



**KHTA**

# The Knobstone

## News of the Knobstone Hiking Trail Association

Fall Newsletter 2022 Vol. 9, No. 2

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

### KHTA Calendar

Nov 12—2nd Saturday Work Day

Dec 10 —2nd Saturday Work Day

Jan 11— KHTA Board Meeting

To join hikes or work days, sign up on  
**Meetup**—[https://www.meetup.com/  
Knobstone-Hiking-Trail-Association-of-  
Indiana-Meetup](https://www.meetup.com/Knobstone-Hiking-Trail-Association-of-Indiana-Meetup)

**Knobstone Hiking Trail  
Meetup**

### 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

Randall Pflueger

Jerry Pagac

### Advisory Board

Tony Abbott

John Miller

Jess Gwinn

Suzanne Mittenthal

Brian Holzhausen

Joe Payne

D. Jack Mahuron

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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/>

*Thanks For Your Support!*

### Membership Renewal

Get an early start on initiating or renewing your  
2023 membership in the KHTA

Go To

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

## *A Word From Our President*

Dear KHTA Members & Supporters,

We are currently working on the 1/3-mile connection between the Tecumseh Trail and Brown County Trail D. Nina, Steve and I spent a day in late October scouting out the route, clearing downed trees and flagging the route. A crew of volunteers worked another day to make the trail usable. Markers were installed. Blazes will be painted when the weather permits. This connection is very important, it now makes the trail 75 continuous miles extending from the Morgan Monroe State Forest Headquarters to the campsite near Clear Springs. This is the longest hiking trail in the state of Indiana.

Scott Beam organized a trail scouting party at the end of October. The team hiked over and around the hills of northern Morgan Monroe State Forest testing possible routes to connect our easement at the Martinsville Sportsman Conservation Club to the northern terminus of the Tecumseh Trail. The next step is to work with the forest personnel to make a final route recommendation. Once completed this will give an additional 10 miles of trail connecting Martinsville all the way to Clear Springs, a distance of 85 miles.

There is a tremendous amount of opportunity ahead for volunteers to help make the long distance Knobstone Trail a reality. Trail scouting, designing, building and maintaining are all critical activities that depend upon volunteers. We especially need help in publicity for our events and activities. We have a great story to tell but need help in telling it. Shortly we will have 130 miles of the total 160 miles open and ready for hiking. This is a great asset that the public needs to know about.

Please consider joining our great effort.

Thank you

Charles Andrew, President

Knobstone Hiking Trail Association, Martinsville, IN 46151

## *Calendar of Trail Workdays*



### **KHTA Ongoing 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday Workdays**

Saturday—December 10 & Saturday—January 14

For more info and to sign up Click [Here](#)

### **Hoosier National Forest Workdays**

**Saturday—December 3**

For more info and to sign up Click [Here](#)

### **Calendar For KHTA Adopters Workdays**

**To be determined—Check on Meetup**



Whenever possible, to avoid conflicts, Monday work days will be on the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month. Saturday workdays will be on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday. For more info and to sign up Click [Here](#)





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

Consider Joining Our 2023 Organized Hikes Sponsored By The KHTA  
2023 Dates Will Be Forthcoming

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

This past year there were about a half dozen sponsored hikes. Here are some pictures from the hikes.



Rex Gradeless and Caron Peper



Dan Dessauer, Josh, Steve Knoop, Jennifer Schuler, Caron Peter and Rex Gradeless



Elk Creek Lake Trail Magic at Fall Thru Hike of the KT  
Rex Gradeless, Caron Peter, Kim Hall and Scott Fecher.





## KHTA Volunteers At Work!

### KHTA Adopter Workdays—Collaborative Workdays With The DOF

This Fall we had 2 collaborative workdays between the KHTA and the DOF. Edward Oehlman, the property manager of the Jackson-Washington County Forest and the manager of the KT worked with our volunteers on Oct 3 on the connecting trail between Spurgeon Hollow and Delaney Park. On November 7 we worked south of the Leota Trailhead. On both days we constructed reverse drains to divert the water off the trail and to prevent erosion. Hikers who enjoy the KT are good stewards when they remove trash from the trail and volunteer to do maintenance work on the trail.



Raymond Schafer  
Ginger Trine  
Melanie Casey  
on the left.

Ginger & Melanie  
Working on the right.



## Volunteers Are The Heart of the KHTA!

The 2nd Saturday Work Crew continued its work on improving the trail at Martinsville Conservation Club.. The KT Trail Adopters continue to monitor their sections of the KT between Deam Lake and Spurgeon Hollow. In February we began updating our relationship with the DOF at the Jackson-Washington County Forest under the new leadership of Ed Oehlman. Ed is in charge of the KT from Deam Lake to Spurgeon Hollow and Delaney Park. Down the road the Adopters will work with the forestry to relocate approximately a mile of the KT near Delaney Park. In the HNF work continues on 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! Volunteer or donate at [Join / Donate – Knobstone Hiking Trail Association](#)

## Temporary Reroute of the Original KT Between Miles 26 & 28 Just North of the Leota Trailhead

The Knobstone Trail traverses actively managed forest areas and will have periodic temporary reroutes for user safety during management activities. Beginning on or shortly after December 13, 2021 the route of the Knobstone Trail in Clark State Forest will be rerouted while activities take place. The original route will be used after the completion of management activities. Click [Here](#) to view, download, and print a map of the reroute.

