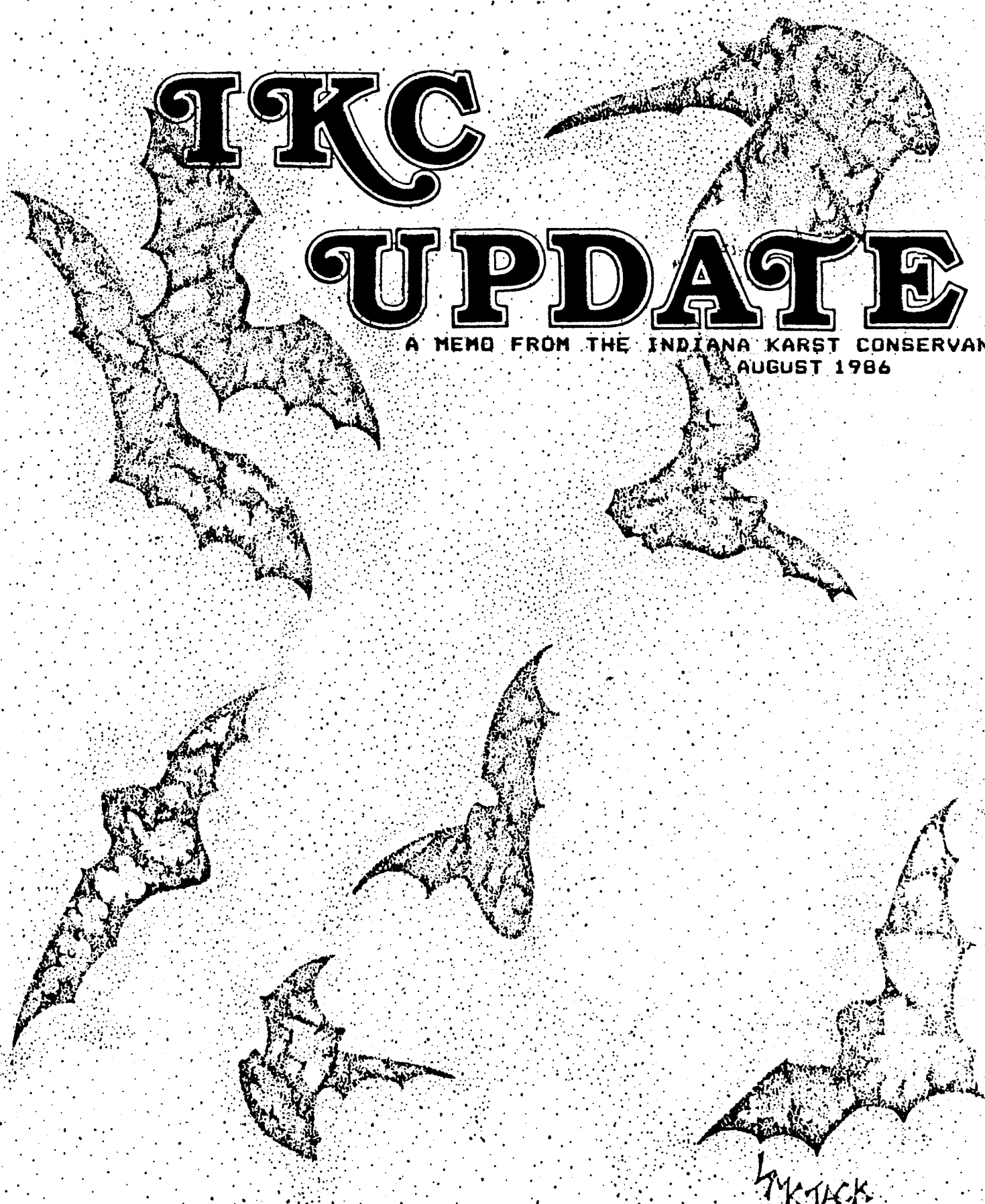


IKC

UPDATE

A MEMO FROM THE INDIANA KARST CONSERVANCY
AUGUST 1986



Handwritten signature: M. JACK

INDIANA KARST CONSERVANCY

The Indiana Karst Conservancy, Inc., is a non-profit organization, incorporated under the laws of the State of Indiana.

