



Turtle Tracks



Official Newsletter of the Maah Daah Hey Trail Association

Volume 23, Issue 1

President's Message

Hello to trail users:

Hey, the snow is very deep as I type this *Turtle Tracks* issue on the first day of SPRING. Wow, the winter has been long and we really got the snow, and still do have it across the whole countryside. Well, to get to snowshoe or cross-country ski on the MDH is very unusual, but this winter it has been possible in many areas.

To bring trail users up to date, I want to thank all the **new or renewed members** who still support the MDH mission to **Promote and Maintain the MDH trail system**. Your support is really appreciated and makes our job easier to do. We have three new life members to **THANK** for their generous donations, They are **Kathy and Matt Fischer Valan; Angie Seligman and Randy Krogstad; and Andrea Stomberg and Bruce Britton**. Due to the large number of Life Members we now have on board, we have to get an extension on the Life Member Kiosk sign on TRMF lands south of Sully Creek State Park. Also, **THANK YOU** to **Roger and Pat Ashley** for editing and preparing this Turtle Tracks Newsletter

The **MDH trail** is in the 2023 **North Dakota Travel Guide** magazine (listed on numerous pages) and has been in the news many times since last fall.

The **MDHTA** has received preapproval for two 2023 **Recreational Trail Program (RTP)** grants from the **ND State Park and Recreation Department**. One is about a mile of trail restoration surfacing of the trail to **White Butte** the highest point in ND. The second one is constructing $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of new trail to connect from the Coal Creek Campground to the MDH trail to provide a loop trail out of the **Coal Creek Campground**. Stay tuned for a volunteer workday on **National Trails Day, Saturday, June 3**, on the White Butte project.

The *Trails of the North Dakota Badlands and Prairie* book and maps are our biggest sellers on our website store. Check out MDHTA.com, click on **STORE**, and place your order. All profits made from this store go towards the match from the **RTP** folks on basis of getting our 20% share covered on these projects. In addition, **Guided Hikes and Rides** along the MDH trail are being planned for this spring and summer for trail users, watch the MDH Facebook and website for more information on these exciting endeavors.

We have our **Annual Meeting** scheduled for **April 22, 2023**, in Dickinson, at the **Eagles Club**, with our keynote speaker being selected. We also will be electing two Board Members, catching up on local updates, have a silent auction, and presenting MDH merchandise for sale.

The additional moisture due to higher than normal snow levels and normal spring rains will present a different spring than usual as to trail conditions. Ice and snow will leave the north facing slopes and shaded areas last so I am sure there will be areas on the MDH that will be damaged or will be hard to use due to these wet conditions. My comment is: **PLEASE** be patient with spring arriving late, and also report any problem areas you encounter to the Forest Service, MDHTA.com, or our Maah Daah Hey Trail Association Facebook page.

Here is to a great spring thaw and start planning your trip to the **MAAH DAAH HEY Trail** this coming field season.

See you at the **Annual Meeting** in Dickinson in April!

Happy Trails.
Curtis W. Glasoe—President

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Point of Interest:

- *Theodore Roosevelt National Park typically receives a total of 12-24 inches of snow in the winter.*
- *Seldom is there enough snow to ski or snowshoe in the Badlands.*

MDHTA Annual Meeting—April 22

The MDHTA annual meeting will be held Saturday, April 22, 2023 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 \$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 10** 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 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

Trail reports from the organizations that support the Maah Daah Hey Trail System will be given. This includes the US

Forest Service, National Park Service, North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department, Convention and Visitor Bureaus and Save the MDH. An election of two members for three-year terms to the board will be conducted. Our featured presentation will be on *Women's Perspectives on Hiking the Maah Daah Hey*.

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. Last year, 2022, 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!

US Forest Service Update

by Aimee Kittilson, Lead Trails Technician, Little Missouri National Grassland, USDA Forest Service

As spring quickly approaches, we are busy planning this summer's projects and attempting to hire seasonal staff to complete them.

Our first project this summer will consist of constructing a new trailhead and rerouting the Maah Daah Hey Trail south of Medora along East River Road. The new sections of trail will connect the Maah Daah Hey Trail to the new trailhead. This trailhead will create a safer place for trail users to park, unload, and cross East River Road. We plan to begin construction of the trail reroute in June with the assistance of the Montana Conservation Corps. Possible names are still being considered, so if anyone has good suggestions for trailhead names please let us know!