## 2nd Saturday Work Day—TT-HNF Connector Trail

On Oct 25, Charles Andrew, Nina Andrew, and Steve Schaftlein did preparatory work for the Nov 12 work day on the connecting trail between the Tecumseh Trail and the Hoosier National Forest Sections of the KHT. Scout Troop 343 from Springville joined us for the work day. We were greeted by the first measurable snow of the year as the temperature hovered in the 30's. The completed 1/3 miles section of trail provides approximately 75 miles of trail from the Morgan-Monroe Forest to 5 miles South of the Hoosier National Forest. This is now the longest foot path in the state. As we worked Angie Evans became the first official hiker on the new trail. A couple other unidentified hikers came by earlier in the day.



Nina Andres, Charles Andrew, Albert Cross, Ken Bradford, Steve Schaftlein, Joshua Hardin, Townes Ricketts, Steve Knoop, David Manifold, and Scot Beam



First official hiker on the newly opened connector.  
Angie Evans

## KHTA Store Report



### KHTA Ball Caps Now Available

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

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



The 5 maps include all of the trails on state and federal land in the area covered. 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-Yellowood Forests, Brown County State Park, Starve-Hollow SRA, and the Clark & Jackson-Washington State Forests. 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 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 Go to <https://www.knobstonehikingtrail.org/shop/> - Thanks For Your Interest & Support!



## Trail Construction & Maintenance

### Sparksville Bridge Restoration & Annual Maintenance

Normally you locate bridges on the down stream end of a straight section of a creek in order to minimize the erosion of the bank near the bridge. Sections of creeks that are curved are continually eroding the bank and changing the location of the stream bed. However, at times a straight section of a creek is not available. This was the situation at the bridge on the private easement at Sparksville. Over the years, the bridge was undermined and was at the point of collapse. Consequently, last year a major effort was made to construct a concrete retaining wall to stabilize the bank and bed of the creek and to right and repair the bridge itself. This required about 40 hours of labor. This was the first step in the restoration process. Such projects usually take 2 to 3 years to complete as the flow of water will continue to test out the the stabilization efforts. So in September several hours were spent adding additional rip rap and concrete to prevent the undermining of the retaining wall. An annual inspection and minor maintenance will probably be sufficient to maintain the bridge and retaining wall in the future. When bridges have to be located on curving sections of creeks, concrete retaining walls and structures are necessary to maintain the integrity of the bridges.

**A Trick of The Trade:** To work with the concrete, a ditch was dug to divert the water away from the retaining wall area while the concrete blocks were placed and cement was poured.



Summer 2021



New Retaining Wall Fall 2021



Extension Added Fall 2021



Undermining of the Retention Wall Summer 2022



Restoration of the Retention Wall  
And The Stream Bed Fall 2022



## The KHTA Website

Pages and forms are available to report on trail conditions, completed section and thru hikes, and to share stories, photos, and videos of hiking experiences. All of these can be viewed on the web site. Completed hikes are chronologically listed by date of completion. This is part of an effort to further enhance the community of KHT supporters, hikers, and volunteers.

Check out: [Completed Hikes](#), [Stories, Photos, & Videos](#)

Report: [Completed Hikes](#), [Stories, Photos, & Videos](#), [Trail Conditions](#)

## Tools For The Trail

### Flagging Tape, Stake Flags, & Paint

One of the critical challenges of designing and maintaining a trail is proper marking of the route. In the design and construction stage, it is important to clearly mark the intended route. Flagging tape is utilized to initially mark the proposed route. Flexibly attached to limbs the proposed route can quickly be marked and easily modified as improvements are made in the proposed route. Once the overall route is decided, both flagging tape and stake flags can be utilized to do detail marking of the route. The stake flags are handy to designate precise details on the ground.

When the trail construction is completed, white blazes are put on trees along the trail. Road walks can be blazed on asphalt, electric poles, bridge abutments, and other such structures with permission of the authority involved.

Although orange predominates, flagging is available in a variety of colors. Traffic paint in spray or brush form is used to make a 2x6 inch stripe. These items can be found at reasonable prices in most hardware and building supply stores.



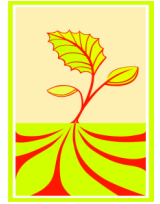


# Collaborators In The Trails Movement

**COMMUNITY**  
FOUNDATION OF  
MORGAN COUNTY



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



**OAK HERITAGE**  
CONSERVANCY

Hoosier Hiker Babes

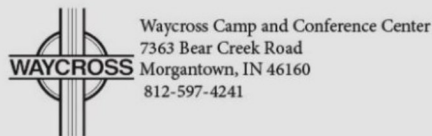


TRAILS **A**-Team

ULTRALIGHT JERK



**HOOSIER TRAILS COUNCIL**  
Boy Scouts of America



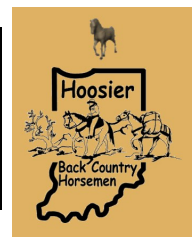
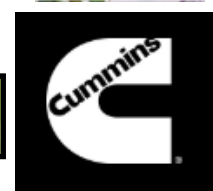
**LOMIK**



meetup



**Hoosier National Forest**



**ORVIS**



**Nay-Ture's Hill Top Farm**

