



KHTA

The Knobstone

News of the Knobstone Hiking Trail Association

Fall-Early Winter Newsletter 2023 Vol. 11, No 3

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

KHTA Calendar

Jan 6—Gateway Trail Building Morgan-Monroe SF

January 8—KHTA Board Meeting

Jan 13 —2nd Saturday Work Day

Feb 10 — 2nd Saturday Work Day

To join hikes or work days,
sign up on on 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

Jim Garlits

Jerry Pagac

Suzanne Mittenthal

Advisory Board

Tony Abbott

John Miller

Jess Gwinn

Joe Payne

Brian Holzhausen

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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

If you haven't renewed your membership for 2024
or wish to initiate your membership go to

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

Members with an online account receive a 10% store discount.

[Sign Up For An Online Account](#) [Click Here](#)

A Word From Our President



Dear Friends,

Let's take a moment and review some of our activities this past year. KHTA volunteers spent hundreds of hours clearing existing trails of tree blowdowns, leaves, and unwanted vegetation such as grass, weeds, and green briar. Numerous reverse drains were installed to divert water off the trail to control erosion. Several areas of the trail required short re-routes. Volunteers make it possible to meet the challenge of keeping the trail open.

A couple of major additions were made to the trail this year. A 1/3-mile trail was built to connect the southern end of the Tecumseh to Brown County Trail D and the Hoosier National Forest. After a route was endorsed by the DNR, we began building a 10-mile extension connecting the Tecumseh Trail to Martinsville. It is always exciting to have the opportunity to create a new path that you know will be used by thousands of hikers in the future as they get out into the woods to enjoy nature at its best. These connections allow for a continuous 86 miles of hiking trails.

Another major activity has been the ongoing mission to support Brown County in reopening Indian Hill Road at the Indiana Railroad RR Crossing. Hundreds of hours were spent doing research and communicating with the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT), local residents, and county officials. The good news is that INDOT produced an order to open the crossing after extensive upgrades have been made. Indian Hill Road is the safest route to hike from Indian Hill to Highway 45. The Knobstone Trail co-exists with the Tecumseh Trail therefore this connection is critical.

After a long period of research and discussion, we recently initiated a change in the legal status of the KHTA. For the past 10 years, KHTA has relied upon the umbrella of the Community Foundation of Morgan County (CFMC) for our exempt status. In December we filed for IRS 501(c)3 tax exempt status. Some advantages of this change might be land ownership, employment of an executive director, ownership and discounts on software such as accounting and mapping, and the ability to apply for extensive grants. The IRS response could take up to 6 months. We are grateful to the CFMC for their support and intend to maintain a collaborative relationship with them.

There are many other accomplishments that we will detail in our annual meeting. On behalf of the KHTA Board, I thank you for your continuing interest and support of the KHTA in the year ahead.

Charles Andrew, President
Knobstone Hiking Trail Association
317-258-6788



Our Fall Festival was highlighted by both fun and fellowship as we made improvements to Sparksville Park and the Trail. New location and historical information signs were added and dedicated. Solar powered motion detector lights were added to the facilities. A fire pit was built. Some trees were planted. We finished the restoration of the swings and teeter totter. Blow downs and brushing was done on both the wetlands trail and the hillside trail. In attendance were visitors, neighbors from Sparkesville, members of the Jackson County Park Board, and KHTA members. The pitch-in PITCH-In served up hot dogs, brat-wurst, cole slaw, salad and a variety of snacks and deserts. Info on trail building and camping gear was shared.



