



Turtle Tracks

Official Newsletter of the Maah Daah Hey Trail Association

Volume 25 Issue 1



President's Message

Hello to trail users:

Hey, finally got through the -30 degree temps and back on to the 50's and it is already March, Spring is just around the corner. So be patient, start planning and order your MDH supplies for the 2025 season now to make your summer activities on the great MDH trail.

First, a **BIG THANK YOU** to our new Life members; **Peder and Tone-Lise Stenslie and Jason Bang**; Trail Boss member; **Brent Ravnass** and Founding members **Daryl Hill**, and **Sue Schmitt** plus the new donors as listed on page 3. **THANK YOU** since the last issue, all the renewal and new members that signed up this quarter. MDHTA really appreciates all your support for promotion and maintaining the great MDH trail system.

Projects being worked on since the last TT issue, include the **2024 RTP project** - MDH trail restoration and surfacing from the South Unit TR National Park boundary for 3 miles south; now the whole MHDH is surfaced from Roughrider (Sully Creek) Camp to the new TR library, west of the TRMF amphitheater. And on to the I-94 crossing. The only item remaining is the approach off the MDH trail to the new TR library. The **TR Library Grand Opening** is planned for July 4, 2026, so we have this field season to help with this project. So now all trail users can enjoy this area of the MDH all season long no matter what the weather. Thanks to the **ND Park and Recreation Department** for this RTP grant. Two small curves that need work will be reworked this season to complete this segment. These two areas were noted during our meetings with the Forest Service and other trail user groups,

noted on the final inspection with the NDPR RTP folks out of Bismarck. Also, The MDHTA board of directors approved a Forest Service request to become The **ADOPT A TRAIL** group for the Coal Creek loop trail out of Coal Creek Camp, so holler if you would like to help with the maintenance of this section of the MDH system, or any MDH segment for that matter. We also met with the FS on 2025 projects and will have a good start on these later this month.

Some **guided hikes** are being planned for this season, they worked out well last year, hosted by MDHTA members. Stay tuned for a neat way to get familiar with and use the MDH trail this coming season. Our **MDH Board members** will be placing signup sheets in the registers at the trailheads, and cleaning out the water caches boxes early this spring to help USFS with this trail maintenance project. FS will be placing pump handles on water pumps sometime in May at the camps. Thanks to all for doing this job.

The **hitch rails** for the remaining 14 camp site trailheads are being planned as we speak, hopefully we will have them in place by next fall. The **Burkes family** donated the materials money for all the trailheads. CCC will not need a hitch rail due to reconstruction which should be completed by late summer. MDHTA store keeps busy selling maps, books, caps, and water bottles. We just sold our 300th book, so we have ordered more to fill our inventory. Check out the **STORE** on the **MDHTA.com** website.

Our **MDHTA annual meeting is April 5, 2025**, in Dickinson, so hope to see you there. Meeting details can be found on page 2.

Last, **BE PATIENT** on the use of the MDH trail system early in the spring, as you know the trail will be soft especially in north and east facing areas due to slow snowmelt. It will dry up in due time to provide a great

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Point of Interest:

- Trail registers from 2024 show mode of travel is 3.9% Horse, 63.9% Foot, and 32.2% Bike. The five-year average (2020 – 2024) is 3.9% Horse, 65.2% Foot, and 29% Bike. Total volume of usage is estimated to be about the same as last year.

MDHTA Annual Meeting

The **MDHTA annual meeting** will be held Saturday, April 5, 2025, 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, deep fried turkey, roast beef, mashed potatoes, gravy and vegetable, with a price of \$26 per plate, price includes tax and tip.

There will be a cash bar, silent auction and door prizes.

Please [RSVP by Friday, March 21](#) 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

The keynote speaker will be Bobby Henderson or Jack Dahl of the USDA-FS on Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). EAB, an insect pest from Asia, has been known to be in the USA since at least 2002. Closer to North Dakota, it was first detected in Moorhead, MN in 2023. Then the insect moved about 80 miles into North Dakota and was first detected in LaMoure County in 2024. This invasive pest's feeding, when severe enough, will kill ash trees. It is important to know about this pest life cycle and how it can be slowed as ash trees are commonly found in the badlands, often planted in landscapes around homes and city parks, and in hundreds of miles of shelterbelts and wind breaks.

