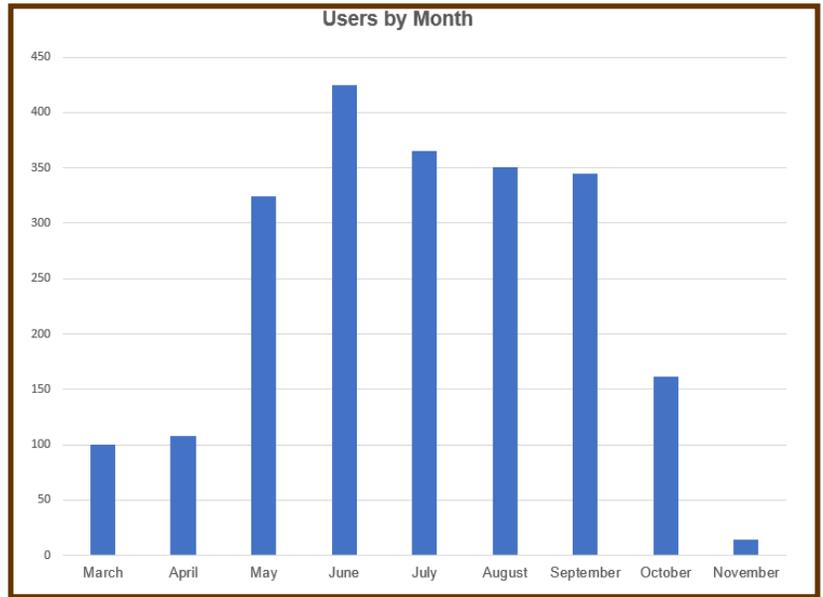
The following data plots are from trail registers so this is what trail users are reporting at the trail head. June is still the most popular month for trail expeditions followed by July, August and September. This is slightly different from what was reported in 2020 as May 2020 was second to June that year.

Trail registers also disclosed the mode of travel, that is how did the user traveled down the trail. Trail registers showed a tendency towards more hikers in 2021 and 2020 (see fall issue of Turtle Tracks, Vol 20, Issue 3) than in 2018 when 60% reported hiking, 34% biking, and 6% equestrian. Little difference in mode of travel can be seen between 2021 and 2020 pie charts.

We need to point out that in addition to trail registration and counts the US Forest Service tracks group uses of the trail including bike and foot races and trail rides and requires it when gatherings exceed 75 or more people. Numbers are not shown here. Many smaller groups as well as individuals will also host events outside of trailheads and are not counted or reported. Also, the US Forest Service,

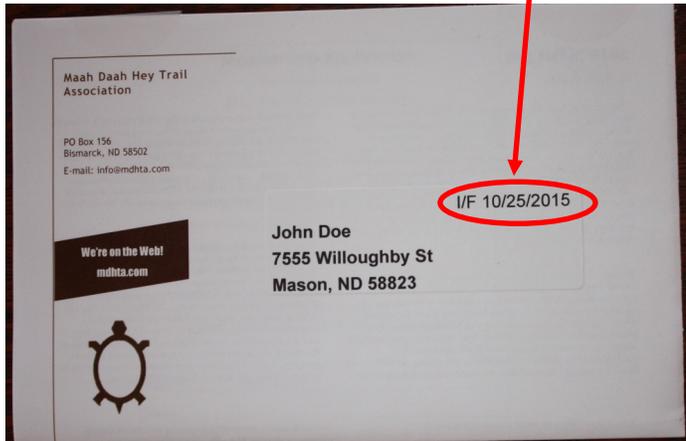
National Park Service, and State Parks review camp site occupancy as indicators of facility and trail use.

Why do we track trail use? Granting organizations require information about use to justify any grants they provide. So please sign the registers.



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 - trail map & turtle pin | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$250+ Corporate Membership | |

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

April 23, 2022	MDHTA Annual Meeting, Eagles Club, Dickinson
June 4, 2022	Trails Day
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 