

THE

KNOBSTONE



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of the **KNOBSTONE HIKING TRAIL ASSOCIATION, founded in 2013**
KHTAssociation@gmail.com; www.knobstonehikingtrail.org; editor: smittenthal@gmail.com



3RD ANNUAL KHTA MEETING MARCH 19 in MARTINSVILLE
LOCATION: JONES BLDG at the new NORTHERN KHT TRAILHEAD.
SPEAKER: TOM SWINFORD, ECOLOGIST, ASST. DIR., DNR DIV. NATURE PRESERVES. Focus on Morgan County: Richly illustrated with Tom's digital mapping and photography, his presentation will tell the story of the formative events that shaped today's landscape and provided our natural and cultural history. You'll come away with an understanding of the top of the Trail starting all the way from bedrock—it really is a part of the Knobstone escarpment connecting nearly to Louisville—to the effects of native Americans on their surroundings.

Tom Swinford has worked for 20 years as a conservation biologist in many of Indiana's most exciting and significant natural areas. His duties include biological inventory, land protection, conservation planning and habitat restoration on public and private lands across Indiana. Tom's restoration interests focus on oak woodlands and prairie wetlands; this includes pioneering the use of fire as a management tool in Indiana's forests. He has had leadership roles in the Healthy Rivers Initiative, successful negotiation of a reuse plan for the former Newport Chemical Depot that includes regionally significant prairie restorations, and the Whitewater Valley Heritage Corridor project.

Tom has received numerous awards, most recently, the State Park's 2012 Partners Award and the IDNR's 2010 Award of Excellence (employee of the year). He places a high priority on building awareness of Indiana's natural history through education by frequently presenting workshops and lectures. He has written many articles for Outdoor Indiana magazine, amongst other publications. His talk follows the pitch-in lunch—a great way to spend your midday in March.

GOVERNMENT LIASON KHT COMPLETION TEAM MAKES PRESENTATION TO DOF

Report by KHTA President Charles Andrew: The KHTA team, consisting of Jerry Pagac, retired DNR Div. of Parks director, Bob Decker, retired lobbyist for health concerns, and myself, Lilly measurement engineer (photo below), discussed the role of the DNR and the Hoosier National Forest in completing provisional trails in the Pioneer Section of the KHT [see map on page 3 for location of these areas]. Attending were the Div. of Forestry Director Jack Seifert and Asst. Dir. Dan Ernst. The KHTA team presented maps and easement records for the route proposed by the KHTA for the remaining government sections. The incomplete routes represent 50% of total Pioneer miles. They are predominantly on old pioneer tracks, and would be simple to build.



The DOF explained they are working under difficult financial conditions, receive no tax funds for recreation, and find it difficult to take on more obligations. However, Director Seifert offered to write a letter to the HNF asking them to meet with us to consider expanding the trail on their land. He also noted that the extension of the KHT north from Spurgeon Hollow has been placed on the state's map of trails, a measure of progress.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENT GOAL: KHTRAIL ADVISORY COUNCIL The Council is drawing together backers of the KHT completion drive from the 5-County 150-Mile KHT corridor: Morgan, Monroe, Brown, Jackson, and Washington. Starting with the Boards of Commissioners which officially endorsed the project in an earlier drive, the KHTA is soliciting members from civic leaders, service organizations, and related businesses. This task will be made easier in Washington Co. because of KHTA Board member Jack Mahuron, Salem, shown (left) with Board member Suzanne Mittenthal, teaming up with Pamala Dunscombe of Morgan Co. on the project.



Jack, a retired banker, is a one-man Outreach liaison for the county. He has inspired more causes than most people have ever heard of. He's the founder—and director for 10 years—of the Washington County Community Foundation. And he spearheaded the preservation of Beck's Mill, the 19th century grist mill on a historic site south of Salem. It was his membership on IU's Southern Indiana Advisory Board that put him in touch with Bill Cook, the Bloomington billionaire medical instruments company CEO. Jack found the two shared an interest in the Mill, and connected Bill's money up to a plan. The million-dollar deal was sealed and architect hired for the restoration practically overnight. The Mill is worth a trip to Washington County!

