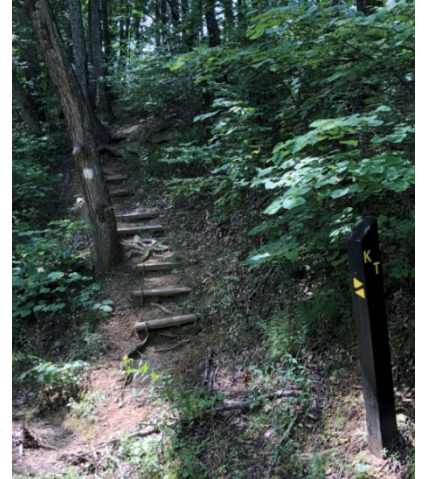




Wandering Indiana ~

Well this month I will be focusing on the [Knobstone Trail](#) (KT) which is found in Southern Indiana. My plans are to hike the trail in October this year and I am really looking forward to an enjoyable time in the “wilderness” traveling through Clark, Scott, and Washington Counties. Any pointers for my trek would be much appreciated.

Before we discuss the KT, I wanted to point out some other site I have visited recently. Labor Day weekend, we were fortunate to visit west central Indiana and experience several interesting sites and find time to do a little hiking. It is amazing how wandering and driving through the countryside you can discover unexpected little gems. The plan was to hike Shades State Park, but weather prevented the morning hike, so we improvised.



Driving becomes the thing to do until the weather clears. In northwestern Putnam County we got to visit the little berg of Raccoon. Let's just say there was not much there but I bet it was quite the stop back in the day when the trail traveled through. Trying to find our way out of town (rule #1 – you do not turn around and go on a road you have already traveled on the same trip), we followed a windy gravel road along the creek and found a covered bridge, one I hadn't expected or visited previously. Wow, that is what inclement weather can do, bring other opportunities your way. Imagine that!



Next was the tour of Crawfordsville. I think Ben Hur drove a chariot down the main drag in town once before (ha-ha). We found the [Lew Wallace](#) home, the home of Henry S. Lane, visited Wabash College, drove through the Courthouse/downtown area, read about the “cradle of basketball”, and drove west on Main Street and looked at the quaint street and homes.

Next, we wandered our way to Fountain County, and I mean wandered, attempting to visit every little berg somewhat on the way. Originally, I figured we would visit Attica and maybe [Portland Arch](#), go into Warren

County to [Williamsport Falls](#) and the potholes but the weather started clearing. The end of our northwesterly trek ended in Covington eating our picnic lunch on the Wabash River and one of the former locks along the Wabash and Erie Canal.

Off to Shades Park and five miles of hiking on multiple trails. Seeing the waterfall off trail #1, hiking down to Sugar Creek and going into Pine Hill Nature Preserve are well worth your time for exploring. Turkey Run is gorgeous, Shades is as well with much fewer people. What a fun day!

Day #2 of Labor Day weekend was another trip and hike but this time toward Bloomington. I have mentioned Beanblossom Bottoms before, but it is such a cool place to check out. Found a gravel road in Rural Monroe County, be prepared for getting your vehicle dirty but it is well worth the visit. The mostly boardwalk elevated trail through swampy and marshy areas is quite unique. You will likely see some flora and fauna that you typically do not experience.

I cannot go anywhere without wandering. Stinesville, Mount Tabor and Modesto happened to be in the way this day of wandering. Several of the roads through these communities reminded me of the Hilly Hundred. You want up and down and windy and curvy, you found an area of the state to travel too.

Darrell V. from Harrison County let me know that he did see the comets I spoke about in our August newsletter. We agree that the perseids were a little disappointing. Nice to know some other kindred spirits looking skyward! He also mentioned the destinations of Rome, New Amsterdam, Laconia, and St. Croix that I neglected to mention in my list of places that sound like you are going around the world but you're staying right here in Indiana! Thanks for giving me some feedback, Darrell. I always appreciate hearing from our readers!

~ Jeff Banning