

THE

NOBSTONE



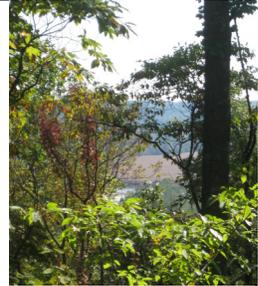
SPRING 2014 NEWSLETTER

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

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JACKSON COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANTS \$2200 TO KHTA FOR SURVEY OF PROPOSED TRAIL ON RIDGE ABOVE SPARKSVILLE PARK

for easement survey work on private land north of the Sparksville Park KHT Mile 84 hikers' way station. We have been in contact with owners for years here. The ridge had a village of homes along the old road that traverses its center, and affords grand views of the White River valley below to the east (photo right) and west. Where settlers once farmed, owners are now granting hunters leases. Descendents of original settlers still in S. Indiana will be able to hike where their grandparents lived, though hikers will now use the land in conjunction with hunters. .



JERRY PAGAC, ORIGINATOR OF THE KNOBSTONE TRAIL IN THE 1970s SPEAKS AT KHTA'S 1ST ANNUAL MEETING AND RECEIVES THE KHTA "KNOBSTONE" AWARD



Distinguished

park administrator, recently retired Gerry Pagac spoke about the origin of the KT and his role in it. In photo above, he is shown with Suzanne Mittenthal, KHTA founding Board member, presenting his Poston Rd. Brick Company "Knobstone" inscribed brick award. The "brick" is a 9-pound paving block, made of high-vitreous content Knobstone shale rock, and probably dates from about 1910. Gerry said that at the time, interest in the outdoors, wilderness protection, and trail construction was growing all over the U.S. In 1973 he was hired for the newly created DOR Streams & Trails coordinator position, to work with citizen groups and governmental agencies to help plan a system of trails for Indiana. While studying topographic maps and later surveying properties from a helicopter, Gerry said, "the Knobstone escarpment stuck out to him. He realized it might be possible to create a very long trail, connecting Jackson-Washington and Clark State Forests."

The rest is history—but with a twist. Gerry related how he used some guile to get a major property purchased by the DNR. There was a problem: an ownership gap separated the two forests. He was told of an available property to connect the two, by the Nature Conservancy, a group despised by Joe Cloud, head of the DNR. The TNC had money to buy it and right away, but would only convey it to the DNR for repayment. They could not buy it outright; as Cloud would never agree to repay it later. So Gerry told the Cloud "it was available"—too bad the DNR did not have the \$\$ to buy it. Cloud then suggested that Gerry get the TNC to buy it if he could—and Cloud agreed to go to the legislature for repayment—convinced TNC would never go for it. And so Gerry of course did, and the legislature obtained the payback \$\$ for TNC. Now you know.

PIONEER BARN TO BE HIKERS SHELTER AT KHT MILE 69 WATER RESOURCES PROJECT REPORT: Water will be connected up at the barn. KHTA Board Water Project coordinator Charles Andrew is also working on a water tank for Foxes Den Shelter at KHTA Mile 20.



MEMBERSHIP REPORT: In time for the KHTA's 1st Annual Meeting,

membership has grown to 94! Members In the KHTA's first year in existence include: Pat & Tony Abbott, Brian & Catherine Allison, Charles Andrew, Nina Andrew, David & Judy Baute, Bruce Berner, Tom & Theresa Boesch, Larry & Anne Boley, Edith Boling, Emily Burch, Rita & Frank Bymaster, Trent Cowles, David Culp, Steve Daut, Jeff Davenport, Michael Day, Robert Decker, Robert Dittrich, Jeff & Penny Edmondson, Geoff & Josephine Fox, Karen Fischer-Weddell, Laura Fribley, Frajnk & Audrey Gentzke, Ray Graham, Jim & Vicky Halsey, Fred Hanson, Jeannie Heatherly, Eric Mitter/Sherry Holliday, Jim & Susan Isbell, Bill & Marsha Isbell, David King, Eleanor Lahr, Joan Leibman, Ed Lizewski, Tim & Cindy Loos, Adam McFarren, Jack Mahuron, Joel McGill, Leslie McGregor, Tilden & Cathy Mendelson, John Miller, Charles Mitch, Robin Mittenthal, Suzanne Mittenthal, Michael Morton, Ronald Mutzi, Donna & Robert Ormiston, Gerald Pagac, Susan & Jim Pennington, Narcisso Povinelli, Steve Pratt, Ken & Katy Ratcliff, Cheryl Shearer, Douglas Sherow, Sukhbir Singh, Jan & Jody Sircey, Tom Smith, Steve Spyker, Tom Stuper, Nguyen Trung, Charles Turner, Laura Turner, Linda & John Van Heertum, Betty Wagoner, Chuck & Karen Wharton, Patty Wykes, Sarah & Richard Zacks, Tom Zeller, Ken Zimmer, and Karen & Larry Zimmerman. **We have two corporate sponsors: Oliver Winery and the world-wide stone company John W. Jones, Inc.**

