

THE

# NOBSTONE



**AUTUMN 2015 NEWSLETTER Vol. 2, No. 3**  
of the **NOBSTONE HIKING TRAIL ASSOCIATION, founded in 2013**

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## **MARTINSVILLE SPORTSMAN'S CONSERVATION CLUB EASEMENT GRANTED**



The new easement allows a new Tecumseh Trailhead at the edge of Martinsville (on Burton Lane), nearly 7 miles north of the present one via 6.5 miles of proposed new trail on Morgan-Monroe State Forest land. The document was signed September 10 by MSCC Board member Monty Hopkins (photo left) and Suzanne Mittenthal, KHTA Board member and Land/Easement Acquisition Coordinator. The photo was taken by Charles Andrew, KHTA president and professional colleague of several MSCC Board members, a key player in helping find common cause with the Club for the wider interests of hikers and residents of Martinsville and Morgan County.

Coverage in the local newspaper, the Reporter-Times of Martinsville, was extensive—it gave the project a front-page article. And the local radio station, WCBK, requested an interview. Support has been given the project by the Greater Martinsville Chamber of Commerce executive director Jamie Thompson and the Visit Morgan County Visitor Center executive director Tosha Dougherty. It puts Martinsville on the map, and is making people proud of their town, whether they are hikers or not.

## **TRANSITION: DNR DIVISION OF FORESTRY ASSISTANT FORESTER DAN ERNST DELIVERS THE NEWS—THE DOF IS TAKING OVER MANAGEMENT OF THE ORIGINAL NOBSTONE TRAIL FROM THE DIVISION OF OUTDOOR RECREATION**

At a meeting called specially by the DOF for the KHTA Board on September 30, 2015, we were given the outline of the plan. The KHTA Board appreciated the opportunity to get this presentation. It was held at the provisional new Tecumseh/KHT trailhead in Martinsville, in the former local FOP headquarters. That building is now owned by J.W. Jones, the donor of an easement on the adjacent 2-acre parking lot for KHT trailhead parking. Before the meeting, DNR staff shared a walk on the cleared MSCC easement path most of the way to the boundary with Morgan-Monroe State Forest.

At the meeting were Dan Ernst (photo, center) as well as Nila Armstrong, to his right), Trails Specialist for the Division of Outdoor Recreation, John Friedrich, Forestry Land Specialist, MMYSF property manager Jim Allen and his assistant property manager John Roales, as well as the Board of the KHTA. Nila Armstrong, formerly in charge of all maintenance on the Knobstone Trail, spoke of the challenge of that job. Her efforts were lauded, both for getting the trail cleared all these years, plus for working to get funding to pay for part-time chain-sawing staff. The DOR will continue to maintain the excellent KT website for the time being.

Responsibility for oversight and maintenance of the trail has been divided between northern and southern portions. Brad Schneck, property manager of Jackson/Washington S.F., will be in charge of the northern half, the miles in JWSF. Gina Wolcoxon, Forester/Naturalist at Deam Lake, who also has some forest resource responsibilities at Clark S.F., will manage the southern half, including miles in CSF, Elk Creek F&WA, and Deam Lake S.R.A. The original Knobstone is to be maintained as a part of the state forest lands it is situated on, like the more recently completed Tecumseh Trail. Organizations like the AT and the KHTA's mentor organization, the Superior Hiking Trail have maintenance agreements with governmental entities their trails cross. The task confronting the KHTA will be to identify enough volunteers to meet the expectations of the DNR for help in adopting KT sections. However, many details still need to be worked out, such as the responsibility for chain sawing deadfalls. Groups such as the SHT contract this out to paid professionals.

Dan Ernst, Assistant to the Director of Forestry John Seifert, spoke of the DNR's 1996 Knobstone Trail Extension Plan. This document laid out a provisional path to extend the trail from the present Spurgeon Hollow Trailhead through Washington, Jackson, Brown, Monroe, and Morgan Counties, to Morgan-Monroe State Forest. That path generally followed the Knobstone Escarpment as it wanders northward and westward from the existing, original trail head in Washington County. Many do not know that the forested hills south of Martinsville are a continuation of the Escarpment known as the Martinsville Hills, on the same bedrock.

This route contains approximately 57 miles, of which 23 miles or about 40% are publicly owned (DNR and Hoosier National Forest). A little more than 12 miles (21%) of this route are already in recorded easements plus one scenic unpaved country lane.

