

THE KNOBSTONE

FALL 2017 NEWSLETTER Vol. 4, No. 3
of the KNOBSTONE HIKING TRAIL ASSOCIATION, *founded in 2013*
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GREENWAYS FOUNDATION RECOGNIZES THE KHTA AS “OUTSTANDING TRAIL GROUP OF 2016”

The nomination for the award was made by Knobstone Trail founder and KHTA Advisory Board member Joe Payne. The award was announced at a meeting of the Greenways Foundation June 16, attended by KHTA president Charles Andrew and Board member Rodney Mclean.

The Greenways Foundation is a statewide, charitable trust providing leadership and advocacy in the growth & use of Indiana greenways and trails. One of its visions is of a statewide trail system.



OVERFLOW CROWD OF 50+ FOR 150-MILE KHT PRESENTATION IN BLOOMINGTON.

Half of KHTA Sponsor JL Waters basement showroom was filled, with some sitting in an adjacent room just to listen, without seeing the powerpoint slides. Charles Andrew presented the history of the trail from its beginnings in 1973 and the KHTA. Nina Andrew presented the KHTA's work to build trails, especially how to join in this work! [It's so simple with MeetUp!]. Suzanne Mittenthal answered questions about how to hike the trail and where to camp, and gave suggestions for intro hikes for the many who came who were really unfamiliar with area trails.

JL WATERS is the major purveyor of backpacking gear in Bloomington, and did a fine job of organizing the meeting, including getting drinks provided by **UPLAND BREWERY**. Folks asked questions about finishing the trail, and were surprised to hear work has been ongoing on state sections since 2003 and federal since 1995, while waiting for official agreements to complete the trail. Families, and students and residents of all ages came on a Wednesday early summer evening.



WORK OF KHT PARTNER MEDORA COMMUNITY SCHOOL AT SPARKSVILLE TRAILSIDE PARK FEATURED IN *SEYMOUR TRIBUNE*

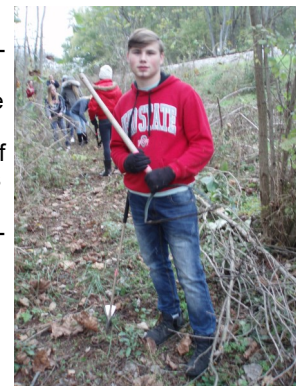
Aaron Piper, Oct. 29, 2017 [note from the editor: from towns where the KHT will cross the White River in Southern Jackson County]

Out past the Medora Brick Plant lies the community of Sparksville. On Friday, senior students from the neighboring town of Medora traveled there as part of a community service project to make improvements on the Knobstone Hiking Trail, which passes through Sparksville and the Sparksville-Jackson County Park. “The Knobstone Hiking Trail and Sparksville Park are kind of my legacy,” Medora Community Schools teacher Pat Bahan said. Bahan, who is retiring this year after 35 years of teaching, started the project earlier this year through a partnership with the Knobstone Hiking Trail Association, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the completion and upkeep of the trail, which is planned to stretch from Indianapolis to Louisville, but is not completed yet. The trail is a part of a class project to get the next generation inter-



ested in the outdoors and community service work, Bahan said. “It’s necessary for students to learn to appreciate giving back to their communities—to be active, not passive members of society,” he said. “We are trying to teach them, that way when they are older, they hold the environment in high regard, just like we do, and want to protect nature and enjoy it,” said volunteer Nina Andrew, KHTA Board member. The 15 students were bused from the school, five miles away, to the location where they would work early Friday before transporting their supplies to a nearby hilltop. “It’s tiring, but at least it’s rewarding,” senior Caylin

Farmer said after several hours. “I think it’s nice to come along and help out with the trail because I like nature,” senior Elaina Weddle-Benson added. “I used to live in Arizona and I liked hiking when I was there.” Weddle-Benson said she hopes to go to Washington State University and study zoology, so nature and the creatures that live in it fit along with what she plans on doing in the future. The volunteer work was a benefit for all students, regardless of their future career plans, as it fulfilled a requirement for many colleges of completing community service. “Colleges now look for anything to set you apart from the rest and community service can be that thing,” Bahan said. As Bahan was looking for community service projects for his class, a call for help was sent out from the association and since the trail ran so close to Medora, the group decided last spring to take on the project with the Class of 2018. The partnership with the organization came at a time that “just felt right” for the group of students, he added [cont. on p.4].