The KNOBSTONE HIKING TRAIL ASSOCIATION

P.O.Box 1814, Martinsville, IN 46151

www.KnobstoneHikingTrail.org

KHTAssociation@gmail.org

The Knobstone editor: smittenthal@gmail.com



DEVELOPMENTS ALONG THE KHT

For work details, March 12, April 2 (1st Sat), May 14 go to:



KHTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT: Charles Andrew, Martinsville
KHTA WATER RESOURCE PROJECT,
charles-andrew1@att.net

SECRETARY: Nina Andrew, Indianapolis
TRAIL DEVELOPMENT, VOLUNTEER COORD.
nandrew701@aol.com

TREASURER: Bob Decker, Indianapolis
FINANCIAL ADVISOR, LEGISLATIVE & TOURISM
LIAISON. rdecker@lucashealthgroup.com.

Tony Abbott, Indianapolis LEGAL ADVISOR,
tabbott@foleyandabbott.com

Pamala Dunscombe, Martinsville
LOCAL PARKS SUPPORT COORDINATOR
recreation@cityparks.comcastbiz.net

Brian Holzhausen, Fortville TRAIL RUNNING,
Brian15@DINOseries.com

Ed Lizewski, Eugene, Oregon WEBMASTER,
khta.webm@yahoo.com

D. Jack Mahuron, Salem FOUNDATIONS
ADVISOR, dmahuron@blueriver.net

John Miller, Rising Sun LAND TRUST ADVISOR,
quercusalba@embarqmail.com,

Suzanne Mittenthal, Martinsville REAL ESTATE
EASEMENT/LAND ACQUISITION COORD., KHTA
NEWSLETTER EDITOR, smittenthal@gmail.com

Jerry Pagac, Bloomington GOVERNMENT
AGENCY LIAISON, jerpagac@yahoo.com

Joe Payne, Thorntown DEVELOPMENT,
joepa@outlook.com.



THE SPARKSVILLE STRING

Work crews are making progress on the ridge above Sparksville Park (blue circle on map on p. 3). It's not easy work—slopes are steep and the trail needs “benching” (Meet-Up volunteer Nick is digging a flat foot bed or “bench” in photo above.) The “string” refers to the fact that the path has needed the contributions of five landowners in a row for the linear KHT here.

The payoff for the steepness: dramatic views. Nina Andrew, trail scouter, is shown in two photos. The rivers visible in the distance are the White and Muscatatuck; the photos were taken on opposite sides of the ridge. Sparksville is just below the rivers' confluence.



*** * * 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: _____

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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
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 Martinsville City Parks
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Community Foundation support

Morgan County
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Visitor Center support

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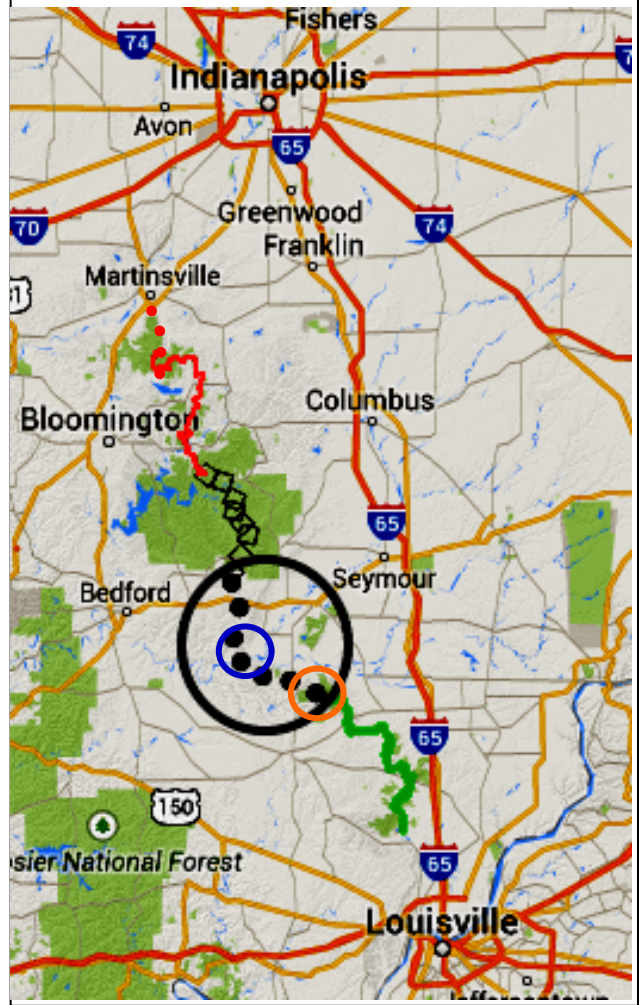
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DEVELOPMENTS ALONG THE KHT



