

THE

NOBSTONE

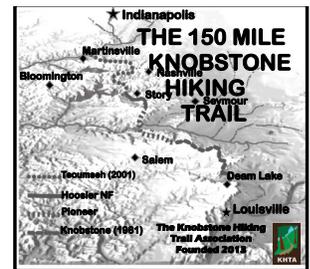


SPRING 2015 NEWSLETTER Vol. 2, No. 2
of the **NOBSTONE HIKING TRAIL ASSOCIATION, founded in 2013**

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KHTA ONLINE MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION IS NOW AVAILABLE

The KHTA website has been undergoing revision under guidance of BsnTech web designer Brian Spraker. Matt Johnson, cartographer, now at the Indiana Geological Survey at I.U., and designer of the National Geographic Hoosier National Forest maps, has prepared the first ever depiction of the entire 150-mile route. Each trailhead will be activated on the separate Tecumseh, Pioneer, and Knobstone Trail sections of the map to connect to the Google map for that location. Ed Lizewski, KHTA webmaster, worked many days on the Google map work. The history of the Escarpment as well as the KHTA are there, and KHTA t-shirts will be for sale depicting the KHT route on a relief map. Some details on the website are still incomplete, it should be finished by summer. Members are invited to "Contact Us" with suggestions, questions, or corrections. The newsletter editor is doing double duty with the website; the aim of the website is not perfection, but communication. And when Ed's not in his tent or skiing at Crater Lake, he's quick to respond.



Lilly Fund 50% Matching Grant

This is a great time to join, renew, or donate to the KHTA. The Lilly Endowment has a new campaign "Giving Indiana Funds for Tomorrow." But it usually only supports endowed funds. The KHTA is definitely not at that level yet! The Community Foundation of Morgan County supports the KHTA's non-profit status. The CFMC's new director Ed Kominowski influenced Lilly to make some exceptions for "pass-through" funds such as the KHTA that he thinks "are really important and capture needs countywide." All donations to the KHTA will be covered until March 2016. You can go to www.knobstonehikingtrail.org and Donate/Join right now!



JOE PAYNE SPEAKS AT 2ND ANNUAL KHTA MEETING; NOBSTONE MYSTERY SOLVED! DID THE ORIGINAL VISION OF THE NOBSTONE TRAIL INCLUDE EXTENSION NORTH TOWARDS INDIANAPOLIS?

According to guest speaker Joe Payne (photo, left), builder of the original KT, the Knobstone Trail concept had been developed in 1975 when Jerry Pagac (photo, right) of the newly-formed Streams & Trails Section of IDNR was hired to review public land ownership patterns in Indiana for long-distance trail opportunities. Jerry immediately saw the possibility of a hiking trail connecting Clark, Scott, Washington, and Jackson Counties.

In 1981, Joe wrote in an *Outdoor Indiana* magazine article, "An extension through Jackson and Brown Counties into Monroe and Morgan Counties could even be considered a possibility, with the cooperation of Hoosier National Forest." When Jerry was promoted to head the division of Outdoor Recreation, he hired Joe to direct the actual building of the trail...In 1979 the Indiana General Assembly made an original investment of a bit more than half a million dollars. By 1981, thousands of hours of labor had been volunteered, and 32 miles of trail had been constructed. In the article, Joe envisioned a possible trail length extension to 200 miles. If you missed Joe's talk

at the Annual Meeting, from the article you can get a sense of the excitement of building such a mammoth trail all at once. The entire article is available on the KHTA website in the "History/Geology" section. The website also documents several efforts by the IDNR to complete the trail through the years.

At the Annual Meeting, KHTA Board member Jerry Pagac introduced his former employee. Recently retired, Jerry is now actively working on that formal extension of the KHT across Hoosier National Forest land. Others attending the meeting at the Lutheran Hills Church Camp besides KHTA members included Nila Armstrong (DOR/IDNR), a prospective easement donor, Pam Anderson, who owns land in Jackson Co., and one pre and one post AT thru hiker.

DEVELOPMENTS ALONG THE KHT: NEW TECUMSEH TRAIL-HEAD AND TRAIL MILES 0.0—7. (dotted red line in square).