The purpose of the Conservancy is to acquire, manage, and protect the caves and related karst features of Indiana and other areas of the world for future study and recreation. The Conservancy will also promote conservation education about, and environmentally compatible use of karst areas.

Organization for 1986:

President--William L. Wilson (812) 299-5808	Director--Keith Dunlap (317) 291-3845
Secretary--Tom Rea (317) 839-2100	Director--Glenn Lemasters (812) 378-2008
Treasurer--Cindy Riley (317) 634-3837	

Committees for 1986:

Membership-----	Cindy Riley	(317) 634-3837
Public Relations-----	Dave Haun	(317) 784-2573
Cave Acquisition and Maintenance-----	Bill Wilson	(812) 299-5808
Fund Raising-----	Cindy Riley	(317) 634-3837
Scientific-----	Bill Wilson	(812) 299-5808
Educational Program Development-----	vacant	
Resource Inventories-----	Jim Wolford	(317) 259-1088

Calendar of Upcoming Events:

August 23, 24: Fence Grotto Cave, please contact Keith Dunlap at (317) 291-3845 to offer help and support. It will take a lot of effort to make this project work.

Please call any officer or director for more details about these events.

For more information on the INDIANA KARST CONSERVANCY write to:
Cindy Riley
P.O. Box 461
Plainfield, IN 46168

The IKC UPDATE is published to keep the membership in touch with the Board of Directors and informed on current projects and happenings.

THE COVER: Reprinted from Vol. 21, No. 3
York Grotto Newsletter

From the President:

Sacrificial caves are a growing problem in southcentral Indiana at a time when sacrificing caves is an obsolete policy. The idea behind sacrificial caves is that neophyte cavers are allowed to destroy some caves in hope that they won't destroy anymore. This policy is not working.

We use to know that the sacrificial caves were: Buckner's, Salamander, Grotto, Coon's, Trapdoor, and Wayne's. Most of us hoped that Wayne's would be protected by a 1,200-foot long crawlway, but piles of trash at Camp I shows that some people will crawl a quarter mile to drink a case of beer. The original sacrificial caves were concentrated in one area where the proximity of Indiana University and northern population centers, such as Indianapolis, contributed to heavy visitation. Now the sacrificial caves have spread and absorbed Sullivan's, Reeve's, and Doghill-Donnehue. Time will tell, but the ability of sacrificial caves to limit the spread of vandalism has eroded and appears to be getting worse. Natural beauty and wonder are priceless. How will we escape the contempt of future generations if we allow this irreplaceable heritage to be destroyed?

The sacrificial cave method of conservation contributes to negative public attitudes toward caves and it allows destruction of fine caves. The trash and graffiti that neophytes see in the sacrificial caves gives them the harmful impression that littering and writing on the walls are accepted caving activities. We should guard against such harmful misconceptions!

The sacrificial cave policy in Indiana has additional problems; they are incomplete and nonspecific. For example: Who decides which caves to sacrifice? What are the criteria for sacrificing a cave? At what point will cavers decide that enough sacrifice has been made and start to protect caves? Even now there is no consensus of opinion about which caves should be sacrificed.

Sacrificing caves to neophyte cavers who have no conservation ethics is a passive cop-out. Most sacrificial caves have been sacrificed only through caver apathy and the belief that it is impossible for cavers to control the cave. But now, cavers are finding suitable legal means for acquiring caves at little or no cost and are building an organization through which pro-conservation policies can be developed and implemented. Together we can take a positive, assertive action to stand between the cave and the vandals. We no longer need to sacrifice even a single cave, and I am in favor of sacrificing no cave at any time.