KT Adopters & Volunteers on Private Easements and the KT Sections of the Trail

This fall a variety of volunteers have been busy working on the trail. In September blowdowns were cleared on the 2 miles north of the New Chapel TrHd. In October and November Miles 32 to 45 (Elk Creek Lake to Spurgeon Hollow was hiked and cleared of all blow downs (Miles 32 1/2-45). This included an area north of Level Ratts Road where an area about the size of a foot ball field was devastated by what looked like a mini tornado. One spot impacting the trail had 5 big trees intertwined. Reverse drains and other improvements to the trail bed were made going north from Elk Creek to mile 34 1/2. All of the private easements were cleared of leaves and twigs utilizing a back pack leaf blower. Blow downs were cleared. The former ATV area now know as the N 975 W easement had improvements eliminating multi-floral rose and improving the trail bed at a difficult stream crossing. The trail was reblazed between the Three Story Barn and the N 975 W TrHd on road North Co Rd. 975 West. Materials were purchased to replace the stile at the HHC TrHd and to provide access to the Christy easement which now has a fence. These stiles are being prefabricated and will be installed as ASAP. A number of volunteers were involved in these activities—Joe Multunas, Melanie Casey, Raymond Schaefer, James Kendall, Todd Pendencygraft, Mike Boland, Andrew Ratermann, and Steve Schaftlein. A number of other volunteers have come forward and will be involved in the year ahead. In addition, Raymond Schaefer and Melanie Casey attended a DNR chainsaw work and are now authorized to use them on trail work. Many thanks to all. Your involvement is making a substantial difference in the long term sustainability of the trail and the quality of the experience for hikers.



Joe Multunas

Melanie Casey



James Kendall & Raymond Schaefer

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](#)

Tecumseh Trail Extension To Martinsville - 2nd Saturday Work days

This past summer the route of the northward 10 mile extension of the trail was approved by the DNR. This was the result of collaboration between the Department of Forestry (D of F) and the KHTA. A variety of interests had to be considered including the multi-use environment of the forest. Since the extension will be on state land the Indiana Department of Historical Preservation and Archeological Review (DHPAR) did a review of the route. (www.in.gov/dnr/historic-preservation/review-and-compliance/) Although the process involved compromises and a long period of research, it has resulted in a Win-Win for all the parties involved. This extensions opens the door to connect with the community trails in Martinsville and possibly the trails of the Indianapolis metropolitan area. In conjunction with the Monon South Rail Trail, someday it may be possible to hike from down town Indianapolis to downtown Louisville, Ky.



The Trail



John Weber Rick Vonegut



Ed Lizewski Scott Beam



Nina Andrew



John Weber



Trail Design, Construction, and Maintenance

“Choosing A Route”

A Realized Ideal Route Is Both Ideal and Practical

The first step in designing and constructing a trail is choosing the route of the trail. The process begins by looking at a variety of maps and imagining the ideal route for a trail that invokes interest in those hiking a trail. There are many factors to consider including the quality and variety of the trail experience. Key natural geographic features include overlooks with views, unusual trees (boundary markers), rock formations, unique fauna, streamside cascades, etc. Historical structures such as the 3 story barn in Jackson County should be included. Remnants of past habitation such as rock foundations help to connect a hiker with past usage of the land. Trail routes should move back and forth between level sections and descent/ascent sections. Trail routes should rarely be a straight line. Rather routes should curve with respect to the lay of the land and take hikers to places of interest. Trail routes should invoke the interest, curiosity, and support of both hikers and the entire local community. Good routes are adopted by the local community as a social and economic asset.

Creating an ideal route is a challenge that requires thorough research before it becomes a proposed route. The internet is a great source for this. Online county plat maps provide a rich source of info along with plot boundaries and contact info of owners. Research at courthouses and libraries can identify both physical and historical information. Talking with residents and organizations is a rich source of oral information and vital to winning community support. There is no replacement for simply around and getting familiar with the area. And, with the owner's permission, it is important to hike sections of a proposed route. Boots on the ground exploration can solidify information gathered from libraries, courthouses, and the internet.



Some practical things should be kept in the back of one's mind to prevent going down too many false trails. This includes the overall grade of a trail, potential camping sites, trailheads with parking areas, and availability of water. Proposed shorter segments should be capable of being connected to form a proposed long-distance route. An open and flexible mind will result in a practical route that will closely resemble an ideal route.