In addition, the Survey Monument Extension will be constructed this summer thanks to the Maah Daah Hey Trail Association and funding through an RTP grant. This will add 1500 feet of new trail to connect the existing Survey Monument Trail to the Maah Daah Hey Trail. Connecting these trails will create a new 1.5 mile loop for trail users to enjoy near Coal Creek Campground. We appreciate the Maah Daah Hey Trail Association leading the effort on this project.

To gain a better understanding of the current condition of the trails on the Little Missouri National Grasslands, we will be completing a comprehensive trail condition survey this summer. These condition surveys provide information on the trail and help us create a better system for prioritizing maintenance needs.

In addition to our trail projects, we will also be conducting National Visitor Use Monitoring surveys. These surveys will provide us with estimates of recreation visitation numbers and provide information on activity participation, demographics, and visit duration to the National Grasslands. If you come across us conducting a survey while you're out recreating on the grasslands, please stop and give us your input!

We are excited for another season of busy recreation and trails activities, and we're looking forward to partnering with all of you who volunteer to help us make the trail a world class destination. If anyone is interested in volunteer opportunities with the US Forest Service this summer, please contact our office.

Membership Recognition—Thank You!

Life Members:

Curtis Alkire
Bethany & Levi Andrist
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
*Kathy & Matt Fischer Valan
Stephen & Barbara Fix
Curt & Carol Glasoe
Matthew, Carter & Chase 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
Noe Mateo, M.D.
Don & Susan Mayer
Medora Convention & Visitors Bureau
Rodney & Carolyn Mitzel
John R. Olson
Linda Pancratz Family Foundation
Mike Parke
Charles & Sandra Peterson
Hiram Rogers & Jean Gauger
*Angie Seligman & Randy Krogstad
Brian Selland
Jason, Jennifer, Morgan & Elliot Stiefel

Diane Stoltz Family
*Andrea Stomberg & Bruce Britton
Vonne Tarnavsky
Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation
Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library Foundation
Loa Tober
Glenny Ulschak
Ryan and Amy Vojacek
Steve & Janet Wieser
Nick & Lindsey Ybarra
Mark Zimmerman

Post Marker:

Glee Mayer

Trail Boss:

Peggy & John Fiedler
Jason Signalness

Founding:

Spring Bakke
Kim & Joseph Callahan
Michelle Callahan
Paul Conrad
Barb Fetters
Donald Kingston
Kevin Kirkey
Elda Martinez
Loren & Jennifer Morlock
Thomas Schneider
Leonard Stanley
Robert C. Stein
Shannon Straight
Freida Tebelius
Tom & Sharon Tudor
Sarah Vogel

In Memoriam

Denton & Paulette Berntson
Kyle Brierley
Aileen Luethe
Morris Tarnavsky

* Denotes new member at this level since last
Turtle Tracks

The Story Behind the Name

by Gerard Baker, Yellow Wolf

Editor's note: Gerard Baker, Yellow Wolf, is Mandan-Hidatsa and retired as an Assistant Director of the National Park Service. Gerard along with his wife Mary Kay own and operate the Grave Yard Creek Ranch near Miles City, Montana. They raise Scottish Highland and Angus cattle. The Maah Daah Hey Trail Association is proud to have Gerard and Mary Kay as Life members.

Maah-Daah-Hey in the Mandan language simply means "Grandfather", however it is the meaning from the Mandan Culture perspective that one needs to understand to see how and why this name fits the "Maah-Daah-Hey Trail." Here is the story:

I was a National Park Service (NPS) Ranger at both the South and North Units of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. I served in both seasonal and permanent capacities. (I retired from the NPS after 36 years having spent most of my years serving in western National Parks, finally ending up in Washington D.C.) I did a number of duties which took me out on a lot of trails and roads in both units, including the Maah-Daah-Hey, which at that time was another trail in the Badlands that sometimes was used to run the buffalo that escaped into the neighbor's wheat field back into the Park on horseback and sometimes it was used to just hike and do many other tasks for the NPS.

I grew up on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation near a small town of Mandaree on our cattle and horse ranch in a household that spoke Hidatsa, Mandan and English. My mother was an Hidatsa and a bit of Sahnish, my father was mostly Mandan and was a fluent speaker of the Mandan language. As my mother was an Hidatsa, we lived in a matrilineal household, understanding of course that most of the Mandans had been killed off during two Smallpox Epidemics in the 1700's and 1800's, and a host of other diseases and such throughout the generations so that most of the Mandan had died off.

