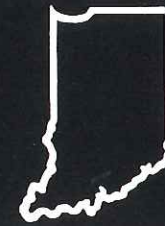






# OUTDOOR INDIANA



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Knobstone Trail Reflections—32 Miles of Forest Hiking .....	5
<i>Joe Payne</i>	
Statewide Outdoor Recreation Facilities (Maps) .....	10
Hiking in Our State Parks .....	16
<i>James P. Eagelman</i>	
Indiana's Spring Wildflowers .....	18
<i>John A. Bacone</i>	
Indiana, Always a Free State—Underground Railway's Central Station .....	23
<i>Herbert R. Hill</i>	
Seeking Deer Population Data .....	32
<i>John Olson</i>	
Measuring Trophy Buck Antlers .....	34
<i>David Howell</i>	
Protecting Unspoiled Olin Lake .....	37
<i>Lee A. Casebere</i>	

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The programs, services, facilities and activities of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources are available to everyone without regard to sex, creed, color or national origin.

The Picture to the Left, and also the Center Spread, Show Typical Scenes at Clark State Forest, Which Is Sometimes Called *The Hoosier Alps*. The Rugged Southern Indiana Hills Provide Fine Sport for Hoosiers, as Well as Sensational Vistas. You Can Read All About The Knobstone Trail, Starting on Page 5.

## OUTDOOR INDIANA

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### WELCOME, WELCOME WINSOME APRIL!

Indiana offers a greater fare of varied public outdoor recreation facilities than can be found anywhere else hereabouts. Beginning on Page 10 there is a series of updated regional maps which list and locate them. You can find some right near your home. After another harsh Winter they are particularly attractive.

It's blossom time again in Indiana. The front cover shows some of the millions of Redbud trees that blossom throughout the State. This particular scene is at vast Brown County State Park, in the southern Indiana hill country. The back cover displays both Redbud and our native Flowering Dogwood.

There is a lot about hiking in this issue. Page 2 shows backpackers on Knobstone Trail in Clark State Forest. The center spread is a panoramic view of that 23,000-acre property, established in 1903 as the oldest of our State Forests. This part of Indiana, on high ground above the Ohio River, was being settled by hardy pioneers even before creation of the Northwest Territory in 1787.

Years before the present fuel saving efforts walking and hiking were Hoosierland's two most popular outdoor pastimes. They still are.

### PHOTO CREDITS

All illustrations are from regular Staff sources except: John A. Bacone and Lee A. Casebere 2, 19, 39; Glen E. Jensen 11-15; Leonard Lee Rue III 33.



Distant Ridges Rise in the Early Morning Haze, Looking Northward Above Knobstone Trail.

## 32 MILES OF FOREST HIKING!

# Knobstone Trail Reflections

By Joe Payne, Streams and Trails Coordinator  
Division of Outdoor Recreation

*Chick-a-dee-dee-dee, dee-dee-dee chick-a-dee-dee-dee!* The busy song of the Black-Capped Chickadee, the rustling of last Autumn's leaves in a fresh breeze, the drip-drip-drip of old snow being heated by a low Sun in a clear blue sky. It is Spring on the Knobstone Trail!

I am climbing through small clouds of steam from my own breath on my way to the top of yet another knob along the Trail. It is strenuous exertion, but the vista, the exhilaration from the physical exercise, and "just being there" will make it well worthwhile.

The Trail tread needs a little work in spots, and one of the switchbacks is not draining properly. All-in-all, though, the Trail in this area has survived its first winter quite well. I doubt it has been used much since Autumn, but on most mornings from September through November of 1980 there were vehicles at each trailhead. Groups of two or four hikers were most common, but hiking clubs, Sierra Club groups, and other organizations also were busy exploring the new Trail. The largest group to use the Trail was from The Nature Conservancy. About 120 members hiked it at their Fall get-together. And that was rather appropriate, since they helped get the Knobstone Trail project underway.

The Nature Conservancy, a non-profit private organization, was able in 1978 to acquire a large tract of land between Clark State Forest and Elk Creek State Fish and Wildlife Area in Washington County. The land previously was owned by a timber company which was going through financial difficulties. The Nature Conservancy and the Cummins Foundation of Columbus were aware of plans for developing the Knobstone Trail by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, and the tract was made available at cost to the Department. It was the largest privately-owned piece of property needed for the proposed trail corridor in Washington County, provid-

ing land for approximately three miles of trail.

