www.KnobstoneHikingTrail.org
KHTAssociation@gmail.com

160 MILE KHT SUPPORT SUPPORT KHTA PROTECT

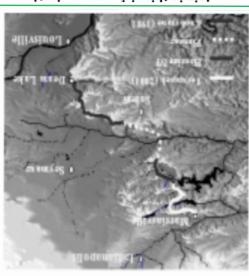
"Trails unite people, trails unite communities"

The Knobstone Hiking Trail Association Founded in 2013



The Knobstone Hiking Trail Association, Inc. P.O. Box 1814
Martinsville, IN 46151
CHTA

and Join online, with Paypal &/or Credit Card www.KnobstoneHiking Trail.org Or go to: Morgan County, a 501© 3 non-profit organization.) is a fund of the Community Foundation of (The Knobstone Hiking Trail Association, Inc. Fund Martinsville, IN 46151 Mail to: KHTA, P.O. Box 1814 Make checks payable to: KHTA, Inc. Fund Phone State City Address Name Enclosed is my contribution of \$ 🗖 KHTA Land & Easement Fund \$ +0001\$ shotseliM 🗖 \$520 ☐ Landmark ssauisna 🗆 00T\$ γ⊃egacγ OOTS □ Org./Club \$50 leubivibnl 🗖 ∏ Family 0±\$ ☐ Student/Elder \$15 Support levels Join in this visionary project!



Completing the Missing Links in the 160-Mile KNOBSTONE HIKING TRAIL

КНТА

The Knobstone Hiking Trail

Why hike the KHT? For its indescribable scenery—and the challenge of rugged, back_country hiking! It takes you 160 miles along an ancient Mississippian limestone bedrock escarpment. High bluffs of the forested Norman Uplands were separated over millions of years by erosion from the Scottsburg Lowlands, leaving scenic knobs. These vestiges of the North American continent's vast Silurian sea jut 500 feet above the lowland plains. The trail largely follows this scenic escarpment. Views extend eastward as far as the eye can see.

Trailheads connect to within 30 miles of Indianapolis and 20 miles of Louisville. Festivals, historic and cultural offerings provide a large variety of attractions near the trail [photo left: Schaefer Sculpture Garden; (right): painting from T.C. Steele State Historic Site.]

The trail is narrow and rugged; changes in elevation from

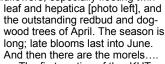


535 to 1001 ft. make it a real challenge. It climbs repeatedly deep into—and then out again—of valleys cut into the escarpment by streams over

millions of years. Sometimes referred to as a "little AT," it's suitable preparation for doing miles on the Appalachian Trail.

Ownership of two-thirds of the land the trail passes through is public—all of it once cleared for pioneer settlements. Much is hilly, with thin soil, and marginal as farmland. When soil fertility ran out and jobs became available in the last century, farmers fled to the cities. Abandoned, often eroded farms and cut over forests were acquired by state and federal forest agencies as a Depression legacy. The KHT was begun by the state in the 1980s; the KHTA is now working to obtain donations of easements on private land to complete the trail on sections in between public acres.

Forests have rebounded with amazing diversity since their acquisition and preservation in the 1930s. Vibrant fall foliage and the mists of blue ridges attract visitors from miles around. The valleys are rich with wildflowers, especially fleeting twin-



The first section of the KHT, named for the ridge it was built on, was completed in 1981. The top, named for the Indian leader Tecumseh, was finished in 2001.

The central, Pioneer section, is a work in progress, carried forth by the KHTA. It's a challenging, exciting, process! Join us?

Trail Tips for Short Trips

- You can access the Trail from more than 25 trailheads.
- Trailhead and parking information can be found on the website of the KHT Association, promoters of the KHT. The KHTA website has active trailhead links to maps: www.KnobstoneHikingTrail.org..
- Maps are available from the KHTA, and may also be purchased in retail outlets.
- The trails are mostly well marked and easy to follow, but a compass or GPS is advised.



- Grades are steep. The trail traverses many ridges and valleys. Be prepared with proper boots/trail shoes.
- Most hikers require one hour for every one or two walked. You may need more time than the mileage might suggest & more H₂O.
- Packs should contain extra liters of water. In addition to the usual snacks, bug

dope, and waterproof jacket, don't leave medications at the trailhead!

- Do not rely on cell phones for emergencies; service is not assured in these deep Hoosier hollows.
 - Ticks and chiggers are common in warm weather in some areas. Spray plus the wearing of long pants is strongly advised. Ticks vary from the very visible "dog tick" to tiny almost invisible "seed" ticks. The only way to notice chiggers is by the itch they cause—too late to do any good. Ticks can carry serious diseases. Check the KHTA website for details and prevalence of different types.