The present KHTA provisional route follows the DNR KT Expansion Plan path. The major difference between the 1996 Plan and the KHT's approach is the DNR's plan called for purchasing a wide land corridor along the route, while the KHTA's approach follows the convention commonly used elsewhere in the US, that of obtaining easements in initial stages of development of the trail wherever possible. It can take years to acquire all the desired parcels in this way, but experience shows that Hoosier landowners are also extremely resistant to selling their land. As land becomes available, usually in large tracts, special financing is then used, to buy the whole in order to reduce it to trail acres and parcels to be re-sold. It should be noted that there are two reasons why the proposed trail corridor acres are still undeveloped and suitable for inclusion in a landmark, long-distance trail. First, they are mostly steep, hilly, and forested. Second, most are protected from development by enrollment in the state's Classified Forest tax set-aside program.



# The KNOBSTONE HIKING TRAIL ASSOCIATION

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**HOOSIER OUTDOOR EXPO SEPT. 19-20** The KHTA's booth at HOE at FT. HARRISON S.P. in Indianapolis had a steady flow of visitors as usual this year—once the rain let up! The KHTA's KHT Guide is always popular, as it contains a map and directions to trails at Morgan-Monroe as well as the rest of the trail down to Deam Lake. Numbers were down this year, and exhibits shrunk a bit, as a popular shuttle service was not provided this year. However, many Scout troops passed by, and a half dozen Scout leaders got Eagle Scout project ideas—a KHT footbridge is needed near Sparksville in Jackson County.



**KHTA BOARD MEMBERS** Board members attending the August 26 Board meeting shown in photo above (left to right) are Pamala Dunscombe, Bob Decker, Suzanne Mittenthal, Tony Abbott, Jerry Pagac, Charles Andrew, and Nina Andrew (holding Rogue hoe). The meeting was held at the JW Jones office building (former FOP HQ) adjacent to the KHT parking lot and MSCC easement trailhead in Martinsville.

Bob Decker was accepted as a new Board member at this meeting. He has had extensive experience developing relationships with legislators and bureaucrats in Indiana, and is a certified public accountant. He was the President of Hoosier Owners and Providers for the Elderly, a trade association representing Hoosier owned nursing, assisted living and senior housing facilities. He was responsible for advancing the members' interests by gaining the confidence of and forming relationships with legislators and bureaucrats.

This included lobbying the Indiana General Assembly, and helped develop Medicaid reimbursement policy for nursing homes and regulatory enforcement policies. He was responsible for providing the staff of member facilities with useful and current information, effective training and operational consultation.

Bob comments: "I like to refer to myself as a "recovering accountant". Although I still use finance and accounting, I have not practiced as an accountant for decades. It's still a little early to say where my experience and training will most benefit KHTA. I believe that the existence of a major hiking trail in Indiana will not only serve Hoosiers well, but will be a draw for retaining our best and brightest young people in the state. I think I can help the Association gain the attention of policy makers in the state and get them to recognize what a great value the completed trail will be." Bob already is making very thoughtful contributions at Board meetings.

Pamala Dunscombe, Martinsville City Parks Director, new this past summer, is at a different stage in her life than Bob. A backpacker and camper, she recently added a third child to her family, little Trubie. She commented, "She felt her family was now complete and it was time to get involved in some community activity." The KHTA drew her attention because she's serious about trails, and helping complete the KHT seemed a natural. Pamala has visions of using some of the city land acquired after the 2008 flood for a city campground. This could readily serve as a starting point for hikers doing all or part of the KHT, as the site is near the new trailhead at the edge of Martinsville. From her perch in local government, she has become very familiar with people in government, business and organizations in the city and Morgan County. She has already proven to be a useful bridge between these forces and the KHTA. What a resource!

## DEVELOPMENTS ALONG THE KHT

For work details, 11/14 & 12/12; 2/13/16 go to:  
(sessions cancelled for snow and if roads are icy)

