



KHTA

The Knobstone

News of the Knobstone Hiking Trail Association

Summer Newsletter 2020 Vol. 7, No. 2

Founded in 2013—KHTAssociation@gmail.com—www.knobstonehikingtrail.org

KHTA Calendar

July 11—KHTA Workday—9:30-3:30
Sparksville Park

July 18—HNF Knobstone Section Hike I
9 am—4 pm —Nebo Ridge N Trailhead
888 W Elkinsville Road, Nashville, IN

July 25—HNF Knobstone Section Hike II
9 am—4 pm—Maumee Scout Camp
12975 W Co Rd 925 N, Norman, IN

August 8—KHTA Workday—9:30-3:30
Sparksville Park

Sep 12—KHTA Workday—9:30-3:30
Sparksville Park To Be Followed
With Cookout, Hikes, & Overnight
Camping At The Park.

Board of Directors

President—Charles Andrew

Vice-President—Steve Schaftlein

Acting Secretary—Nina Andrew

Treasurer—Bob Curran

Ron Conrad

Albert Cross

Scott Beam

Richard Vonnegut

Chris Donahue

Randall Pflueger

Jerry Pagac

Advisory Board

Tony Abbott

John Miller

Jess Gwinn

Suzanne Mittenenthal

Brian Holzhausen

Joe Payne

D. Jack Mahuron

In This Issue

Sponsored Section Hikes of the KHT—page 2

Report From the KHTA Store—Interest & Sales Triple—page 3

Trail Conditions and Updates—page 4

Volunteer Work—page 5

Website Update—Share Stories, Photos, & Videos—Report Conditions & Completed Hikes—page 6

Tools For The Trail —page 6

Many Thanks To All Our Volunteers Who Are Helping
To Make Our Dream A Reality!

Take Time To Consider

Joining The KHTA Or Making A Special Gift To The KHTA

We're Seeking To Build Up Our Membership & Funds

To Continue The Growth of the Trail

Go To <https://www.knobstonehikingtrail.org/join-donate/>

Thanks For Your Support!

Info On The Entire 160 Mile KHT

Maps Set, Data Book, Town Guide & GPX File

Free downloadable digital versions are available at
www.hoosierbywaysandpathways.com.

Printed copies are now available for purchase on our web page store.

Go to www.knobstonehikingtrail.org and click on Store/Maps Tab

Maps Set \$10/Data Book \$2/Town Guide \$5/ All 3 Bundled \$15

KHTA Store Report



With the introduction of new items and improved PR, the KHTA Store tripled its sales in comparison to the first half of last year. The most popular item was the KHTA Patch with 65 items sold. This was followed with the sale of 22 Bundles consisting of the Map Set, Town Guide, and Data Book. Not to be left behind 21 of the KT maps produced by the state were sold.

Year—Jan-June	# of Orders	# of Items	Gross Sales
2019	25	36	323.95
2020	66	156	986.28

This rise in sales indicates an increased awareness and interest in the KHT. Word is getting around that Indiana has a 160 miles trail worthy of hiking. More than a half dozen individuals have shared their interest in thru hiking the trail this year. Much credit for this increase goes to Scott Beam who has advertised the KHT on a variety of websites. In addition his sponsored hikes have attracted a growing number of hikers to the trail. For more details go to Meetup and sign up for the hike—<https://www.meetup.com/Knobstone-Hiking-Trail-Association-of-Indiana-Meetup/events/>

Coming Soon - Maps of the Region By the Indiana Geological & Water Survey!



The 5 map set will include all of the trails on state and federal land in the area covered. It includes many local trails including the KHT from start to finish. These are the most detailed maps available and will enable hikers to explore the rich opportunities up and down the KHT corridor. These maps will include the Charles C. Deam Wilderness in the HNF, Morgan Monroe-Yellowood Forests, Brown County State Park, Starve-Hollow SRA, and the Clark & Jackson-Washington State Forests. During the Covid 19 pandemic Avenza is offering a free digital version of these maps through their I-phone and android apps. Four of the five are already available. Go to this link [Avenza](#) on your smart phone or android device to download the app and then the maps. For further info on the IGWS go to <https://igws.indiana.edu/newsletter/read/may-2020>.

**To Order Items
From the KHTA Store**

Go to

<https://www.knobstonehikingtrail.org/shop/>

Many Thanks For Your Interest

&

Support!





Scott Beam, KHTA Board Member Continues to Lead Section Hikes on the KHT.

Mark your calendars and sign up on meetup—<https://www.meetup.com/Knobstone-Hiking-Trail-Association-of-Indiana-Meetup/events/>

Saturday July 18 – 9am to 4 pm – Hoosier National Forest Section Hike I

Nebo Ridge North Trail Head 888 W Elkinsville Rd Nashville, IN

Scott Beam is continuing the section hikes of the KHT. This time along the sections that run through the HNF. This first hike will be during National Forest Week, running from July 13th through the 19th this year.

