



**KHTA**

# The Knobstone

## News of the Knobstone Hiking Trail Association

Fall Newsletter 2020 Vol. 7, No. 3

Founded in 2013—[KHTAssociation@gmail.com](mailto:KHTAssociation@gmail.com)—[www.knobstonehikingtrail.org](http://www.knobstonehikingtrail.org)

### KHTA Calendar

**Dec 12—KHTA Workday—9:30-3:30**  
**Sparksville Park**

**Sign Up On Meetup—**<https://www.meetup.com/Knobstone-Hiking-Trail-Association-of-Indiana-Meetup>

**January 9—KHTA Workday—9:30-3:30**  
**Sparksville Park**

### In This Issue

A Word From Our President—page 2

Sponsored Section Hikes of the KHT—page 3 & 4

Volunteer Work—page 5

Trail Conditions and Updates—page 6

Report From the KHTA Store—New Items Coming—page 7

Website Update—Tools For The Trail—page 8

Shared Stories, Photos, & Videos—Report Conditions & Completed Hikes—page 9

*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/>

### 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 Mittenthal

Brian Holzhausen

Joe Payne

D. Jack Mahuron

### 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](http://www.hoosierbywaysandpathways.com).

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

Go to [www.knobstonehikingtrail.org](http://www.knobstonehikingtrail.org) and click on Store/Maps Tab

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

## *A Word From Our President*

Dear KHTA Members & Supporters,

Even though we are in the midst of a global pandemic, the KHTA is still fighting to complete the 160-mile-long Knobstone Hiking Trail. We have been conducting our committee and Board meetings using the application called Zoom. This requires that each participant have the ability to connect to the internet with a reliable and fast connection. Some are using PCs with a microphone and webcam attached. Some are using laptop computers and some are using their cell phone. So far, we have been able to make this technology work fairly well. We all miss the in-person interactions but we have saved miles of travel and gallons of gasoline.

The pandemic has not stopped our outdoor trail building and maintenance activities. We did pause in the spring when there was so much uncertainty. We don't know what the future holds, all we can do is keep our on-line calendar, Meetup, and Facebook up to date. One increased challenge is trying to obtain new easements as this requires person to person discussions.

If you are not currently active involved, please consider joining us. We really need to fill several volunteer positions such as secretary, project manager, communications coordinator and event promotions. Most important is the need for additional trail builders. We really appreciate your support and participation in our mission,

Charles Andrew, President  
Knobstone Hiking Trail Association  
Martinsville, IN 46151

### Volunteer Adopters Needed

#### To Patrol & Maintain Trail

Go to

<https://www.knobstonehikingtrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/KHTA-Volunteer-Info-Request-Form.pdf>

### Membership Renewal

It's time to initiate or renew your membership in the KHTA

Go to

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





## Scott Beam, KHTA Board Member Continues to Lead Section Hikes

Consider Joining Future Organized Hikes Sponsored By The KHTA

<https://www.meetup.com/Knobstone-Hiking-Trail-Association-of-Indiana-Meetup/events/>

**Thru Hike of the KT—From October 16-18 6 Hikers Completed The Knobstone Trail**  
Scot Beam, James Kendall, Debbie Muse, Brendan O'Donnell, Jacob Enk, and Dan Dessauer



## Trail Magic Friday Cook Out At Elk Creek Lake

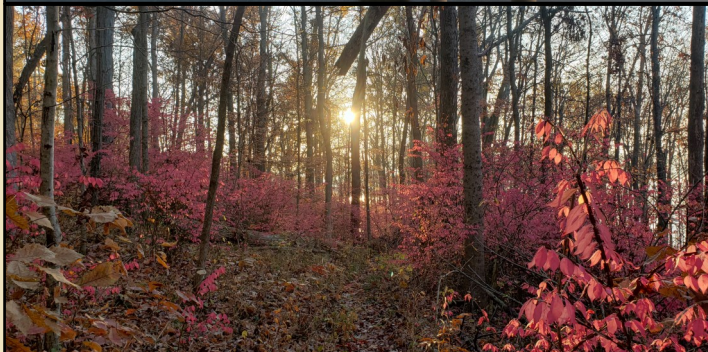
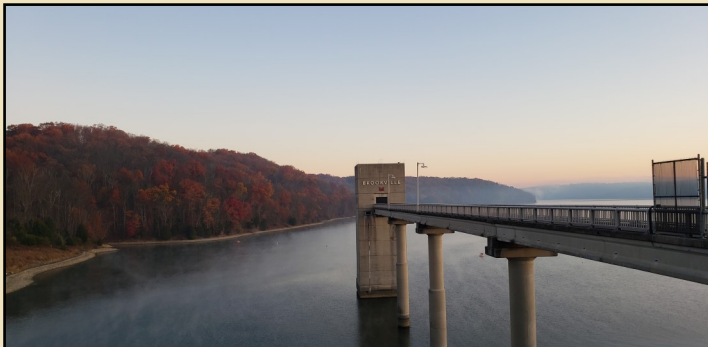




