

THE

KNOBSTONE



AUTUMN 2014 NEWSLETTER Vol. 1, No. 3

of the **KNOBSTONE HIKING TRAIL ASSOCIATION, founded in 2013**

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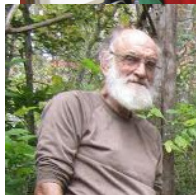
NEW KNOBSTONE HIKING TRAIL ASSOCIATION LOGO Looking to posterity, after the initial official year of organization, a search was mounted to devise a distinctive, figurative logo for the KHTA that would suggest the character and purpose of the group. We hope you agree that artist and founding member Betty Wagoner, and Naomi Sveholm, Bloomington graphic artist, did just that. Yet again, we followed our mentoring organization, the SHTA, in carrying out this project.

KHTA BOARD: GROWING, RENEWING

Two new members are replacing retiring members: Jane Ellis, Executive Director of the Brown County Convention and Visitors Bureau. In her years there, she has helped make it a vital part of the economic development of Nashville. She works with businesses in Brown County and contacts all over the state as well as making the Visitors Center a vibrant and informative resource for visitors. As new miles of KHT are completed in and around Brown County, with her help, we hope to bring the KHT the wider audience it deserves, and also economic development to surrounding communities. Ed Lizewski, retired electrical engineer and programmer, will provide expert service as KHTA webmaster. He also has vast knowledge and experience as a trail designer and builder of many Hoosier trail miles.

Jeff Edmondson is retiring. Former president of the Indianapolis Hiking Club, as KHTA president he has provided enthusiasm and direction for the KHTA Board in its organization and representation to the state and federal agencies we are cooperating with. Charles Andrew is stepping in as Acting President until the Board elections in March. Board Trail/GPS coordinator Fred Hanson is also retiring. He was among the original KHT supporters who met in August 2012 to form the KHTA. His commitment to KHT completion and knowledge of Hoosier trails will be hard to replace.

November Board Meeting: photo (from left) Nina Andrew, Sec.,



Suzanne Mittenthal, easement/property coordinator, Ed

Lizewski, webmaster, Charles Andrew, Acting President, Jane Ellis, Outreach, Tony Abbott, Treasurer, visitor Betty Wagoner, KHTA logo artist..



2014 NATIONAL TRAIL DAYS HIKE

In June, Tony Abbott again led a circuit hike on the Pioneer Barn Pioneer easement section of the KHT.

THE DNR'S HOOSIER OUTDOOR EXPERIENCE

In September, the KHTA made its first appearance at the HOE. Two fold-out displays (photo right) and a stack of new (free) KHT Guides attracted numerous hikers and Boy Scouts. Scout leaders were especially interested in the several potential Eagle Scout projects available on the KHT.

