

2012-2013 HIKE DESCRIPTIONS

FALL: Saturday, September 8, 2012 **KNOBSTONE TRAIL, Spurgeon Hallow Loop**

Leave at: 7:00 a.m. from Bloomingfoods/K-Mart parking lot, east side, near east/west dividing road.

Estimated Hiking Time: 5-6 hours

Distance: 8 miles

Difficulty: Strenuous. Up

and down steep hills.

Alan McPherson describes the Knobstone Trail as Indiana's premier hiking trail. With high ridges, deep ravines and steep valleys it can be a challenge, a workout, and an interesting day. We will tackle only the Spurgeon Hollow Loop at the north end.

WINTER: Thursday, February 21, 2013 **GOOSE POND**

Leave at: 8:00 a.m. from ...

Estimated Hiking Time: 2-3 hours

Distance: 1 - 2 miles

Difficulty: Easy, with

some uneven surfaces.

The Sandhill Cranes should be at Goose Pond in large numbers in late February. A variety of ducks will also be passing through on their way north at this time. They should be willing to share the area with us for a relatively short, easy hike down some of the dikes that retain water in this premier restored wetland.

SPRING: Saturday, April 13, 2013 **HITZ-RHODEHAMEL NATURE PRESERVE**

Leave at: 8:00 a.m. from Bloomingfoods/K-Mart parking lot, east side, near east/west dividing road.

Estimated Hiking Time: 3 hours

Distance: 5 miles

Difficulty: Moderate to strenuous

The Hitz and Rhodehamel families generously donated 350 acres to the Nature Conservancy, and it is close enough for an easy day hike in Brown County. Walk among spring wildflowers under a canopy of chestnut oaks. Look for painted sedge, low bush blueberry, mosses, and maybe the whorled pagonia. A representative from The Nature Conservancy will guide us along approximately five miles of newly built and older connected trails.

SUMMER: Thursday, July, 18 2013 **B-LINE TRAIL**

Leave at: 9:00 a.m. from the southeast end of the Convention Center parking lot.

Estimated Hiking Time: 1 1/2 hours

Distance: 1 – 3 miles

Difficulty: Easy and flat

We're back on the B-Line, this time to check out the south end. Join us for a morning of exercise and comradery. Check out what's new and happening in Bloomington. Summer mornings can be warm, so plan time to cool off with A.C. and a cool drink in one of the local shops.