



KHTA

The Knobstone

News of the Knobstone Hiking Trail Association

Spring Newsletter 2023 Vol. 10, No. 2

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

KHTA Calendar

Sep 30-Oct—Sparksville Park Fall Festival

Oct 14 —2nd Saturday Work Day

Nov 11 — 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

Jerry Pagac

Advisory Board

Tony Abbott

John Miller

Jess Gwinn

Suzanne Mittenthal

Brian Holzhausen

Joe Payne

D. Jack Mahuron

In This Issue

A Word From Our President — page 2

Exciting News — Page 3 & 4

Organized Hikes — Page 5

Volunteers & Store Report—Page 6

Picture Trail Work & Annual Meeting — Page 7

Website & Tools For The Trail — page 8

Website Highlights—Tools For The Trail —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/>

Thanks For Your Support!

Membership Renewal

If you haven't renewed your membership for 2023 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,

Progress on finishing the 160-mile-KT is being made!

The 1/3-mile connection between the Tecumseh Trail and Brown County Trail D is nearly complete. We received approval to do this work in the fall of last year. We had a couple of workdays laying out the pathway and setting markers. Scott Beam has spent many hours perfecting the tread, cutting in drains and moving flat stones for steps. This project is nearing completion and the trail is being used. A person can now hike from the Morgan Monroe SF Headquarters south on the Tecumseh Trail to the Hoosier National Forest and all the way to the HHC Campsite near Clear Spring for 75 miles!

Now we can focus our attention on the 10 miles of trail required to connect the northern terminus of the Tecumseh Trail to our established easement crossing the Martinsville Sportsman Conservation Club. We proposed a well thought out route and the Morgan Monroe SF team proposed an alternative route. We are now negotiating the final trail route and making plans to get it built. This is very exciting!

The Long Trail in Vermont was the first long-distance recreation trail in north America. It was created and maintained by the Green Mountain Club. When the Appalachian Trail was started, the founders realized the trail needed to take a similar path. An agreement was made whereby the AT would co-exist with 100+ miles of the Long Trail. The Green Mountain Club still maintains the Long Trail but this section is considered both trails. In a similar manner, the Tecumseh Trail was created to be the northern section of the Knobstone Trail but when the KT expansion project faltered, it was named the Tecumseh Trail. It was built and is maintained by the Hoosier Hikers Council. This arrangement is good and should continue. The Knobstone Trail will simply coexist with the Tecumseh, several shorter trails in the HNF, the Pioneer Trail and others. The Knobstone Trail will be 160+ miles in length and will fulfill the original vision of Joe Payne and his crew in 1981.

Again, 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 great asset that the public needs to know about.

Please consider joining our great effort.

Charles Andrew

President Knobstone Hiking Trail Association, Martinsville, IN 46151

Governor Holcomb Announces The Creation of the 62.3 Mile Monon South Trail

It will run from New Albany to Borden, New Pekin, Salem, Campbellsburg, Saltillo, Orleans, Mitchell, and near Bedford. It will traverse Floyd, Clark, Washington, Orange, and Lawrence Counties. Approximately 440,000 people live within 10 miles of the route. This is a part of Indiana's Next Level Trail project. The right of way was acquired from CSX railroad by DNR in cooperation with New Albany and Radius Inc. This project will highlight an historic part of Indiana and be a prime promotor of recreational and economic activity in the area. It will offer a great opportunity to hikers and bikers who want to explore and enjoy Southern Indiana.



In addition, the Monon South Trail will mark a major step forward for the hiking community. The cities of Louisville, Jeffersonville, and New Albany have constructed trails from downtown Louisville and along the Indiana side of the Ohio River into New Albany. The Monon South Trail will come within 3,000 feet of the entrance to the Deam Lake Recreation area where the southern trailhead of the Knobstone trail is located. Going north from the Spurgeon Hollow a combination of road walks and private easement trails exist to the HNF. The recently opened connection trail between the HNF and the Tecumseh Trail goes all the way to the headquarters of the Morgan Monroe State Forest. A planned extension from there will provide trail to the outskirts of Martinsville. Continued on next page...

