

THE

# NOBSTONE

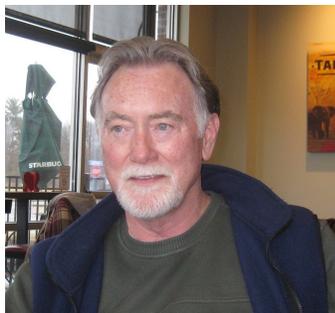


**WINTER 2015 NEWSLETTER Vol. 2, No. 1**  
of the **KNOBSTONE HIKING TRAIL ASSOCIATION, founded in 2013**  
*KHTAssociation@gmail.com; www.KHTA.org; editor: smittenthal@gmail.com*

## KHTA 2nd ANNUAL MEETING MARCH 21st

### SPEAKER: JOE PAYNE, BUILDER OF ORIGINAL KNOBSTONE TRAIL

After obtaining a B.S. from Purdue in Psychology and Math in 1971 at age 21, Joe traveled and explored his options for a year. He ended up invited to the University in Calgary, where he got an M.S. in Environmental Design. With that exemplary background, he was enticed back to Indiana by the DNR, to pursue the building of the Knobstone Trail, or KT. The KT had been laid out by Jerry Pagac (see article on right), who had been promoted to a supervisory role. It was a golden moment in the environmental movement: there was money for trails and recognition of their importance for community development. The details of Joe's work on the KT plus his perspective on its extension to the visionary 150 miles will be the subject of his "conversation" with the audience on the 21st at the Annual meeting.



## NEW KHTA WEBSITE: EXPECTED APRIL 1

Domain names are secured. BSNTech is doing the design. It will provide Hoosiers with online access to KHT trailhead information and suggested hikes, plus .enable users to make online membership donations and purchase maps and t-shirts, plus give

## NEW KHTA BOARD MEMBER: JERRY PAGAC,

designer of original Knobstone Trail, later boss of Joe Payne, and speaker at the the KHTA's 1st Annual Meeting in 2014, has joined the Executive Board. He is the Board's official governmental liaison. He is working with president Charles Andrew on completion of provisional extensions of the KHT on state and federal forest lands



**MEMBERSHIP ANNUAL RENEWAL TIME: A \$1000 KICK-OFF DONATION** from J & G Fox Foundation gratefully acknowledged. We have survived two years. The Board is growing, with increased vigor and diversity: banker, computer programmer, attorney, professional technical specialties, sociologist/writer, trail designer/builders, public park administration, community development, all represented on Board. And taking responsibility and leadership roles. **PLEASE JOIN/RENEW NOW!**