The Indiana Karst Conservancy, as a nonprofit corporation, provides a shield that protects the assets of its officers and members. Cavers can now acquire leases on caves and hold them through the Conservancy so that the cavers are not personally subject to liability lawsuits. Cave leases can be acquired because the cavers are offering a free management service to the landowner in exchange for regular access to the cave and permission to protect and preserve the cave in its natural state.

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(President cont.)

Essentially, cavers have taken a step forward, from being a nuisance, to being a partner with the landowner by working to manage his or her assets. This arrangement is eminently better than standing by powerless and watching caves become wrecked by uncaring visitors. Rather than taking control of caves away from local cavers, the Conservancy can give cavers a measure of control that far exceeds the level of influence they have had in the past.

The purpose of the Conservancy is to acquire and protect caves and karst features for scientific study, education, and recreation. A nearly unlimited range of conservation activities are available to interested persons: cave management, resource inventories, land acquisition, restoration, liaison with regulatory agencies, educational program development, and fund raising. The only limitation is our own imaginations. I am sure that the future belongs to those who are willing to take the time and make the effort to protect the resources that they care about. ~~Tell others about the Conservancy and spread the word about so others can contribute to the active, assertive management efforts being made by other members to protect and preserve our caves and karst resources.~~

Bill Wilson, President-IKC

CURRENT PROJECTS

Current projects are any cave or area where the Conservancy has a land agreement or is attempting to obtain an agreement. At this time, current projects include, but are not limited to:

Wayne's Cave	Grotto Cave
Shaft Cave	Coon's Cave
Gory Hole	Shiloh Cave
Dunbar-Woodard Cave, TN	

Have a Conservation Project?

Do you know of a cave or karst area that needs protection? Discuss the situation with a director of the Conservancy. If the Conservancy has the money, manpower, and resources to support the conservation project, it will be brought up before the board and can be designated as a current project. Your trips to the project area then become tax deductible corporate business. Simply by volunteering to serve as a leader on a project you might make it possible for the Conservancy to support that conservation action. The Conservancy does not have any employees--only volunteers!

A WORD ABOUT COMMITTEES

The following committees have been established by the Board of Directors. Now that we have these committees, we need your help! Please call the chairpersons of the committees you are interested in joining and help out.

MEMBERSHIP:

Chair-----Cindy Riley, (317) 634-3837
Purpose----Maintain data about the membership

PUBLIC RELATIONS:

Chair-----Dave Haun, (317) 784-2573
Purpose----Publication of IKC UPDATE; inform media of current events; design membership applications

CAVE ACQUISITION AND MAINTENANCE:

Chair-----Bill Wilson, (812) 249-5808
Purpose---Monitor negotiations with cave owners; monitor leases; (membership on this committee is currently limited to officers and directors. If you are interested in negotiating a lease with a cave owner, please discuss it with Bill Wilson)

FUND RAISING:

Chair-----Cindy Riley, (317) 634-3837
Purpose---To raise funds and establish budget

SCIENTIFIC:

Chair-----Bill Wilson, (812) 249-5808
Purpose---Supervise and coordinate scientific research of caves and karst; encourage, support, and secure funding for scientific activities and coordinate these funding activities with the funding committee

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT:

(no information available)

RESOURCE INVENTORIES

(no information available)

THE PATRONAGE SYSTEM

Property may be acquired by the Conservancy through leases, letters of agreement, or purchase. At this time, the Conservancy has three leases covering four caves on 352 acres in Monroe County. Caves located on these properties are Coon, Grotto, Shaft, and Wayne's; together these caves contain 5.5 miles of passage. Two of the caves (Coon and Grotto) are used as hibernaculums by an endangered species of bat: the Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalis*). The Board of Directors appoints someone to manage the cave or caves on each property. This person is called the patron. A management plan is drafted by the patron and submitted to the BOD for approval. Patron responsibilities are outlined in a guideline adopted by the BOD on 2-5-86.