The hike will start at the northern trailhead of the Nebo Ridge Trail, head south for about 8 miles, and then a mile or so hike along the road and continue on trails 20 and 18 in the Hickory Ridge area of the HNF. It's about a 45 minute drive between start to finish, and somewhere around 12 miles of hiking. Volunteers to help shuttle would be appreciated'. This will be a rain or shine event, so bring gear to match the weather. The group will stop along the Nebo section for lunch, so bring food and plenty of water. A few liters or more is recommended to handle the heat in July. For more details go to Meetup and sign up for the hike—<https://www.meetup.com/Knobstone-Hiking-Trail-Association-of-Indiana-Meetup/events/>

Saturday July 25 – 9am to 4 pm – Hoosier National Forest Section Hike II

Maumee Scout Camp (12975 W County Rd 925 N, Norman, IN 47264)

This will be the southern section hike of the Knobstone Trail that runs through the HoosierNF. Starting about halfway on trail 18, the hike will go mostly south and east along Hickory Ridge trails 18, 4, 10, 1, 11, 13, 14, 16 and 17. This will be an out and back hike mostly, with an option to park at the Hickory Ridge Horse Camp and save a few miles on the return trip. The KHTA has adopted trails 18 and 20 in this area. Participants will have an opportunity to meet up with one of the board members out with some scouts this weekend. This should be a 14 mile hike, or 18 to do the entire hike back. Volunteers to help shuttle would be appreciated. For more details go to Meetup and sign up for the hike—<https://www.meetup.com/Knobstone-Hiking-Trail-Association-of-Indiana-Meetup/events/>

This Fall - 3 Day Backpack of the Tecumseh & a 4 Day Backpack of the Original KT

Stay in touch for details of Scott's plans to lead thru hikes of the TT and the original KT.



Trail Conditions & Updates

Indian Hill Road Closure

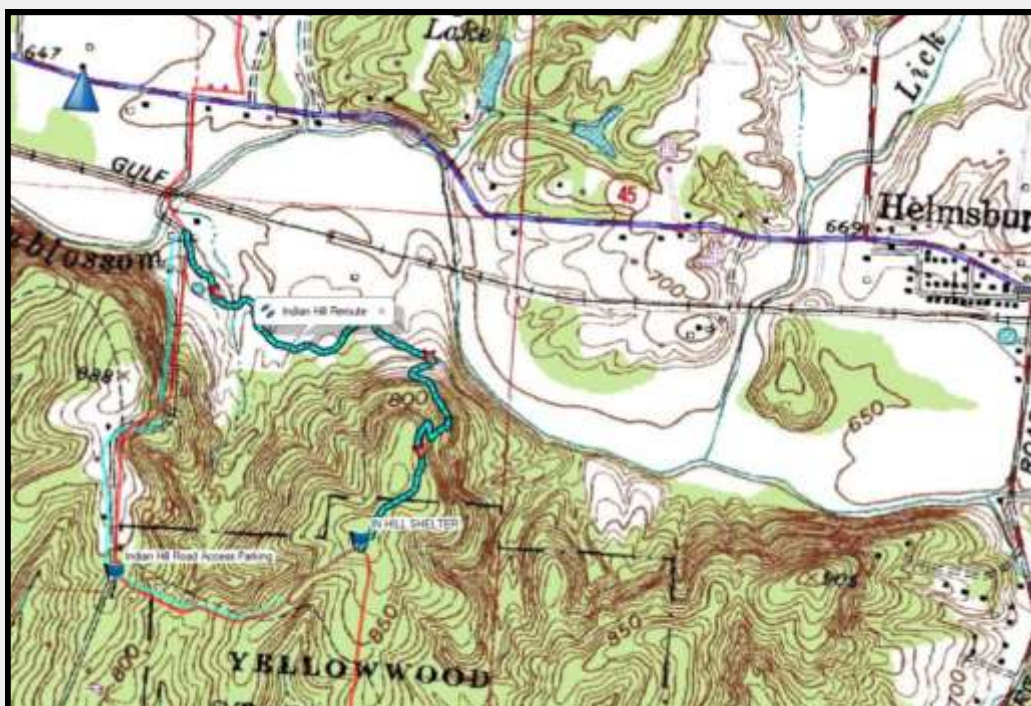
Indian Hill Road has been closed at the rail road track just South of Highway 45. Hikers can still walk around the closure. To reach the Indian Hill Trailhead parking lot, drivers must detour via Plum Creek Road. From the East it is best to head South out of Helmsburg on Helmsburg Road and take Plum Creek Road West to intersect Indian Creek Road. From there head North. From the West it is best to take Plum Creek Road East from the Needmore area. At the intersection of Indian Hill Road head North. Discussions are underway between the rail road and the Brown County Highway department. Hopefully, the road will reopen in the not too distance future

Bridge Damaged At Mile 79.3 Just North of the Frank Fisher Barn – June 13

Over the winter the bridge at mile 79.3 was damaged by a large tree. The area has been cleared of the tree and materials have been gathered for repairing the bridge. Hopefully this will take place in July. Until then hikers are advised to drop down a short bit to cross the ravine. Currently the bridge is slippery, at an angle, and unsafe to cross.