The Knobstone Trail concept had been developed in 1975 when the newly-formed Streams and Trails Section of IDNR reviewed public land ownership patterns in Indiana for long-distance trail opportunities. The possibility of a hiking trail in Clark, Scott, Washington, and Jackson Counties readily became evident. Furthermore, an extension through Jackson and Brown Counties into Monroe and Morgan Counties could even be considered a possibility, with the cooperation of Hoosier National Forest.

As a result of efforts by the Department of Natural Resources and the support of Governor Otis R. Bowen, the 1979 Indiana General Assembly appropriated \$540,000 for acquisition of the proposed trail corridor. Several tracts have now been acquired, including The Nature Conservancy's large tract and two other small ones which it received as gifts. One aspect of the corridor acquisition is that the State receives 50% reimbursement on the purchase price of most tracts with aid from the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund. The trail corridor in Washington County is almost complete, connecting Clark State Forest and Elk Creek State Fish and Wildlife Area with Jackson-Washington State Forest.

*Chick-a-dee-dee-dee* is perhaps

### Want to Be a "Knobstone Trailblazer"?

You can help! Volunteer trail workers are needed to work on the Knobstone Trail. A seasonal trail specialist will be available to work with volunteers on the Trail this Summer and early Autumn. Groups of six, or more, are preferred for the volunteer work. But you do not need to be experienced in trail construction.

Groups should be organized, with a group supervisor available for the entire work period. Special arrangements may be made for experienced groups. All volunteer workers will qualify for *One for the Trail* patches and special recognition as *Knobstone Trailblazers*.

For more information about becoming a *Knobstone Trailblazer* and the *One for the Trail* program, contact the Streams and Trails Section, Division of Outdoor Recreation, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, 612 State Office Building, Indianapolis, IN 46204.

my favorite working and hiking song. But there are many other sounds of winged wildlife along the Knobstone Trail. The distant gobble of the Wild Turkey and the rasping *keer-r-, keer-r-r* of the Red-Tailed Hawk are sure attention-getters. However, the thunderous beating of wings of a startled Grouse as it lifts off from beside the Trail "at the last moment" is perhaps the most surprising.

There is one other "winged sound" which is also quite surprising,—the awesome roar of an Air National Guard Phantom on a mock strafing run at treetop level. Air Guard training flights are part of the "unplanned" multiple uses of the area.

But the mock strafing runs are relatively infrequent and not too bothersome to the hiker. Very few other Man-made sounds ever intrude on the solitude of the Knobstone Trail.

Thirty-two miles of the Knobstone Trail have now been developed, all within Clark State Forest. The forest contains about 23,000 acres in Washington, Scott, and Clark Counties. Originally surveyed by George Rogers Clark in the 18th Century, the State Forest was established in 1903 as Indiana's first conservation land area.

Much of the forest was originally part of *Clark's Grant*. That tract consisted of 150,000 acres, provided in 1783 by Virginia for Clark and his frontier militia men following their historic *Revolutionary War* effort in what soon became The Northwest Territory. [See *Outdoor Indiana*: September 1969; December 1975; May 1976 May 1978]. The Forest's primary purpose is controlled timber production. But it is managed under the IDNR policy of multiple use to obtain the maximum benefits from recreation, wildlife production, and watershed protection. It is open to the public for hunting during season, and is actively managed to increase the fish and wildlife population. The Knobstone Trail has been planned in such a manner as to be compatible with professional timber and wildlife management practices.

Clark State Forest has extreme relief, with narrow, relatively flat-topped ridges characteristic of the *Knobstone Escarpment*. The escarpment is a knobby slope between the *Norman Upland* and *Scottsburg Lowland*, two of Indiana's physiographic units. Also, it is Indiana's most prominent topographic feature, and one of the most scenic areas in the Southern part of the State.