GOALS FOR 1986

The Board of Directors has selected the following goals for 1986:

1. Gate Shaft Cave to protect unprepared visitors, and implement a cave management plan.
2. Secure funding and build a fence around Grotto Cave to protect the 4,200 Indiana Bats that hibernate there during the winter.
3. Clean logs out of Coon's Cave pit entrance and post signs warning visitors not to enter the cave during the winter when endangered bats are hibernating.
4. Clean trash out of the sinkhole next to the entrance of Wayne's Cave. This may take a long time, because there is at least 100 cubic yards of trash in the sinkhole.

5. Attempt to obtain permission for regular visits to caves that are closed by the landowner, in exchange for managing the cave. Selected targets include Gory Hole, and Shiloh Cave.

It will take a lot of hard work and effort to accomplish all the goals outlined. We can only get these things done if all members join together and make the Conservancy's goals their goals!

GREAT NEWS!

Out of the above Goals, we have completed three and have started on the other two. Shaft Cave is now gated and managed. Coon's Cave has been cleaned up and is ready for further work. Access to Gory Hole and Shiloh Cave is in the final stages. Work on the trash in the sinkhole next to Wayne's has begun. And funding for Grotto Cave is in process. Let's pour on the steam!

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The Conservancy is still looking for patrons. If your interested please tell one of the Officers or Directors NOW. Their phone numbers can be found in the front of this update.

If you think you can help out the Conservancy in any way, please do not hesitate to contact one of the Officers or Directors. We need your help to make the Conservancy work.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

Board of Directors meetings are convened by the president as often as necessary to allow the board to conduct the business of the corporation in a timely manner. Until recently board meetings were held at the War Memorial in Indianapolis before the monthly Central Indiana Grotto meeting. The grotto meetings provided a central location and an effective second reason to be in Indianapolis. However, there was never enough time to fully discuss new issues brought before the board. This resulted in a lot of follow-up long distance calls and letters.

In order to give an appropriate amount of time to discussion of new business, the board has decided to meet, when necessary, on the third Thursday of the month at Tom Rea's house in Plainfield. Tom has graciously offered to host the meetings.

Any member who has business to bring before the board should contact a director who will see to it that the member's business is included on the agenda for the next meeting. Members who wish to attend a board meeting should ask a director when and where the next meeting will occur. ~~The board meetings are not closed, although ordinarily they are attended by only the directors.~~ Remember, the directors must conduct the business of a nonprofit corporation, rather than administrate a club. Members are generally welcomed to attend board meetings, if they have new business to bring before the board. The Conservancy is a totally volunteer organization, so it is the interest and new conservation activities of the members that make things happen. The board of directors will be happy to help you realize your cave conservation goals.

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CAVE RESOURCE INVENTORY FORMS

Cave Resource Inventory Forms were distributed by Bill Wilson, in a special letter to members, dated May 30, 1986. Completion of the inventory forms and their return to Jim WOLFORD, Chairman of the Cave Resource Inventory Committee, will help members document the fact that their caving trips were used to conduct tax-deductible corporate business. An inventory of cave resources will assist the Conservancy in identifying management needs and selecting new acquisition targets.

The existing resource inventory form is over five pages long, but don't worry! You don't have to fill out the entire form before returning it to Jim. Please fill out only the information that you were able to gather during your inventory trip, and only the information about which you feel qualified to report. The form was designed to be used by people with a wide range of specialized training, and nobody is expected to be an expert in all of the areas covered by the form. Xerox extra copies of the inventory form for your use, or obtain them from Jim WOLFORD. His address is: 5839 N. Oakland, Indianapolis, IN 46220.

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Jim compiled the form from a collection of cave resource inventory forms used by the Bureau of Land Management, National Forest Service, and the Cave Research Foundation. The resulting form is perhaps one of the most comprehensive used in the United States. You may notice that under the category "type of cave" there is a blank for "lava tube". We don't expect to find any lava tube caves in Indiana, but please try completing the form on your next out-of-state cave trip. Hopefully, the form will be applicable anywhere in the world. After all, the Indiana Karst Conservancy is dedicated to the protection of karst features primarily in Indiana, but also in other areas throughout the world!