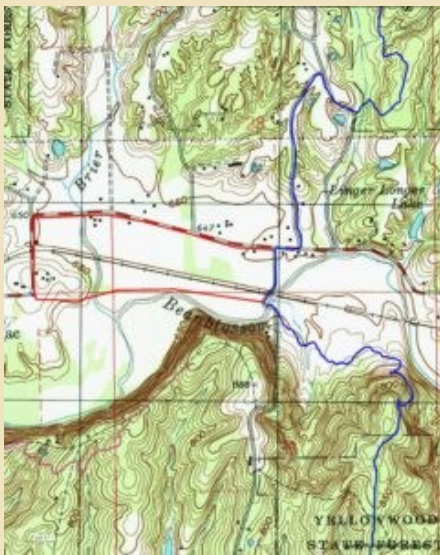
Governor Holcomb Announces ...

Officials in the Martinsville area are working on connecting their urban trails to the Indianapolis Area. The combination of these projects offer the possibility of a 200 mile hike from downtown Louisville to downtown Indianapolis. These and other trail projects throughout the state are moving Indiana towards the forefront of states developing this much needed resource.

The KHTA is proud to be a collaborator in this effort which will enhance all of the communities from Louisville to Indianapolis. Your involvement and support is greatly appreciated as the KHTA seeks to do its part in constructing and maintaining trails in Southern and Central Indiana.

For more info [Click Here](#) for WDRB new report and [Click Here](#) for Indiana DNR.

The HHC has Constructed Reroute Around the Trail Closure Near Indian Hill.



Thanks to the good work of the HHC there is now an alternative to the long road walk around the closure. Just South of the train tracks there is a trail through the Trevlac Bluffs Nature Preserve to the Trailhead on Highway 45. From there would need to carefully avoid traffic along highway 45 back to the North side of the closure. This reroute adds a little less than 2 miles of hiking. It does offer an opportunity for resupply or refreshment at the nearby Needmore Store a short distance West on Hy 45. You can download this map by [Clicking Here](#). The Trevlac Bluff Nature Preserve is managed by the Sycamore Land Trust. You can view and save a more detailed map of the preserve at their website by [Clicking Here](#) .(<https://sycamorelandtrust.org/trevlac-bluffs/>)

Watch A Video of The TT-HNF Connector—[Click Here](#)



**Summer
Is Going
—
Fall Is Coming!**



Medora High School Workday At Sparksville Park

On April 26 students and faculty members of Medora High School joined KHTA members in a workday at Sparksville Park. Trails were brushed and cleared of blow downs. Informative signage was added. Recreational equipment was repaired. And a window was added to the “facilities” building.

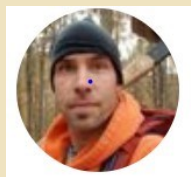
Many thanks to the students and faculty of Medora High School!



2023 Organized Hikes – Scott Beam – Mark Your Calendars!

Consider Joining Our 2023 Organized Hikes

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



Saturday, March 04, 2023 12:00 AM to 6:00 PM – 33 mile HoosierNF hike – Mom's Cafe

Details: Another long hike to slowly build up to hiking the Tecumseh and Knobstone in 24 hours later this year. This hike will be around 32 miles with about 4000 feet of elevation change. We'll meet at Mom's Cafe in Kurtz at midnight, and shuttle north to the Crooked Creek parking area at the southern end of the Tecumseh. It's about a hour drive between I...

Saturday, March 18, 2023 6:00 AM to 7:00 PM – Old Barn Shelter Parking

This will be the first of the big four one day hike challenges this year, along the Adventure Hiking Trail. We will meet at the large parking area on the spur trail, which is roughly located at 1490 IN 462 Corydon, IN 47112. The spur trail adds about 3.5 miles to the loop, and we should hit around 30 miles during this event. This trail is no joke...

Friday, May 05, 2023 10:00 PM to 9:45 PM – Tecumseh one day challenge – Tecumseh Trail Parking Area

Details: This will be another complete section of the 150 mile Knobstone, and a nice 24 hour challenge. Besides, hiking 43 miles near my 43rd birthday sounds like the worst idea I've had in awhile. We'll meet at the southern end at the Crooked Creek Parking area at 10pm, and shuttle north to start in Morgan-MonroeSF for this short little hike....