Overnighting

Take Two Hours or Two Weeks

- Backpackers can choose to do overnights with loops in state forest areas, or multiple nights on the long trail with out & backs or shuttles. A shelter along the trail (more planned) can help lighten the load for beginning backpackers.
- Camping is possible at least every 5 to 10 miles along the trail. No permits or fees are required for camping except at north



 During hunting seasons, some private easement trail segments are closed. In shotgun hunting season (2 weeks, 2nd half of November) caution should be observed on public forest lands. Check current dates and the KHT website for updates: www.KnobstoneHikingTrail.org..



- Please observe posted easement restrictions. No camping or hunting. On private lands, retention of the trail easement depends on hikers respecting them.
- Many campsites are located near water sources, but in late summer and early fall, all but the largest streams dry up. You will need to use pond wa-

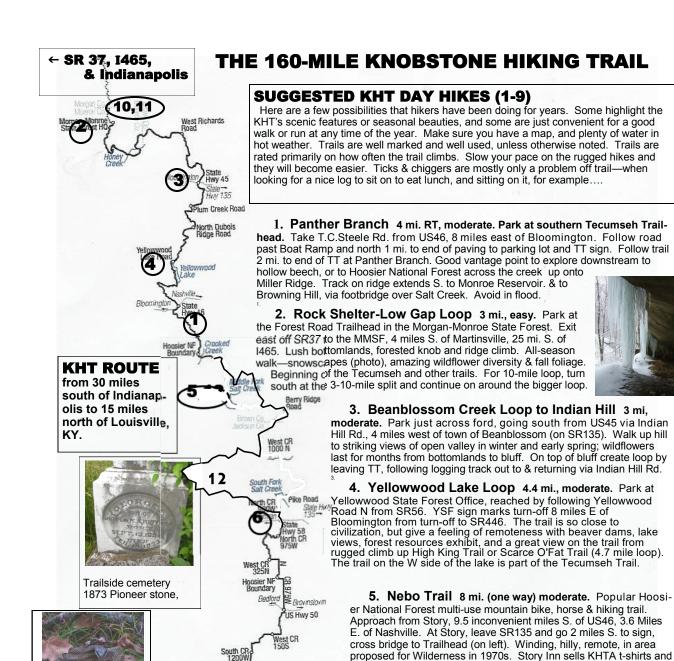
ter, carry water from streams you cross, or cache water ahead of your trip when camping away from established sites. Always filter, treat or boil drinking water.

- Shuttle services can help cache water as well as shuttle cars. Check the KHTA website to contact these.
- Please practice "Leave No Trace" methods when building campfires. Pack out, don't burn garbage.









SUGGESTED BACKPACKS (10-13)

- Some loops may be available; study your maps!
- Water availability can be limited in summer and fall.
- Check the KHTA website for current trail conditions and details about specific areas of interest.
- Shuttles, commercial or with friends, extend your miles.
- But remember, the scenery is always totally different on the way back.



Trailside wildlife (timber rattler)

> Here are some ways to do sections of the KHT

st Sparksville

 Low Gap Loop 10 mi., moderate. Morgan-Monroe State Forest: 4 miles S. of Martinsville, off SR37/I69 25 mi. S. of I465. Park at Forest Office. Camp in Back Country area (camping unrestricted), S. of Low Gap Rd. CCC-planted erosion-control pine forest is a favorite. Explore forested ridges and hollows abandoned by settlers, preserved like wilderness 1980s—2004. Extension of Rock Shelter Loop.

11. Tecumseh Trail 42-mi. one-way, moderate. with shuttle. Directions for the Low Gap loop. Starts 35 miles from I465 around Indianapolis via SR 37I69, and reaches to the edge of Monroe Reservoir, SE of Bloomington. Experience the way the ridge system works at the northern end of the Knobstone escarpment. Trail crosses some ridges, and runs along others. The TT has 4395 ft. of gain, 4752 ft. of loss. Daffodils in the wilderness mark pioneer homestead sites. Foxes Den Shelter at Mile 13 is open, first-come, first-served

12. Hoosier National Forest

There are many options for out and back and loop hikes within the Hoosier National Forest section of the KHTA. You may find down loadable maps of the Multi Use Trails (MUT).in the HNF at www.hoosierbywaysandpathways. You can also purchase maps of the HNF at www.nationalforestmapstore.com/product-p/in-1.htm. National Geographic has an HNF map for purchase at www.natgeomaps.com/ti-770-hoosier-national-forest. In the HNF, the KHTA is adjacent to the 13,000+ acre Deam Wilderness and Lake Monroe. There are many opportunities for camping and hiking in the Deam Wilderness.