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GRANT APPLICATION SUBMITTED FOR GROTTO CAVE

A conservation grant application for \$400 was sent to Ron Morton, Conservation Committee Chairman of the NSS on June 16th. The proposed grant will cover 50% of the estimated \$800 cost of materials for a chain-link fence around Grotto Cave in Monroe County, Indiana. Four hundred dollars is the largest grant that the Conservation Committee can make. The balance of the cost will be covered by the Conservancy, through a substantial donation from the Mid-Hooiser Grotto and through membership dues.

Grotto Cave contains the fourth largest hibernation colony of endangered Indiana Bats (*Myotis sodalis*) in the state. The fence will be eight feet high, measuring thirty feet on a side, topped with barb wire.

The Department of Natural Resources preferred a fence to protect the bats rather than a gate, in order to minimize disturbance. A gate obviously changes the entrance configuration and may cause bats to abandon the cave. The fence should be installed before September 1st in order to be in place before bats begin to congregate in the cave prior to hibernation. Hopefully, a fence will reduce traffic through the cave and encourage more of the endangered, and other bats to use the cave which is well suited for hibernation.

Grotto Cave has low winter temperatures, preferred by bats, because cold air sinks in the entrance (at 800 feet), flows through the stream passage (at 700 to 730 feet), and having been warmed by the 55° F bedrock, rises through Shaft Cave and passes out the pit entrance (at 825 feet). Grotto and Shaft Caves are a classic example of thermal circulation.

Last, but not least, a patron is needed for Grotto Cave. The patron's duties will be to review entry permit applications, interact with state and federal regulatory agencies, and promote some kind of monitoring program on the bat population so that we will know whether or not our efforts have been successful. No previous experience is necessary, but a willingness to learn is a must! After all, it is difficult to manage a resource unless you first understand it. If you want to put some of your caving time toward conservation of a cave-dwelling, cave-dependant, endangered species of bat, then this is your chance! Contact any director if you are interested in managing the Conservancy's first biology program.

DUNBAR-WOODARD CAVE, TENNESSEE

As you might of already have heard, the IKC has signed a five year lease on the Woodard Entrance of Dunbar-Woodard Cave with the owner, Frank Meador. The Conservancy will hold the lease to protect the Northern Indiana Grotto from liability, although the NIG executive board will be responsible for managing the cave.

NIG members have had a long-term interest in exploring and mapping the Dunbar-Woodard Cave System, near Bethlehem, Tennessee. This spring the NIG gated the Woodard Entrance after some of the cave's best formations were vandalized by locals. The new lease agreement will give the NIG legal cause to file complaints against future vandals and trespassers. The IKC is happy to assist the conservation efforts of the NIG.

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NEW MEMBERS

The Conservancy now has thirty members living in four states: Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, and Kentucky. Encourage your friends and cavers you know to help save caves.

Our new members are:

Scott Fee
3630 Wingate Terr.
Indianapolis, IN 46236

James Goodwin
1044 Alta Vista Rd.
Louisville, KY 40205

Donn S. Wilson
107 S. Barr St.
Crawfordsville, IN 47933

Chistopher D. Barker
842 National Rd. West
Richmond, IN 47374

Kathy Hornaday has a new address:

816 Blue Oak Lane
Indianapolis, IN 46227

If you have any address changes, please send them to Cindy Riley, Chair of the Membership Committee. Her address is:

650 N. Alton Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46222

IF YOU HAVE INFORMATION THAT YOU FEEL SHOULD BE IN THE IKC UPDATE, OR QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS, PLEASE SEND THEM TO:

IKC
PO. BOX 27682
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46227

The INDIANA KARST CONSERVANCY
P.O. Box 461
Plainfield. IN 46168