

2011-2012 HIKE DESCRIPTIONS

FALL: Wednesday, September 14, 2011

KNOBSTONE IOOP

Leave at: 7:30 a.m. from Bloomingfoods/K-Mart parking lot, east side, near east/west dividing road.

Estimated Hiking Time: 4-6 hours

Distance: 6 -10 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 is a challenge and a workout. The longest trail in the state extends from Spurgeon Hollow in the north to Deam Lake S.R.A in the south. We will address only the Spurgeon Hollow or Delaney Park loops that connect with the Knobstone Trail.

WINTER: Saturday, February 18, 2012

LICK CREEK

Leave at: 8:00 a.m. from Kroger (South Walnut & Roehrer Road), parking lot, northwest corner toward Wendy's.

Estimated Hiking Time: 2-3 hours

Distance: 3 - 5 miles

Difficulty: Moderate. Uneven terrain on old roads and woods trails.

In a scenic hardwood forest, this trail passes near an early 19th century, free, African-American settlement. Before 1820, eleven families traveled with a group of sympathetic Quakers in search of a new land which forbade slavery. These settlers were free citizens who fled persecution and increasingly restrictive laws for free blacks in North Carolina. Become more familiar with Indiana history an hour and a half from home.

SPRING: Thursday, April 19, 2012

DEAM WILDERNESS, Axsom Branch/Martin-Hallow

Leave at: 7:30 a.m. from Bloomingfoods/K-Mart parking lot, east side, near east/west dividing road.

Estimated Hiking Time: 4-5 hours

Distance: 6 - 7 miles

Difficulty: Moderate with one strenuous climb.

Spend a day in Indiana's only designated wilderness, named after Charles Clemon Deam, a pharmacist-turned botanist who became an Indiana forester and botanical author. Ridges, hollows and ravines are covered with a maturing and second growth woods. Wildflowers will be bursting out all over. Bring water shoes for possible stream crossings. If the lake is high, some bush wacking may be necessary.

SUMMER: Sunday, July is, 2012

SCULPTING TRAILS

Leave at: 10:00 a.m. from the Marsh (Kinser Pike) parking lot, southeast corner, south of the pizza store.

Estimated Hiking Time: 1 hour

Distance: 1- 2 miles

Difficulty: Easy to moderate

Most trails change with the seasons. An occasional storm will knock down a tree, and new vegetation will grow. At the Sculpture Trails, man has more to do with changes than any act of God. More than 35 metal structures are nestled along the wooded trails for those who take time to enjoy art in the woods. Benches, picnic tables and portable toilets are available.