



# Turtle Tracks



Official Newsletter of the Maah Daah Hey Trail Association

Volume 19, Issue 2

## President's Message

### Hello to Trail users:

Spring has passed and summer is upon us, and everyone is very happy to see some warmer temps and some scattered rain showers, maybe not so much the rain. The rain makes the unsurfaced portions of the MDH trail very difficult to use, if not impassable, but we are working on that situation... **MDHTA** was successful in obtaining our first **RTP grant** to surface two miles of trail around Sully Creek State Park. We will be responsible for 20% of the \$55,000 grant. This 20% share can be either volunteer work days or cash in hand. So keep in tune for these work days or just donate to the cause.

Next I would like to recognize our membership and especially our newest **Life members – Mark Zimmerman and Gerard and Mary Kay Baker, and Greg and Michele Gunderson.** A big **THANK YOU** to all our new members and all who renewed their memberships, it is you folks that make the organization run and accomplish what we do as an organization. Please check the date on the Turtle tracks for your membership renewal anniversary.

We have received two benches supplied by the REC **Roundup grant** prepared by **Rod Mitzel**, from last January; they will be installed this summer at Wannagon and Elk Horn trailheads. This project is getting closer to completion as we get donations for the benches, only three to go to complete one at each trailhead on the MDH. **Roger and Pat Ashley and Mark Zimmerman** along with other volunteers have placed numerous turtle signs on the MDH posts and kept up clearing along the

way on 7 miles of trail so far this season.

**Bruce Bishop** continues to clean up the water caches for the trail users. **Bruce** also handles our very successful **MDH Challenge**, so get involved and see how many miles you can log this season on the MDH trail.

Thanks to **Roger Ashley**, we have answered many email requests for information and have filled over 109 orders since January. The big items besides the new 2018 version of the MDH trail map (102 sent) are water bottles and MDH trail T-shirts and caps.

There was quite a spread in the **North Dakota Horizons** magazine this spring on the MDH trail and the **volunteers** keeping the trail mowed and clearing minor slumps, etc. Way to go, **Save the MDH!!!**

We held our **Annual meeting** in Dickinson at the Eagles, had another good turnout, a very good meal, and listened to the "Bat Dr", **Dr. Paul Barnhart** of DSU, give a lively presentation on "**Bats in the Badlands**"; **Roger Ashley** went over the fastest known time MDH 144 mile trail run by **Ben Love**. The silent auction was a success, thanks to all the folks who donated items for the auction. The membership changed the **Bylaws** to allow for more **Board members**, we now can have at least five but not over seven Board members. Then we elected **Jesse Hanson** (3 yr term), **Nathaniel Bishop**, and **Brent McCluskey** (2 year terms) to the Board. Congrats and welcome aboard!! You will hear more from them later in the TT. **Thanks much** for the service of **Rod Mitzel** and **Bruce Bishop** on the Board. We are still looking for a **Treasurer**; please let a Board member know if you or you know someone

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### Special point of interest:

- *In the 1920's a local rancher stored beef in the Ice Caves to keep it fresh all summer, although animals got in and helped themselves to some of the meat. Also, people would picnic in the area with the highlight being making ice cream from the available ice.*

# Forest Service Update

by Will Horneman, Dakota Prairie Grasslands Lead Trail Technician

Greetings Turtle Tracks readers, I am happy to report that a busy and productive season is upon us. The Dakota Prairie Grasslands Trails Program is in full swing maintaining and improving numerous trails, including the Maah Daah Hey National Recreation Trail. I will report on accomplished, current, and planned projects for our 2019 season.

There are three new recruits on the DPG Trails Crew this season. They have been hard at work mowing, brushing, and performing various trails tasks across the Dakota Prairie Grasslands.

The Forest Service, with assistance from volunteers, has finished the rehabilitation of Wannagan Trailhead and construction of Wannagan Spur Trail. I recommend that members of the public that wish to access the MDHT in this area make use of Wannagan Trailhead instead of Wannagan Campground. This will help to increase the solitude of the camp. Also, please make use of the spur trail and avoid using FS road 726 to access the MDHT. The increasing amount of vehicles and trail users on the road can make for a hazardous situation.

DPG Trails Crew has also, in an effort to increase safety, replaced aging trail crossing signs at multiple road crossings. We ask that members of the public use our Trailheads and do not park or unload along roadsides to access trail.

The Montana Conservation Corps and the Forest Service put our participating agreement to work this season with a nine day hitch on the MDHT. Twenty-three miles of trail were maintained in the areas between Sully Creek State Park and Tom's Wash Trailhead.

