

Turtle Tracks

Official Newsletter of the Maah Daah Hey Trail Association

Volume 7, Issue 1

Summer 2007

2007 Annual Meeting

MDHTA Minutes May 4, 2007 Days Inn, Dickinson, ND

Board Members present: Don Mayer, Les Albaugh
Board Members absent: Aileen Luethe, Jutta Schmidt
Special guests: Kimberly Karch, ND Park and Recreation, Sully Creek Campground, Kevin Stankiewicz, ND Park and Recreation, Curt Glasoe, US Forest Service, Russ Walsh, US Forest Service

Don called the meeting to order at 5:10 pm MST. The minutes from the last annual meeting, March 31, 2006 were reviewed. Curt made a motion to approve the minutes. Les seconded the motion. The motion carried. Jo Marie gave the Secretary's report. Currently, there are 79 active (paid to date) members of the MDHTA. There are approx. 6 Life members. There are about 25 – 30 people who have not renewed their dues over the past five years. Jo Marie gave the Treasurer's Report. The balance as of 5/1/2007 is \$7825.99. The MDHTA will receive a bill for approx. \$700 – 900 for U.S. Trademark Registration in the next 30 days. Carol Glasoe made a motion to approve the Secretary and Treasurer's Reports. Russ seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Old Business: MDHTA Website Creation. Don

stated that the MDHTA has adequate funds to create a website, and Curt mentioned that funds to help with its cost could be covered by grant dollars. It was discussed whether the Association members would prefer a secure or non-secure website. The cost of the creation of the website with The Computer Guy would be a couple hundred dollars. There would also be a cost to update the website every couple of months. Russ had some ideas for the website, mainly including some maps. A committee to work on website creation was formed. The committee includes: Don, Jo Marie, Russ, Kimberly, Aileen Luethe (to be contacted), and Mark Zimmerman (to be contacted). Curt made a motion to allocate up to \$1000 toward website development and to create a secure site that could accept credit cards to eventually sell MDHTA merchandise. Kim seconded the motion. The motion carried. Curt mentioned that in other organizations, the Executive Secretary has handled merchandise orders.

2nd item: Allowing bikes on the north end of the MDH.

This issue was discussed in length. Currently, mountain bikers on the MDH are not allowed to ride their bikes on a section of the MDH. Negotiations have been attempted with the private land owner to solve a portion of this issue, but have been unsuccessful. The other issue is the Forest Service land, which is suitable for wilderness area. Don had met with the McKenzie county commissioners in the area to see if the section line could be used. They stated that the adjacent land owners would have to grant permission for bikers to use it. Don suggested that the MDHTA allocate some funds to use to acquire a legal opinion on the matter.

Jo Marie suggested contacting one or more of the lawyers who are members of the MDHTA to ask their opinion. Curt and Russ suggested contacting Sarah Vogel and Aileen Luethe. Les made a motion for Don to follow up on the section line issue by contacting both Aileen and Sarah, and then work on the Forest Service suitable for wilderness issue. Curt seconded the motion. The motion carried.

3rd item: negotiations with TRMF for MDH II.

The TRMF would like to exchange some land with the Forest Service, acquiring land along the river, while the Forest Service would acquire some nice land that includes some trees. The exchange would allow the extension of the trail, without users having to travel along a road.

New Business: A MDHTA display board for Sports Shows.

Don stated that the MDHTA is in need of a new, professional-looking board to display at sports shows. Curt made a motion to purchase a MDHTA display board, the type that is portable and sets up on a table, costing up to \$1000. Roger Ashley seconded the motion. The motion carried.

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Maah Daah Hey Trail Association • P.O. Box 156 • Bismarck, North Dakota • 58502



MAAH DAAH HEY TRAIL
ASSOCIATION

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Board of Directors

Don Mayer, President

Roger Ashley, Vice-President

Lester Albaugh, 2nd Vice-President

Darcy Sandstrom, Treasurer

Mark Zimmerman, Member at Large

Send inquiries or articles to:

Maah Daah Hey Trail Association

P.O. Box 156

Bismarck, North Dakota 58502

or

electronically—attn: Editor and Executive

Secretary, MDHTA

jokadmas@yahoo.com

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.