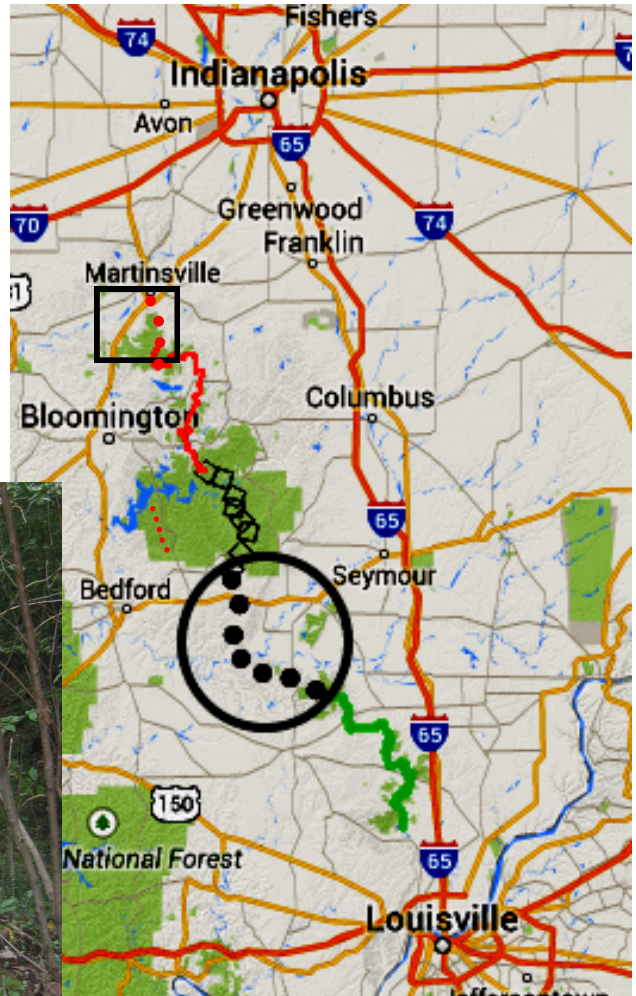


### DOF MEETING NEWS: TRAIL ADOPTERS NEEDED FOR ORIGINAL KT.

Part of the news from the DOF was that trail maintenance of the Knobstone will be handled in the future by volunteers, and not the former paid staff of the DOR. One of the roles of the KHTA will be to aid in identifying volunteers to help with this work, in the form of the DNR's Adopt-A-Trail system in place on the KHT's northernmost section, the Tecumseh Trail. More details in next issue of the *Knobstone*, or contact Nina Andrew (contact info on p. 2).

### NEW TECUMSEH TRAILHEAD AND TRAIL MILES 0.0—7.

(dotted red line in square) Work has begun on the Martinsville Sportsman's Conservation Club easement to connect the new KHT trailhead to Morgan-Monroe State Forest. The trail design has been laid out,



and mostly cleared. It has involved a lot of chain sawing. Photos right and below show Charles Andrew, KHTA president, in "before" and "during" views. For once, Charles is working in his backyard, as he is a resident of Martinsville. Working in early October, turtles are found heading for hibernating sites. Ed Lizewski, KHTA webmaster, encountered three working on the MSCC easement trail.



### NEW VOLUNTEERS FROM SEYMOUR AND MEDORA, WORKING IN THEIR BACKYARDS ON SPARKVILLE EASEMENT

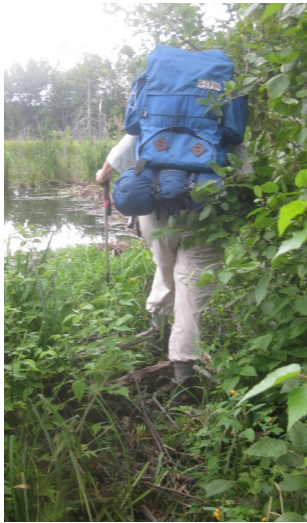
**STRING** Working in August, volunteers from afar made contributions on the Darlage easement. Randy Branaman, (photo far right) from Medora, brought a backpacking friend he has met on MeetUp (in photo using Rogue hoe, with Charlie on chain saw). In the photo with Randy is Lehti Kalme, English teacher on vacation, visiting from Estonia. The clearing work is nearly complete. Work in Sparkville, however, is competing with opportunities to work on the new trailhead connection to Martinsville via the MSCC easement. Crews will head back down to Sparkville in the new year. **SAFETY CONCERNS FOR WINTER WORK SESSIONS** For the record, all work in winter months is dependent on road conditions. Snow or icy roads mean work sessions are cancelled. Notice of closings will be posted on MeetUp.

**ICE AGE TRAIL BACKPACK**

**(cont.)** The IAT is projected as 1,000+ miles. Today's 500+ miles are not continuous, and some are in developed areas. Its route follows the extent of the last mid-Western ("Wisconsin Glaciation") in Wisconsin, ending about 10,000 years ago, which left raised glacial debris strings of ridges in many areas, called moraines. It's depicted on the IAT ikon at right, in yellow. In Indiana, that glaciation extended much further south, and marks the beginning of Southern Indiana's hills and hollows—and the Knobstone-Martinsville Hills Escarpment.

