

# Turtle Tracks



Official Newsletter of the Maah Daah Hey Trail Association

Volume 25, Issue 3

*"There are no shortcuts to any place worth going."*

## President's Message

### Hello to trail users:

Hey, Fall is here, believe me, after I mowed my yard for the first time in September and now again in October, really a different year for fall weather, but great for all outdoor activities! NUMEROUS trail projects were completed this past summer with our great volunteers to do the work and donors for the trail supplies. Thank you to The Burkes from Mckenzie co. and Roughrider Electric (RRE) Roundup grant, that supplied all the hitch rail materials. They are all installed as featured in a later article. Then the completion of the RTP project of surfacing the MDHTA trail to connect to the TR library, and the associated bad curve north of the TR library. Thanks to the good work of contractor Western Sand and Gravel, these projects came out very good with many compliments from all non-motorized trail users.

We have decided to forgo a 4<sup>th</sup> TT issue this year (2025) so this issue will be the fall & winter issue. With that I would invite anyone to purchase early Christmas gifts of MDHTA merchandise shown on our website at [www.MDHTA.com](http://www.MDHTA.com). The merchandise can make great gifts for holiday memories of the MDH Trail.

A big Thank You to all the new and renewed members as well as those who donated since the last Turtle Tracks. These names are listed on the Membership Recognition page. Your support of the MDH mission to Promote and Maintain the MDH trail system makes our job much easier to do.

Congratulations to Randy Hatzenbuhler who retired from TRMF this summer, Randy and TRMF have been big supporters of MDHTA...a follow-up article is included in this issue.

Another note, Chuck Haney, world renowned photographer, is recognized in the National Geographic with a MDH trail picture and article along the Littles Missouri River. Congratulations, Chuck.

We have had numerous positive comments on the White Butte trail project and we also received recognition from the High Pointer Club for our previous efforts and for finishing up this project this summer with numerous volunteers. Good job people, the award is listed later in this issue. It is to me, but I know without all of you this project would not have been a success. So thank you to MDHTA and volunteers that contributed to this project..

MDHTA had members attend a couple workshops on trail design, maintenance so thank them for relaying the information back to our members. We are still coordinating with the TR library on the approach off the MDH trail to the library trail system. Looks like a June 2026 target date to solve the final location on the ground. The grand opening is July 4, 2026, hope you can be there.

The MDHTA has received FS preapproval for a 2025 RTP grant application from the ND Park and Recreation Department. They approved projects in Crying Butte, Little creek, and Summit trail to the largest cedar tree in North Dakota. We were not successful with our grant applications but have other money sources that may come available later this fall that will allow MDHTA to complete a portion of these projects.

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Inside This Issue:

Collaboration on MDH	2
Hitch Rails Installed	2
Member Recognition	3
Pedals of Praise	4
MDHT Map Update	4
IMBA Workshop	5
	5
Randy Retirement	6
MDHTA Dates	8



*Photo credit:  
Roberta Greiger-Nimmo*

### Point of Interest:

#### Fun facts about Bison...

- ⇒ They can run up to 35 mph, which is faster than a horse!
- ⇒ Despite weighing up to 2,000 pounds, bison can jump vertically up to six feet
- ⇒ The large hump on their shoulders contains powerful muscles that allow them to swing their heads to clear snow, helping them find food in the winter.

## Collaboration Makes an Impact on the Maah Daah Hey Trail

*By Shannon Straight*

In June of 2025, The Dakota Prairie Grassland Forest Service, DPG FS, brought in the Regional 1 Mule Train of eight mules, two horses and two crew leaders to transport building materials (see drone footage) back to the site of the Bear Creek Bridge washout along the Maah Daah Hey Trail near mile marker 19.5. Jeff Davis, DPG FS Recreational Trails Manager, and Alex Manard, deserves a lot of credit for not only organizing the Mule Train, but also organizing volunteers from the MDHTA (Roger & Pat Ashley, Tom Dickson, Jesse Hanson, Spring Bakke & Shannon Straight), Save the Maah Daah Hey (Phil Helfrich), and both the Badlands Conservation AmeriCorps Field Crew (Joe Newman, Sinaiah Harrington, Ella Montplaisair, Elliot Magcalas), and members of the Montana Conservation Corps (Uriah, David and Anton), who worked together to rebuild the bridge.



Bear Creek bridge reconstruction.

Photo by Shannon Straight

For two days, the FS Mule Train lead by Robin Connell & John Leader, transported building materials back to the site of 2023 bridge washout that rerouted this section of the trail.