MDHTA logo used with permission from USDA

Forest Service

Support the MDHTA with a Merchandise Purchase

MDHTA Merchandise is Available Now!



Turtle fur	\$10
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A Word from Our President—

Don Mayer
President, Maah Daah Hey Trail Association



Hi Everyone,

I hope you are enjoying this summer season. With adequate rainfall received earlier here in Western North Dakota, the trail areas have been very picturesque, even the ticks will pose for you! Massive rain in far southwestern North Dakota has kept the Little Missouri near the south trailhead by Sully Creek State Park at near record levels. As soon as conditions stabilize I am sure trail work will be needed where high water obliterated the trail. The good workers of the Forest Service Trail Crew have been working hard, and have built, refurbished, and graveled more than three miles of trail to date. They have installed a



wooden bridge over the bad wash by Magpie Camp, refurbished and graveled over a mile of trail in that area. On National Trails Day, they helped complete a connector trail and a gate was installed on Buffalo Gap Trail connecting to Buffalo Gap Guest Ranch. The culvert on Buffalo Gap Trail crossing under I-94 was also mucked out, badly needed, but quite a chore. I would like to extend special thanks to all those who participated in the events on National Trails Day. Besides other small projects and maintenance projects the trail crew has started graveled Cottonwood trail. Overall this looks to be a big year for trail maintenance and graveled. Please, if you note a bad area on the trail, contact the Forest Service (Russ Walsh or Curt Glasoe) or our association with the nearest mile marker number and description of the problem area. The trail crew will do there best to get to those problem areas. As you enjoy the trail, please share your stories and pictures with us. The individuals, whose schedules limit their time to enjoy the trail, can live vicariously through your adventures!

Happy Trails!

- Don

Don Mayer, MDHTA President

MEMORIALS

Memorials in honor of departed loved ones can be sent to:
Maah Daah Hey Trail
Association
P. O. Box 156
BISMARCK, ND 58502

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2nd item: Information from Mark Zimmerman, ND Dept of Tourism. Jo Marie reported that she spoke with Mark prior to the meeting. He regretfully was not able to attend. He has been to the Minneapolis and Milwaukee Sports Shows, promoting the MDHT, with great success. There is a lot of interest from both horse riders and mountain bikers. The ND Tourism Dept. placed ads promoting the Byron, P.A. in Minneapolis, MN. Her contact was Nicole Winkler. Jo Marie sent pictures of how the MDHTA uses the name and symbol to the law firm, including pictures of t-shirts, caps, and a newsletter. Jo Marie has not heard back from the law firm at this time, but expects that a bill will be sent to the MDHTA soon for the trademark registration.

3rd item: MDHTA Merchandise sales. Curt inquired about the possibility of someone selling MDHTA merchandise in and around Medora during the summer. Les volunteered to sell the merchandise. One dollar (\$1) per sold item will go to Les for his efforts.

4th item: Improvements at Sully. Kimberly Karch stated that there are more improvements planned for this summer at Sully. Some of the plans are to expand the tent area, and add additional corrals, etc. Don commented that the ND Park and Rec did a great job with improvements at Sully last year, which provides a positive first impression of the MDHT. Don asked Jo Marie to send a thank you to the ND Park and Rec, to the attention of Dan Schelske, thanking them for the improvements.

5th item: amount of money allocated for sports shows, both for MDHTA merchandise give-away and assistance to volunteers who work the show. This will be decided at the June MDHTA Board Meeting.