**HOW TO:** A nice string of fairly remote connected miles begins in the north woods just above the mammoth's head on the ikon. I chose the Hemlock Creek and North and South Blue Hills Segments, for a total of 22.7 miles. Not a lot of miles, but when you take as many photos as my friend and I did, walk precarious distances balanced on beaver dams (photo, right), and plow through as much raspberry as we did, it made for a very nice 3-day hike.

The sections exhibited typical features of the glaciation on the Wisconsin landscape: ice-walled lake plains, skinny, winding high moraine ridges (view of kettle lake below from moraine, photo at far right), kettle lakes (some now filled by beaver streams, some hollow). It also had exposed remnants of 1.8 billion year bedrock from a 20,000 ft. high mountain chain once the highest in North America! The IAT is maintained almost entirely by volunteers, but a paid staff of 11 is working to coordinate its parts and efforts to extend it.



**KHTA 2015 EVENTS REMAINING: OCT 10, NOV 14, Dec 12**

Not much time left. Check location and directions on meetup! More dates may be arranged, such as Wednesdays and Sundays, if convenient for you. Contact KHTA trail crew leader Nina Andrew if you want to do some trail work before the new season begins in February: [nandrew701@aol.com](mailto:nandrew701@aol.com). Work is planned for Martinsville, but Sparksville is possible.



**WHY VISIT THE IAT? EASEMENT CHALLENGES: LESSONS FROM THE ICE AGE TRAIL ALLIANCE AND INDIANA'S CILTI**

The IATA is larger than the KHTA, but it faces the same challenges as we do, with many more miles of private land easements needed in between trails on public acres. So experiencing their trail gives us a basis for communication with their staff. Kevin Thusius, Dir. Of Land Conservation and whose job is easement acquisition, confirms that it is not an easy task. Asked if he ever has sleepless nights over the lengthy process, he said, "Ask my wife!" IATA executive director Mike Wollmer wishes us luck.

**Central Indiana Land Trust Inc.** director Cliff Chapman lectures on the process of gaining property donations and conservation easements. He says "it is a matter of building trust, and building relationships, often over many generations." This is similar to the method the KHTA follows, where discussions proceed on the basis of finding mutual interests in preserving opportunities for citizens to experience the outdoors in Indiana. Most easement donors' land has been preserved in Classified Forest, for forest and wildlife habitat enhancement. The easements are seen as a legacy they can leave to the public, and is considered by the state as a beneficial development that enhances the value to the state of the CF classification. Many donors have become friends of the trail. A community is growing...

The trip's impact was enhanced by a visit to the nearby Obey Ice Age Interpretive Center, one of the finest such facilities I've ever encountered. It provided answers to the many questions that arose after hiking for days perched on the high, looping moraine trail. My car sports a bumper sticker that says: THIS CAR BRAKES FOR BAKERIES, so visits to a local eatery and bakery featuring specialties from the area's Bohemian heritage also added much enjoyment to the experience. Shuttle help, maps, and trail info: [www.iceagetrail.org](http://www.iceagetrail.org).

Submitted by Suzanne Mittenthal, Easement/Land Acquisition Coordinator, Newsletter Editor, and backpacker.



**\* \* \* 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** \_\_\_\_\_  
**State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_  
**E-mail** \_\_\_\_\_

**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](http://www.KnobstoneHikingTrail.org)





**Governmental endorsements:**

Brown County Commissioners  
 Jackson County Commissioners  
 Jackson County Park Board  
 Martinsville City Parks  
 Monroe County Commissioners  
 Morgan County Commissioners  
 Washington County Commissioners

**Community Foundation support**

Morgan County  
 Jackson County  
 Brown County  
 Washington County

**Visitor Center support**

Morgan County  
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**Contributors**

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 Ed Lizewski

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**NEW SUPPORT FOR THE KHTA: JL WATERS, OF BLOOMINGTON**

Listeners to NPR have for years heard the company's claim to serve the needs of adventurers with "Outdoor equipment, clothing and footwear to help enjoy the outdoors, from canoeing in Canada to backpacking in Brown County." We appreciate their support for the KHTA, a new opportunity for backpackers, extending a lot further south than Brown County. You can find them on the west side of the square in Bloomington or follow their



logo on the KHTA website Home page, with an active link to the store website on the Sponsors page: [www.jlwaters.com](http://www.jlwaters.com). They carry gear "aimed at those that travel, from day-trippers to globetrotters." They've done this since 1973, so you too will probably find the store a useful resource.