The *Knobstone Escarpment* generally rises 300 to 600 feet above low-lying farmland as it extends from near the Ohio River, in Clark County, to near Martinsville, just to the southwest of Indianapolis. A central upland, mixed hardwood forest (Oak-Hickory and Beech-Maple as-

sociation) dominates much of the Escarpment. "*Knobstone*" shale—which is actually a combination of weathered brown shale, sandstone, and siltstone—is common along the Escarpment, giving it its name. The Escarpment is typified by deep valleys, which open toward the lowland, thus providing very rugged terrain and many scenic overlooks.

Two white paint blazes on a tree "up the trail" catch my eye. That means either a change in direction or an intersecting trail or road is ahead. It also means that the next single blaze should soon be visible. The blazes were painted last year after the Trail had been constructed. The amount of work which is done between the laying-out and flagging of the Trail and the painting of blazes is probably not fully appreciated by most hikers. With the exception of two individual volunteers, the Young Adult Conservation Corps program at Vincennes University gets the credit for the trail construction work thus far.

The Young Adult Conservation Corps was created in 1977 in an amendment to the Federal Comprehensive Employment and Training Act of 1973. Its purpose is to provide jobs and training for unemployed and out-of-school young people between 16 and 23 years of age. The program is administered jointly by the U.S. Departments of Labor, Agriculture, and Interior and the Division of Forestry of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. The program at Vincennes University, the first residential program on a college campus in the Nation, began in August of 1978.

For the last two years an 11-person crew from the Vincennes Young Adult Conservation Corps program has been working from April through October on the Knobstone Trail. It has worked on a week-on-week-off basis, staying at Deam Lake State Recreation Area while working on the Trail. In total, it took eight months for the crew to construct the present 32 miles of trail, with construction being done according to the guidelines of the *Indiana Trails Construction and Maintenance Manual*.



The work has been hard and—at times—hot, dirty, and wet. The nuisances of Poison Ivy rash and mosquito bites also had to be dealt with.

I am on top of the Knob, finally, and I can see the trail drop about 300 feet before rising again to a ridge about one-half mile ahead. I must be a little more than 1,000 feet above sea level. The Trail continues along the distant escarpment crest for a mile, or so, to one of the best overlooks on the entire trail. I am sure on a day as perfect as today the skyline of Louisville, Kentucky, will be clearly visible about 20 miles to the south-southeast.

#### Here You Get Another Helicopter View of the Forested High Hills Which Lie Shoulder to Shoulder Along Knobstone Trail.

A few miles past the overlook the Trail meets a paved road. The Trail crosses a paved road only five times as it winds through the Forest. Only one of the roads is a highway—State Highway 160. One other highway—State Highway 56—will need to be crossed as the Trail is developed through northeastern Washington County. Completion of that segment, which will about double the Trail's present length, should be accomplished within another two years. The stretch to Elk Creek State Fish and Wildlife Area may be ready to open in 1982.

