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KHTA
 P. O. Box 1814
 Martinsville, IN 46151

The Knobstone News

Newsletter of the Knobstone Hiking Trail Association

END OF YEAR 2024 - VOLUME 12, NUMBER 2

Monon South Development

Progress continues to be made on the Monon South rail trail. All ties have been removed and much progress has been made with grading and adding fine gravel to the surface. A bridge is being replaced in Pekin Street crossings in town have been paved. There was a gathering at the Pekin Park on July 16 to mark the official groundbreaking of the construction. A couple hundred interested people attended the ceremony led by state and private groups involved in the planning and construction of the trail.

The Monon South passes within a quarter of a mile of the southern terminus of the KT. With connections to community trails in the metropolitan area, it will be possible to hike from downtown Louisville to the KT. If similar efforts succeed at connecting to urban trails in the north, it should be possible to hike all the way to downtown Indianapolis.



Local leaders from five southern Indiana counties gathered at Borden Community Park this past July to mark the expansion of the Monon South Trail, which comes within a quarter of a mile of the southern terminus of the Knobstone Trail.



A Word from Our President

Dear Friends,

We invite you to join us in our effort to complete the 160-mile-long Knobstone hiking trail in south-central Indiana. The vision of this trail was first proposed by the Indiana DNR in the 1970s to develop “long-distance trail opportunities”. The Knobstone Hiking Trail Association has taken on the mission of completing the 160-mile Knobstone Trail (KT) in south-central Indiana. The trail includes the original Knobstone Trail, the Tecumseh Trail, and the path through the Hoosier National Forest. Several incomplete connections are remaining, but the trail is about 83% open for hiking. Our mission includes building new trail, maintaining the existing trail, obtaining easements, creating camping areas, building bridges, and promoting the use of the trail to the general public, especially hikers and backpackers.

Our financial needs continue to increase. We pay for insurance, land

surveying, tools, banking fees, printing, postage, PO Box rental, etc., and all these expenses continue to increase. Additionally, our board is in the process of justifying and planning for a paid employee. This will increase our expenses considerably but will increase our effectiveness even more. This is a huge step that requires your support! If you are not currently actively involved, please consider joining us. We need to fill several volunteer positions such as secretary, project manager, communications coordinator, and event promotions.

Most important is the need for additional trail builders. Our activities are normally advertised on Meetup, the KHTA Website, and Facebook.

Your valued donation can be made on our website, KHTA.ORG, or by sending a check to our PO Box 1814, Martinsville, IN 46151. You can also become a member by joining us on our



Charles Andrew

website. We appreciate your support and participation in our mission.

- Charles Andrew

Calendar

Jan 11 – 2nd Saturday Workday, Martinsville Extension.

Feb 8 – 2nd Saturday Workday, Tecumseh Trail Extension

Mar 8 – 2nd Saturday Workday, Tecumseh Trail Extension

Apr 12 – 2nd Saturday Workday, Tecumseh Trail Extension

For more info and to sign up, click on [Indiana Meetup](#).

We are thankful for the many volunteers who are the lifeblood of the KHTA, monitoring and maintaining existing trails and building new ones. You are our educators and advocates. As we continue to grow, we need even more people to serve as trail adopters, along with office and secretarial, accounting and publicity.

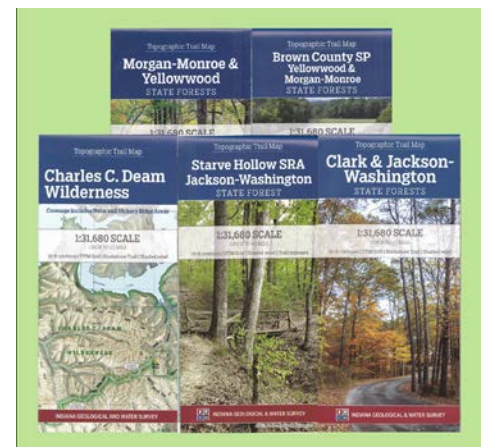
Opportunities to donate and volunteer are can be found by [clicking here](#).

Store

You can get your KHTA license plate, along with ballcaps, t-shirts, water bottles as well as maps and map sets by visiting the [KHTA store](#).

Members with an online account receive 10 percent off their orders.

Our maps include all trails on state and federal lands in the areas covered.



Knobstone Hiking Trail Association

Building, Preserving and Promoting Indiana's 160-mile-long Knobstone Trail

Come Hike With Us!

WWW.KHTA.ORG

Trail Work...

Original KT Section

Since August, volunteers have continued to clear the accumulated blowdowns from the numerous storms of the past few years. As of early December, all but a few miles of the KT have been scouted and cleared of all blowdowns since mid-November. The entire trail will have been scouted and cleared before Christmas. Storms have abated since mid-November, so few if any blowdowns should be encountered on the trail at this time. Some minor trail bed improvements are being made to prevent erosion and ease the crossing of creeks. After the first of the year, we will concentrate on maintenance and improvements of the trail bed.

In the future, we hope to collaborate closely with DNR staff. Plans are being made for joint work days with the Department of Forestry (Dof F) staff in the months ahead. Joint workdays will focus on improvements where the trail has deteriorated due to erosion and other factors. All workdays are posted

on our website and on Indiana Meetup. Click on the above link to join fellow volunteers.

Pioneer Private Easement

In June a short reroute was constructed on the Dr. Smith easement. This Fall, the newly built stiles were given a layer of weatherproofing, and a recently logged section was restored and reblazed. The Pletzer-Turner Trailhead has been mowed. By next Spring, further improvements will be addressed. This includes the eradication of invasives and repairs to the culvert under the driveway. A master plan for the improvements is being drawn up. This might include a shelter, privy, and parking area.

At the Sparksville Park, we had a successful service day in the Spring with youth and staff from Medora High School. We will host this annual event again in the Spring of 2025.

Routine annual maintenance of all sections will be done over the winter. This includes some brushing, clearing of

blowdowns, and removal of excessive leaves from the trail bed.

As always, we are appreciative of the generosity of landowners who allow the trail to cross their property. Hikers should remain within the trail corridor and practice no-trace hiking. Camping is only permitted at the Three Story Barn, Pletzer-Turner Trailhead, Sparksville Park, and the Oak Heritage Conservancy land.

A short reroute on the Dr. Smith easement built by Melanie Casey and Steve Schaflein.



A short reroute on the Dr. Smith easement built by Melanie Casey and Steve Schaflein.



A fawn visited the work crew while building the reroute.



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KN Deadlines:

First of the Month

Dec, Mar, Jun, Sep

DEADLINE FOR THE KNOBSTONE NEWS

Submit articles for the KN to jgarlits@gmail.com. Digital photos are always welcome if they meet our publishing requirements, have good contrast and are at least 5x7 inches assuming a print resolution of 300 dots per inch. Please supply a photo caption and the name of the photographer. Photos don't have to be connected with a story.

The Knobstone Hiking Trail Association

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Website: KHTA.org

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KHTA MISSION STATEMENT

The KHTA is dedicated to the completion, preservation, and promotion of the Knobstone Hiking Trail. This footpath follows the Knobstone Escarpment from 30 miles south of Indianapolis to 10 miles north of Louisville, KY.

We are the long-term management organization for the trail, assuring continuity of assistance in maintaining the trail to the governmental entities whose jurisdictions the trail passes through, as well as to private property owners donating trail easements.

Learn more at www.KHTA.org

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