**Nov 7—Due To The Closure of the TT at the Indian Hill Railroad Crossing  
The Tecumseh Trail Thru Hike Was Switched To The Adena Trace  
Which Circumnavigates Brookville Reservoir**



**Jacob Lundergun and Joseph Blight. Meredith Steever, James Kendall, Debbie Muse, & Scott Beam**





## Work Continues On The Easements At Sparksville

Nina Andrew, Scott Beam, Suzanne Mittenhall, Cindy Emig, Marti , & Kevin Ernst. prepare to make improvements on the trail at Sparksville.





## Volunteers Are The Heart of the KHTA!



The 2nd Saturday Work Crew continued its work on improving the trail at Sparksville. Volunteers are focusing their current efforts on the Darlage easements. The KT Trail Adopters continue to monitor their sections of the KT between Deam Lake and Spurgeon Hollow. In the HNTF many improvements were made to our section on Trail 18 & 20.

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!

 AllTrails  GAIA GPS	<p><b>The KHT is now available on the All Trails &amp; GAIS GPS Apps for Smart Phones .</b></p> <p><b>Download the apps and search for Knobstone Trail: 160 Miles</b></p> <p><b>On your computer go to:</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.alltrails.com/trail/us/indiana/knobstone-trail-160-miles">www.alltrails.com/trail/us/indiana/knobstone-trail-160-miles</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.gaiagps.com/datasummary/folder/35e8a226-9f05-40e9-b4da-37c8e5fd3a21/?">https://www.gaiagps.com/datasummary/folder/35e8a226-9f05-40e9-b4da-37c8e5fd3a21/?</a></p>
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

# Trail Conditions & Updates

## Indian Hill Road Closure

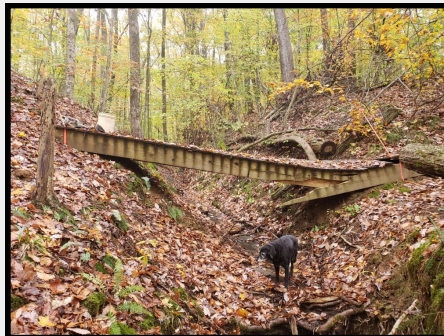
Indian Hill Road has been closed at the rail road track just South of Highway 45. The Yellowwood State Forest posted the following on their website.

Yellowwood State Forest advisories—Due to the unexpected closure of the county road that the Tecumseh Trail uses to reconnect with state land to the north and because of No Trespassing signs erected by the railroad for public safety, the Tecumseh Trail is closed at the section shown on the [map](#) until further notice. (To view the map click on the blue text.)

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 Plumb 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 At Mile 79.3 Just North of the Frank Fisher Barn Has Been Repaired & Enhanced

During the winter of 2020 the bridge at mile 79.3 was damaged by a large tree. Last Spring supplies were carried in to the site. On the last week of October and the first week of Nov. the bridge was repaired. Guardrails were added to the bridge which formerly did not have guardrails.



**DOF Constructed Another Shelter at Mile 145.2** Thanks to the generosity of the DOF there is now a new shelter at mile 145.2. It is called the “Backcountry Shelter”. It is ready for use.



**For Other Info On Trail Conditions Click On The Link Below**

<https://www.knobstonehikingtrail.org/150-mile-kht/trail-conditions/>



# KHTA Store Report



## KHTA Ball Caps Will Soon Be Added To The Store

The KHTA Board is in the process of designing and approving the addition of a KHTA ball cap to the store product line. Look for it to appear on the store web page.

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



## Maps of the Region By the Indiana Geological & Water Survey!

The final map of the 5 map series has been sent to the printer and will be available soon. 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>.

## KHT Map Set, Data Book, and Town Guide—2nd Edition

The 1st edition of the KHT Map Set, Data Book, and Town Guide consisting of 50+ copies became available last winter. This 1st edition is about sold out. An updated 2nd edition is about ready to go to the printers and will become available by the end of the year. Hard copies will be available through the KHTA Store. Digital copies are already available as a free download on our website.