I believe my father was one of the last few people that could speak Mandan fluently. I remember when other speakers would come and visit, I loved to listen to them, really not understanding a single word, again with Hidatsa spoken the majority of the time. I came to love to listen to my dad when we went riding on our cattle herd and other ranch duties that would bring my dad and I together, it was at these times when he would speak of Maah-Daah-Hey and what it meant. He told of the Mandans and of stories that he heard when he was growing up with his Mandan Grandmother, Many Growths. After thinking, listening and remembering these stories, Maah-Daah-Hey was a great fit after I was asked by my friend Curt Glasoe if I would name the trail. I would also talk a lot of this area with my riding buddy, the late Morris Tarnavsky as we would put the miles on running cows.

I was asked what this trail is and what it meant to many, many people throughout the ages that utilized it one way or another. As today, it was mainly used to get someplace, but the early users, like the ones today, can, maybe feel not only the trail but the many spirits that are there. I am sure in the very early days the Mandan people, be it a hunting party, a war party, or the entire village traveling all or parts of this

trail. I hope like many users today, they would go to bed with the sounds of the Badlands and each morning wake up and say a prayer with the early morning for the day.

The Mandan Tribe lived in earth lodges along the Missouri River but, according to oral history I have heard, would hunt and go on war parties far to the West, no doubt using this trail. The Mandans were a trading and Agricultural Tribe and the hub of the Northern Great Plains before the Smallpoxes came. They lived in earth lodge villages which were fortified by cottonwood planks about 10' high. As many as 15 plus family members could live in each lodge, plus a favorite hunting or war pony.

All family members played a role within the tribe and these groups were organized by Clans and Societies. The Clans were an age grade, based on learning and the responsibilities of each specific clan, and the Societies served as the social groupings within the tribe. One would be born into your mother's clan and you would remain a member of that clan for life, whereas the Society as an age-grade organization would be inducted into their first "learning" Society and as one grows older, your Societies would change depending on many things, even dreams could have an effect and outcome of this. It is within this concept where the name "Maah-Daah-Hey" or "Grandfather" appeared for me.

In this family structure no matter how young or old you are, you are either a Grandfather or you always have a grandfather. As an example, in our family structure your mother's brothers are not your uncles, but your grandfather and that is their role. We have many Grandfathers and they are all the same, each of them can fill that role, a role of your main support, an individual where you can always go and they will make you feel so much better, but can also be hard on you, to make you learn, so Maah-Daah-Hey, "Grandfather" is one whom you learn from, like the trail you could go to it and walk and listen. If you listen with all your spirit you not only hear but you learn. The "Grandfather" symbolizes many things to many people, as does this trail. It is a place where you can wake up to the early morning sounds of the animals of the Badlands as one would have many, many years ago, and today you may still hear the sounds, feel the feelings. You may be lucky to wake to an early morning Thunder Storm, along with Maah-Daah-Hey it has its own power, and again you listen and feel the Grandfather.

This name not only honors the Mandan Tribe, but honors this Trail and what it represents, a get-away, a place to pray, a place to watch the activity of the Badlands, a place to feel the afternoon heat and the morning cool, but most of all it is a place where you can go and be with MAAH-DAAH-HEY.

Snowshoe Adventure on the MDHT

by Amy Jo Vojacek, Vice President, MDHTA

Snow has covered the Maah Daah Hey Trail since late October, making trail users restless for spring. Let's not forget that outdoor winter fun can still be had on the MDHT. My family and I set out to prove just that. In between blizzards, subzero temps, wind and road closures we were able to find sunny calm days to snowshoe areas of the trail.

Snowshoeing provides a unique trail experience with a fantastic full body workout. Thank goodness the snow

wasn't deep enough to cover the wooden trail markers! We found our way along the trail easily while enjoying spectacular views of the badlands glistening with snow. It was fun to see the wildlife out enjoying the sun and identifying their tracks in the fresh snow.

Next time you find yourself wishing winter away, challenge yourself to find the good in all seasons.



L-R: Ryan, Amy, Rachel & Nick

Tourism Day at the State Capitol

by Mark Zimmerman, 2nd Vice President, MDHTA

"I have been on the Maah Daah Hey Trail and can't wait to get back for a hike." "I have heard so much about biking the Maah Daah Hey Trail, that I just have to get out there and try it!" These were a couple of the comments from visitors to the Maah Daah Hey Trail Association booth at the North Dakota Tourism Day at the state capitol, held during the current legislative session. Legislators, capitol complex employees and folks from other tourism destinations across the state stopped by the booth to check up on the latest news about the trail. In his remarks during the Tourism Day event, Governor Doug Burgum specifically mentioned the Maah Daah Hey Trail as a true gem in the western North Dakota badlands and encouraged North Dakotans and visitors to the state to explore and enjoy all the trail has to offer.