KEY: Red—dots = provisional KHT extension M-MSF to Martinsville; line = Tecumseh Trail; Black—chain = provisional Hoosier National Forest; dots, circle = Pioneer Trail easements; Blue circle = Sparksville; Orange circle = J-WSF provisional Muscatatuck Bluffs & Chestnut Ridge; Green line = original Knobstone Trail.

PROGRESS—PIONEER TRAIL

The easement trail (red dotted line) has been cleared from the new trailhead at the edge of Martinsville (.2 mile from the southernmost stoplight on SR 37) south to the boundary of the Morgan-Monroe State Forest. There it meets a very visible pioneer-era track, which continues for 4 mii. to the unpaved Rosenbaum Rd. and another 3 mi. of provisional route to the forest HQ and the Tecumseh Trail.

A 3 mile easement route to take the KHT off the road north of Sparksville (blue circle) is 80% acquired and cleared. The remainder was scouted in February. Negotiations are underway to acquire the easement.

An extension of the KHT from Spurgeon Hollow, (original N. KT trailhead) 3 mi. to SR 135 (orange circle), has been approved. Construction awaits improving a creek crossing.



SCOUTING TRAILS—PIECE OF CAKE?

Storms drop trees all the time in Indiana's successional woods, regrowing since pioneer--era clearing for crops. Sustainable trails must be placed where drainage dictates. Photo below shows Nina Andrew placing trail route flagging in deadfall jumble on potential easement route above Sparksville. Photo of trail flagging on sapling at right shows another hazard of trail



flagging. Those half-inch spikes are the reason this understory shrub is called "Devils Club" (also slanted stalk in photo of deadfall).



Winter does disclose less lethal features, such as the winter-photosynthesizing "Cranefly Orchid" leaves



newly unfolded under winter sun (photo left; flowers don't emerge until summer).

NEW KHTA BOARD MEMBER Joe Payne

After 21 years with W. Laf. Parks & Rec., Joe retired as superintendent in 2014. Widely known for the planning of major additions to the city's park (and trail) system, his biggest gift to the public was the development of Celery Bog Park.



This was a multi-million dollar project, including work with Purdue U. and its Research Foundation, and cooperation with an adjacent retirement complex.

In his early professional years in recreational development he worked for the DNR. In 1981, he completed the building of the first version of the Knobstone Trail. He's held the goal of extending the Knobstone to its original 150-mile vision ever since. Joe surely has the background and experience to help the KHTA with its mission of finally completing it.



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME!
USE BLANK ENCLOSED, OR GO TO
WEBSITE AND PAY ONLINE.
www.knobstonehikingtrail.org



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



OLIVER
 WINERY & VINEYARDS



3rd ANNUAL MEETING: MARCH 19
AT THE NEW NORTHERN KHT
TRAILHEAD IN MARTINSVILLE
 2290 Burton Lane. 11:00 meeting; 12:00 Pitch-
 in Lunch; 1:00 Tom Swinford, Speaker:
 KHT Ecology; 2:30 KHT Hike.