**LILLY ENDOWMENT PROCEEDS TO THE KHTA, MARCH—AUGUST: \$1,847.50.** Treasurer Tony Abbott reported in September that the 50% match received from funds donated to the KHTA since March 16 is nearing \$2,000. That's a lot of memberships!



**MARCH 16, 2015—MARCH 15, 2016  
 50% DONATION-MATCHING GRANTS FROM THE LILLY ENDOWMENT**

The Lilly Endowment, Inc. "desired to inspire community foundations throughout the state of Indiana to invest greater resources into new, highly impactful grant making focused deliberately on critical needs and initiatives." A new million dollar Fund will reach each county while allowing grantees to continue to meet the wide variety of needs unique to their unique missions and circumstances. How many matching grants has the Lilly Endowment given in the past? This is the first matching grant from the Lilly Endowment of this type. **All donations to the KHTA will be covered by this matching grant to our sponsoring Community Foundation of Morgan County until March 15, 2016.**

## HUNTERS IN MORGAN COUNTY HELP EXTEND THE KHT TO MARTINSVILLE!

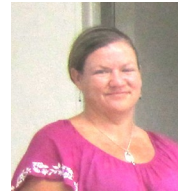
The Martinsville Sportsman's Conservation Club has granted an easement through a narrow valley connecting south .5 mi. to Morgan-Monroe State Forest property. An extension of the Tecumseh Trail north from the MMSF through the MSCC boundary, which has been provisionally laid out, will add more than 7 miles to the KHT. An easement for a 2-acre parking lot for the new trailhead was generously granted in 2014 by J.W. Jones, of Martinsville. His company, in nearby Paragon, provides stone crushing equipment all over the globe. The lot is about 100 yards from the expected trail entrance, .2 mi. from the present SR37, on Burton Lane. It will be easily accessible from the future I69 exit at Ohio St. via a new service road next to the freeway. The trail route is surveyed, and trail work has begun. (continued inside)

## DNR STREAMLINES ADMINISTRATION OF ORIGINAL KNOBSTONE TRAIL: DOF TO TAKE OVER.

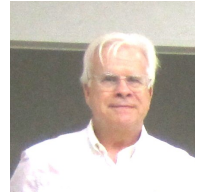
Oversight of the first 45 miles of the Knobstone Trail, the section of the KHT begun in the 1970s and largely completed by 1981, was exercised by the newly created Division of Outdoor Recreation. According to Dan Ernst, of the Division of Forestry, it has been reassigned to the DOF (photo left, with Nila Armstrong, former DOR manager of the KT). See "Transition" on page 1 for more news about the changes.



## NEW BOARD MEMBERS: 150-MILE KHT VISION MOTIVATES BOB DECKER; CONGRUENCE WITH OWN PERSONAL VISION INSPIRES PAM DUNSCOMBE



At retirement, Bob Decker went to the Annual meeting of the new Knobstone Hiking Trail Association. He had been interested in the extension of the Knobstone Trail to its original 150-mi visionary length for years (cont. page 2).



## REPORT FROM THE ICE AGE TRAIL

What started out as a simple substitute for my usual western mountain summer backpack, turned into an opportunity for an education from the ground up on what a moraine is and an opportunity to see how another major mid-Western long-distance trail operation manages the challenges of working with various government agencies and private landowners to string miles of trail across the countryside. The IAT's provisional route is 1000+ miles, with over 500 connected to date. Our gap of 36+ miles in the KHT's Pioneer section doesn't seem so daunting. Want to find out for yourself? See "IAT Backpack" inside.



[www.knobstonehikingtrail.org](http://www.knobstonehikingtrail.org)  
The Knobstone Hiking Trail Association, Inc.  
P. O. Box 1814  
Martinsville, IN 46151



The **COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**  
of Jackson County  
*Together, we grow tomorrows*



**OLIVER**  
WINERY & VINEYARDS



## WEBSITE'S UP AND RUNNING!

Want to hike the KHT? Go to the KnobstoneHikingTrail.org and find the 150-mile KHT. Chose your section, your trailhead, click! and Google Maps will take you there. Or try a "Suggested Hike."