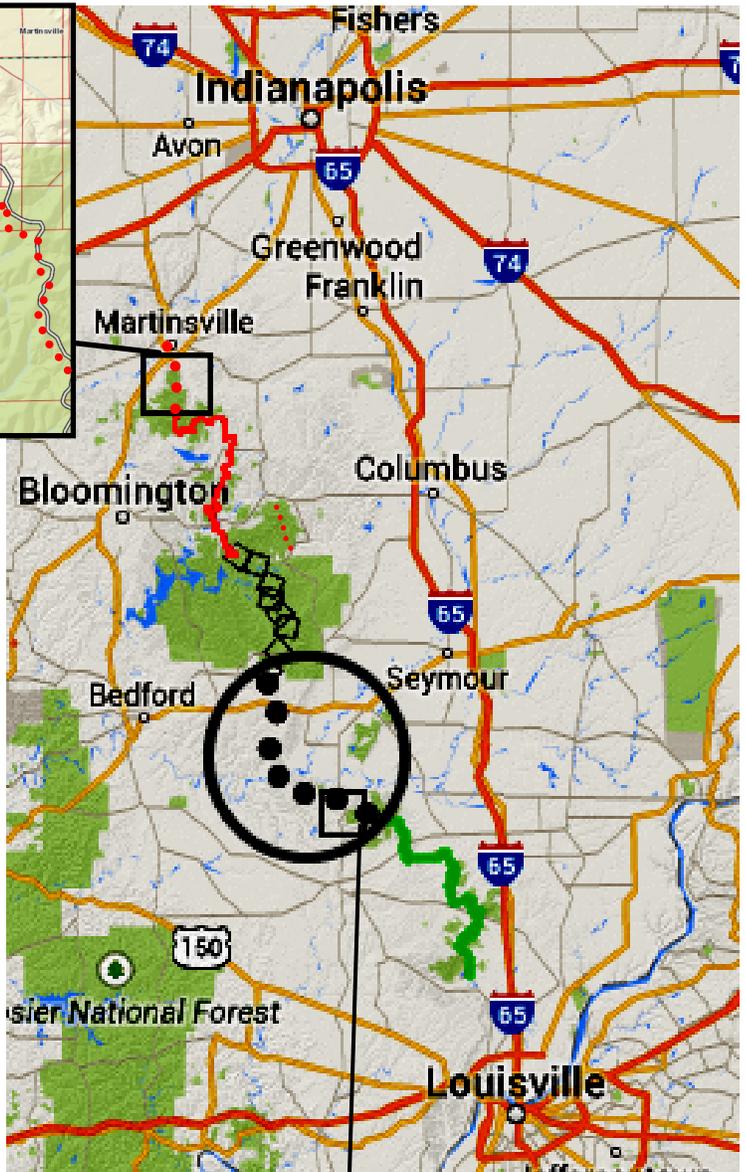
In April, KHTA Board president Charles Andrew connected with professional associates on the Board of the Martinsville Conservation Club and obtained a long sought after agreement to lay out a provisional addition to the Tecumseh Trail (red, on the map).

We are thankful for the vision of the Board and MCC members for allowing this use of their valuable property nestled against the north section of Morgan-Monroe State Forest inches (on the map) from Burton Lane. Burton Lane is the intersection at the last stop light on US37. Plans for the new I69 include an intersection/exit here, so this may make access to the KHT especially convenient in the long term. The MCC section will be situated on the side of a hollow so steep it has heretofore not been developed.

Similar provision for construction of a trail on MMSF property has been given. The MMSF property will follow for half the way an old Pioneer track, then parallel graveled Rosenbaum Road on a new trail through wildflower and mushroom-filled woods.



CONSERVATION CLUB EASEMENT AND NEW TRAILHEAD AT JOHN JONES PARKING LOT AT EDGE OF MARTINSVILLE ON BURTON LANE



HISTORIC FORT HATTABAUGH? A PIONEER CEMETERY IN PLATTSBURG, ANOTHER TOWN THAT TIME'S FORGOT.

Cina (in photo with gravestone) and Chuck Bogdas have purchased a property in Plattsburg, another "town" no longer visible along the KHT. Chuck has done research on their homestead, and found it's the site of a companion to a larger pioneer era fort nearby dating from the 1800s. Fort Hattabaugh disappeared after the War of 1812; Fort Vallonia was reconstructed (photo) in 1972 and is now featured in a hugely popular Fort Vallonia Days festival the 3rd Saturday in October. Near the Bogdas home, vestiges are still standing: a pioneer church, which Cina would like to convert to a B & B someday, and graveyard. One resident was born in 1799 (photo).

The church and cemetery access are both on a .2 mile, little-used, shaded section of old SR135, which will serve as the last stretch of the Pioneer Trail route (black, on the map) before connecting

to DNR land across new SR 135. This is the Chestnut Ridge land addition, where 3 new KHT miles are planned that will extend the Pioneer section of the KHT.. They will lead to the original KT (green, on the map) Spurgeon Hollow trailhead.



