The Knobstone
News of the Knobstone Hiking Trail Association
Spring Newsletter 2021 Vol. 8, No. 1

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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/

Info On The Entire 160 Mile KHT
Maps Set, Data Book, Town Guide & GPX File
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 Calendar
May 8—KHTA Workday 9:30am-3:30pm—Sparksville Park
May 1—Hike Till You Drop At Spurgeon Hollow – 6 am to 9 pm
May 12—KHTA Board Meeting 6:00 pm
June 12—KHTA Workday 9:30am-3:30pm—Sparksville Park
For The Above Events

Board of Directors
President—Charles Andrew
Vice-President—Steve Schaeftlein
Acting Secretary—Nina Andrew
Treasurer—Bob Curran
Ron Conrad
Scott Beam
Chris Donahue
Jerry Pagac

Advisory Board
Tony Abbott
Jess Gwinn
Brian Holzhausen
D. Jack Mahuron
Albert Cross
Richard Vonnegut
Randall Pflueger
John Miller
Suzanne Mittenthal
Joe Payne

Founded in 2013—KHTAssociation@gmail.com—www.knobstonehikingtrail.org
Dear KHTA Members & Supporters,

The past year has been challenging for all of us due to the global pandemic. This has not stopped us from making progress towards our mission. We have worked every scheduled work weekend weather permitting. We have conducted committee and board meetings as normal except not in person but virtually on the internet. Our mission to complete the full 160 mile trail, promote it use and keep it maintained is huge and we work on this mission every day.

Our mission cannot be fulfilled by government agencies since many miles are on private properties. Furthermore, tax money is not available to support this kind of activity. If the 160-mile-long trail is to be built and maintained, it must be done by volunteers. This is where we have a real need, we have only a handful of active workers. If this mission is to be successful, many other volunteers need to come forward and work with us. There are many activities to choose from, Board Secretary, Adopt-A-Trail coordinators, newsletter editor/publisher, trail builders, sign makers, map makers, project managers, grant application writers, etc. Please consider volunteering in some way, the need is so great.

Thank you

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

Volunteer Adopters Needed
To Patrol & Maintain Trail
Go to

Membership Renewal
It’s time to initiate or renew your membership in the KHTA
Go to
https://www.knobstonehikingtrail.org/join-donate/
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2021 Gateway 5K/ Fun Run Race Pictures

Instructions Before The Race

Danny Owens—The Winner
Scott Beam, KHTA Board Member Continues to Lead Section Hikes

Consider Joining Future Organized Hikes Sponsored By The KHTA

Pictures From The 3 Lakes and Low Gap Hike—March 27

Members of the Indianapolis Hiking Club and the KHTA joined together for the hike on March 27. The hike had options of a 16 or 22 mile loop.
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 HNF 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!

The KHT is now available on the All Trails & GAIS GPS Apps for Smart Phones.
Download the apps and search for Knobstone Trail: 160 Miles
On your computer go to:

https://www.gaiagps.com/datasummary/folder/35e8a226-9f05-40e9-b4da-37c8e5fd3a21/?
KHTA Store Report

KHTA Ball Caps Now Available

30 KHTA baseball caps have been designed and acquired. They are available for $20.

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

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

The final map of the 5 map series is now available. The 5 map 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 include the Charles C. Deam Wilderness in the HNF, Morgan Monroe-Yellowwood 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 Iphone 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.


The 2021 2nd Edition of the KHT Map Set, Data Book, and Town Guide is now available Hard copies will be available through the KHTA Store. Digital copies are already available as a free download on our website. This set provides comprehensive info for thru or section hiking the 160 miles of the KHT.

To Order Items From the KHTA Store

Go to

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

Many Thanks For Your Interest & Support!
KHTA Website Updated!


The KHTA website has been reorganized with some new features. 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. And, 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.

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 versatile is the Pulaski. This is a tool with an axe head on one side and a hoe head on the opposite. This gives the user the ability to effectively clear and dig trail with the added ability to cut through the largest of roots. The hoe section does a great job of both cutting into a hillside and “skimming” dirt to create the trail bed. The axe head is as effective as any hand held axe. By holding the Pulaski side ways the tool is able to effectively to operate as a rake. Another advantage of the Pulaski over a regular hoe is the additional weight that provides greater momentum with every stroke. The very best Pulaskis are made by Rogue Hoe Inc. They come in two sizes. The larger 6lb one works fine for the vast majority of people average size or larger. The smaller 4 3/4 lb Pulaski works fine for smaller folks.

The “Top Dog” weighs 4 3/4 lb, with a 4’ wide by 11 1/2 long head and a 3 1/2” wide axe pick ($84.95)

The “Beast” weighs 6 lbs with a 5 1/2” wide by 13” long head and a 4” wide axe pick. ($89.95-$94.95)
Stories Along The KHT Corridor

Ken Taylor

Southbound Section Hike Tecumseh Trail, Hoosier National Forest, To The HHC Trailhead of the Pioneer Trail

March 5-9, 2021

I hiked the northern section of the KHT from March 5-9. I went outbound starting from the Morgan Monroe St. Forest HQ and ending at the Pine Grove on the HHC land. The weather was exceptionally good for that period in March. Walking the trail was a real joy. So much diverse scenery and terrain. The maps which I ordered from you and used along the way were immensely helpful. I realize it is a huge effort to maintain and manage everything that goes into making this trail a reality and wanted to say thank you to all of you and all the folks that make it happen. In summary, KT had a great hike on the KHT thanks to the KHTA! I look forward to coming back soon to complete the second half. Thanks Ken Taylor (KT)

Submitted by Ken Taylor
Collaborators In The Trails Movement

- Community Foundation of Morgan County
- Hoosier Hiker Babes
- TRAILS A-Team
- ULTRALIGHT JERK
- Brown County Indiana
- BROWN COUNTY INDIANA
- TRAILS
- B&O Trail Association
- Benchmark Outdoor Outfitters
- Rusted Moon Outfitters
- Hoosier National Forest
- JL Waters Adventure Outfitters
- REI Co-op
- Hoosier Chapter
- Winding Waters Group
- DNR Indiana Department of Natural Resources
- Purdue University
- Sierra Club Hoosier Chapter
- Cummins
- J.W. Jones Company, LLC