

THE

KNOBSTONE

SPRING/SUMMER 2016 NEWSLETTER Vol. 3, No. 2
of the **KNOBSTONE HIKING TRAIL ASSOCIATION, founded in 2013**

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3RD ANNUAL KHTA MEETING REPORT: MOMENTUM BUILDING IN MORGAN COUNTY

Morgan County Planning Director Ken Hale showed up to add his support for the project to that of the Greater Martinsville Chamber of Commerce and the county's Visitors Bureau. Many also drove from as far away as Jackson and Washington Counties. Dr. Joel and Mrs. Sarah McGill, of Brownstown, have been supporters of KT expansion since 2004. Steve Schaftlein, new member and property owner along the KT, signed up to adopt a section of it (see his bio on p. 4).

The presentation by the DNR Division of Nature Preserve's assistant director Tom Swinford (photo with wife Brittany Swinford, naturalist at Indianapolis Parks System) gave a view of the underlying geological history of the Martinsville area and ancient White River Valley. It is almost uncanny how central the town of Martinsville in this primordial landscape because of its position at the confluence of major river systems. The Martinsville Hills/Knobstone Escarpment that the 150-mile Knobstone Hiking Trail follows really does begin here!



SUPPORT EXPANDING SINCE 2003 FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY TRAIL CONNECTION OF SPURGEON HOLLOW TO MUSCATATUCK BLUFFS

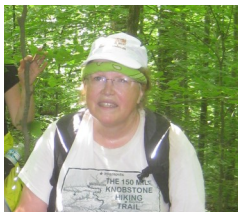


Upon completion of the Tecumseh Trail in 2001, work began to build support for connecting it to the original KT. By 2003, a trail was plotted from the Spurgeon Hollow trailhead to SR 135. In 2005, all five of the Boards of County Commissioners along

the proposed route of the 150-mile KHT approved completion. This trail was finally approved by the DNR's Division of Outdoor Recreation in 2012, but then management of the KT was handed off to the Division of Forestry. In 2009 the Muscatatuck Bluffs section was presented to the DOF. Work is ongoing by the KHTA to connect up these two Jackson-Washington State Forest parcels. Washington County residents are approaching the KHTA with needed easements.

Returning to the Washington County Commissioners again in March (photo), they said, "We approved that project 10 years ago!!!" but then passed another resolution of support anyway. After a presentation to the Washington County Council, the Council not only approved it but their President, Jonathan Spaulding (photo page 4), joined the KHTA and adopted a section of the Knobstone. We are hoping in this Bicentennial year these trails will receive approval.

JUNE 5 NATIONAL TRAILS DAY HIKE REVEALS IMPORTANCE OF TECUMSEH/ KHT EXTENTION TO MARTINSVILLE FOR INDIANAPOLIS HIKERS



KHTA hike leader Nina Andrew (photo left) led the hikers four miles from the edge of Martinsville from the Jones Parking lot on Burton Lane onto the Martinsville Sportsman's Conservation Club easement through Morgan-Monroe State Forest to Rosenbaum Rd. It's a challenging hike—it

crosses up and over a steep-sided spur ridge before ascending the side of Thacker Ridge, once lined with cabins and farms and used by residents to access Martinsville. A contingent of Indianapolis Hiking Club members came to check out the trail. They marveled at how close such a challenging trail was to home. "No need to drive down to the Knobstone to practice up for hiking the AT!"

Nina Andrew plays a major role in the KHTA, as Secretary, promoting KHTA activities through Meet-Up! and Facebook, as well as helping design and build hiking trails. This Tecumseh Trail north extension is still a work in progress. Its steep contours require continuous digging/"benching" of the trail footbed. Readers of *The Knobstone* are invited to help!