Our next article will focus on the scientific principles involved in the detailed routing of a trail bed. This is the nitty gritty deal of getting the water off the trail, avoiding going directly down the fall line, etc.

. “Knobstone Hiking Trail
Connecting People and Communities”

Update on the Monon South Rail Trail

Work on the Monon South Rail Trail continues. Railroad ties have been removed throughout the corridor. Road crossings are being paved. Radius is entering into arrangements to allow communities to become a part of Indiana Main Street programs. \$25,000 was raised in part with KHTA member support to match an additional \$25,000 grant to restore an historic box car to serve as a terminal in Salem. In addition to great benefits to all communities in the area, the Monon South Rail Trail will greatly benefit the Knobstone Trail. There will be a connection to the Deam Lake Recreation Area and the southern terminus of the KT. This will allow hikers to start on the riverfront in Louisville and utilizing the Monon South Rail Trail and community trails in Jeffersonville, Clarksville, and New Albany and continue north on the Knobstone Trail. With efforts being made in Martinsville to connect with community trails in Indianapolis, it may some day be possible to hike from downtown Louisville to downtown Indianapolis. Voice your support to the creation of the Monon South Rail Trail being coordinated by Radius INC (www.radiusindiana.com).



WHHB—Hoosier National Forest Trails 18 & 20

Ginger Trine reports that the HNF section is in good shape. The women's group is planning to hike the Tecumseh Trail in the Spring and the KT in October. More info will be forthcoming. Here is a recent picture of the trail in the HNF.



Organized Hikes – Scott Beam



4th Annual KT Fall Foliage Backpacking Trip

The Fall Foliage thru hike of the original KT was a success. Here's the group during supper at Elk Creek Lake. In attendance were David Dalenberg, Kristina Harriman, Phil Schmidt, Tony Horan, Kevin Colby, Glen, Scott Beam Steve Knoop, Jennifer Schuler, and Trevor Renwick. Many thanks to all who made this a a success!



For

Future Hiking Opportunities—Jame Kendall

Knobstone Section - Delaney Park to Elk Creek Lake

Saturday, February 24, 2024, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

KT -- Table Rock SoBo to Deam Lake

Sunday, March 31, 2024, 9:30 AM to 4:20 PM

Knobstone Trail Yo-Yo

Thursday, April 25, 2024, 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM

For more info go to...

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

Volunteers Are The Heart of the KHTA!



The 2nd Saturday Work Crew continued its work on improving the trail at 10 mile extension of the Tecumseh Trail in the Morgan-Monroe State Forest. The KT Trail Adopters continue to monitor their sections of the KT between Deam Lake and Hoosier National Forest. |

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, help with accounting, 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](#)



KHTA Store Report

Members With An Online Account Receive A 10% Discount

[Sign Up For An Online Account](#) [Click Here](#)

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-Yellowwood Forests, Brown County State Park, Starve-Hollow SRA, and the Clark-Jackson County State Forests. Note: the Deam Wilderness map is currently on back order and will be sent out as soon as they are available. For further info on the IGWS go to <https://store.igws.indiana.edu/brown-county-and-yellowwood-and-morgan-monroe-state-forests-topographic-trail-map/>



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!

Collaborators In The Trails Movement

COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION OF
MORGAN COUNTY



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



Hoosier Hiker Babes:



OAK HERITAGE
CONSERVANCY

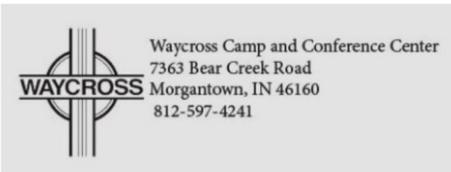


TRAILS **A**-Team

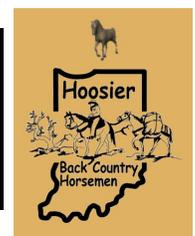
ULTRALIGHT JERK



HOOSIER TRAILS COUNCIL
Boy Scouts of America



meetup



ORVIS



Nay-Ture's Hill Top Farm