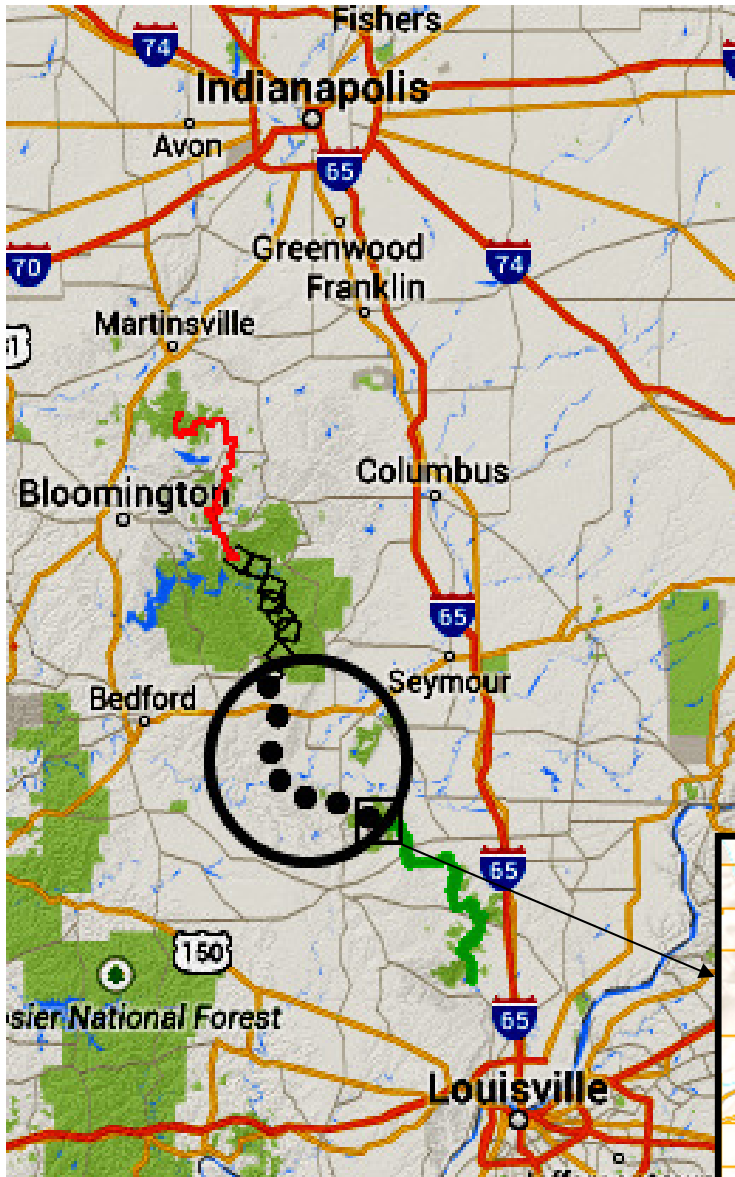


BROWN COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION AWARDS KHTA \$1200

This grant will pay for the survey of the 2.3-mile Lutheran Hills Church Camp segment of the KHT on the Tecumseh Trail.

:"FRIENDS OF SPARKSVILLE PARK" FUND,

A protected fund for the park, under the Community Foundation of Jackson County, has now been set up, independent of the KHTA. The KHTA has accomplished its trail goals in helping provide the trailside park. Now the Friends will oversee management of the park and disbursement of bequest funds for such projects as memorial benches. The members are Nancy Martinez and Dempsey Boling of Sparksville, Edith Boling of Norman, and Suzanne Mittenthal.

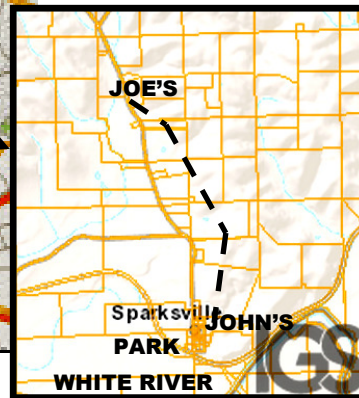


DEVELOPMENTS ALONG THE KHT: Pioneer Trail, Easement Section, KHT Mile 65—101 (dotted line in circle).

from the southern end of the Tecumseh (in red on road map) to the northern trail-head of the original Knobstone (green on road map). Actual Pioneer land miles will include approximately half government land (the area marked with black squares is the provisional KHT route through the Hoosier National Forest) and half private easements.

Nine miles of private land easements have been donated and recorded. The most recent activity is in the middle of the private easement section north of the **MILE 83 SPARKSVILLE TRAILSIDE PARK** (box).

SPARKSVILLE EASEMENTS WILL ELIMINATE 3 MILES OF ROAD WALKING IN SOUTHERN JACKSON COUNTY.



SPARKSVILLE “STRING” OF EASEMENTS: ONE TO GO. Enlargement of area in box inside circle on map, showing number of properties in one small section of the trail that need to be included. There are a total of five owners, including John Howard and Joe Weber (bios on page 4) . Talks are ongoing with the property owner of the last segment needed. The string ends near Sparksville Park, donated in 2003 to benefit the trail and the community by Jackson County farmer Greg McPike.