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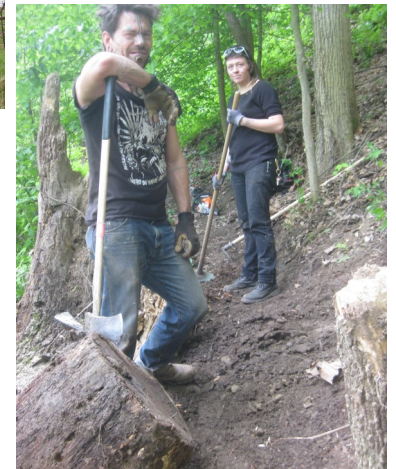
DEVELOPMENTS ALONG THE KHT



2nd Sat. Volunteer trail crews have made mighty contributions to building the trail on the Conservation Club easement. This is the nearly mile long trail that starts at the Jones Parking Lot on Burton Lane at the edge of Martinsville, and will connect through 6 miles of Morgan-Monroe State Forest land to the pre-



sent northern trailhead of the KHT's Tecumseh Trail. Impossible deadfall in top photo ended up totally transformed by workers Charles Andrew on chainsaw, Todd Stewart on come-along hitch (not shown), and the team of Chris Donohue & friend Chris.



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*** * * I WANT TO HELP BUILD THE KHT * * ***

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS: New Renew

- Student/Elder \$15 Individual \$30 Family \$40 Org./Club \$50
- Business \$100 Legacy \$100 Benchmark \$250 Landmark \$500
- Milestone \$1000 Other: \$ _____

I'd also like to make a donation to the KHT LAND & EASEMENT FUND: \$ _____

Enclosed is my contribution of: \$ _____

New Members receive a complimentary copy of the KHTA's Knobstone Hiking Trail Guide.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____

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**Make checks payable to: KHTA, Inc. Fund Mail to: The KHTA, P.O. Box 1814, Martinsville, IN 46151
 OR GO ONLINE TO THE KHTA WEBSITE, AND JOIN with PAYPAL: www.KnobstoneHikingTrail.org**





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 Jackson County Commissioners
 Jackson County Park Board
 Martinsville City Parks
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 Morgan County Commissioners
 Washington County Commissioners
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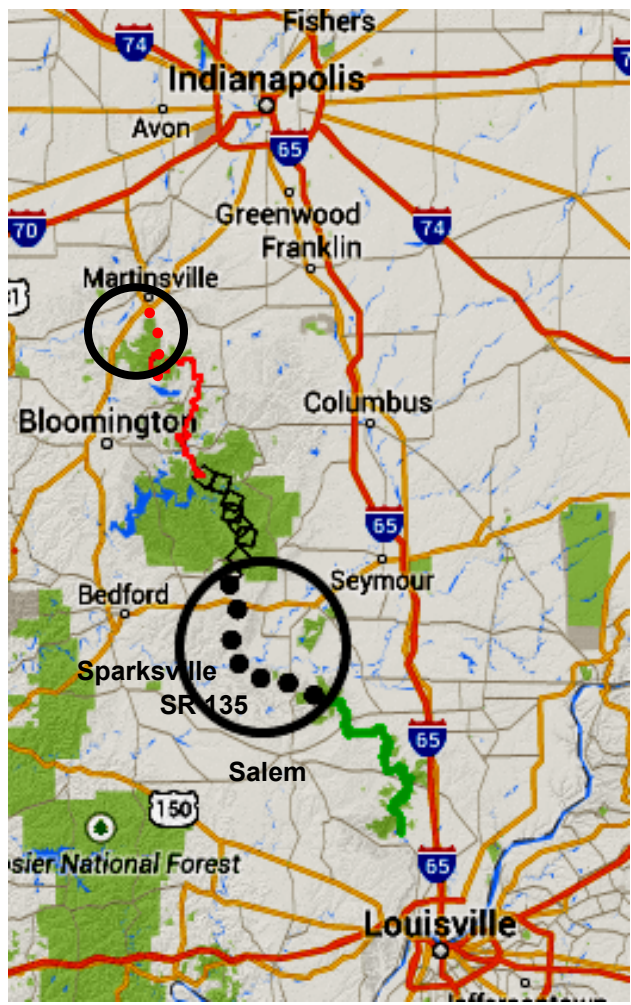
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PROGRESS ON THE 150-MILE KHT



KEY: red dots=provisional KHT extension M-MSF to Martinsville; red line = Tecumseh Trail; black chain=provisional Hoosier National Forest; black dots, circle=Pioneer Trail easements; red circle=J-WSF provisional Muscatatuck Bluffs & Chestnut Ridge; green line= original Knobstone.