KHTA PIONEER TRAIL DEVELOPMENT 2nd Saturdays PROGRESS:

“MEET-UP” NETS MORE KHTA TRAIL-BUILDING RECRUITS; VETERANS RETURN. There’s plenty more work to be done



on the long Darlage easement in Southern Jackson Co. near the Sparksville Trailside Park. Brains and brawn. Bench cuts to make level trails (right) are dug into the hillside once storm deadfalls are cleared from the steep slope. These tools don’t do the work; force is needed for chainsaws and Pulaskis to “work!” And “safe and easy” nearly horizontal logs can shift and pinch the chain.....



CHESTNUT RIDGE: THE DNR IS PLANNING TO INSTALL NEW PT MILES A parcel of Jackson-Washington State Forest land has been acquired over the past several decades that connects the original Knobstone Trail trailhead at Spurgeon Hollow out to SR 135, for approximately 3 miles of new Pioneer Trail. As the trail is projected to pass near an experimental disease-resistant American Chestnut plantation on that property, we have dubbed it “Chestnut Ridge.” We hope the moniker sticks, to commemorate this treasured valuable forest species once common in the Mid-West. Hikers can observe progress of the plantation as they pass it over the years. Some of the trees are doing well, though not all. Come see for yourself.

HISTORIC SPARKSVILLE : SPARKSVILLE TRAILSIDE PARK FRIENDS GROUP is interviewing area residents, some from WII days still able to provide first-hand history. Edith Boling gleefully notes that the local school (photo) only had two classrooms(1-4; 5-8 grades), but its graduates regularly went to the head of the class when going on to high school in nearby Medora. There was more than just rivalry between the two towns; Sparksville residents were looked down on. But a gifted couple, Claude and Lorene Hurley, prepared the students well. The school was located just north of the tracks, opposite present day Sparksville Park. This rivalry explains the local support for the KHT—this will truly be an achievement for the town “that time forgot.”



* * * 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 _____



Make checks payable to: KHTA, Inc. Fund
Mail to: The KHTA, Suite 301, 342 Massachusetts Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46204

OR GO ONLINE TO THE KHTA WEBSITE, AND JOIN with PAYPAL:
www.KHTAssociation.org

WHAT'S HAPPENING ON THE KHT? EVENTS:

JUNE 7 (SUN.) NATIONAL TRAILS DAY HIKE on new MMSF Tecumseh Trail route...tabbott@foleyandabbott.com.

JUNE 12 2nd Sat. TRAIL BUILDING ON THE KHT near Sparksville Trailside Park: nandrew701@aol.com.

JUL 11 KHT in Sparksville or MARTINSVILLE??? Check Meet-Up for details or nandrew701@aol.com.

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY HIKE ON KHTA in Morgan-Monroe State Forest on some of the provisional new KHT extension to edge of Martinsville. Leader: Tony Abbott. This section consists of pioneer ridge-top tracks, flat or with modest inclines, kept clear by logging and hunting access over the years. Few ticks!

SEVEN NEW MILES FOR THE KHT, STARTING IN MORGAN CO. AT EDGE OF MARTINSVILLE ON CONSERVATION CLUB EASEMENT

...Quiet room, momentous decision. Martinsville Conservation Club Board votes (photo right) to provide an easement to connect to adjacent Morgan-Monroe State Forest acres. KHTA president Charles Andrew had presented the project to the Board in April, with a repeat visit in May with KHTA treasurer, attorney Tony Abbott.

Work will begin on clearing the trail when the easement is officially signed and recorded, with formal DNR DOF approval. Before presenting the plan, a series of more than a dozen scouting trips had been made to identify a safe, buildable, and sustainable route for the footpath on some very difficult terrain. The work began in winter, and involved Charles Andrew, his son Greg Andrew (MCC member), Ed Lizewski, Nina Andrew, and Suzanne Mittenenthal. The KHTA will connect the short MCC trail across more than 6 miles of MMSF land to the original Tecumseh Trail-head at the Forest Office. A provisional trail route has been laid out (check out the TT on the KHT website)..

Jim Allen, property manager at Morgan-Monroe/Yellowwood State Forest approves of the project, remarking that the MCC easement "would help make good use of the forest property for the public." Chalk this MCC move up to progress in making Martinsville, Morgan County, and Indiana a healthier community by extending the use of their property. Dictionary definition of "conservation:" "the controlled use and systematic preservation of natural resources."



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



OLIVER
WINERY & VINEYARDS



WEBSITE'S UP AND RUNNING!
DID WE SAY FINISHED? NOPE! BUT YOU CAN JOIN OR RENEW MEMBERSHIPS, FIND OUT WHY THERE IS A KHTA & WHO WE ARE, AND LOCATE KHT TRAILHEADS. THE REST WILL FOLLOW SOON....