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DEVELOPMENTS ALONG THE KHT New South end at Deam Lake SRA



WORK OF THE KHTA DOCUMENTED ON WTU TV: Check out this address to see us in action:

<http://indianapublicmedia.org/news/volunteers-work-extend-indianas-longest-hiking-trail-130992/>

The reporter spent the whole morning watching and speaking with KHTA volunteers, taking time to understand the KHTA's mission and its activities at Deam SRA.



2ND SAT. FOCUS Nina Andrew reports trail crews have been designing and building a new mile of trail at the bottom of the Knobstone Trail all year. The primary objective is providing a safer location for hikers' cars. The new start will be inside the SRA property, from Deam Lake Rd. It will require only a one-day or park pass admission charge, during business hours from April to the end of October. No gates will lock hikers/backpackers in or out. We hope completion could be by the end of the year [11/11 photo: Almost done!].

KT Adopters Report Steve Schafflein reports that all positions are filled for the original Knobstone Trail. He has a father and son team interested in the portion of the Pioneer Section South of Kurtz on an ATV area easement. Lindsey Pine and Dustin Martin cleaned up a major blow down near the Jackson Road trail-head. Steve is going to contact the Delaney Park manager to offer assistance with maintenance of the loop portion of the Knobstone Trail.

NEW KHTA BOARD MEMBERS One of the newest among the recent bumper crop of four is also the youngest: **IU student Morgan Scherer:** "My interest in the outdoors has existed ever since I was a little kid. My mom would take my sister and me camping at McCormicks Creek nearly every weekend when I was young. They would hang out at the campsite while I was off exploring all the trails had to offer. My dad took me "turtle hunting", where we sat quietly at the shore until we saw a turtle head pop up in the water. We would run out in the water, scoop up the turtle, and take them home as our pets for the warmer part of the year before releasing them back into the wild for winter. By high school, my friends and I discovered Griffy, Tecumseh, and Deam Wilderness. After my junior year of high school in 2013, I raised \$10,000 for nonprofit Giving Back to Africa by collecting pledges for my 500 mile hike on the AT through Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine. This May I will graduate with a major in Environmental Management through IU's School of Public and Environmental Affairs, with minor in Outdoor Recreation, Parks, and Human Ecology, as well as Geographic Information Systems and Remote Sensing. I hope



to have a career focusing on improving natural surface trails for the public, whether it be working for a government agency or nonprofit. Hopefully I'll get to do a thru-hike or two on the AT, PCT, or other long distance trail before getting caught up in work. I would love to have such a trail in my backyard with the Knobstone Trail." Morgan's dad [photo left with Morgan] has experience running races, so Morgan's a two-fer, promising to help run fund-raising races once our permits are approved. He'll be in a Master's program at SPEA in the fall.

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TRAIL BUILDING VOLUNTEER HOURS CLOCK: June-November: Volunteers 89, Hours 493. To date, since 2013: Volunteers, 420, Hours, 2,221. This includes Spring and Autumn projects with the students from Medora Community School. Labor value: \$51,216.26 at \$23.06, the latest government estimate.

NEW 2017 KHTA MEMBERS: Tim Sherrill, Noblesville; Maynard & Barbara Williams Raggio, Martinsville; Randy Palumbo, NYC; "Fishhook" Evan McBroom, Carmel; Lindsey Pine, Indianapolis; Melvin Wilson, Brian Besser, Ron Conrad, Morgan Scherer, Ryan Franklin, Bloomington; James Cockerham, Evansville; Stephen Williams, Salem; Randall Pflueger, Columbus; Chrys Cook, Aurora; Carol Otte, Crothersville, Johnny Ledbetter, Converse; Jim Garlits, Shelbyville.

