

THE

NOBSTONE



WINTER/SPRING 2017 NEWSLETTER Vol. 4, No. 1
of the **NOBSTONE HIKING TRAIL ASSOCIATION, founded in 2013**

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KHTA 4TH ANNUAL MEETING MARCH 25 TT FOUNDERS SPEAK: MMSF Fire HQ

All the usual: meeting at 11am, pitch-in lunch at noon, 1pm The founders of the Tecumseh Trail tell how it all started, ending with an optional walk on the Tecumseh Trail (see insert). **New location: MMSF Fire HQ Training Center.**

TECUMSEH TRAIL FOUNDERS HONORED BY BROWN COUNTY C.F. GRANT FOR COMMEMORATIVE BENCHES

These are sturdy benches, guaranteed to last about forever. A grant to honor the MM-YSF manager whose orders directed the building was applied for; the BCCF refused to fund it, unless the designer and builder (with volunteers) also got a bench (featured speakers; photos below). Also honored is the unsung earliest charter of so many Hoosier trails, Stan Newhall.



PHOTOS:
(left), Jim Allen, on his



TT bench, on top of High King hill at YSF. At the end of the TT; bottom left, Stan Newhall at campfire, with Robin Mittenthal (now age 42) sitting on his knee; (right) Suzanne Mittenthal at Stan's old (Model T) "fenders" camp; near-

by, sitting on commemorative TT bench, gang that carried in benches, the members and Meet-up crew.... Bench planks weighed 12 lb., bench supports 15 lb. Jim carried one up....



The dedications read as follows: To Jim Allen, creator of the Tecumseh Trail, a part of the DNR 1996 Knobstone Trail Expansion Draft Plan. Property Manager 1996—2017 at Morgan-Monroe/Yellowwood State Forest. To Suzanne Mittenthal, builder of the Tecumseh Trail, 1996-2001. Founder of the Hoosier Hikers Council, in 1995, to build and improve hiking trails in Indiana, and the Knobstone Hiking Trail Association, in 2013, to complete the 150-mile Knobstone Hiking Trail, following in the footsteps of Stan Newhall, post WWII pioneer Hoosier trail explorer and long-time Hoosier hike leader. March 4, 2017, Knobstone Hiking Trail Association. Funded by a grant from the Brown County Community Foundation.

FOX FUND OF SILICON VALLEY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION AWARDS \$5,000 TO THE KHTA

Josephine Fox, with her husband Geoff, have been funding trail and landmark preserves in Indiana for many years. A native Hoosier, she grew up in



Muncie and had the good fortune to qualify for a fine education from Ball State's University High School as well as B.S.U. Her regard for the city is expressed in her development of Duto-Ernst Woods, which commemorates revered teacher Ruth Duto. This gift both provides a new Nature

Preserve and community park on the west side of the city and enhances the visitor's approach to Muncie.

SEPT 2016 150-MILE KHT TRAILS SUMMIT FOLLOW-UP

THE HNF SECTION OF THE KHT In 1996 the IDNR drafted a "Knobstone Trail Expansion Plan" to fulfill the original Knobstone Trail founders' dreams of a 150-mile footpath connecting state and federal forests from Louisville to just south of Indianapolis. At that time, HNF staff were willing to cooperate, but only if their trail shared its nearly 20 miles with horse and bike riders.

After the meeting, HNF management stated that hikers' alternate Pioneer tracks would require costly Environmental Impact Analysis and result in years of continued delay, and unacceptable miles of parallel user tracks in the HNF. As a result, the KHTA has decided to accept the original HNF horse/road walk/Nebo bike trail alternative. Negotiations are ongoing for a meeting to implement it.

THE IDNR PIONEER KHT SECTION Two parcels of J-WSF state land in Washington County lie a few miles north of the original Knobstone Trailhead at Spurgeon Hollow. Trail miles here will connect already acquired KHTA easements. A GPS of the one going north from Spurgeon Hollow was presented to the state in 2003, and the one above the Muscatuck, in 2009.

Recently the KHTA has been invited to do the trail design and building of a new KT mile at the southern Deam Lake trailhead, beginning in February. This project has attracted numerous new KHTA trail builders in far southern Indiana., including the new KHTA's Knobstone Trail Adopt-A-Trail gang, spear-headed by Fa. Steve Schafflein (photos p. 3). We are hoping this show of local interest and support will be a stimulus for the completion of the KHT route in the south.