6th item: Russ gave a report on MDH II and other trail construction and/or improvements. The creation of the MDH II has been a six-plus year project which is still in the making. Once approved by the Medora Ranger District, it will take approximately 3 years to complete construction on the MDH II, which would be a 45 mile extension of the MDHT with 6 trail heads. The Medora Ranger District will make the final decision to approve the trail or not approve the trail soon. If approved, the plan is to start construction this fall at Burning Coal Vein, and it would be possible to complete about 15 miles of trail, but not necessarily contiguous trail. There are plans to renovate Burning Coal Vein campground in 2008. Russ and Curt encouraged that all MDHTA members submit comments to the Medora Ranger District during the 30 day comment period. Jo Marie will send a notice to MDHTA members about the comment period, encouraging them to submit opinions supporting trail construction. Russ also mentioned that Cottonwood Trail was finished by Bennett campground. The Forest Service will finish Summit Trail this summer by Summit campground. The Wolf Trail project may begin this year, which is along the north unit and north to Forest Service land boundary, and in the future, leading west toward the MDHT. This is a three year project. Russ mentioned that the 20+ member crew working with him on some of these projects is made possible by RTP funding through the ND Park and Recreation Department. The Forest Service has acquired around 5,000 acres, the Ebert Ranch Acquisition, and is looking for input as to what to do with this land for recreational purposes. Comments should be submitted to the U.S. Forest Service, Russ Walsh or Curt Glasoe. A portion of the MDHT is on this land currently.

7th item: Door prizes. Door prizes were awarded to Audrey Urban, Kimberly Karch, and Kevin Stankiewicz.

8th item: Curt reported on MDHT usage. Curt reported that the MDHT has been featured in many major publications this last year, including the NY Times. Curt reported that last year (2006), the MDHT has 6034 users on the MDH system, and in 2005 there were 5117 users. Two-thirds of the trail users are bikers, one-third are horse riders, and less than 5% are hikers. Eighty-five percent of campground fees come back to the unit. National Trails Day is Saturday, June 2nd, 2007. Trail work is scheduled for Buffalo Gap, to begin at 9:00 am and last until 3:00 pm. A free lunch will be provided by the MDHTA. Door prizes will be given away, along with free t-shirts, to the participants. All MDHTA members and non-members are welcome to attend. Susan Mayer, Jo Marie and Sandy Lackner will organize the lunch. Don suggested Sully Campground as a possibility for next year's location.

9th item: Turtle Tracks. Jo Marie requested input from MDHTA members for content of the newsletter. Curt suggested that MDHTA Board Members be responsible for at least one article per year. Don suggested that Jo Marie send out an inquiry to MDHTA member to see who would be willing to receive the publication via email (electronically). Don will look into the proper software to carry out this task (the Horsemen's Association currently does their newsletter this way). Jo Marie will publish the next Turtle Tracks following National Trails Day. She will focus on the events at National Trails Day, include minutes from the MDHTA annual meeting, a President's Message from Don, an update on MDH II from Russ/Curt, and an excerpt from the NY Times article from Curt. In this newsletter, Jo Marie will conduct a survey to see who would like to receive the publication via email. Kimberly and Curt suggested putting Turtle Tracks on the MDHTA website, once it is created.

10th item: Nominations for MDHTA Board Members. Curt made a motion for Roger Ashley to complete Lauri Giese's term, which will expire in 2008. Les seconded the motion. The motion carried. Curt made a motion to elect Darcy Sandstrom for a two-year term, expiring in 2009 (to replace Jutta), and to elect Mark Zimmerman for a two-year term, expiring in 2009 (to replace Aileen). Carol seconded the motion. The motion carried. Carol made a motion to approve the new board members and cease elections. Curt seconded the motion. The motion carried. Roger Ashley, Darcy Sandstrom, and Mark Zimmerman were elected to the MDHTA as Board Members.

Don adjourned the meeting at 7:10 pm. The next meeting will be on Saturday, June 2nd, 2007.

National Trails Day Event featured in *American Hiker Magazine*

American Hiker Magazine, Summer 2007 edition, Volume 20, No. 2 featured the registered National Trails Day event of the Maah Daah Hey Trail Association with the U. S. Forest Service near Medora, ND. The article listed twenty-five events taking place across the country (there were about one thousand this year). The Trails Day activity for our association was listed in the category of trails in the Midwest, and was the first event listed in its category. The description read “Join the Forest Service and Maah Daah Hey Trail Association at the Buffalo Gap Campground. Participants will surface approximately a half-mile of Buffalo Gap Trail, followed by a free lunch”. This year celebrated 15 years of National Trails Day events and saving trails.