Volunteers hiked in tools, supplies and had lots of laughs over three days of work projects to get the bridge rebuilt. AmeriCorps crew members learned valuable hands-on trade skills. Jesse Hanson's leadership helped relocate one gate structure and to string new barbed wire fencing. The collaborative effort highlighted once again that when we work together, major impacts happen for the benefit of the Maah Daah Hey Trail. Thank you to all involved!



US Forest Service Mule Team hauling supplies to the Bear Creek bridge & gate reconstruction.

Photo by Shannon Straight

## Horse Hitch Rails

Horse hitch rails have been installed at all the MDHT trailheads. The project was completed a year earlier than expected. The hitch rails were installed as a result of a suggestion made by a trail users, **Mike and Celeste Burke** of McKenzie, ND. They donated the dollars to purchase the materials. **Roughrider Electric Roundup** dollars also were used on this project. A big thank you to the volunteers that assisted in digging the post holes through packed gravel and hard clay, installing the support posts straight, and the top rail level. Volunteers included Curt Glasoe, as well as Curt Glasoe's grandson Chase Glasoe, Jesse Hanson, and Roger Ashley. Equestrian users discovered and used the hitch rails within a few days of installation proving it to be a good idea.



Roger Ashley hard at work installing one of the hitching rails. Photo by Curt Glascoe

# 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  
Haley Bang  
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  
Donald Kingston  
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  
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  
Thomas Dahbura\*  
Peggy & John Fiedler  
Eric Lane  
Brent Ravnass  
Jason Signalness

## Founding:

Kim & Joseph Callahan  
Chantel Casey  
Shawn Casey  
Dickinson Convention  
& VisitorsCenter  
Rob Hammer\*  
Kurt & Tonya Hanson\*  
Dave Helpfrey

## Founding cont:

Patrick Higgins  
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:

Mike Rudd  
Marketing Fun with Mike  
Dana Humphrey  
Rough Rider Electric



White Butte Trail work. Photo by Pat Ashley

## Pedals of Praise

An Adventure-and-Grace Mountain Biking

Documentary [Born on the Maah Daah Hey Trail](#)

By **Bill Booz**



**Pictured left to right:** Kim Callahan, Bob Doll, & Bill Booz @ Knutson Creek, Buffalo Gap Trail.  
Photo credit unknown

A new documentary, Pedals of Praise, unveils a raw and uplifting film of adventure, community, and reverence for the land after our filming on the Maah Daah Hey Trail. Shot by a small, tight-knit crew, the film captures faith based Mountain Bikers and the trail itself as more than scenery — it becomes a moving character that tests and transforms those who traverse it. The first day of filming set the tone: gale force winds, skies pressed low, and high water crossings that turned routine rides into inventive problem-solving. With cameras rolling, riders improvised on beaver dams, were blown around on high ridges, and helped one another and bikes through mud — moments that reveal how vulnerability and ingenuity converge on remote trails in the beautiful Badlands. Director Chris Dempsey says, I've always believed that certain landscapes hold their own stories and the Maah Daah Hey has one of those stories. It's one of those rare places that feels untouched — a single trail of dirt winding through God's creation, full of vast, quiet beauty and bold challenges. Pedals of Praise interweaves sweeping landscape cinematography with intimate profiles of Mountain Bikers connecting humans with nature and God. The result is a cinematic hymn to perseverance, a visual meditation on human and divine connection, and an invitation to witness how wild places reshape us. Screenings and festival submissions will be announced soon.

For press access, screening requests, or interview inquiries, contact:  
Bill Booz, Producer  
[pedalsofpraisefilm@gmail.com](mailto:pedalsofpraisefilm@gmail.com)  
609-709-4543  
[pedalsofpraisefilm.com](http://pedalsofpraisefilm.com)

## MDHT Map Update

By **Roger Ashley**

Since the 2018 printing of the Maah Daah Hey National Recreation Trail (MDHNRT) map, several reroutes by the USDA Forest Service have occurred. Major reroutes include between MP 69 and 70 to avoid sink holes, Crying Butte Trailhead between MP 42 and 43 to improve visibility crossing the East River Road, and the relocation of the bridge between MP 19 and 20. The Forest Service hasn't indicated when the next print edition of the MDHNRT map will occur but a GPX file of the entire MDHT track is available on MDHTA.COM **WITHOUT CHARGE** courtesy of the Maah Daah Hey Trail Association membership for use on your GPS device.