We are proud to announce that membership now represents a total of 10 states: Indiana, California, Colorado, Illinois, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Oregon, Rhode Island, and Wisconsin. In Indiana, Indianapolis provides the largest number of members, with most of the surrounding suburbs well represented. Next come Bloomington and Martinsville, with many members from outliers like Fort Wayne, Rising Sun, Salem, and New Salisbury. .

DEVELOPMENTS ALONG THE KHT: Pioneer Section

KHTA MILE 83 SPARKSVILLE PARK TRAILSIDE WAYSTATION PRIVY At Mile 83, (N to S), is located Jackson County's trailside Sparksville Park. This park was envisioned as a way of making the KHT "through trail" meaningful locally as well as to long-distance hikers. It certainly has become a means of involving local support. A Pioneer trail easement in nearby Washington County was finally donated by R.L. Zollman, wealthy Sparksville farmer, after years of fruitless appeals for help. When asked "Why?" he answered simply: "Sparksville Park." He had attended the first Sparksville Heritage Days Reunion there shortly before his donation, and had seen the efforts to give Sparksville residents something to be proud of.

The photos show that its facilities are finally complete. In addition to trails in the woods (in background of top photo), and picnic pavilions, it finally has a proper privy (foreground, with Edith Boling waiting her turn). Edith's grandson Dempsey Boling did the roof. Robert Martinez is shown building the door. With the help of Nina Andrew, KHTA Board Trail Building coordinator, they got the door on and installed "the works" of the porta potty donated by BEST WAY Waste Hauling Co. It is roomy enough for a changing table inside and wheelchair use.

Robert's wife Nancy is on the Jackson County Park Board; she will see to it that the potty is serviced along with other facilities operated by Jackson County.

KHTA TO SET UP SPARKSVILLE PARK

FUND Local friends of the park and members of the KHTA have labored over the years to obtain donations for the park from Greg McPike, donor of the land, residents, and local foundations and businesses. They are now working to establish a permanent, protected fund for the park, and managing committee, under the CFJC (cf. p. 1). The KHTA has accomplished its goals.

SUMMER FREE LUNCH PROGRAM AT SPARKSVILLE

PARK Signs are up; the program begins the minute the school term ends. It's a continuation of the free school lunch program, but moms are offered sandwiches too, and elderly Sparksville residents are not turned away by the teenage girls hired for this summer job. The Park Committee will need to get the volleyball and basketball nets up, some badminton equipment in a box on the table, and some balls. The park is the only local facility available for this program....



KHTA PIONEER TRAIL DEVELOPMENT PROGRESS

This report was presented at the KHTA Annual Meeting March 15, 2014. Perspective on the completion of the 150-mile KHT: it takes years to build relationships to develop trust and interest in landowners to prime the donation of easements. Trail miles on easements & acquired property total nearly 10 miles to date, for 21% of the route. To reduce remaining road miles, property owners along another approximately 14 miles (30%) of the remaining trail route have been or are being approached, and need careful follow-up in the coming year (s). Approximately 23 miles, nearly HALF (49%) of the proposed trail route are on state and federal land; detailed KHT route proposals have been made to authorities. The KHTA Board is working with the respective agencies to conclude these route negotiations.