The KNOBSTONE HIKING TRAIL ASSOCIATION

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DEVELOPMENTS ALONG THE KHT

New north end at Martinsville

2nd SAT. WORK DAY REPORT: THE MARTINSVILLE SPORTSMANS CLUB EASEMENT TRAIL

One last outing: in December, the ice



man cameth, but a crew went out anyway (photo, all bundled up!). Not too cold to work, but too cold for any sit-down lunch! We broke one of the only rules that regulate our activities: Lunch starts at NOON! And working through, finished up not too long after 1pm. We had heard that people were starting to walk on the route, and were getting lost just short of the Morgan-Monroe State Forest boundary, where it connects to a very visible old Pioneer track.



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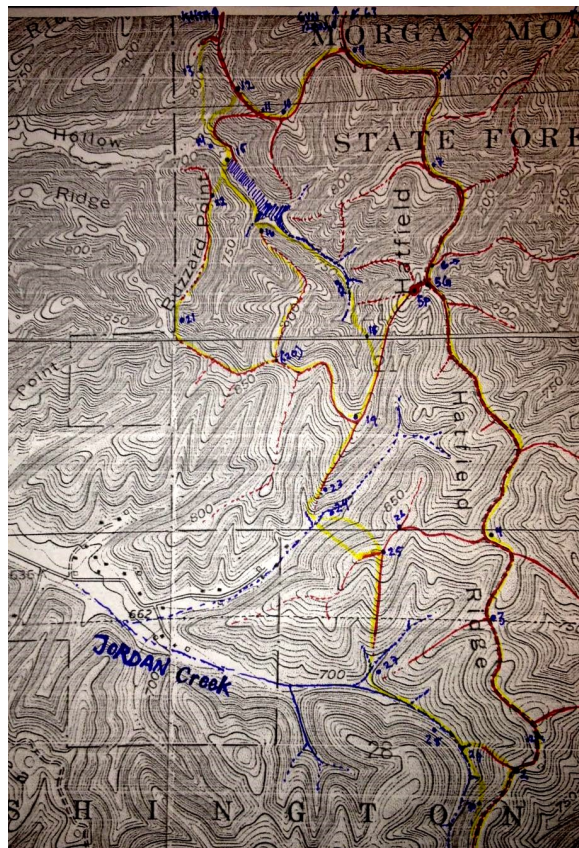
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NEW BOARD MEMBER CHRIS DONOHUE, TRAIL PLANNER

Chris (photo, with partner Chris Seuel) has become a mainstay of KHTA crew work days, and more, as he has the ability to see the larger picture. He is also a skilled (professional) carpenter, and helped with the Oct. 28th Sparksville Park project. At ease with a GPS, his work exploring trail possibilities at Morgan-Monroe S.F. is shown below, just off Rosenbaum Rd. (topographic map at top of U.S.G.S. 7.5 min. Hindustan Quadrangle). All those chicken tracks and lines are a record of the kind of work involved in getting to know an area. A route is only chosen when all potential routes have been investigated. Many desirable paths lead to disastrous ends, and must be discarded. But the rewards are many; the two glacial erratics (photos) he discovered are located in Jordan Creek, on MMSF land.



These boulders may be some of the more remarkable found anywhere in the forest. Stay tuned. It's not clear they can ever be connected up with a trail, but if you are interested in their location, you might contact Chris.