National Trails Day 2007



National Trails Day 2007

Buffalo Gap

By Curt Glasoe, Grasslands Engineer

On June 2, 2007, the Maah Daah Hey Trail Association (MDHTA), along with the Dakota Prairie Grasslands, hosted the annual National Trails Day event at Buffalo Gap Campground northwest of Medora, ND. The day started cloudy and wet, but later the sun came out and a lot of work was accomplished.

Approximately 40+ people, ages from 2 years and up attended National Trails Day. About 300 feet of new trail was constructed and surfaced along with the installation of a self-closing gate. The gate is on a side trail to the Buffalo Gap Trail. Maintenance and tread work was also completed on one mile of the loop trail around Buffalo Gap Campground. Lunch was catered by the Buffalo Gap guest ranch and paid for by the MDHTA for all attendees.

The MDHTA appreciates all of the work done by volunteers at this event. All volunteers take time out of their busy schedules to make the MDH trail system in western ND better for all people to enjoy. Great Job!

We hope to see all MDHTA members next year for National Trails Day on the first Saturday in June. Mark your calendars for some fun in western ND.



THANK YOU

Thanks to Ron & Aileen Luethe for setting up the MDHTA booth at the 2007 Sports Show in Bismarck, and for their past work with the MDHTA. Thanks also to Ron Luethe and Bob Shannon for their presentation on the MDH Trail. Great Job!

Thanks to other members who also worked at the 2007 Sports Show. Your support of the MDHTA is appreciated!

Maah Daah Hey Trail featured in *Backpacker* Magazine

In April 2006, the Maah Daah Hey Trail was featured as one of the trails for a “Wild Weekend in Your Backyard” for the Midwest in *Backpacker* Magazine. The feature on the MDH encourages visitors to come in springtime to avoid the heat of summer and view the first wildflowers in the Badlands. It also says to look for bison, prairie dogs, coyotes, mule deer, pronghorn, and elk while enjoying the trail.

The Maah Daah Hey was featured along with three other trails: Buffalo National River in Arkansas, Brown County Hills in Indiana, and Black River State Forest in Wisconsin. This is one example of how the MDH Trail is being recognized as a notable, worthwhile trail to visit by various national magazines.

MDHTA Website in the Works

Looking for Donations and Input

The Maah Daah Hey Trail Association (MDHTA) is in the process of developing a website. The MDHTA board members are looking for input regarding the creation of the website, as well as additional donations to create and maintain it. Please send suggestions and/or comments for the MDHTA Board to Jo Marie Kadrmas, MDHTA Secretary, at jokadrmas@yahoo.com. Donations may be sent to MDHTA, P.O. Box 156, Bismarck, ND 58502.

READERS

You can get published in Turtle Tracks! Each quarter, our readers contribute to the following departments:

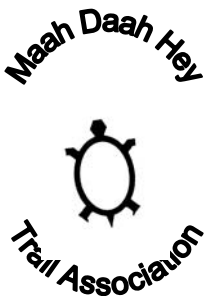
“Volunteer Action”

“My Day on the Maah Daah Hey”

“On the Web”

We also invite original articles and photographs depicting your unique recreation interest (i.e. hiking, biking, equestrian, other non-motorized), your technical tips (i.e. map-reading, selecting hiking boots, eating freeze-dried food), safety messages, trail conditions, and opinion/editorial pieces.

Model contributions after what you have seen published in this and other issues of TT. Limit article length to 500 words or less. Send items to our address or editor's email printed on page 2, lower-left.



Maah Daah Hey Trail Association
P.O. Box 156
Bismarck, ND 58502

Membership Application

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Maah Daah Hey Trail Association**

- \$25 Individual/Family Member
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- \$75 Founding Member \$200 Trail Boss Member
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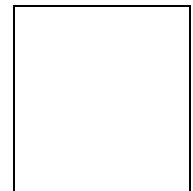
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