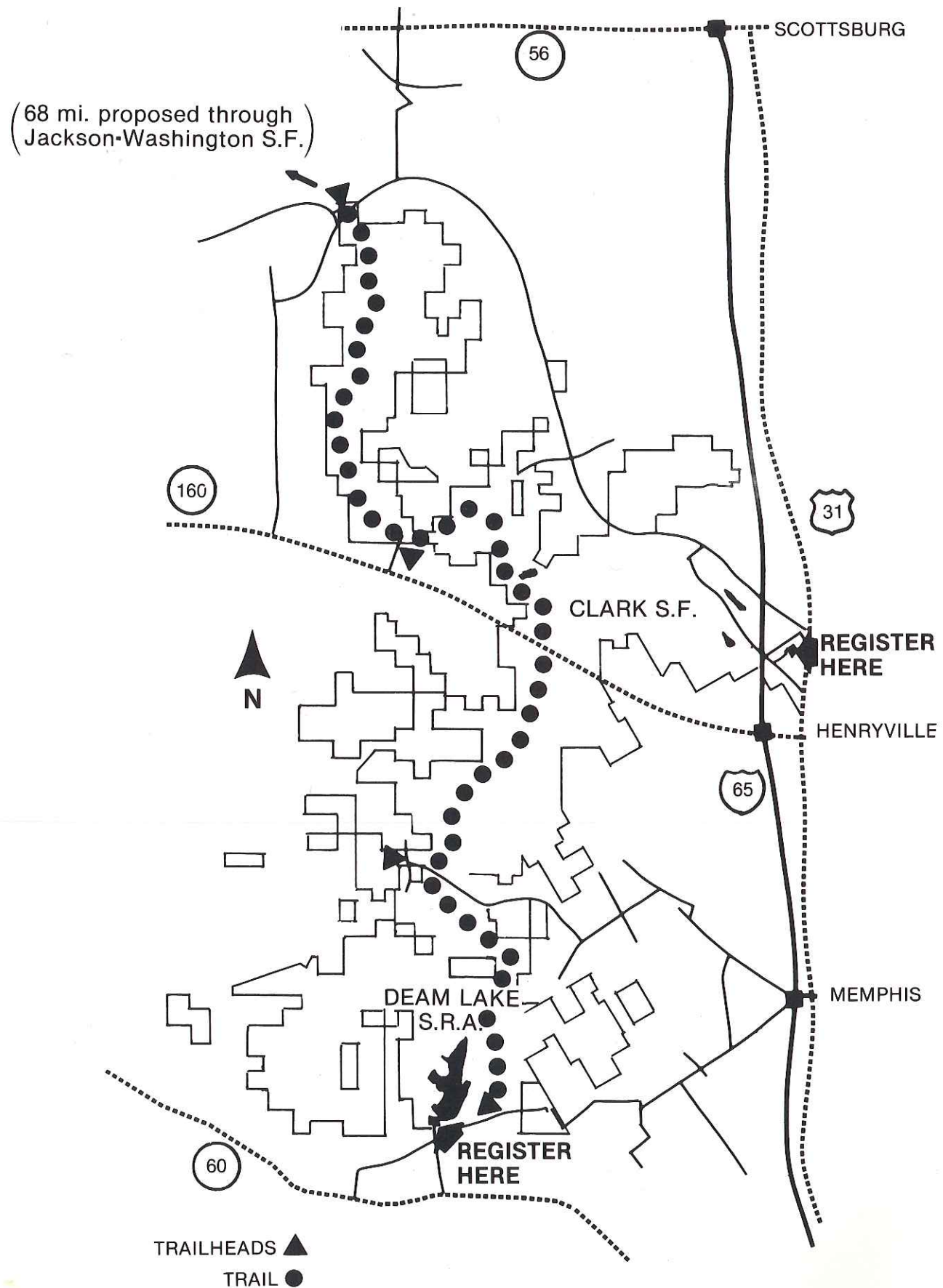
Eventually, with a little more money and a great deal more coordination, the Knobstone Trail will tie together the three separate, major portions of Jackson-Washington State Forest. The Knobstone Trail will then provide a truly challenging 100-mile hike.

Beyond Jackson-Washington State Forest lie some significant problems. But a 200-mile trail on through the Knobs in Hoosier National Forest, Brown County State Park, and Yellowwood State Forest and Morgan-

Monroe State Forest may some day become a reality.

Trail construction on the extension to Elk Creek State Fish and Wildlife Area has already begun. Two groups from Indiana Wilderness Challenge participated in the *Indiana One for the Trail* program by working on the trail during the middle of last November. Indiana Wilderness Challenge is a program for young men and women in the 14-to-17 age range who want to know themselves better and to become productive community members. Funding for the organization has primarily come from Lilly Endowment, the Irwin-Sweeney-Miller Foundation, and Fed-

## NOBSTONE TRAIL



eral grants. Altogether, 20 youths and four supervisors hiked the entire Trail. Then they constructed more than a mile of new trail, including water bars, steps, and bridges. The groups spent nights in the primitive camping zones along the Trail. Altogether, 368 hours of labor were volunteered.

The *One for the Trail* program—an *American Revolution Bicentennial* project—was established to offer individuals and service organizations an opportunity to actively participate in the construction and maintenance of Hoosier Trails. Approximately 15,000 hours of volunteer labor have been logged since the beginning of 1976. More than 2,800 hours were contributed in 1980, indicating the continuing active support of Indiana's citizens for Hoosier Trails. Individuals giving one to 10 hours of work earn a *One for the Trail* patch, with those offering more than 10 hours receiving a special "10 Hours Service" patch.