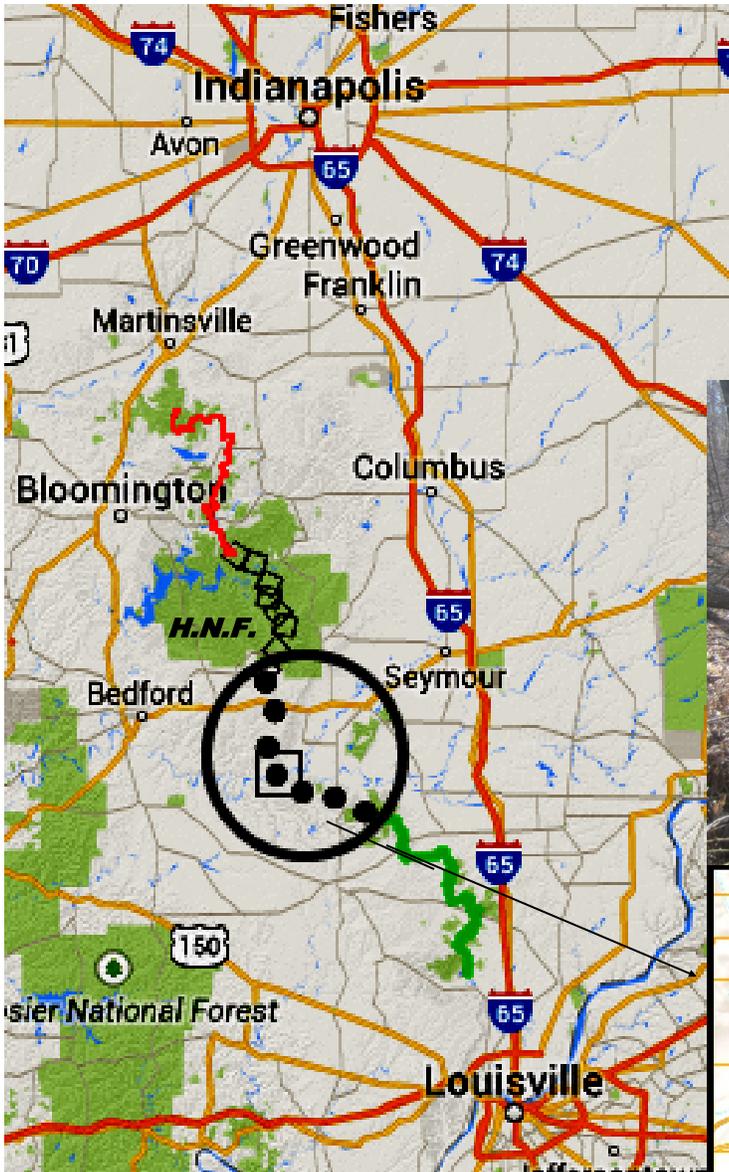
## BROWN COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION \$1200 GRANT TO THE KHTA: VALUE OF THE LUTHERAN HILLS SEGMENT

The grant funded the certified survey of the portion of the Tecumseh Trail that was laid out on Lutheran Hills Church property in Brown County. Few hikers realize that more than 75% of the time on the TT they're actually in those "Hills O' Brown (County)". And few will every understand value of the more than 3 miles that traverse Camp property.

There is not a lot of green space in public ownership in Indiana. However, in Brown County where the Lutheran Hills camp is situated, there are many acres under the protection of religious and civic groups that make an important contribution to natural resource conservation, recreation and wildlife. Unnoticed on most state maps, these properties serve as an invisible land bridge between major areas of state forest ownership. The Lutheran Hills Camp is situated between two large parcels of Morgan-Monroe State Forest, in line with the path of the KHT.

The Lutheran Hills easement allowed the trail to be taken off a particularly dangerous, twisting & hilly section of Carmel Ridge Rd. that connects the two parcels. Steep banks line the road in places, with almost no shoulder, making it even more dangerous for hikers than for cars.





**PROGRESS ALONG THE KHT: Pioneer Trail, Easement Section, KHT Mile 65—101 (dotted line in circle)** from the S.end of the Tecumseh (in red on road map) & HNF route (black squares) to the N. trailhead of the original Knobstone (green on road map).

**MEET-UP CREWS HAVE WORK CUT OUT FOR THEM** Work continues just north of Sparksville, on Weber and Darlage easements. The photo below shows the mess of deadfalls the



trail crew will have to cut their way through even before beginning to shape a footpath. The previously flagged route was almost totally obscured by storm damage in this part of the Darlage easement. The route is *always* chosen for purposes of erosion control, not ease of construction.

**HISTORIC SPARKSVILLE : SPARKSVILLE PARK FRIENDS GROUP DISPLAY** Sparksville is one of those towns “time forgot.” The Friends group’s Edith Boling, founding member of the KHTA, is spearheading the collection of materials to document the town’s history.

These materials will be used to place informational signs at the trailside park. A mere shadow of its past, regular trains once served the county. One wonders why? In Edith’s youth, Sparksville residents could take the train east to Seymour to shop for the day and return home in time for supper.