13. Knobstone Trail 45 mi., one way, rugged. See

KHTA website for details. Best views and steepest terrain are found in S end. Easier N to S. A tornado in 2012 scoured the trail mile 5-6 (phonto right). Hikers take 3-5 days; use shuttle. Try 4 days: Spurgeon Trailhead mi 45 to Elk Creek Lake mi 32 for green valleys, moist hardwood forest, not so steep; then to creek at mi 21 on winding high ridges; then water near mi 11 and forested ridges and valleys. South of this is the storm-scarred final section to Deam Lake at S end trailhead. Access from I-65 take exit 16 at Memphis. Go S (right) and immediately turn right (SW)on Crone Rd for about 2.5 miles to a T. Turn right onto Cummins for 0.7 mile to another T. Turn right onto Wilson Switch Rd and follow it to the entrance to Deam Lake Recreation Area. Enter the area and make the first right past the entrance station to the Southern Terminus Trail Head with a parking lot, shelter, and restrooms.

US446, 9 miles E. on SR 58, and 1 mi S on CR 975; park on moto-cross dirt lot. Look for trail post Scotlsburg marker at far edge of lot. This is a multiple use *property,* not an M-U *trail* not to worry! The trail is on donated hikers only ease -ments. You may meet some motocross bikers or ATV riders Their antics

field-side trail; finish with a reverse or road walk for a 5-mile loop. KHTA is working on easement con-

nections N.&S. of loop; stay tuned. 30 miles south of Bloomington via

will amaze you, and many will be gracious & happy to talk with, and perhaps admire, you! Camping is allowed at the 3 story Frank Fischer Barn and the HHC property TrHD WCR 325 N.

Louisville ↓

7. Spurgeon Hollow/Northern Knobstone

6. Motocross-Pioneer Trail Barn Loop 5 mi.,

moderate. Scenic, steep trail chugs through a Motocross

course and then calm forest to restored pioneer barn (photo) and

Trailhead. moderate, 5 mi. to next trailhead; Green valleys, high, long ridge walks. Loops available but have been logged. Easy access via SR135; 12 mi S. of Brownstown, E. 2 mi on Rooster Hill, .5 mi S. on Delaney Creek to KT trailhead sign.

8. Elk Creek Lake to Leota. rugged, 11 mi. one way. Lake views plus good sampling of high, iconic Knobstone dry knob Chestnut oak forest trail. From I65 Exit 29 (Scottsburg) 10 mi W. on SR56; 2 mi S. on Elk Creek Rd. Works as a good backpack; good water at lake. Follow trail signs S.

9. Jackson Rd. Trailhead/ KT rugged 5-7.5 rt

Once most scenic section, steep_sided, with



access to now bare trail highpoint of Round Knob (photo left) with views all the way to Louisville.,1 mile of the trail was scalped of trees by tornado in 2011. Visit periodically and watch the vegetation re-cover. Watch for rock inscriptions, remaining chest -nut oaks (photo below) great bluff view at Mi. 7 (distant skyscrapers peep over cleft in hills to south). Directions: Take I65 Exit

16 to Memphis; go west on SR 160 across l65. Go west 2.3 mi on Memphis-Blue Lick Rd., L. on Bartle Knob Rd., for about 6.3 miles. Pass Mountain Grove Rd. & bear right at next intersection. After a steep climb, Bartle Knob Rd. crosses the KT. Watch on R. for Hilltop Rd. & KT post. Follow Hilltop .3 mi, then R at KT sign onto gravel

road ...2 mi to Mi. 5 trailhead parking. Trail is 1/2 very steep, 1/2 almost level; 1/2 bare, 1/2 leafy. Walk N. 2 mi to small rocky bluff just past Mi. 7 marker for inscriptions, views. RT loop: return to marker; leave trail, cross 30 yd. to horse trail/graveled Jackson Rd.; go (left) back to parking lot.