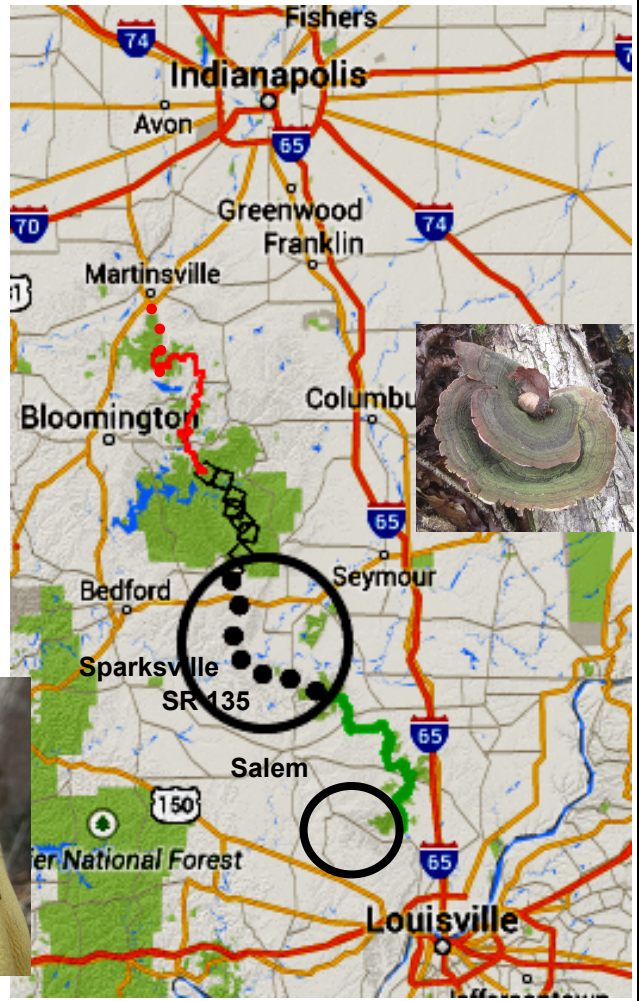




2ND SAT. 3/12 TRAIL CREW NEW DEAM SRA KT trailhead project is attracting S. Indiana members, including trail adopters from Father Steve's Adopt a trail gang (top photos). Advance trail layout scouters on 3rd route-flagging pass over 1-mile new KT footpath in photo (left) Nina Andrew, Steve Schaftlein, and Suzanne Mittenthal.



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 Trail. Large circle: Medora H.S. Sparksville work project. Small circle: New Southern Knobstone Trailhead at Deam Lake.

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

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS: New Renew

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

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



**SPARKSVILLE KHT TRAILSIDE PARK
MEDORA H. S. PROJECT FOLLOW-UP**

When the Oct./2016 project was being planned, (photo below) teacher Pat Bahan mentioned the Junior class wanted to join the seniors, but no more workers were needed. But a seed was planted; a Park survey later revealed a need for the total replacement of a 10-year old submerged wetland boardwalk. But how to afford a spring Junior project, which could cost more than \$450 for materials?



JACKSON COUNTY'S COMMUNITY FOUNDATION COMES TO THE RESCUE

Consulting the funder of the Senior's fall project, we were notified that there is a special President's fund for modification or extension of already approved projects. We applied, and were gratified when our appeal was granted. Stay tuned! The work is scheduled for April 21, in time for Earth Day, weather permitting. At first we were warned that date was when Juniors were supposed to help decorate for the Prom, but have since been informed the Prom decorators have postponed their Prom duties in order to participate.



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IT'S MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

If you haven't already renewed, please do. If I had to chose, I'd take a trail worker over a trail supporter—but fortunately don't have to (or we wouldn't have members like Josie Fox, of San Jose, CA or Michael Wischmeier, of Houston TX, or Nguyen Trung, of Seaside, OR)Suzanne, editor & trail builder).

NEW FEATURE: TRAIL BUILDER/ MAINTAINER VOLUNTEER HOURS CLOCK

For the record, the federal tax-deductible value of donated volunteer hours in 2015 was \$23.56/hour. The KHTA income isn't there to pay this, so we'd be up the You-know-what Creek without YOU. Catching up:

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
#Vol.	6	36	36	55	95	31
#Hours	36	330	216	330	570	186

Totals, to date: Vol. 294; Hours 1584.

SPRING EVENTS CALENDAR: DETAILS INSIDE OR ON:



- MARCH 25 ANNUAL MEETING MMSF: 11am MTG./noon LUNCH/TECUMSEH PRESENTATION/HIKE
- APRIL 1 MARTINSVILLE YMCA TRAIL BUILDING PROJECT
- APRIL 8 KHTA TRAIL DESIGN/BUILDING WORKSHOP, BROWN CO. S.P. with Suzanne Mittenthal
- APRIL 9 (SUN.) KHT TRAIL BUILDING HELP BUILD NEW KT TRAILHEAD AT DEAM LAKE
- APRIL 21 MEDORA HIGH SCHOOL 2ND KHT'S SPARKSVILLE PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
- MAY 13 KHT TRAIL BUILDING 2ND SAT. HELP BUILD NEW KT TRAILHEAD AT DEAM LAKE



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The COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
of Jackson County
Together, we grow tomorrow



Membership mailing list to be updated 4/2017