A "bully" thank you to Curt, Jesse, and Glee for performing the host duties at the booth. Great ambassadors for the trail. The Maah Daah Hey Trail is well known across the state, thanks in a very large part

to the work of promotion and maintenance of the trail by the Maah Daah Hey Trail Association



L-R: Glee Mayer, Curt Glasoe, Jesse Hanson. Photo by Dale Heglund

Water Cache Boxes

by Roger Ashley


The MDHT has eight water boxes distributed along the trail. Box locations were determined by where known potable water sources are along the trail. You can find the box locations on the 2018 Maah Daah Hey National Recreation Trail map, the *Trails of The North Dakota Badlands & Prairie* by Hiram Rogers and the interactive Trail Guide on MDHTA.COM. Potable water can be found at campgrounds. Potable means biologically safe to drink but doesn't indicate the taste of the water or mineral content. The Forest Service checks water wells at campgrounds every spring to assure users that the water is safe to drink. Water you might find in springs, water developments for stock, streams and rivers are not all tested so it is user beware. We do know from testing by the North Dakota Department of Health, the Little Missouri River is known to have high coliform bacteria counts. These sources can generally provide water that is drinkable after filtering and/or treating with a disinfectant. Water Cache boxes are provided for trail users to store their own drinking water. People used to cache water along the trail and still do in some cases but caching in a water box makes it easier to find and has a certain amount of protection from direct exposure to the weather and animals that might find the water container. Often people either would forget where their water was cached or didn't bother to pack out their empties so overtime these water containers would blow around in the wind ending up where they didn't belong.

Trail users wanting to use water cache boxes should note a few courtesies or rules. First these water cache boxes are user supplied. That is, if you expect to use water from these caches you will need to drop water off in the box prior to your trail adventure or at least have a support person or business do that for you. Some people don't use all the water they stock and leave it behind for others to use, but don't depend on it.

Once a water container is empty you should pack it out. The Forest Service doesn't currently have the resources to monitor and clean out the caches. Some users at the same time they drop off their water supply will pick up the empties left by previous users. This certainly helps keep the caches in order and usable. Second, trail users should mark their water containers with their name and date when they will be by to pick up their water. Without a name and date the container may be empty or gone by the time the expected trail user arrives. The name and date also provides information to MDHTA volunteers who monitor the water caches as to what containers can be removed as well as trail users who are running short of water as to what they might be able to use without shorting someone else.

Don't store food or trash in water cache boxes. Over the last seven or eight years that the caches have been in use, we've noted two instances where food or trash has been left in the boxes. All I can say its not a very pleasant experience to remove and it requires extra work to wash the cache out.

The Forest Service has provided decals for display on top of the water cache box providing a reminder of how to use them. Clean drinking water is a must for the trail.

Maah Daah Hey Trail Water Cache

WATER ONLY

PACK IT IN, PACK IT OUT – NO TRASH

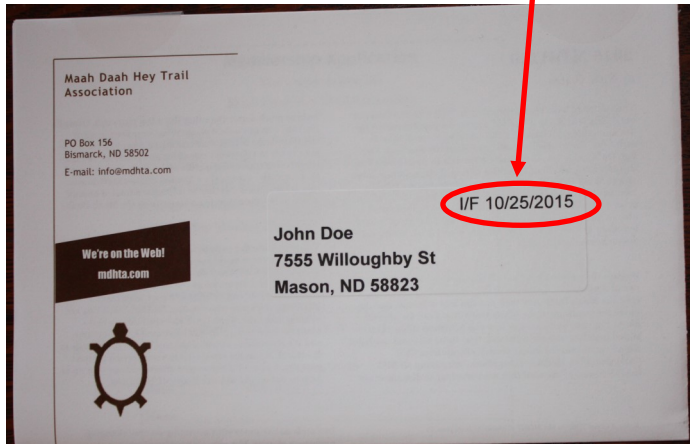
Mark Your Water Bottles with your Name & Date.
Some donated water may be in cache.
Only take as much as you need.

Water cache box and donated water has been provided by the Maah Daah Hey Trail Association in Partnership with the U.S. Forest Service.

USFS Medora Ranger District (701) 227-7800

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"/> Please do not send a thank you gift, apply it all to the trail | |

\$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/Treasurer—Jesse Hanson
Britney Barnett—At Large
Glee Mayer—At Large

Dates to Remember

April 22, 2023	MDHTA Annual Meeting—Eagles Club, Dickinson
June 3, 2023	National Trails Day—White Butte

Mission Statement: 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 