KNOBSTONE HIKING TRAIL GUIDE TRAILHEAD GPS COORDINATES

Data Format DegMin NAD83 ElevFeet

01, 39°06.529 - 86°18.700 583 02, 39°18.666 - 86°25.499 932 03, 39°15.936 - 86°18.990 648 04, 39°10.968 - 86°20.352 623 05, 39°04.734 - 86°14.870 577 06, 38°56.584 - 86°13.530 876 07, 38,42.793 - 86°02.642 554 08, 38°38.995 - 85°57.001 643 09, 38°31.945 - 85°51.393 963 10,11 39°19.573 - 86°25.199 948 13, 38°27.725 - 85°51.753 590

FOR GOOGLE MAP LINKS TO TRAILHEADS, GO ONLINE: www.KnobstoneHikingTrail.org/150-Mile KHT.

WON'T YOU JOIN OUR TREK?

The Knobstone Hiking Trail depends on Association members and volunteers for its very existence. Only part of it is maintained by government agencies Trail conditions are dependent on hiker reports and volunteer action in response to them. The KHTA is a non-profit organization committed to providing low-impact, educational and recreational access to one of the most rugged and scenic areas of the South Central Midwest. We would love to have you become a member!



Membership in the KHTA has many benefits. Supporting merchants provide discounts to members.* The Knobstone newsletter will update you on Association developments and issues, hikes and events. The Annual Meeting in March features hikes, reports of the behind-the-scene exciting but challenging trail completion process, programs, fellowship and fun. Above all will be satisfaction from helping preserve a vital link with the natural world on Indiana's rugged Knobstone Escarpment

Members are invited to join our trail volunteer program, which is the force that makes the trail a reality. Volunteers feel extremely rewarded by their efforts to create or maintain such a beautiful opportunity to experience Nature at its wildest. Besides the camaraderie, there's always the sense of stewardship—this is a forever trail. Access up-todate work times & locations through

meetup You can help by adopting a section of trail. Or call and ask for projects that need your help. We often have scheduled maintenance projects, and can probably supply volunteers for a project you may propose.

> ${\mathbb H}$ \mathfrak{R} \mathfrak{R}

We would like to thank Gayle Coyer and our mentor organization the Superior Hiking Trail Association in Minnesota for their advice and role in producing this publication. We are extremely grateful for the invaluable contribution of Matt Johnson, cartographer, of Journey Maps & Design. Matt produced the master KHT graphic for use here and on the KHT website. Ed Lizewski, Theresa Quill, Tina Stark, Marsha Isbell, and Josie Fox provided essential structural and editorial support.

Additional Information

www.KnobstoneHikingTrail.org

- Obtain trail condition, detailed access directions, trail features, camping choices, links to trailhead maps.
- Buy maps of Tecumseh and DNR Knobstone sections.
- Access trip planning aids & suggestions.
- Corrections, etc.: editor, Suzanne Mittenthal.

Shuttle Services

- North end: Bloomington Most High Adventures, offers TT shuttles (also for kayakers): Steve Chafin at 812/340-0700.; www.SoilandWater.com
- Henryville Kimberly Sue Dickerson 812-207-4627
- South end: Go Deep Adventures: Jeff Campbell, guide and outfitter, 812/967-4620, /896-7671.

Lodging

- Greater Martinsville Chamber of Commerce: 765/342-8110
- Convention & Visitors Centers: Monroe Co.: www.visitbloomington.com Brown Co: www.browncounty.com Jackson Co.: www.iacksoncountvin.com Morgan Co.: www.visitmorgancountyin.com

8803

And More

- Trail Racing/Running: *DINO "Doing Indiana Off Road" 317/336-7552 www.DINOSeries.com
- Running/Hiking Supplies & Runs: *Indiana Running Co., Bloomington, 812/ 822-0327: www. INRunCo.com
- Outdoor Camping & Hiking equipment, *J.L. Waters
- & Co., Bloomington, 812/334-1845: www.jlwaters.com.
- Accomodations, services, etc. surrounding trail:: *www.Indiana Outfitters.com
- Indianapolis Hiking club, the closest thing to a statewide hiking club in Indiana: www.indyhike.org.
- Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources Division of Outdoor Recreation, KT information: www.in.gov/dnr/outdoor
- Hoosier National Forest, Bedford office: 812/275-5987
- Morgan-Monroe/Yellowwood State Forest, Nashville
- Office (local water availability): 812/988-7945. Jackson-Washington State Forest: Brownstown
- (stream water availability): 812/358-2160 Hiking trail builders: www.hoosierhikerscouncil.org.
 - KHTA Supporters: Oliver Winery, J.W. Jones Co., Community Foundations of Brown, Morgan, Washington, & Jackson Co., DINOseries.com, Twin Ridge Farm, Indiana Running Co., IndianaOutfitters.com