Saturday, May 06, 2023 12:00 AM to 11:45 PM – One day Tecumseh Trail Challenge – Tecumseh Trail Parking Area

This will be another complete section hike of the 150 mile Knobstone, and a nice 24 hour challenge. We'll meet at the southern end at the Crooked Creek Parking area at 10pm on Friday night, and shuttle north to start in Morgan-MonroeSF for this short little hike.... starting at midnight and not a minute sooner! Bring plenty of water, snacks, foo...

Click [Here](#) for more info and to signup on Meetup KHTA hikes and workdays.



Sparksville Park, Sparksville, IN

9:30 AM to noon next day

Come when you want, leave when you want.

SATURDAY

9:30 AM – 3:00 Park improvements

3:00 Booths, guided walk to town cemetery trail, corn hole, volleyball

5:00 Dedication of the signs program with remarks from Kara Hunt, principal, Medora H.S. and KHTA Partner School and recognition of local park founders and land and easement donors

After Dedication: pitch in, KHTA provides hot dogs & bratwurst, campfire. Bring camp chairs.

Camping overnight

SUNDAY

Breakfast, Sparksville Ridge, Hikers Knob hikes

Improvements to Sparksville Park:

A wooden sign by the road that says Sparksville Park, a fire pit, fix volleyball net, develop tents sites in the woods, plant trees to expand woods and by the road, install benches, install dusk to dawn light.

Booths:

Trail building

Camping gear with bear bag hanging demo

Camp Cooking

Naturalist including wetlands and microscope, tree, flower ID?

Star gazing with telescopes

KHTA Booth

Other hiking related groups

Ideas for Pitch In:

Cole slaw, Veggie salad, BBQ beans,

Cheese and crackers, Chips, Dips

Cake,

Marshmallows, Chocolate bars, Graham crackers

RSVP on:

www.meetup.com/Knobstone-Hiking-Trail-Association-of-Indiana-Meetup/

Visit the KHTA Facebook page at

www.facebook.com/groups/4381775325259983

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](#)

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 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](#)



KHTA Store Report

Members With An Online Account Receive A 10% Discount

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

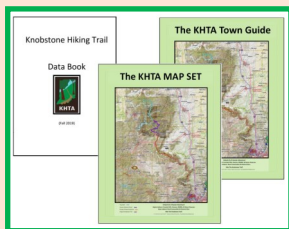
KHTA Ball Caps Now Available

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-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!

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

Loppers

A variety of loppers are available depending on the work being done and the preference of the worker. Small single handed loppers are great for trimming briars and branches less than 3/8 inch in diameter. The larger loppers are needed to trim branches or cut off small trees of 3/8 inch or larger in diameter. Some of the larger loopers have extendable handles than can be extended to approximately 4 feet in length. This are handy for trimming branches that are hanging down overhead. With branches greater than 1 1/4 inch in diameter you may want to switch to a hand-saw. Loppers can be damaged if you use them on branches larger than what they were designed for. It is wise to clean, sharpen, and oil loppers on a regular basis. When appropriately used and maintained loppers can easily and cleanly trim branches.

All hardware stores, lumber yards, building and construction stores, giant box stores that sale

everything, and numerous online sites have a selection of these tools. They range in weight from about 1 lb for smaller one handed loppers up to 5 lbs for the biggest two handed loppers. Prices range from about \$15 to \$50 dollars. Of course you can pay much more for the most expensive ones.

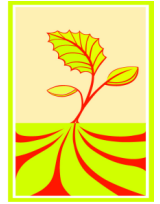


Collaborators In The Trails Movement

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



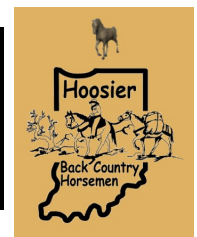
LOMIK



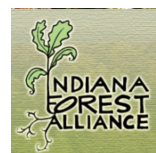
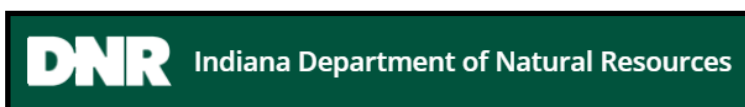
meetup



Hoosier National Forest



ORVIS



SIERRA CLUB
HOOSIER CHAPTER
Winding Waters Group

Nay-Ture's Hill Top Farm