Currently, the Forest Service is engaged in multiple projects relating to trails and trail access. Trail restoration on the Maah Daah Hey in the Magpie and Ice Caves areas is displaying tremendous results. This eighteen mile restoration project is expected to be completed by the end of August 2019.

*President's Letter (Continued from page 1)*

who is interested in this important job.

The **MDH trail 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary** came off without a hitch attended by about 60 people. **Gerard Baker** gave a very good speech on the history of the MDH and the origin of the **MDH name**. Many dignitaries from Dickinson Convention Bureau, NPS, USFS, ND State Parks, ND Tourism, local ranchers, and the past spoke on the MDH trail history. **Sue Mosser** presented the Flag via horse back as it was by **Les Albaugh** in 1999. The catered lunch prepared by Mulligan's was enjoyed by all. The new Kiosk for Life members was unveiled and a big hit since we had planned to give **Gerard Baker and Mary Kay Baker** an "Honorary Life

We have also been hard at work refurbishing our kiosks at Trailheads and Campgrounds. By seasons end the project will be completed. Members of the public will benefit from the prominently displayed information. This will include a detailed map and trail information and regulations.

Our Dakota Prairie Grasslands Trails Crew continues to work hard maintaining over 250 miles of trail on three National Grasslands. I would like to thank all of you who call or email in to report downed trees, landslides, sinkholes, etc. Also, many thanks to all the members of the public who volunteer their time, hard work, and expertise to improve your trails for everyone.

The Forest Service has multiple projects planned for the end of this season and the next. Hanson Trail will be constructed this fall. This trail will provide access to the Hanson Overlook Point of interest. Soon we will begin survey and design for our 2020 trails projects. These include the restoration of Cottonwood trail, construction of Sunset Trail, MDHT reroutes, and low water crossings at Blacktail and Andrew's Creeks.

Again, thank you to all of our volunteers. Seeing so many members of the public engaged in their public lands, is a great experience. If you are interested in volunteering please contact your organization or myself directly. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or reports on trail condition. Lastly, good luck to all of those participating in events and trail races this season. Please have a safe season and remember to drink plenty of water!

Will Horneman  
DPG Lead Trails Technician  
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Membership" but he also was becoming one unbeknownst to the MDHTA. So their names were on the kiosk when we took the cover off, much to Gerard's surprise. He still donated the \$1000 as a new Life Member, so thanks again. And a **BIG THANK YOU to all** who helped make this Anniversary a success.

Please contact myself or a Board member if you have any suggestions, recommendations, items, or ideas for the FS or the MDHTA about keeping or improving the MDH trail. Enjoy the rest of summer and fall (my best time on the trail). Please holler if you have any questions about the MDH trail system.

Happy Trails, Curtis W. Glasoe – President - MDHTA

# Membership Recognition—Thank You!

## Life Members:

Roger & Pat Ashley  
 \*Gerard and Mary Kay Baker  
 Glenn & Jolene Baranko  
 Bruce & Roberta Bishop  
 Chad & Emily Mitzel Brackelsberg  
 Tom & Sherri Dickson  
 Kenneth & Norma Eberts  
 Curt & Carol Glasoe  
 \*Greg and Michele Gunderson  
 Ron & Sheila Hartl  
 William Hoeg  
 Jesse Hanson & Lisa Kudelka  
 Dale & Jennifer Heglund  
 Christa Kron  
 Mike & Chandra Langseth  
 Mark Liebig  
 Ron & Aileen Luethe  
 Don & Susan Mayer  
 Medora Convention & Visitors Bureau  
 Rodney & Carolyn Mitzel  
 John R. Olson  
 Mike Parke  
 Charles & Sandra Peterson

Brian Selland  
 Diane Stoltz Family  
 Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation  
 Dwight & Loa Tober  
 Glennys Ulschak  
 Steve & Janet Wieser  
 Nick & Lindsey Ybarra  
 \*Mark Zimmerman

## Founding:

Kim Callahan  
 Paul Conrad  
 Dickinson Convention and Visitors Bureau  
 Bryan Lange  
 Patrick McBride  
 Hiram Rogers & Jean Gauger  
 Eric Selle  
 Freida Tebelius  
 The Printers

## In Memoriam

Denton & Paulette Berntson  
 \* Denotes new member at this level since last  
*Turtle Tracks*



Mark Zimmerman and Gerard Baker  
 Photo credit Emily Perhus-Zarak

# Meet The New Board Members



**Nute Bishop** was born and raised in North Dakota. He is a graduate of MSUM and currently works as an Environmental Planner with a local engineering firm. His family is from Western North Dakota and he spent his entire

life taking countless trips to the badlands, for both hunting and hiking adventures. His father and past director of MDHTA, Bruce Bishop, introduced him to the area and Nute has cherished introducing his own son as well. He is excited to have the opportunity to serve on the board of the MDHT Association to continue the legacy of the trail and to continue to promote trail growth and recruit new users.