WORK IN MORGAN AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES:

This spring, trail building, outreach to the potential trail community, and easement scouting have been focused at the two ends of the Pioneer Trail (black circles on map). At the top end, KHTA volunteers have been building the new Conservation Club easement trail in Morgan County (see photos on p. 2).

At the bottom, Land & Easement Coord. Suzanne Mittenthal is meeting with easement donors in Washington Co. to secure connections between two state forest properties, from the end of the original Knobstone Trail at Spurgeon Hollow & the Oxley property on SR 135 north to a parcel on the Muscatatuck River bluffs. New KHTA member Steve Schafflein is helping scout trails.



GROUNDWELL OF SUPPORT IN WASHINGTON COUNTY FOR EXTENSION OF THE KNOBSTONE.



The DNR Division of Forestry is now in charge of maintaining the original Knobstone Trail. Bradley Schneck (photo left with KHTA Board member Suzanne Mittenthal), property manager of Jackson-Washington State Forest who now has the responsibility for KT oversight, explained in a meeting this spring that he has few resources for this. The KHTA has since worked closely with him setting up a KT Adopt-A-Trail program.

HIKERS ARE COMING OUT OF THE WOODWORK TO ADOPT SECTIONS OF THE KNOBSTONE.....

Five neighbors of the trail have stepped forward since the project was first announced at the KHTA Annual Meeting in March. Only two sections remain unclaimed (Deam to Jackson Rd.; Jackson Rd. to SR 160). Biographies of these special hikers will be featured in the newsletter in coming issues.



Fr. Steve Schafflein: I am happy to be a part of the Knobstone Trail/KT community. Trails build healthy bodies, minds, and souls. Building, maintaining, and hiking trails develops in us the best of what it means to be human. Like other trail communities, the KT brings together a rich mixture of ethnic, religious, and cultural traditions. I look forward to working together with the diverse group of individuals who are excited about the future of trails in Indiana.

I'm a native of Floyd's Knobs, formerly a rural part of Floyd County about 10 miles Southwest of the Southern terminus of the KT at Deam Lake. With two older brothers and two younger sisters, I grew up in a hilly but agricultural area that specialized in strawberries, canary tomatoes, and vegetable farming. The wooded hillsides gave us an appreciation and love for things natural. In 1978 I graduated from St. Meinrad Catholic Seminary and was ordained a priest. Since then I've served in parishes in New Albany, Richmond, New Castle, Greensburg, Charlestown, and Henryville. Following 2 1/2 years of involvement in the recovery effort from the 2012 Henryville toadmo I moved to St. Rose of Lima Church and School in Franklin in 2014. In the late 70's I put together

my first set of backpacking equipment from Kmart and army surplus stores. With these I explored the state and national forests of southern Indiana. I did my first hike of the KT during that period. By the early 80's I was regularly leading groups backpacking in Eastern Kentucky and Smokey Mountain National Park. By the mid 80's I began section hikes of the AT with these groups. During a sabbatical in 1989 I went solo for two months and hiked more than half of the AT. In 1991 I both completed the AT and began a section hike of the PCT. Since then I've completed the PCT, CDT, Arizona Trail, Colorado Trail, and I'm closing in on a completion of the Pacific Northwest Trail.

I fulfilled my dream of having a place in 1998 when I acquired acreage a few miles from the Northern end of the KT. Since then I've hosted a number of church groups there. In the spirit of St. Francis and my partial Native American heritage I attempt to practice in myself and nurture in others a profound spiritual respect for all things natural. I am bolstered by the slow but sure development of positive dialogue and support by religious groups.



Salem resident Jonathan Spaulding:

"The KT is a huge asset for Washington County and I'm excited to help out in maintaining it. I grew up very near the Elk Creek KT section and it's always been a special place to me." He was discovered at Suzanne Mittenthal's presentation in April to the Washington County Council requesting a resolution of support for the

extension of the Knobstone Trail through Washington County. As president, he led the discussion and then framed and obtained approval for the resolution. This I.U. grad and family man, besides being an insurance provider at Knapp Miller Brown Insurance Services /Keystone Insurers Group, has served on the River Hills Economic Development District & Regional Planning Commission, and is an active member of Awareness Washington Co.



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