Where does Joe Weber’s easement get you? Up to the ridge-top property now owned by easement donor Robert Darlage. It was once called Browning Ridge, according to Edith Boling, resident of Sparksville since 1939. As a child she traveled up there on a wagon to get ham sandwiches from the ridge’s last lonely residents. Today your rewards are views across the wide White River valley (winter photo at left). Photo at right shows the November KHTA 2nd Saturday work crew assembling at the Sparksville Park picnic pavilions. John Howard’s easement is just up the road



KHTA PIONEER TRAIL DEVELOPMENT PROGRESS:

“MEET-UP” NETS KHTA TRAIL-BUILDING RECRUITS

Nina Andrew, KHTA Board Trail Building Coordinator has linked the KHTA up with this popular internet source of activity and event information. We have begun work on the Sparksville area string of easements. The October 2nd Sat. monthly work detail accomplished a lot. Photos show a “before” view of a somewhat consternated Suzanne Mittenthal standing in the middle of what is supposed to be a trail (marked by blue flagging), and then a “during” bench cut, with Suzanne and new Board member/trail builder Ed Lizewski



showing Pulaski scrapes of the trail being roughly cut into the steep hillside, looking from the side like a “bench” cut out of the clay. That trail needs a “finisher” like new volunteer Shannan Martin with Rogue hoe, to level and smooth the track (“after” photo). He came with his wife Sandra [both AT thru-hikers] from Indianapolis via Meet-Up to work with November’s crew. Another “before” photo, left, with Charlie

Andrew & chainsaw. The trail gets laid out on a hillside irrespective of brush or dead trees in the way. The only criterion: “Can we build it?” (so it will not erode.)



* * * 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: \$ _____

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____

State _____ **Zip** _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____





WHAT'S HAPPENING ON THE KHT?

JOHN HOWARD, SPARKSVILLE RESIDENT, DONATES A LEGACY TRAIL SEGMENT FOR HIS GRANDCHILDREN (KHT MILE 83.7)

While John is not wealthy, he had the potential to make a priceless gift to the citizens of Indiana. Signing of the easement at the state bank of Medora in October was clearly a historic event (photo left). John came with his daughter (who took the photo) and brought his grandson, as witnesses.

John's family lives on land that lies at the backside of the tiny town of Sparksville, at the end of a long ridge on which people have lived since pioneer times. This ridge spur is the place where the Martinsville Hills/Knobstone escarpment bedrock connecting down to the Ohio River was bisected eons ago by the White River, near its confluence with the Muscatatuck. Because of this, it was chosen as the route of the KHT. His Knobstone Hiking Trail easement on his forested property is a unique gift to posterity.

DONOR JOSEPH WEBER, OF INDIANAPOLIS, HAS A HUNTING CAMP NEAR SPARKSVILLE (KHT MILE 81)

Joe's easement anchors the northern end of the Sparksville string. When asked what he envisions as the legacy for his camp, Joe (photo right) shot back instantly with "for his grand daughter." A bow hunter, and not yet a teenager, she got a deer this year. He's glad to help the KHT cause, as long as it doesn't interfere with his hunting. To accommodate hunters, KHT easement sections will be closed during the hunting season.



EVENTS:

DEC 13, 9am KHTA 2nd Saturdays Trail work: PIONEER TRAIL CLEARING NEAR SPARKSVILLE PARK weather permitting (nandrew701@aol.com).

FEB 14 2ND SAT. Trail Scouting for new loop on new Oak Heritage Conservancy property near Hikers Knob, in coop. with OHC members.

MAR 14 2ND SAT. TRAIL BUILDING ON THE KHT. Contact: KHTAssociation@gmail.com.



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



OLIVER
WINERY & VINEYARDS



INSIDE: NEW MEMBERS STRENGTHEN, ADD TO DIVERSITY OF KHTA BOARD