### **To Order Items**

### **From the KHTA Store**

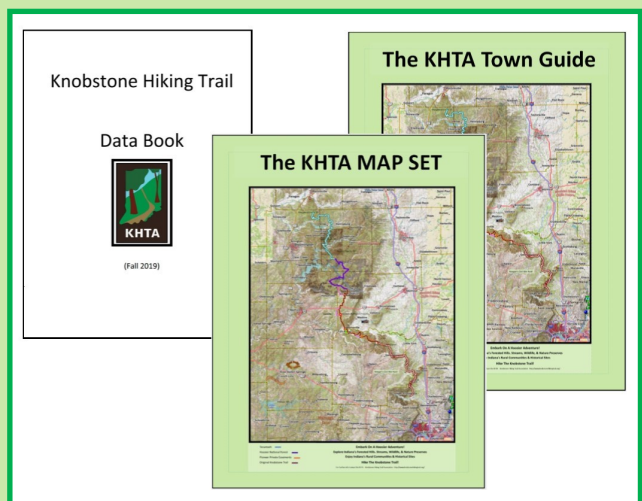
### **Go to**

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

**Many Thanks For Your Interest**

**&**

**Support!**





# Knobstone Hiking Trail Association

Realizing the 1970s Visionary 160-Mile Knobstone

Home

160-Mile KHT – Info & Resources ▾

Activities / Volunteer ▾

History & Geology

About Us / Partners and Collaborators ▾

## KHTA Website Updated!

Check out the completed hikes—<https://www.knobstonehikingtrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Completed-Hikes.pdf>

Report your completed hikes— <https://www.knobstonehikingtrail.org/completed-hikes-report-form/>

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, the information will 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.

## Tools For The Trail

There are a variety of tools that are invaluable for maintaining and constructing a trail. The standard hoe tool for constructing trails is the Rogue Hoe. It comes in a variety of shapes, sizes, and weights to meet specific purposes and preference. All hoes are made of high grade tempered steel recycled from agricultural disc blades. Each come with razor sharp cutting edges. They are utilized by trail builders, forest fire fighters, and gardeners. Prices vary between about \$40 & \$50 depending on the

specific hoe chosen. They are available from a number of distributors. It is good to check around for the best price. They are very hardy and will last a long time if not a lifetime.



Rogue hoes are a product of Rogue Hoe Distributing, a family-owned business located in the Missouri Ozarks started in 2006. The owners, Larry and Phyllis Pierce take great pride in the tools they produce. [www.roguehoe.com/](http://www.roguehoe.com/)





## Stories & Hikes Along The KHT Corridor

*Dylan Barker, Isaac Pyzik, & Reid Johnson  
Tecumseh Trail, Thru Hiked August 21-23, 2020*

*We met a family on the final stretch of Stevens Road. They had a giant downhill slip and slide. They let us take a couple runs at it! It was the hottest day of the trip and was much appreciated before our last few hours on the trail.*

*Submitted by Dylan Barker*

*Curtis Mann—Knobstone Trail, Thru Hiked — Feb 16-18, 2020*

*I filmed my trip and made a short video of it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZyBSLfeXIIJw> Going in February was wonderful. It was unseasonably warm and there was plenty of water along the way. I often carried just 1L of water and filled up any-time I came across a stream. A great trail for sure!*

*Submitted by Curtis Mann*

*Kelly & Ben Mathis With Dog Corey—Knobstone Trail, Thru Hiked August 2-6, 2020*

*It might have been just because it was the last day, but the 10 miles coming into Deam Lake SRA were some of the most beautiful of the whole trip. Also enjoyed seeing Louisville off in the distance at our last campsite.*

*Submitted by Kelly Mathis*

### Thru and Section Hikes of the Knobstone

*2020, February 16—18—Thru Hike—Curtis Mann*

*2020, August 3-6—Thru Hike—Douglas Weaver, Griffin Weaver, & Rory Weaver*

*2020, August 2-6—Thru Hike—Kelly Mathis, Ben Mathis, & Dog Corey*

*2020, Oct 16-18—Thru Hike—Scott Beam, Brendan O'Donnell, Jacob Enk,  
Dan Dessauer, Debbie Muse, & James Kendall*

### Thru and Section Hikes of the Tecumseh Trail

*2020, August 21-23—Thru Hike—Dylan Barker, Isaac Pyzik, & Reid Johnson*

*To Report Your Hikes & The Trail Conditions You Observe Go To—*

*<https://www.knobstonehikingtrail.org/reporting-to-us-about-your-hike/>*

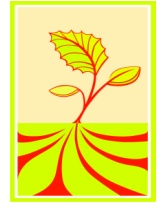
*To Share Your Stories, Photos, & Videos Go To—<https://www.knobstonehikingtrail.org/>*

# Collaborators In The Trails Movement

**COMMUNITY**  
FOUNDATION OF  
MORGAN COUNTY



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



**OAK HERITAGE**  
CONSERVANCY



Hoosier Hiker Babes

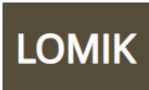


TRAILS **A**-Team

ULTRALIGHT JERK



**HOOSIER TRAILS COUNCIL**  
Boy Scouts of America



meetup



**RUSTED MOON**  
OUTFITTERS