**Jesse Hansen** "Greetings all. It is my privilege to be selected to the MDHTA Board of Directors this past spring. I have recently retired from a 36 year career with the ND Parks and Recreation Department. Through those years, I worked in several ND state parks with duties ranging from summer ranger supervisor, assistant park manager, park manager and for the past 23 years as the manager of the agency planning/natural resource division. My duties at ND Parks and Recreation afforded me the opportunity to be involved with components of the development of the MDH trail through initial land lease negotiations and support facility developments at Sully Creek SP. During my career,



I've had the good fortune to work alongside dedicated staff from the USFS, NPS, state partners and private citizens, all committed to bring the grand idea of an epic trail system in the ND badlands to fruition. Being retired from a rewarding career I am pleased to continue being involved in the continued success of the MDH trail through my tenure on the board of directors.

The continued success of the MDH trail is dependent on people from diverse user groups and managing agencies coming together for the common cause of ensuring the long term viability of this awesome trail system and the amenities that support the users of the trail.

My wife Lisa, daughter Jenny and I have been long time frequent users of the trail whether it be hiking, biking or on our horses. I'm excited to be part of an organization that is committed to the continued improvement to the trail so my family as well as all others can access and enjoy our wonderful ND badlands."

Happy Trails!

## Trail Notes

Roughrider Electric Cooperative Operation Roundup awarded MDHTA \$1,200 towards surfacing at Sully Creek on July 17. The section of trail between Bully Pulpit Trailhead and Sully Creek is some of the last south of Sully Creek that hasn't been surfaced. MDHTA Board has sent a thank you to REC for its generous donation and encourages members to send a thank you or the next time you are in the REC office thank them for their generosity in helping make a world-class trail.

Curt Glasoe and several volunteers have assembled two more benches that were purchased with donations and grants to MDHTA. These benches are scheduled to be placed at the Wannagon and Elkhorn trailheads this fall. Individuals interested in participating in placing the benches should contact Curt at 701-260-9459, or one of the other board members so you can be included in the project.



Sweede Nelson, first MDHTA President and Curt Glasoe, Grand Opening, MDHT, June 1999, Sully Creek State Park

Trails Day, 20th Anniversary—Photos by Emily Perhus-Zarak



## In Memory of Kyle Brierley

It is always disheartening to learn of the passing of a MDHTA family member. Last week we learned of the passing of Kyle Brierley, husband of Bev Brierley. The entire Brierley family has contributed to the Maah Daah Hey Trail through their volunteer efforts in maintaining the trail. These activities included participating in the Trails Day work days and clearing the trail of grass and brush. Kyle also participated in Save the MDH and worked with the BLM in maintaining trails at the Schnell Recreational Area. Bev serves on the MDHTA board of directors. The family suggested that instead of flowers that a donation be made to Save the MDH.

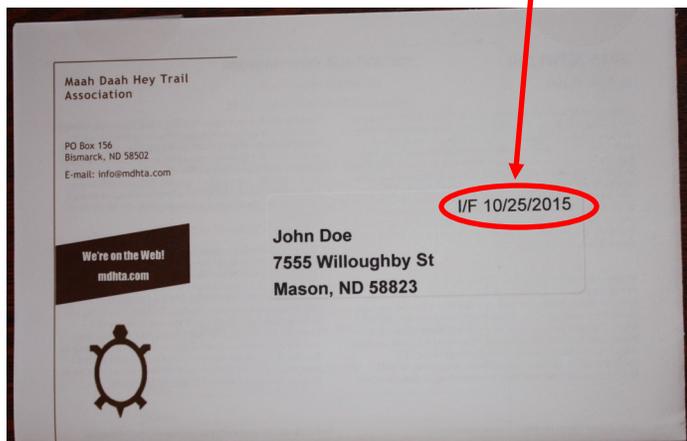


The Brierley Family – Ella, Bev, Maddux, and Kyle at the MDHTA sponsored Trails Day.

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# 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**

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**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  
Second Vice President—Bev Brierley  
Secretary—  
Treasurer—  
Jesse Hanson  
Nathaniel Bishop  
Brent McCluskey

Dates to Remember

August 2019	Smokey Bear is 75 years old—Happy Birthday!
September 28, 2019	National Public Lands Day
<b>September 2019</b>	<b>Bench installation, call Curt Glasoe, 701-260-9459</b>

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 