Many trail users were getting lost or thought they were lost in these major trail reroutes as the marker post installation hasn't kept up with the changes in trail location particularly between MP 69 and 70. The distance between MP 69 and 70 is now about 1.75 to 2 miles rather than the expected mile. Also, if a trail user is operating a dated version of the GPX file on their device they will think they have gone off on a cow trail rather than the reroute. Makes for a long confusing trip between MP 69 and 70. Putting in marker posts between MP 69 and 70 will likely be a next season project.

Other improvements to the electronic version of the MDHT map found on MDHTA.COM include the addition of the new trail at Coal Creek that forms a loop trail using the MDHT and the Coal Creek Spur Trail, White Butte Trail, which isn't part of the MDHT but worth a visit to the high point of North Dakota, and a bird's eye view of the entire area rather than the old USGS topographic map. The elevation profile of the trail is still provided but now users can study the arial view to get an idea as to what kind of terrain they will travel through.

The updates on the electronic version of the map would not have been possible without the help of Bobby Marko and Pat Ashley.



Map update showing the recently added Coal Creek Loop.

## Trail Care Workshop - Strategies to Combat Trail Erosion

Sponsored by: IMBA (International Mountain Biking Association)

By Jesse Hanson

The three-day Trail Care School was sponsored by the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department. Several organizations were represented, including staff from the U.S. Forest Service (Alex Menard), North Dakota State Parks, North Dakota State Forest Service, Bismarck Parks and Recreation, MHA Nation, North Country Trail Association, Turtle Mountains Trails Association, Central Dakota Cyclist Club, Badlands Conservation Alliance (Shannon Straight), Save the MDH (Nick Ybarra and Mike Haase), and MDHT Association (myself and Roger Ashley).

The curriculum included classroom presentations delivered by

the two IMBA staff members, focusing on critical aspects of planning and design, construction methodology, and hands-on outdoor maintenance of single-track trails. Participants also engaged in practical trail maintenance exercises on a single-track trail located near Bismarck State University.

The IMBA instructors demonstrated considerable expertise and enthusiasm for trail development, construction, and maintenance within single-track trail systems. While the workshop primarily reflected the perspectives of the mountain biking community, the principles and techniques discussed are broadly applicable to all trail users.

A potential partnership was discussed during the workshop, which could facilitate similar educational opportunities in the future. This collaboration would involve the USFS/Dakota Prairie Grasslands and IMBA, potentially resulting in a workshop held in western North Dakota that features sustainable trail demonstrations on the Maah Daah Hey Trail. Although this initiative is at an early stage, it represents a promising opportunity for further engagement and education.



MDHTA trail work in June repairing the aptly-named “switchbacks from hell” on the MDH trail at approx. mile marker 142, just outside of CCC Campground.

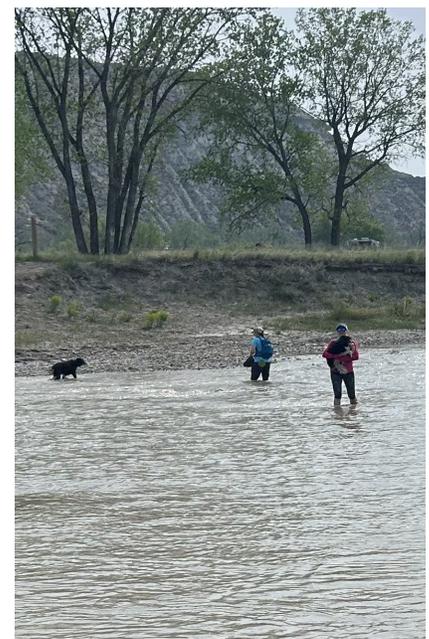


## Little Missouri River Levels

The Little Missouri River level was higher than usual this spring and summer. A lot of questions were popping up on Facebook asking if it was safe to cross. This information can also be found on our FAQ page on [www.mdhta.com](http://www.mdhta.com)

To find the real time flow data on the Little Missouri River, log on to <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nd/nwis/rt>, hold your mouse pointer over your chosen location, wait a second, and the data will appear. If you choose Marmarth, then Medora, then Watford City, you will know whether the river is rising or falling. Remember the river flows from Marmarth towards Watford City, so if the river is at 1 foot at Marmarth, 2 feet at Medora, and 3 feet at Watford, it is falling, and if reversed is going to rise. As we receive more input from users, we will let you know how that data translates into your ability to cross both at Sully and near Elkhorn. Generally a reading over 3 feet requires a very experienced horse and rider. There are developing sink holes and a very strong current carrying objects at great speed towards you that increases the hazard.