2nd SATURDAY TRAIL CREW WORK

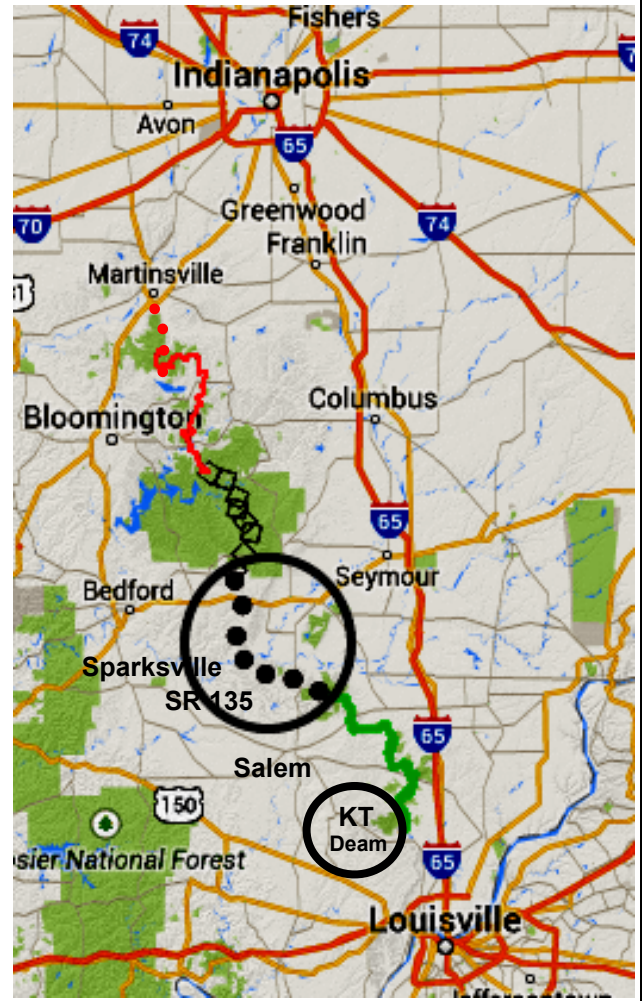
TRAIL WORK REPORT: Nina Andrew: All work was done at Deam Lake on the Knobstone Trail Reroute of the Terminal Trail head. Benching was continued July-November. A WITU TV reporter and camera man came in October [see link on p. 2] as well as the Deam SRA property manager and assistant, briefly. Property work re-



quired by the Deam SRA before trail opening was largely completed in October. Impressive "NO HORSE" signs are up! To help get it open faster, join us December 9th!



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

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student/Elder \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$30 | <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$40 | <input type="checkbox"/> Org./Club \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> Legacy \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> Benchmark \$250 | <input type="checkbox"/> Landmark \$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Milestone \$1000 | <input type="checkbox"/> 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



MEDORA JUNIOR CLASS CONTINUES AS SEASONED SENIOR KHT PARTNERS:

(continued from page 1). Some of the then-junior, now-senior students [photo below] helped out then too and continued their efforts Saturday by adding steps to the 16-foot footbridge [photo right] they had built to make it easier to use and adding a bench to the top of a fairly steep climb on the trail. Senior Gavin Henson said despite the fact the project might not help him in college, as he was undecided between art, video game design and interior design, he still enjoyed the work. "I think it's fun. It feels good to do something to help the environment and the people who enjoy it," Henson said. "Our generation gets the label of lazy a lot and this proves we aren't." The group also cleared several parts of the trail using hand tools and cleaned and trimmed the walking trail at the Knobstone Trail's camp site, the Sparksville-Jackson County Park. Weeds, logs, briars and other plant life including numerous Russian Olive bushes, an invasive in southern Indiana, were removed from the trails to provide a clear and natural path.

FUTURE OF THE PROJECT: "THE KNOBSTONE HIKING TRAIL AND SPARKSVILLE PARK ARE MY LEGACY." Even with Bahan's eventual retirement, the project



will not end. "The school has assembled a committee to plan future community service, which I'm sure will include returning to the Knobstone Hiking Trail," Bahan said. My replacement will no doubt be gifted in helping establish this service as a regular part of the curriculum.



BRIDGE, BENCH PLATES HONOR EASEMENT DONOR JOHN HOWARD, M.C.S. 2017 SENIORS, AND OWEN -CARR TWP FUND OF THE JACKSON COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION:

Bridge and trail take hikers from Sparksville Park north on the KHT to a valley viewpoint [photo below] above Sparksville. You're up with the hawks!



EVENTS CALENDAR: DETAILS INSIDE OR ON:



Dec. 9, 2017, Jan. 13, 2018, 2/10, 3/10 KHT TRAIL BUILDING 2ND SAT. HELP BUILD NEW KT TRAILHEAD MILE AT DEAM LAKE. With enough volunteers, the DNR may open it VERY SOON. Details on MeetUp!

March 24, 2018 KHTA 5TH ANNUAL MEETING SAVE THE DATE ! MMSF 9—3. DETAILS:



www.knobstonehikingtrail.org
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The **COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**
of Jackson County
Together, we grow tomorrow