Indian Hill Shelter & Reroute – Mile 134

At Indian Hill, mile 134, a shelter has been constructed by the HHC along with a reroute that takes about 1/2 mile of the trail off of Indian Hill Road. The new trail adds about 0.1 mile to the trail. There is a trailhead parking lot where the trail intersects Indian Hill Road just South of the creek and train tracks.



KHTA Town Guide Update – May 2020

Unfortunately, over the winter the gas station – stores at Leesville and Medora were closed. This eliminates the Leesville resupply route. Resupply is still possible in Medora through the Post Office. Mile 64.2 Sparksville Park to Medora is 5 miles or Mile 69.7 Mile Hemlock Bluffs Nature Preserve to Medora is 5.3 miles Also, the Post Office at Norman remains available. Mile 79.2 Frank Fisher Barn is 2.5 miles to Norman or Mile 82.1 Hwy 50 is 3 miles to Norman – or Mile 86.6 Polk Patch Road (Tr 13) is 2.5 miles from Norman

Work Continues On The Easements At Sparksville

Barb Bates, Suzanne Smittenthal, James Kendal, Scott Beam, Rick Vonnegut, and Nina Andrew prepare to make improvements on the trail at Sparksville.



Volunteers Are The Heart of the KHTA!

The crew continued its work on improving the trail at Sparksville. Volunteers are focusing their current efforts on the Darlage easements. Plans are underway for the 2nd Saturday of September to have a cookout after the work day with the option of camping overnight with a breakfast on Sunday morning. Participants will have the option of hiking the loop trail at the park and the trail under construction.



We are thankful to the many volunteers who are the lifeblood of the KHTA. They monitor and maintain existing trails and build new trails. Volunteers spend countless hours planning, preparing, and carrying out our programs and activities. They work behind the scenes doing the clerical work of the organization. They go out and educate people about the benefits of the trail. They serve on our Board of Directors and the Board of Advisors. They put in countless hours in all the various aspects of the KHTA. Without them the KHT would be an unrealized dream of a few people.

As the KHTA continues to grow we are in a special need of people to serve as Trail Adopters, serve as secretary and help with the office work, and to help with the publicity and Newsletter. Give some thought to rolling up your sleeves and volunteering for one of these and many other aspects of the KHTA mission. Join a dedicated community making the KHT a reality!



The KHT is now available on the All Trails App for Smart Phones .

Download the app and search for Knobstone Trail: 160 Miles

On your computer go to:

www.alltrails.com/trail/us/indiana/knobstone-trail-160-miles



KHTA Website Updated!

The KHTA website has been reorganized with some new features. Some of the menu items have been renamed and moved to make it easier to move quickly to information. A slider of pictures has been added to the home page along with links to key information such as trail conditions. A space has been added to highlight upcoming activities. Pages and forms have been created to report on trail conditions and to share stories, photos, and videos of your hiking experiences. Also a page has been added for others to view the stories, photos, and videos that you share. Also, a page and form has been added to report the completion of hikes on individual sections (KT, PT, HNF, & TT) and the entire KHT. This is for both section and thru hikers. As completed hikes are reported, a page will be added to chronologically list these accomplishments by date of completion. This is part of an effort to further enhance the community of KHT supporters, hikers, and volunteers.

Check out the changes and additions! And get involved!



Tools For The Trail

There are a variety of tools that are invaluable for maintaining and constructing a trail. One of the most valuable and cost effective is a simple pair of hand clippers. The one picture here is a Corona BP 3180D forged bypass pruner with a 1" cutting capacity. Good quality hand clippers sell for anywhere from 20 to 30 dollars at local hardware stores or online. They can be stored in a pocket (jacket, pants, or shirt) ready to use as one monitors a trail. They are useful to clip off the numerous small branches that quickly grow out across the trail at eye level or less. They are helpful at clipping the multiflora rose, black berry, and other briars that tend to lean across the trail. Much of this casual trail maintenance can be done as one hikes along with only a brief pause or slowing down of one's pace.

Collaborators In The Trails Movement

COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION OF
MORGAN COUNTY



The **COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**
of Jackson County



Together we give resources



OAK HERITAGE
CONSERVANCY



Hoosier Hiker Babes

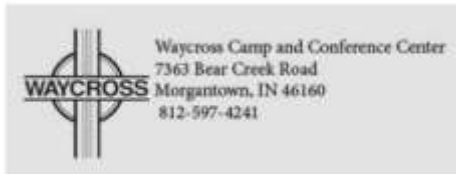


TRAILS **A**-Team

ULTRALIGHT JERK



HOOSIER TRAILS COUNCIL
Boy Scouts of America



LOMIK



meetup



ORVIS



Hoosier National Forest



J.W. Jones Company, LLC