Trail reports from the organizations that support the Maah Daah Hey Trail System will be given. This includes Alexander Manard, Recreation Program Manager, US

Forest Service; Rachel Daniels, Acting Superintendent, and Philip McCall, Chief of Facility Management, Theodore Roosevelt National Park; Tracy Hsu, President, ND Back Country Horseman; Nick Ybarra, Director, Save the MDH; as well as representatives from the North Dakota Parks and Recreation; North Dakota Tourism; Dickinson, Bowman and Medora Convention and Visitor Bureaus; TRMF; Badlands to Badlands (B2B) Association; TR Library, Dakota Cyclery; USDA FS Bismarck office. An election of three (3-year) directors for the MDHTA Board will also be conducted at the meeting.

Silent Auction

A silent auction will be held during the Annual Meeting. This is a fun way to support MDHTA activities during the year. Support and fun can be found in bringing a small item as well as purchasing an item. In 2024, the Silent Auction brought in \$770 that was used to help match a grant MDHTA received from the Recreational Trail Program (RTP) Trail Restoration and Resurfacing 2023 grant on the MDH Trail. This year's silent auction proceeds will go towards MDH trail curve repair, trail restoration and placing another water cache structure along the MDH trail in McKenzie County. Please bring an item for the silent auction

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!

Happy trails– Curtis W. Glasoe, President MDHTA

Hike Up White Butte - April 26

A joint hike for the Maah Daah Hey Trail Association and the Badlands Conservation Alliance to the top of White Butte, North Dakota's highest elevation, is scheduled for Saturday, April 26 to begin at 9:30 am MT. The design and construction of the White Butte Trail was completed in 2023 by MDHTA which replaced a steep casual trail. The trail rises 354-feet from trailhead parking over a 0.9-mile trail one-way. Once on top of the Butte participants will be able to see the extensive grasslands, neighboring buttes, and some would say even Fargo. The part about Fargo isn't true but you can see Amidon. Also, you should be able to

see Black Butte, Sentinel Butte, and Bullion Butte. Dakota Goodhouse, United Tribes Technical College Professor, and Heather Husband, Meadowlark Initiative have been invited to join and speak during the hike.

Directions to the trailhead are from Amidon, ND: Two miles east of Amidon on US Highway 85 a brown sign points south onto 140th Avenue SW. Travel south for five miles. A small white sign on the pole points west. Turn west (right) onto 69th Street SW for 1 mile, then turn south (left) and follow road to trailhead parking. GPS coordinates of the parking area are 46.395847, -103.300779.

President's Message (Continued from page 1)

experience for all trail users.

THANK YOU to Roger and Pat Ashley
for editing and preparing this *Turtle Tracks*

(TT) Newsletter. It really helps save a few dollars if you take the email version of the newsletter.

Happy Trails. Curtis W. Glasoe –
President - MDHTA

Membership Recognition—Thank You!

Life Members:

Curtis Alkire
Bethany & Levi Andrist
Roger & Pat Ashley
Sandy Baertsch
Bahne, Kay, Charlie & Anna
Bahnsen
Gerard & Mary Kay Baker
*Jason Bang
Glenn & Jolene Baranko
Britney 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
Brandon Emmons
Kathy & Matt Fischer Valan
Stephen & Barbara Fix
Fraternal Order of Eagles
Dickinson
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
Earl Hill
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
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Linda Pancratz Family Foundation
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Gregory Rohde
Angie Seligman & Randy Krogstad
Brian Selland
*Peder and Tone-Lise Stenslie
Jason, Jennifer, Morgan & Elliot
Stiefel
Diane Stoltz Family
Andrea Stomberg & Bruce Britton
Shannon Straight & Spring Bakke
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:

Jessica Brooke
Peggy & John Fiedler
Eric Lane
*Brent Ravnass
Jason Signalness

Founding:

Kim & Joseph Callahan
Chantel Casey
Shawn Casey
Dickinson Convention & Visitors
Center
Dave Helphrey
*Daryl Hill
Jeremy Mahowald

Loren & Jennifer Morlock
Dave Peters
*Sue Schmitt
Robert Stein
Kerry Whip

In Memoriam

Denton & Paulette Berntson
Kyle Brierley
Justin Hill
Aileen Luethe
Morris Tarnavsky

* Denotes new member at this level
since last *Turtle Tracks*

Donations since last Turtle Tracks:

Benevity
Sarah Griffis
Stomberg/Britton Charitable Fund



Badlands Wildlife

National Trails Day - June 7

National Trails Day on the Maah Daah Hey Trail will be held in Theodore Roosevelt National Park (TRNP) South Unit on Saturday, June 7, 2025. About eight miles of the trail are found in TRNP South Unit. All trails within the park are in disrepair which includes the MDHT. Trail users step around overgrown brush creating drainage and erosion issues on the trail. This year's National Trails Day on the MDHT is to assist TRNP remove this brush without damaging the backcountry nature of Wilderness which the trail runs through. The project will require participants to hike in with tools, water, and personal safety equipment. There are no restrooms. Sturdy closed-toed walking shoes or hiking boots are a must with long pants, long sleeve shirt, hat, and leather gloves will be needed, also a sweat shirt if it is cold. Ticks will be active so deer repellent or permethrin-treated clothing may be something to consider using. A sack

lunch will be provided by the Maah Daah Hey Trail Association. This is no walk in the park. If we haven't discouraged you and you wish to participate you will need to contact either Roger Ashley, email: rogerashley@ndsupernet.com or Shannon Straight, email: badlandsconservationalliance@gmail.com as we need to have a completed volunteer application returned to either Roger or Shannon by May 15. Contact Roger or Shannon for the application. Or better yet attend the MDHTA Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 5 and sign up on the group form. The group form is much shorter and takes less time to complete. In mid-May we will be providing additional information about the project, manual pruning tools and safety equipment so if you think you want to participate sign up by May 15. Your participation will be appreciated.

Midwest Region Trails Workshop—October 2024

by Roger Ashley

The Midwest Region Trails Workshop organized by the National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Program held eight, one-hour online trainings in late September and early October, 2024, followed by a two-day hands-on outdoor field instruction hosted by Theodore Roosevelt National Park. The workshop was geared for NPS staff and partner organizations interested in trail maintenance, development and accordance. MDHTA was invited to participate in the program. It was a good review as well as a learning experience for Curt Glasoe and I.

Topics covered recognizing the type and amount of use a trail receives, problem areas, adverse affects on surrounding resources, as well as safety concerns. One of the objectives of the program was for participants to learn to make decisions on when to fix problem trail areas and what strategies to use in fixing these areas. Selecting the proper strategy to fix the trail as well as costs must be considered.

Besides learning how to fix legacy trails, participants learned how to determine when and where new trails are appropriate. This requires planning appropriate design, and other considerations. New technologies reduce planning time as well as provide abilities to anticipate potential problems. Also recurring maintenance is required. There is no such



Photo by Curt Glasoe.

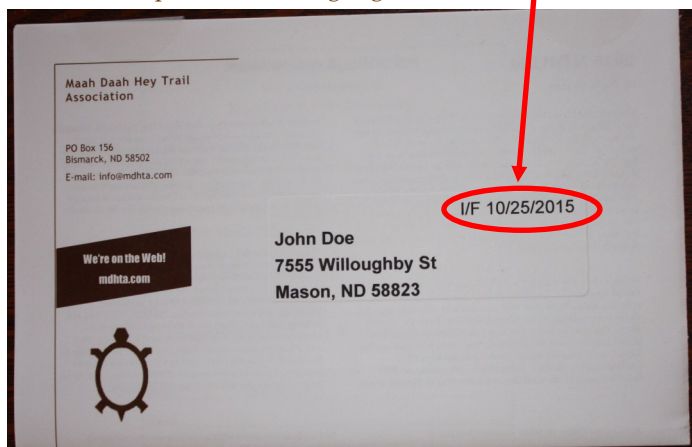
thing as a maintenance free trail, even ones that are sustainable. Sustainably designed trails require less work to maintain than poorly designed trails.

The two-day hands-on field instruction at TRNP provided the chance to practice the concepts learned during the webinars as well as encounter situations not previously discussed. As a result of this workshop, and if the resources are available, a new trail from the parking area on Buck Hill in TRNP – South Unit will be constructed

by the NPS with a grade well under 10%. The current trail has a slope well over 10% (asphalt is used to keep the trail from eroding) and provides an extreme challenge to many park visitors.

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. An expired membership will also be highlighted.



If you receive *Turtle Tracks* via email the email will indicate if the membership has expired.

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: _____ Is this a renewal? Yes/No

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Email: _____ Email newsletter: Yes ☐ This option puts more resources towards the trail.

Phone No. (____) _____ No ☐

Maah Daah Hey Trail Association

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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—Vacant
Treasurer—Jesse Hanson
Secretary—Britney Barnett
Glee Mayer—At Large
Shannon Straight—At Large

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.

Dates to Remember

April 5, 2025	Annual Meeting at Dickinson Eagles Club.
April 26, 2025	25th Anniversary of the Maah Daah Hey Trail Association
April 26, 2025	Hike up White Butte with Badlands Conservation Alliance.
May 15, 2025	Volunteer Applications due for National Trails Day—see p. 4
June 7, 2025	National Trails Day—MDHT in TRNP

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