A course for the White River was cut through the Knobstone Escarpment eons ago, at present day Sparksville. The valley narrows here, and a Mr. Stephen Sparks established a ferry here in the early 1800s as new Americans settled the area on 1812 War land grants. The town was platted in 1857. Eventually a bridge, now protected as a historical monument, was built. Replaced with a new bridge in 2007, it serves as the place for the KHT to cross. The crossing brought commerce to the town, local jobs were provided by a nearby quarry, three general stores, lumber mill, and a button factory supported by an abundance of shells in the river

Walking through the remaining few dwellings, while connecting to the trail northward from the park, hikers will have a ghostly experience on a grey day. Beneath the grassy fields alongside the remaining streets lie the remnants of the vanished railroad yard and station, mill, and button factory [photos next page].

# KHTA PIONEER TRAIL DEVELOPMENT: GHOSTS ALONG THE TRAIL

Photos: bottom left: Sparksville depot along tracks; right, B & O RR train in nearby Medora; right; B & O Sparksville Section crew in Vallonia. The "section" covered the miles from Vallonia through Medora to Sparksville. Two long-time Sparksville residents and supporters of the extension of the Knobstone Hiking Trail through Jackson County are Oguerita McKinney, now 93, and Edith Boling. Notable is the foreman of the crew, Frank McKinney, in dark overalls, 2nd from right in back row. He was the father-in-law of Oguerita, and the grandfather of Edith. Edith is the head of the Sparksville Heritage Society Fund of the Jackson County Community Foundation. Her grandson now lives in her family home, just three lots up from the tracks. She has had the unsettling experience of seeing the town melting away all her life. Perhaps the KHT will connect the town to other communities in a way the railroad once did. Current residents are proud of the Park!



**\* \* \* 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     Life \$1000     Other: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Enclosed is my contribution of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**The KHTA is a Fund of the Community Foundation of Morgan Co., a 501 (c)3 non-profit organization.**

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

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City** \_\_\_\_\_

**State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail** \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL TO: KHTA, P.O. BOX 1814, MARTINSVILLE, IN 46151**

**Make checks payable to: KHTA, Inc. Fund**  
**Mail to: The KHTA, Suite 301, 342 Massachusetts Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46204**



**KHTA**

## WHAT'S HAPPENING ON THE KHT? EVENTS:

FEB 22 (Sun: rescheduled), 9:30 am KHTA 2nd Saturdays Trail work: PIONEER TRAIL CLEARING NEAR SPARKSVILLE PARK weather permitting (nandrew701@aol.com), KHTAssociation@gmail.com.  
MAR 14 2nd SAT. TRAIL CLEARING ON THE KHT (INFO, DETAILS as above).  
KHTA 2nd ANNUAL MEETING Lutheran Hills Church Camp. Details below.  
APR 11 2nd SAT. TRAIL CLEARING & possibly BUILDING ON THE KHT. (INFO, DETAILS, as above).

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME.....MAIL-IN FORM INSIDE



## MARCH 21 KHTA 2nd ANNUAL MEETING

Lutheran Hills Church Camp, 6371 Bear Creek Rd., just N. of Trevlac off SR 45, between Bloomington & Beanblossom:

Hikes, pitch in lunch, free program, public invited.

- 10:00 Optional 1 & 2-hour hikes: easy, to the Tecumseh Trail and Foxes Den Trail Shelter.
- 12:00 Pitch-In Lunch. Main dish, table service provided. Bring drink, side dish, dessert, or just come!
- 1-3:00 Program: Second year's achievements, important new KHTA Initiatives and exciting speaker.

**Speaker: Joe Payne, builder of the Knobstone Trail,** working from 1975 as one of two "Streams & Trails Coordinators" into the 1980s. He followed this seminal work with the DNR as president of the National Trails Council and Co-founder of American Trails. He has just retired from a career spent fashioning the showpiece W. Lafayette Park system. After all those years hiking the Knobstone, here's a chance to understand its origins. He can relate intimate details about the multitudes of terrain challenges, and about the drama behind the scenes regarding acquisition of one crucial connecting parcel for the initial miles.



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