To put these easements/property acquisitions in perspective, only 4 easements and one property were needed to complete the Tecumseh Trail, as almost all the land was in public ownership. Lutheran Hills Church Camp is the biggest, followed by Plum Creek (2), Salmeron Road, and the small property below Bear Lake,

PIONEER TRAIL SECTION STATUS	NO. (%)	MILES (%)
<u>PRIVATE EASEMENT ACQUISITIONS**</u>		
RECORDED	22 (46%)	9.51 (21%)
AT SURVEYOR/LEGAL OR PRESENTED &/OR WAITING	22 (46%)	13.76 (30%)
<u>PUBLIC LAND ROUTE COMPLETIONS:</u>		
[DNR Depts. of Forestry & Outdoor Recreation & the Hoosier National Forest] ***		
APPROVED	0 (0%)	0.0 (0%)
PROPOSED	4 (8%)	22.8 (49%)
TOTAL ****	48 (100%)	46.1 (100%)

*Numbers will change over time; easement miles usually are greater than road miles, to account for contour bends or switchbacks designed into route to forestall erosion. Alternate routes are still being considered in small sections.

** Three easements (2.4 miles) are awaiting survey work, and have good prospects of being approved.

*** HNF 14.3 miles (Salt Creek) and 4.0 miles (Fork Ridge); DNR 2.5 miles (Muscatatuck Bluffs) and 2.0 miles (Rooster Hill—SR 135 to Delaney Creek). All routes have been documented and submitted.

**** Total miles will be greater, approximately 55, from the end of the Tecumseh to Spurgeon Hollow. The route will include some unavoidable road walks, at least in the near term.

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

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS: New Renew

- Student/Elder \$15
 Family \$40
 Individual \$30
 Org./Club \$50
 Business \$100
 Legacy \$100+
 Life \$1000
 KHT LAND & EASEMENT FUND \$ _____

Enclosed is my contribution of: \$ _____

New Members: Please note if you would like to receive copies of the original Knobstone and Tecumseh Trail maps and 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 KHT, Suite 301, 342 Massachusetts Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46204

THE STATE OF INDIANA'S 2016 BICENTENNIAL LOOMS; KHTA GOAL: COMPLETION OF GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE LAND EASEMENT SECTIONS

A meeting in January chaired by the Streams and Trails Coordinator Nila Armstrong of the Division of Outdoor Recreation brought together representatives of the relevant managers of the three sections remaining. KHTA President and Board Government Relations coordinator Jeff Edmondson is working with the proper authorities. The report on page 3 (inside) shows that of 46 miles of trail remaining to be built on the Pioneer section of the KHT, **nearly 50% are on these public lands.**

WHAT'S HAPPENING ON THE KHT? Update!

The KHTA is surveying the Lutheran Hills Church Camp easement on the Tecumseh Section (KHT Miles 19-23, including Foxes Den Shelter). We are applying to the Brown County Community Foundation to fund this work. This easement was granted by the KY-IN Synod of the Lutheran Church more than a decade ago to help complete the Tecumseh Trail. It connects two major Morgan-Monroe/Yellowwood SF properties. Legal easements were to be surveyed and secured through relevant state forest channels. However, this proved difficult. Now there is a trail monitoring and maintenance organization to take on this responsibility.

EVENTS:

MAY 14 PIONEER TRAIL CLEARING NEAR THE BARN KHT MILE 69 In preparation for the National Trails Day hike. (nandrew701@aol.com)

MAY 17-19 KNOBSTONE TRAIL SLACKPACK (Coop. with Hoosier Backpackers) Elk Creek to Deam Lake; packs shuttled between camps. (smittenthal@gmail.com).

JUNE 7 NATIONAL TRAILS DAY PIONEER TRAIL 5-MI LOOP HIKE NEAR THE BARN
Start at KHT Mile 67, Mader's M-U park. (tabbott@foleyandabbott.com)

JUNE 14 SPARKSVILLE PARK KHT MILE 84 TRAIL CLEARING & PICNIC 9am: Help clear the 1/2 miles of trail. Bring gloves and clippers!! Afternoon: Picnic and enjoy the trails and try out the volleyball/badminton court. Shaded picnic pavilions and now even a privy!!!! (smittenthal@gmail.com)

JULY 12 KHTA 2nd Saturdays Trail work: PIONEER TRAIL CLEARING NEAR SPARKSVILLE PARK
9 am at Park. (nandrew701@aol.com)



OLIVER
WINERY & VINEYARDS

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



The Knobstone Hiking Trail Association, Inc.
Suite 301, 342 Massachusetts Ave.,
Indianapolis, IN 46204

INSIDE: GERRY PAGAC, ORIGINATOR IN 1970s OF THE KNOBSTONE HIKING TRAIL, IS GIVEN KHTA AWARD