As I begin my descent off the Knob, I realize how attached I have become to the Knobstone Trail and all the people who have worked on it. The people involved not only include those from the Division of Forestry and the Young Adult Conservation Corps, The Nature Conservancy, and Indiana Wilderness Challenge. Also there were several from IDNR's Divisions of Land Acquisition, Fish and Wildlife, Enforcement, and, of course, Outdoor Recreation. I am glad I have been able to help coordinate development of the Knobstone Trail and work with the many people involved with it.

I also realize that I have begun to feel the Knobstone Trail belongs to me. Actually, I reckon it does, but it belongs to all those other people, too. Most importantly, though, is that this new facility belongs to you! I hope you take advantage of the opportunity to experience it. Pick-up a Knobstone Trail brochure or an *Indiana Hiking Guide*, prepare yourself, and enjoy some fun reflections of your own.

## SOME NOBSTONE TRAIL TIPS

**Fire**—To reduce the possibility of a forest fire you should use a portable backpacking stove rather than a campfire for cooking. A portable stove can be cooking your meal long before a fire is ready.

If you must have a campfire, remember the old rule—use only dead and down wood. Do not break dead limbs from a tree or cut dead trees. In the outdoors such non-living forms are sources of beauty that deserve protection. Dead trees also provide habitat for many birds and animals.

Any campfire should be in a pit. Also, a three-foot-diameter area should be cleared around the fire. Prior to your leaving an area where a campfire was built, mix ashes with the soil, fill the pit, and cover the cleared area with the humus layer which was originally removed.

When conditions are dry, campfires may be prohibited by the State Forest Property Manager.

**Clothes Colors**—Wearing bright colors during hunting season (particularly deer season) is a good idea. It may prevent injury or death. However, during other times of the year bright reds, oranges, and yellows actually serve to "shrink" the outdoors by visually intruding into the wide spaces and solitude which are part of the outdoor experience. When drab colors (browns, blue, and greens) are used for clothing and tents, individuals are visible at less distance.

**Pets**—Most of us love "Man's best friend." But, even when on a leash, his presence may disturb the outdoor experience. Wildlife often shies away from areas which dogs use, preventing close observation by hikers. Barking also often disturbs other hikers, and sanitation within camping zones can become a problem.

**Human Waste**—Restrooms are not provided in the camping zones. You should stay at least 200 feet from water sources and camping areas. To promote decomposition and sanitary conditions, dig a small hole, which can then be covered with loose soil and leaf litter.

**Trash Disposal**—Burying trash and garbage was once the recommended way to dispose of litter outdoors. However, animals and frost action usually undid the efforts after the campers were on their way. Today the problem is compounded by the high number of people using the same areas. The best policy is to carry out what you carry in (or at least whatever you cannot burn if fires are allowed).

**Water Sources**—Always wash and rinse your dishes or yourself a few feet away from the edge of lakes and streams. The soil will act as a filter, preventing soap suds and scraps of food from polluting the water. Sources of water along the Knobstone Trail are often limited and can fail during dry periods. Plan on carrying water for drinking, particularly during the Summer and Autumn.

**Trip Planning**—Study maps of the area before starting out. Learn the terrain. Trail brochures are available at the Property Offices. However, the *Indiana Hiking Guide* is available (for \$3 each) from 616 State Office Building, Indianapolis, IN 46204. Topographic maps (\$1.25 each) and an index (free) are available from 604 State Office Building, Indianapolis, IN 46204.

Pay attention to where you are going. An informational blaze may unexpectedly fade or become hidden before trail maintenance is performed. Be sure you are familiar with all the options of time, alternate routes, and weather. Don't forget the shorter daylight hours during winter.

Be sure to travel with a first-aid kit, map, and compass, and know how to use them. Remember to register at the Clark State Forest Property Office or the Deam Lake State Recreation Area gatehouse. For your safety, someone needs to know where you are.

[Also see *Outdoor Indiana*: July 1968; September 1969; October 1970; December 1971; June 1972; June, December 1974; November 1976; April, September, November, December 1979.]