Crossing by Sully Creek. Photo by Angie Mikkelsen



## Randy Hatzenbuhler Retirement

By Curtis W. Glasoe - President MDHTA

We would like to formally acknowledge Randy Hatzenbuhler's notable contributions to the MDHTA and extend our congratulations on his retirement as President and CEO of the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation (TRMF). Since the inception of MDHTA, Randy has played a pivotal role, beginning with our initial collaboration with TRMF in the early 2000s when they sought to sell merchandise featuring the copyrighted MDH markings. An agreement was reached for MDHTA to receive 10% of gross sales; although this arrangement became increasingly complex over time, Randy proposed a solution to simplify the process. The Board of Directors determined that granting TRMF a Life Membership would allow them to also sell MDH merchandise without ongoing bookkeeping requirements.

Over the subsequent decade, MDHTA operated a gate and Mile Post signing program on Forest Service lands to recognize major donors. Following changes in Forest Service management, this program ended, resulting in the removal of all signage, including the first midway marker dedicated to FS workers. At that point, TRMF graciously allowed MDHTA to continue donor recognition by placing names on posts and gates located on their property. Furthermore, when MDHTA wished to install a life member kiosk but lacked an appropriate location, TRMF permitted placement of the kiosk on their land just south of Sully State Park, now known as Roughrider State Park. Space remains available for future life members.

Prior to these developments, the MDH trail extended only north of Sully State Park. With the request and support of the Slope County Commissioners in 2001 to extend the trail south to Amidon, a public right-of-way across TRMF property was necessary to access Forest Service lands at the Bully Pulpit trailhead. Through the efforts of Randy and TRMF, the required right-of-way was secured, facilitating construction of the "Deuce," an extension of the MDH trail south of the State park. This enabled the acquisition of RTP grants and completion of excavation and surfacing through TRMF lands.

On a personal note, I recall Randy experiencing a spill on the switchback at the north end of the hogback, which prompted corrective action and ensured proper completion of the contract. Randy, an avid mountain biker, regularly utilizes the MDH trail while at his residence south of Roughrider Park.

On behalf of MDHTA, we extend our sincere gratitude to Randy for his many years of dedicated assistance and wish him all the best in his retirement.

*(Continued from page 1)*

To say it again, if you encounter problems on the Trail, don't keep them to yourself, please relay that information to the Forest Service or our MDH Facebook page, along with a milepost or GPS location of the problem, a picture will help also in the planning to fix these spots.

THANK YOU to Angie Mikkleson for all the work editing and preparing this Turtle Tracks quarterly Newsletter. and a BIG Thank You to Roger and Pat Ashley for assisting in this effort.

The weather has been really nice so get out and enjoy the trail now before it freezes up, hope to see you out on the Maah Daah Hey Trail.

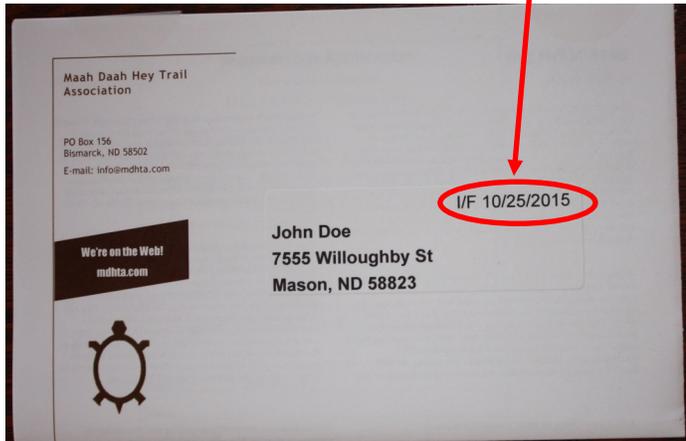
**Happy Trails. Curtis W. Glasoe – President - MDHTA**



Curt Glasoe presenting a scribed stainless-steel axe on behalf of MDHTA.

# 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](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 - 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



# MDHTA



## Maah Daah Hey Trail Association

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BISMARCK, ND 58502

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### Officers and Board of Directors

President—Curt Glasoe  
Vice President—Shannon Straight  
2nd Vice President—Amy Vojacek  
Treasurer—Jesse Hanson  
Secretary—Britney Barnett  
Director at Large—Glee Mayer  
Director at Large—Angie Mikkelson



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.

**We're on the Web!**  
**[www.mdhta.com](http://www.mdhta.com)**

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